

Opportunities for Personal Growth on Race

Suggested by Bethany UMC's *Healing the Racial Divide* Ministry

5 January, 2020

ORGANIZATIONS

(Volunteer, News/Info, Speakers, Activities, Workshops, etc.)

United Methodist Church General Commission on Race & Religion

Supporting and leading vital conversations, developing culturally competent leadership and ministries, and promoting institutional equity while upholding the agency's historic commitment to racial justice within the Church. News and resources on race and religion for Methodists.

<http://www.gcorr.org/>

United Methodist Women on Racial Justice and Mass Incarceration

Mission focus on racial justice from the United Methodist Women. United Methodist Women is deeply committed to the ongoing work of racial justice. They seek to be in right relationship with one another, working together for the transformation of church and world, and following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice>

Austin Justice Coalition

A grassroots organization providing tools for people who are historically and systematically impacted by gentrification, segregation, over policing, a lack of educational and employment opportunities, and other institutional forms of racism in Austin, to improve their lives. They believe in uniting people of all colors to be catalysts for change.

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

BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

***America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallace**

A prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians—particularly white Christians—urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.

***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander**

Today, the majority of black men in major urban areas are under correctional control or saddled with criminal records for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the books decades ago, but an extraordinary percentage of the African American community is warehoused in prisons or trapped in a parallel social universe, denied basic civil and human rights—including the right to vote; the right to serve on juries;

and the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to education and public benefits. In the words of the author, “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.” (A *New York Times* best seller.)

***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson**

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice, told through the lives of a gifted lawyer and those he has defended. (A *New York Times* best seller.)

***The Methodist Unification: Christianity and the Politics of Race in the Jim Crow Era* by Morris L Davis**

Focuses on the efforts among the Southern and Northern Methodist churches in the early twentieth century to create a unified national Methodist church, and how their plan for unification came to institutionalize racism and segregation in unprecedented ways. How did these Methodists conceive of what they had just formed as “united” when members in the church body were racially divided?

Sojourners

Sojourners magazine and Sojourners' online publication (and newsletters) sit at the intersection of faith, politics, and culture. Their coverage goes beyond the trending headlines to uncover and explore in depth the hidden injustices in the world around us. “Our call to prophetic interrogation means we seek the truth as informed by our biblical roots.” Sojourners' three key commitments are racial and social justice, life and peace, and environmental stewardship.

<https://sojo.net/>

***New York Times* “Race/Related” Newsletter**

A deep and provocative exploration of race, identity and society with *New York Times* journalists, via weekly online essays. (Free signup required.)

<https://www.nytimes.com/newsletters/race-related>

VIDEOS/MOVIES

Bryan Stevenson’s TED Talk: We Need to Talk About an Injustice

In an engaging and personal talk -- with cameo appearances from his grandmother and Rosa Parks -- human rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson shares some hard truths about America's justice system, starting with a massive imbalance along racial lines: a third of the country's black male population has been incarcerated at some point in their lives. These issues, which are wrapped up in America's unexamined history, are rarely talked about with this level of candor, insight and persuasiveness.

https://www.ted.com/speakers/bryan_stevenson

Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise

This series of four videos from PBS looks at the last five decades of African American history through the eyes of Henry Louis Gates, Jr., exploring the tremendous gains and persistent challenges of these years. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, scholarly analysis and rare archival footage, the series illuminates the

recent past, while raising urgent questions about the future of the African American community – and our nation as a whole. (Available on Amazon and YouTube)

RACE: The Power of an Illusion

This three-part documentary challenges one of the most fundamental beliefs: that humans come divided into a few distinct biological groups. It's an eye-opening tale of what society assumes to be normal, commonsense, even scientific, is actually shaped by our history, social institutions and cultural beliefs. (Available on YouTube and California Newsreel)

12 Years a Slave

In the years before the Civil War, Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is kidnapped and sold into slavery in the South. Subjected to the cruelty of one malevolent owner, he also finds unexpected kindness from another, as he struggles continually to survive and maintain some of his dignity. Then, in the 12th year of the disheartening ordeal, a chance meeting with an abolitionist from Canada changes Solomon's life forever.

Selma

Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally desegregated the South, discrimination was still rampant in certain areas, making it very difficult for blacks to register to vote. In 1965, an Alabama city became the battleground in the fight for suffrage. Despite violent opposition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers pressed forward on an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, and their efforts culminated in President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Hate U Give

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds -- the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is soon shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer. Facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and decide to stand up for what's right.

SITE VISITS

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice

A national memorial to commemorate the victims of lynching in the United States. It's intended to acknowledge past racial terrorism and advocate for social justice in America. Founded by the non-profit Equal Justice Initiative, and located in downtown Montgomery, Alabama.

<https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/>

The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration

Located in Montgomery Alabama near the The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the museum displays the history of slavery and racism in America. It includes the enslavement of African-Americans, racial lynchings, segregation, and racial bias.

<https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/>

Travis County Lynching Memorial

On August 14, 1894, Travis County was the site of a triple lynching when a white mob seized a black woman and two black men from a small jail about 30 miles outside of Austin. According to news reports, the woman was working as a nurse for a white family when their child died, and without evidence or investigation, she was accused of murder in the child's death. Two black men were also arrested. In 2017, an historical marker was erected outside Wesley UMC in Austin to memorialize these victims of racial terror.

WORSHIP

Wesley United Methodist Church, 1164 San Bernard St, Austin, TX 78702

“Wesley United Methodist Church exists to exalt the name of Jesus Christ, evangelize the lost, and equip believers for ministry through stewardship and Bible study, as we extend Christ’s love to the world.”

<http://wesleyunited.org/>

Summit Worship Center, 10401 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, TX 78750

“Our desire is to serve you in any way we can, to see you grow in your relationship with Christ and fulfill your purpose.”

<https://summitatx.org/>

Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1101 E. 10TH St, Austin, TX 78702

“We are committed to spiritual development of our members, discipleship building, community development and the building consensus with the Austin community. We believe in the inclusion of all people and all races.”

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