

THE LIGHT RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY E-NEWSLETTER



Sharpen Your Pencils!

BY LEA GILMORE
MINISTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE & MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT |
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Finally, the weather is starting to cool and children are returning to school. We who are working to continue to shed light on racial injustice and transform ourselves and our community to be anti-racist are also sharpening our pencils and trying some new things.

Included in these new things, starting next year, we will be featuring the work of our community leaders, advocates, and activists with "Courageous Conversations." You will also be given the opportunity to tell your story.

Racial Justice Ministry Committee (RJMC) leaders proposed some great, new changes to our meeting structure and placed our meeting documents in our Google Drive so we can all easily access them prior to our meetings. We thank RJMC Secretary Wendy Smith for all of her hard work in helping us prepare. We are all busy people and this should improve productivity and help us stay on top of this important work. Thanks to our committee members for all of their hard work!

We are thrilled with the launch of our Community Garden. This will be a wonderful way to further engage with our surrounding communities.

Music Mondays are back! After a summer hiatus, we welcome diverse music back into our cyber walls.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. I am always available to speak one-on-one. Feel free to contact me: at lea@govanspres.org.

May peace, fairness, and love reign!

Yours in Justice,

Lea



Racial Justice
Ministry

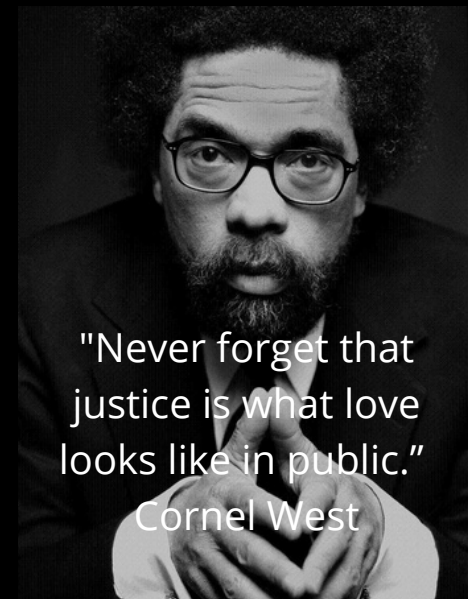
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"Never forget that
justice is what love
looks like in public."
Cornel West



Soul Kitchen Volunteers

EVENTS

Soul Kitchen Fundraiser

Saturday, October 14, 7:30 pm
Govans Presbyterian Church

Soul Kitchen is a free meal lovingly made by volunteers and distributed to anyone in the community who needs it every Sunday from the Peace Terrace between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Our annual fundraiser is a fun evening of music, food, and a silent auction. It is a great opportunity to support this enormous undertaking that serves 80 to 100 meals each and every Sunday afternoon.

Contact Carolyn at facilities@govanspres.org to volunteer.

The Summoning of Black Joy, Dr. Khadijah Z. Ali-Coleman

Khadijah Z. Ali-Coleman, Ed.D. is an award-winning performance artist, multi-genre writer, producing playwright and filmmaker. She is author of the children's book *Mariah's Maracas* and the 2023 Juneteenth weekend release, *The Summoning of Black Joy: a poetry collection*. She is co-editor of the 2022 release, *Homeschooling Black Children in the US*. Dr. Ali-Coleman has been featured in the *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times* and more because of her work in arts and education. She has been interviewed by various broadcast media outlets, including NPR, CNN, Slate, and local affiliates of NBC, FOX and CBS recently, specifically because of her work in the Black homeschooling community. She is currently the 2023 Poet Laureate of Prince George's County, MD.

Since COVID-19, how have we pivoted in a world that was already on the verge of losing its mind? Dr. Ali-Coleman joins us for a talk on homeschooling Black children, finding peace through writing, remote work and her new book, *The Summoning of Black Joy: a poetry collection*.

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81090475196?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81090475196?pwd=Y0dEcIU5VnNURmsyQ0Jmb3AzWjRwUT09)
[pwd=Y0dEcIU5VnNURmsyQ0Jmb3AzWjRwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81090475196?pwd=Y0dEcIU5VnNURmsyQ0Jmb3AzWjRwUT09)

Meeting ID: 810 9047 5196
Passcode: 017471

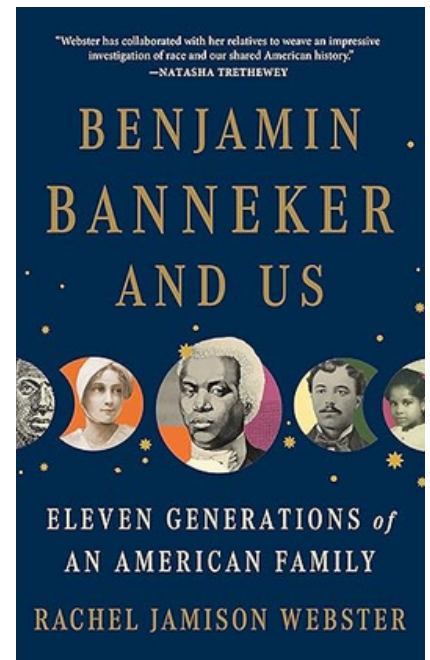




Thoughtful Readings and Resources

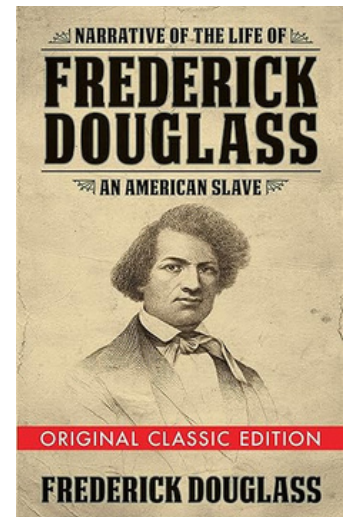
Benjamin Banneker and Us: Eleven Generations of An American Family by Rachel Jamison Webster

In 1791, Thomas Jefferson hired a Black man to help survey Washington, DC. That man was Benjamin Banneker, an African-American mathematician, a writer of almanacs, and one of the greatest astronomers of his generation. Banneker then wrote what would become a famous letter to Jefferson, imploring the new president to examine his hypocrisy, as someone who claimed to love liberty yet was an enslaver. More than two centuries later, Rachel Jamison Webster, an ostensibly white woman, learns that this groundbreaking Black forefather is also her distant relative. ([Amazon review](#))



Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

Former slave, impassioned abolitionist, brilliant writer, newspaper editor and eloquent orator whose speeches fired the abolitionist cause, Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) led an astounding life. Physical abuse, deprivation and tragedy plagued his early years, yet through sheer force of character he was able to overcome these obstacles to become a leading spokesman for his people. In this, the first and most frequently read of his three autobiographies, Douglass provides graphic descriptions of his childhood and horrifying experiences as a slave as well as a harrowing record of his dramatic escape to the North and eventual freedom. Published in 1845 to quell doubts about his origins — since few slaves of that period could write — the Narrative is admired today for its extraordinary passion, sensitive and vivid descriptions and storytelling power. It belongs in the library of anyone interested in African-American history and the life of one of the country's most courageous and influential champions of civil rights. A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative. ([Amazon review](#))



The Codeswitch Podcast on NPR

What's CODE SWITCH? It's the fearless conversations about race that you've been waiting for. Hosted by journalists of color, our podcast tackles the subject of race with empathy and humor. We explore how race affects every part of society — from politics and pop culture to history, food and everything in between. This podcast makes all of us part of the conversation — because we're all part of the story. Code Switch was named Apple Podcasts' first-ever Show of the Year in 2020. ([NPR.org](#))





Racial Justice Ministry Committee

Co-Chairs Akilah Atkinson Julie McDill Secretary Wendy Smith

Members

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



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.

**"Forgive
yourself for not
knowing what
you didn't know
before you
learned it."**

MAYA ANGELOU

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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