

THE LIGHT RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY E-NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year, Friends!

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

Just yesterday, we celebrated the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Gaining a national holiday for this man of greatness, this man of God, this man of love was a hard-fought battle.

It is now time that people of good faith band together and fight the forces of hate that are trying to turn back time to an age where the foundation of our democratic republic - the vote - is manipulated and maligned. We are witnessing a grab for power to turn back over 50 years of progress. Americans, especially Black people, the elderly, students, and people with disabilities are being targeted to have their votes suppressed. The voter suppression laws being implemented in states across the country have been referred to as "Jim Crow 2.0."

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by human beings for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison people because they are different from others."
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act must be passed now. According to Democracy Docket, which follows voting laws and court cases, the future of our democracy will come down to state legislatures. [Contact your state representatives](#) and Congresspersons to convey your support for the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

Join us at our upcoming virtual events and feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, and/or suggestions at lea@govanspre.org.

Cheers to health, happiness, and peace in 2022!

Abundant Blessings,
Lea



Racial Justice
Ministry



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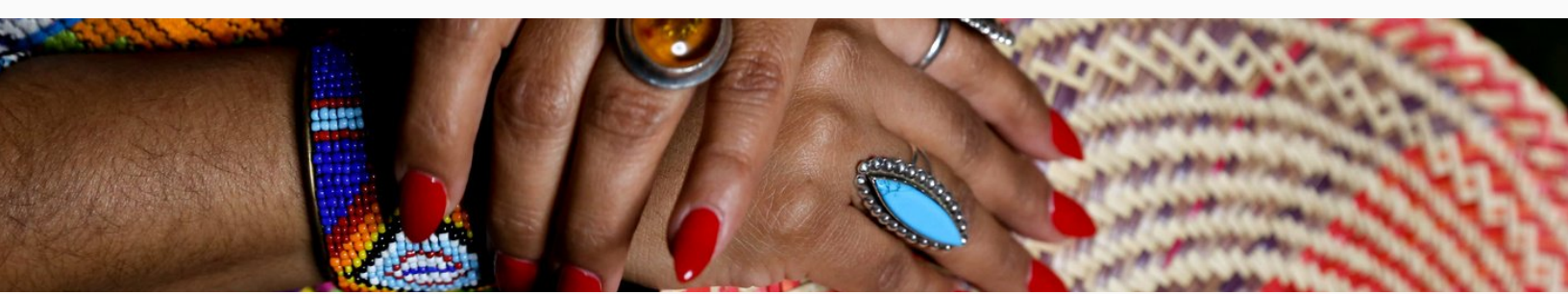
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Matthew 25 Initiative: Live Stream Event

MATTHEWS 25 IN THE PC(USA)

Take part in a new interactive live stream show that explores what being a Matthew 25 Church means for churches, mid councils, individuals, and communities – Jan. 20 at 1:00 pm EST. Join live [here](#).

Events

Racial Justice Ministry Speaker Series: Mark Williams

Environmental Injustice: How Contamination of Water, Air, and Land Constitutes Violence Against Black Communities February 12, 2022, 2:00 pm (Live on Zoom). Register [here](#). Email lea@govanspres.org for more info.

Change Sings Book Discussion

For the month of February, kids and adults are welcome to join in this intergenerational discussion of the children's book *Change Sings*, by the #1 New York Times bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman.

Watch for details soon. Books will be available to purchase at Govans.

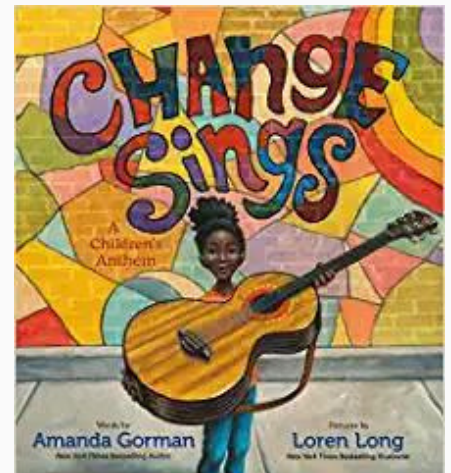
Racial Justice Ministry of Govans Website

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.



Actively Engaged in the World



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Thoughtful Readings & Resources

"35 Inspiring, Joyful and Moving Movies You Should Stream for Black History Month "

Learn more about the struggle for racial justice by watching some films. Parade's list includes documentaries about Toni Morrison and Aretha Franklin, fictionalized versions of true events (Chadwick Boseman playing Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in Marshall), and The Last Black Man in San Francisco, a favorite at the Sundance Film Festival. Click on the photo to the right to go to the list.



The Truth Telling Project

"We work to help people understand the deep-seated institutional racism that allows for police violence to occur, and the pervasive impact that violence has on families and their communities. We ultimately encourage empathy and anti-racist learning among ally communities and lead people to The Movement for Black Lives and other racial justice organizations as supporters." <https://thetruthtellingproject.org/>

Black Mental Health Alliance

"To develop, promote and sponsor trusted culturally-relevant educational forums, trainings and referral services that support the health and well-being of Black people and their communities."

<https://blackmentalhealth.com/>



**Black
Mental Health
Alliance**

Maya Angelou Quarter Announced

The US Mint announced that quarters featuring civil rights leader, poet laureate, college professor, and Broadway actress Maya Angelou were distributed in the US beginning January 10, 2022. Angelou, who died in 2014, is the first Black female to be depicted on a quarter.



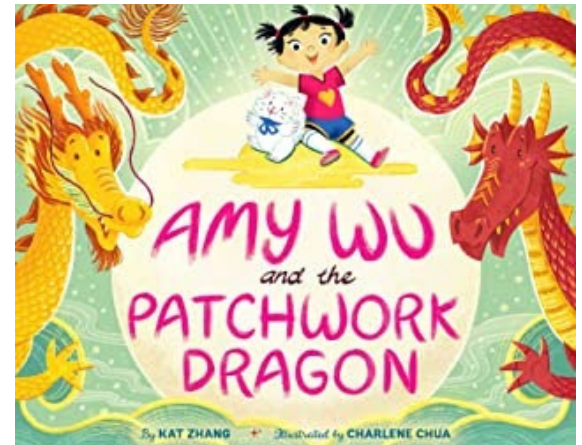


Young Readers

Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon

Written by Kat Zhang and illustrated by Charlene Chua

After reading a story, Amy and her classmates are all making their own dragon works of art. Amy's friends question her painting because Amy's dragon looks unfamiliar, so she begins to doubt herself as well. However, with the help of her Grandma, Amy learns that her dragon painting wasn't wrong at all, but rather inspired by the dragons in her family's culture.



We Are Water Protectors

Written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade

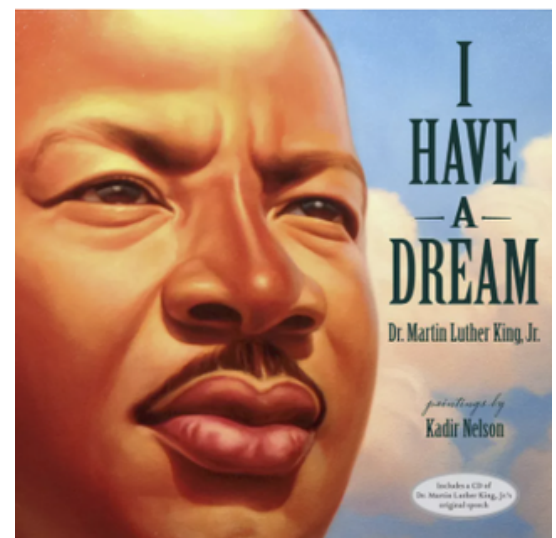
The author draws on her Ojibwe heritage to explain the connection between people, land, and water and to highlight our responsibility to protect all forms of life around us. Drawing inspiration from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline, the book is a call to action for environmental justice and an artistic story about culture, traditions, and activism.



I Have a Dream

Written by Elizabeth Kennedy and illustrated by Kadir Nelson

I Have a Dream by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a children's book for all ages that adults will also find meaningful. Excerpts of the speech, chosen for their accessibility to children's understanding, are paired with the stunning oil paintings of artist Kadir Nelson. At the end of the book, which is in picture book format, you'll find the full text of Dr. King's speech. A CD of the original speech is also included with the book.



You Tube Video to Watch

Ex Slaves talk about Slavery in the USA

A story done by ABC News in 1999 about slavery as told by people who were slaves. Recorded in the 1940's.



Racial Justice Ministry Working Group

Co-Chairs Adam Allen
Julie McDill Secretary Wendy Smith

Members

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



Advisory Members Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III
Professor Ron Williams

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.

**"True peace is
not merely the
absence of
tension; it is the
presence of
justice."**

MARTIN LUTHER KING,
JR.

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/>.

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