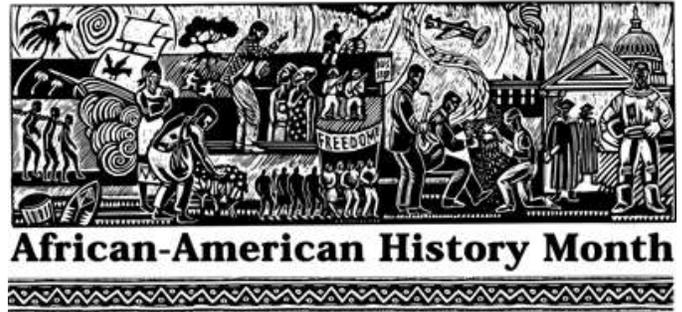


**“What is it that allows a people — not immigrants, but a stolen people from a diverse continent — to endure the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade, learn a new language, be bought and sold and designated as chattel — and survive?”**



**Join** a special worship service prepared in commemoration of Black History Month to be live streamed on the [PC\(USA\) Facebook page](#) on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 a.m. Eastern Time (8:00 a.m. Central).

The theme for this year’s service is adapted from [Maya Angelou’s](#) poem of liberation and survival, “[Still I Rise.](#)”

Rev. Michael Moore, Associate for [African American Intercultural Congregational Support](#) in the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s [Racial Equity & Women’s Intercultural Ministries](#) (RE&WIM), says, “[I]t’s very important that we pay homage and celebrate the achievements of Black Americans of the past and today. However, this Black History Month I am more intrigued by what I call the ‘spirit’ of Black history.”

Moore describes Black history as a journey of a people who, despite the contradictions, unfairness, inequity and disparities, just keep getting back up, stepping up, standing out and going forward despite it all.

“I am amazed, astounded, flabbergasted and sometimes bewildered and dumbfound by the spirit of Black history,” said Moore. “What is it that allows a people — not immigrants, but a stolen people from a diverse continent — to endure the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade, learn a new language, be bought and sold and designated as chattel — and survive?”

Moore asked what is it that allows a people designated as three-fifths of a human being and stigmatized because of the color of their skin to endure lynchings and Jim Crow laws and yet still be resilient and adaptable enough to share crop or work for nothing and build and contribute greatly to the making the wealthiest country on the planet?

Moore says that as he reflects on Black history, he wonders what is the something that still to this day strengthens Black people to resist being marginalized and segregated and being killed openly without justice, without restitution or even acknowledgement of the horrible wrongs perpetrated against them.

“What is it that allows a people to hold to a vision and value that one day they will be not be judged by the color of skin, but content of character?” he said.

“Black history,” Moore said, “is a lived-out message of faith, hope and love.”

The on-line worship service will be available through the PCUSA Facebook page at 8:00 a.m. Central on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

- *From the Peacemaking & Public Witness Mission Team, Missouri Union Presbytery and from Gail Strange, Presbyterian News Service*