

THE LIGHT RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY E-NEWSLETTER

Voting Our Values to Make a Difference

BY TANYA MORRELL
CHAIR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As many of you know, we have partnered with Knox Presbyterian Church, a predominantly black church. As part of that effort, Govans is participating in the Vote Your Values effort, sponsored by the Dismantling Racism Team of the Baltimore Presbytery and the In the Loop Ministry Group, of which Knox Presbyterian is a member.

We have committed to sending 300 non-partisan Get Out the Vote postcards to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Georgia and Virginia before their primaries. The postcards need to be filled out in a very specific manner and sent out between specific dates.

There are two ways to participate. One is to attend the postcard writing event we are hosting this Thursday at 7:00 pm in Sharp Hall where light refreshments will be provided. The other is to take a packet of five or more postcards home with you and complete them using the instructions provided and mail them during the specified timeframe. Email me if you are interested at tmorrel@gmail.com.

Govans has covered the cost of the stamps, which are affixed to the cards.

We hope you can come to the gathering on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 pm. Knox members were also invited, so hopefully that will also be an opportunity to meet some of their members in a smaller, more intimate setting.

In Peace,
Tanya Morrell,
Education and Engagement Chair,
Racial Justice Working Group



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by Tanya Morrell
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"Peace does not mean an
absence of conflicts;
differences will always exist.
Peace means a situation
where there is less conflict."
— Dalai Lama.



*Three Generation Quilt,
Elizabeth Talford Scott*

EVENTS

Voting Our Values

April 18th, 7:00 p.m.
Sharp Hall, Govans Presbyterian Church

Sponsored by In the Loop Ministry Group and the Dismantling Racism Team of the Presbytery of Baltimore, join us to sign non-partisan Get Out the Vote (GOTV) postcards to be sent to Black, Indigenous, & People of Color voters in the Georgia and Virginia Congressional Primaries.

Email Tanya Morrel (tmorrel@gmail.com) with questions.



Keith Snipes and Company present Let Freedom Sing

Govans Presbyterian Church
Thursday, May 23, 7:00 pm
See next page for more information



2nd Annual Juneteenth Concert with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and community musicians.

Govans Presbyterian Church
Monday, June 10, 7:00 pm

Knox/Govans Joint Worship

Sunday, April 28. 11:00 am
Knox Presbyterian Church
1300 N Eden St, Baltimore, MD 21213



**Keith Snipes & Company
presents:**

LET FREEDOM SING!



Keith Snipes, vocals



Cyrus Chestnut, piano



Eric Kennedy, drums



Brent Birkhead,
wind instruments



Obasi Okoto, bass

Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

5828 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212 | www.govanspres.org

Keith Snipes created Keith Snipes & Company to embody the values his mother instilled in him: to say something positive through music; something that affirms our commonalities.

"I want to emphasize our shared humanity and accentuate our deepest democratic desires and demands. Music allows for all of that."

FREE ADMISSION

GOVANS 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Racial Justice
Ministry



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Dismantling Racism Presbytery of Baltimore Spring Book Discussion

Explore *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein, and make this 6-week opportunity part of your plans for Eastertide. [Registration has opened!](#)

- 6 weekly discussions – on Zoom
- Mondays, April 8 – May 13, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- Special guests provide insight into the major topics
- Facilitated small group discussion

Sponsored by the Presbytery of Baltimore Dismantling Racism Team and In the Loop Ministry Group.

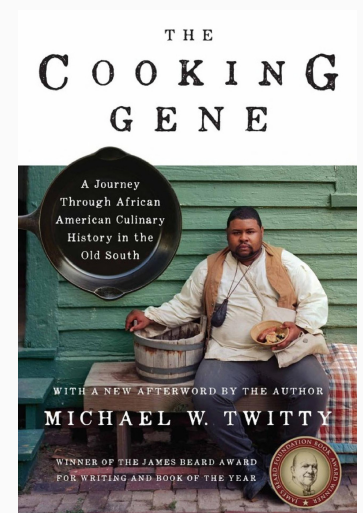
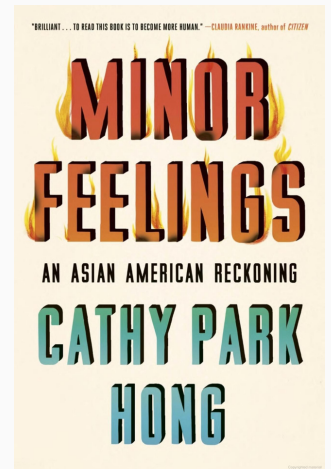
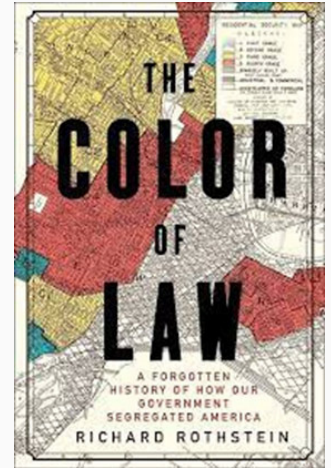
Summer Book Study

Minor Feelings; an Asian American Reckoning,
by Cathy Park Hong
July-August

A powerful essay collection that explores Asian American identity and the complex emotions that arise from it. Through personal stories and cultural analysis, Hong exposes the racial barriers and ingrained prejudices that continue to affect Asian Americans today.

Fall Book Discussion & Potluck

The Cooking Gene
Michael W. Twitty
TBD





Thoughtful Readings & Resources

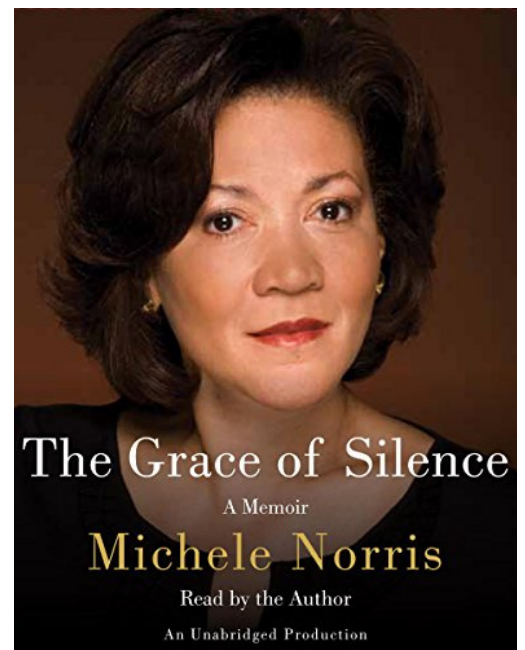
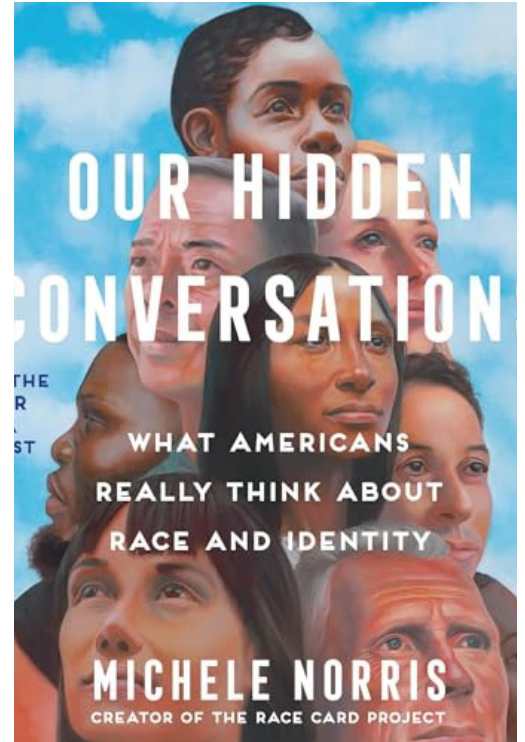
Our Hidden Conversations: What Americans Really Think About Race and Identity by Michele Norris

UPeabody Award-winning journalist Michele Norris offers a transformative dialogue on race and identity in America, unearthed through her decade-long work at The Race Card Project.

The Grace of Silence, a Memoir by Michele Norris

In the wake of talk of a “post-racial America” upon the ascendance of Barack Obama as president of the United States, Michele Norris, host of National Public Radio’s All Things Considered, set out, through original reporting, to write a book about “the hidden conversation on race” that is going on in this country. But along the way she unearthed painful family secrets - from her father’s shooting by the Birmingham police within weeks of his discharge from service in World War II to her grandmother’s peddling pancake mix as an itinerant Aunt Jemima. In what became an intensely personal and bracing journey, Norris traveled from her childhood home in Minneapolis to her ancestral roots in the Deep South to explore “things left unsaid” by her family when she was growing up. Along the way she discovers how character is forged by both repression and revelation. She learns how silence became a form of self-protection and a means of survival for her parents - strivers determined to create a better life for their children at a time when America was beginning to experiment with racial equality - as it was for white Americans who grew up enforcing strict segregation (sometimes through violence) but who now live in a world where integration is the norm.

Extraordinary for Norris’s candor in examining her own complex racial legacy, *The Grace of Silence* is also informed by hundreds of interviews with ordinary Americans and wise observations about evolving attitudes toward race in America. It is concerned with assessing the truth of U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder’s assertion that, vis-à-vis race, ours is a nation of cowards, for often what is left unsaid is more important than what is openly discussed.





Racial Justice Ministry Working Group

Co-Chairs Akilah Atkinson 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	McKenna Traynham

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

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

“Bridges are built through dialogue, not through weapons.”

NADEEM AHMED