

# THE LIGHT RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY E-NEWSLETTER

## Happy Fall, Friends!

BY LEA GILMORE  
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MUSIC DIRECTOR (FIRST SERVICE)

Welcome to the fall edition of The Light - Govans Presbyterian Church's (GPC) Racial Justice Ministry's quarterly E-News. We remain dedicated to equity, justice, equality and fairness.

GPC celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month; September 15 - October 15! This year's theme is Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation. Diversity is our strength, and Hispanic contributions to the US culture, the economy, and the future of the nation cannot be denied. The Hispanic community is a varied community, from many different areas and climates. They speak different dialects and have different traditions.

Please [navigate here](#) for more information on how to celebrate the many contributions.

Govans Racial justice ministry is actively involved with engaging with and learning from community leaders across our neighborhood and our city.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved. Please consider joining BUILD at Coppin State University on Sunday October 16, The New Wave Singers here at Govans on October 22, and Ted Ramirez in Westminster on October 15.

Thank you for your continued participation and support in our efforts to educate our church community on issues of racial justice and to bring about positive changes for people of color.

Abundant Blessings,  
Lea



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## EVENTS

### Register for BUILD City-Wide Action

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET

Register for BUILD's in-person October 16 Citywide Action with 1000+ leaders and candidates for statewide office. Click the image to the right to register.

What: October 16 citywide action

Who: 1000+ people interested in addressing Baltimore's 15,000+ vacant properties, jobs, violence, and health care.

When: Sunday, October 16, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Coppin State University, James Weldon Johnson Auditorium, 2500 W. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21216

### The New Wave Singers of Baltimore

Govans Presbyterian Church in partnership with GEDCO Cares is hosting The New Wave Singers of Baltimore for a free concert called Celebrating Jazz and Justice on Friday, October 22, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

### Teodoro 'Ted' Ramirez in concert

in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Saturday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 PM, at the Carroll Arts Center, 91 W. Main St, Westminster, MD 21157. Learn more on [the Carroll Arts Center website](#) or click the image to the right.

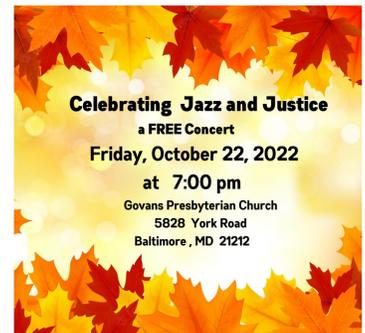
This is a free concert (donations accepted) presented by Common Ground Downtown, a partnership of Common Ground on the Hill and the Carroll County Arts Council.

### The Cooking Gene Book Discussion and Potluck

November 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm - Join us in the Gallery at Govans for a potluck and a discussion of Michael W. Twitty's The Cooking Gene. Bring a dish from the book to share. Books are available to purchase from the church office. Email Lea Gilmore ([lea@govanspres.org](mailto:lea@govanspres.org)) for more info.

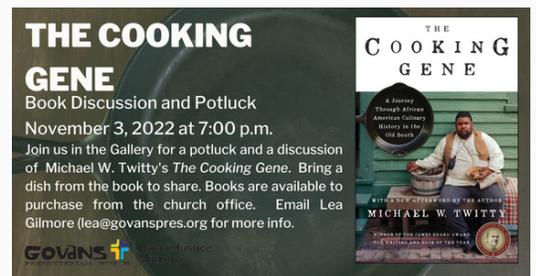


The New Wave Singers of Baltimore Presents



in partnership with GEDCO Cares and Govans Presbyterian Church.

No tickets are needed, but masks will be required.

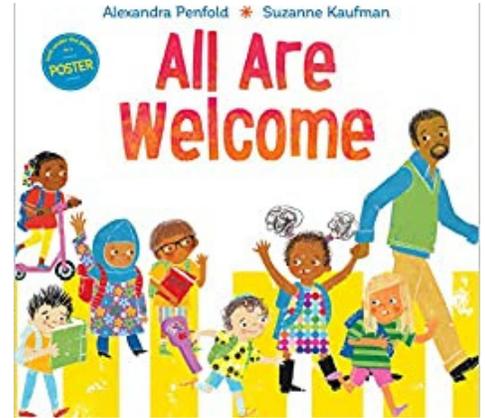




## Thoughtful Readings & Resources

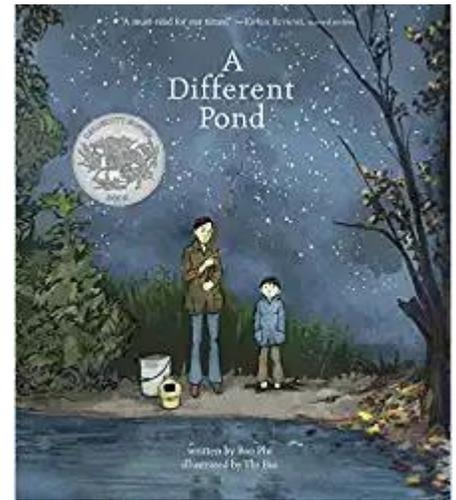
### All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman

A perfect picture book for the beginning of the school year. "Celebrate a school community as a great common ground where families of all kinds connect and share in their children's educational journey." The book's refrain of "All are welcome here" feels both deeply reassuring and almost radical in our polarized time." — *Publishers Weekly*



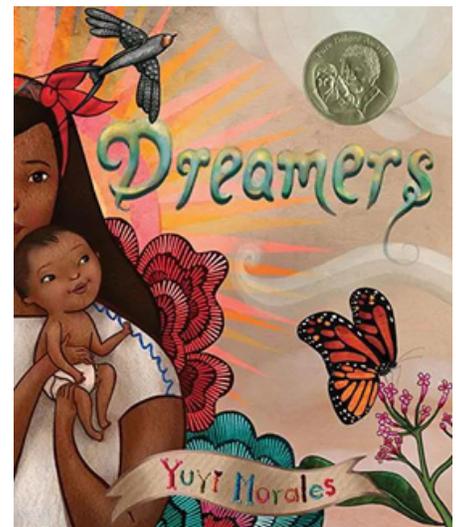
### A Different Pond by Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui

A Caldecott Honor book tells the story of a father and son from Vietnam who go to a local Minnesota pond to fish, helping to feed their family. "Phi's bittersweet story of the resourcefulness of an immigrant family is lovingly illustrated in Bui's evocative artwork." This wistful, beautifully illustrated story will resonate not only with immigrant families but any family that has faced struggle." *Booklist, starred review*



### Dreamers by Yuri Morales

An autobiographical book about Morales' journey to the US from Mexico with her young son in the 1990s. This book is available in English and Spanish (*Soñadores*) and is the winner of several awards for children's literature. "Many books about immigration describe the process of making new friends and fitting in; this one describes what it's like to become a creative being in two languages, and to learn to love in both. We are two languages./ We are lucha./ We are resilience./ We are hope." *Publishers Weekly, Starred Review*





## LEARNING MORE

### Great Baltimore Books List

The University of Maryland has compiled a list of 80 books they call [Understanding Race, Culture, and the History of Baltimore](#).

The list includes books on various topics including education, land use, social history, public health, anthropology, labor, and many others and includes biographies of famous Baltimoreans like Frederick Douglass. Click the link above or the image to the right.



### Banjo: A Brief History

With its origins in West Africa and the Caribbean, the banjo was played exclusively by Africans in early colonial times. The banjo was not introduced to white audiences until blackface Minstrel performers popularized the instrument as early as the 1840s.

Read more about the banjo and its strong roots in Africa and US plantations on [Ballad of America's website](#).



## HELP US SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

### Call for Minority-Owned Construction Companies

Do you have any contractors you like? Are there people you have worked with in the past?

The Facilities Committee is always looking for good contractors. At Govans, we have an anti-racist bid selection policy to be sure black, indigenous, and people of color are given fair consideration. Please send Andy Wilson ([wilson@govanspres.org](mailto:wilson@govanspres.org)) the names and phone numbers of any licensed and insured contractors you would recommend for work around the church.





## Racial Justice Ministry Working Group

**Co-Chairs** Adam Allen  
Julie McDill      **Secretary** Wendy Smith

### Members

	Shelley Ensor	Tanya Morrel
Kamila Alexander	Kaye Gooch	Susan Saunders
Beth Allen	Deletta Gillespie	Keith Snipes
Myra Brosius	David Harris	Jennifer Williams
Laila Ali	Gwen Lloyd	Maria Wong
Lisa Beacham	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](mailto:lea@govanspres.org) or go to <https://www.govanspres.org/what-we-do/racial-justice/>.

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