

ISSUE 1 • NOV 2021

THE LIGHT RACIAL JUSTICE E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Our Inaugural Edition

BY LEA GILMORE, MINISTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE & MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT | MUSIC DIRECTOR (FIRST SERVICE)

On behalf of Senior Pastor Tom Harris, our racial justice ministry's leadership team, and myself, we welcome you to the inaugural edition of The Light - Govans Presbyterian Racial Justice E-Newsletter. It is my distinct honor to lead our churches' racial justice efforts, along with the many committed congregation members and community advocates.

Govans Presbyterian Church recognizes that God calls us as individuals, and as a congregation, to pursue justice by dismantling all forms of racism and acting in solidarity with those who are oppressed.

Published twice-monthly, this e-newsletter will not only keep you informed of all of the programming and activities of the racial justice ministry, it will help you understand the present reality of racism, learn the historical factors that have influenced our current events, and discover ways to take immediate action to end racism and bring God's justice to our community, country, and world.

If you have questions, comments, and/or are interested in volunteering, please contact me via email: lea@govanspres.org.



Racial Justice
Ministry

In This issue:

Welcome by Lea Gilmore
PAGE 01

Govans Joins the
Matthew 25 Initiative
PAGE 02

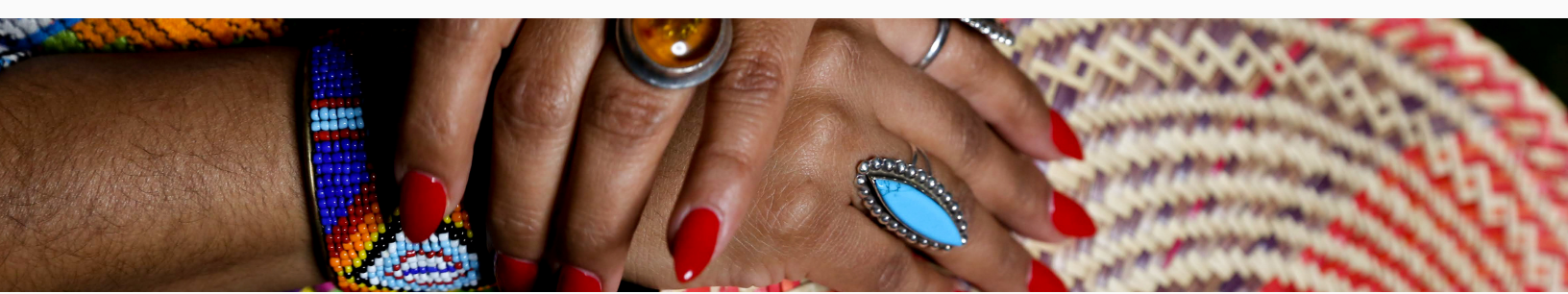
Events
PAGE 02

Racial Justice Ministry
Webpage
PAGE 02

Thoughtful Readings &
Resources
PAGE 03

Racial Justice Ministry
Working Group
PAGE 04

Racial Justice Ministry
Mission
PAGE 04



Govans Joins the Matthew 25 Initiative

MATTHEWS 25 IN THE PC(USA)

Inspired by Matthew 25:31-46, our membership in this group within the Presbyterian Church, USA calls us to "act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor." One of its three foci is dismantling structural racism. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Events

Speaker Series - Chrystie Adams on the Baltimore Dakota Learning Project - December 4 at 2:00 pm

Join Chrystie Adams to learn more about the work the Baltimore Dakota Learning Camps, a partnership with the Baltimore Presbytery and the Dakota Presbytery that operate 4 camps in South Dakota and Minnesota that seek build an environment of mutual learning and to strengthen relationships in Native American communities. [Register here](#).



A Time for Reflection and Action (part 2)

[Register](#) to participate in an online discussion hosted by the Presbytery of Baltimore on November 15, 2021, 6:30 pm. Watch [this video](#) of Senate reparations testimony before the discussion.

Racial Justice Ministry of Govans Website

www.govanspres.org/what-we-do/racial-justice/

Bookmark and visit our website for up-to-date information on programs and events hosted by us, watch past Racial Justice Speakers Series Events, find resources to become more anti-racist, sign up for our book discussions, read about our mission, and learn how you can get involved.

"It's impossible
to imagine
America without
the inheritance
of slavery."

TA - NEHISI COATES



Thoughtful Readings & Resources

Racial Discrimination is Linked to Suicidal Thoughts in Black Adults and Children

Published November 4, 2021 on www.theconversation.com. Click above link to go to article.

Five Minute Histories Video

In 1892, abolitionist, statesman, and social reformer Frederick Douglass returned to the city where he fled enslavement 54 years earlier and built 5 alley houses for low-income families. Watch the video by Baltimore Heritage by clicking [here](#).

Backyard Basecamp

(Re)connecting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to land and nature in Baltimore City. Backyard Basecamp was founded by Atiya Wells, a pediatric nurse with a passion to introduce, educate, and connect families in Baltimore, especially People of Color, to local outdoor spaces.

<https://backyardbasecamp.org/>

Maryland Lynching Memorial Project

According to its website, "the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that works to advance the cause of reconciliation in our state by documenting the history of racial terror lynchings, advocating for public acknowledgment of these murders and working to honor and dignify the lives of the victims."

<https://www.mdlynchingmemorial.org/>

THE 1619 PROJECT; A New Origin Story

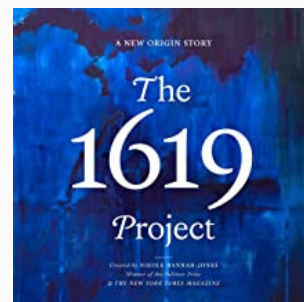
This New York Times Review, "A Landmark Reckoning With America's Racial Past and Present" calls the book that began with the New York Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning 1619 Project by Nikole Hannah-Jones "a wide-ranging, landmark summary of the Black experience in America." Click [here](#) to read the review.



Frederick Douglass Houses



Backyard Basecamp





Racial Justice Ministry Working Group

Co-Chairs Members

Adam Allen	Kamila Alexander	David Harris
Julie McDill	Beth Allen	Gwen Lloyd
	Myra Brosius	Julie McDill
	Laila Ali	Tanya Morrel
	Lisa Beacham	Susan Saunders
	Shelley Ensor	Keith Snipes
	Kaye Gooch	Jennifer Williams
	Deletta Gillespie	Maria Wong

Secretary

Wendy Smith



Mission

We are Govans Presbyterian people who have come together in response to what we believe is God’s call to understand, address, and dismantle racism in ourselves, and our society.

We want to:

- Provide opportunities and a safe environment at Govans where we can openly share thoughts and feelings, and ask questions about racism.
- Educate ourselves about the history and continuing presence of personal and systemic racism.
- Publicly advocate for racial justice in our society.

To generate this kind of learning and action, we will utilize book discussions, films, speakers, museum exhibits, prayer groups, partnerships with other organizations, and other modes yet to be determined. We are open to ideas and suggestions, and would welcome your participation in any aspect of this work.



For more information about the racial justice ministry, please email lea@govanspres.org or go to <https://www.govanspres.org/what-we-do/racial-justice/>.

Govans Presbyterian Church
5828 York Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21212
410-435-9188