

FPC Racial Justice Task Force

The FPC Racial Justice Task Force is committed to planning and highlighting opportunities for members of our faith community to learn more about structural racism and white supremacy, how these social forces serve to separate us from God, and what each of us can do to work toward racial equity and justice. We hope you will join us on your own journey toward anti-racism!



Events @ FPC and in the Burlington community

African American Poetry Class — Sundays at 9:45 a.m. starting September 25 and ending November 20 in Room 122. Led by Dr. Harry Brown. Join us to discuss poetry by a different African American poet each week. Regular reading assignments will be three to five poems by a major African American poet, ranging from the eighteenth-century writer Phillis Wheatley to Pulitzer Prize-winning U.S. Poet Laureate (1993-95) Rita Dove. We will also read poems by Langston Hughes, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Gwendolyn Brooks, among others. Our textbook will be *The Vintage Book of African American Poetry*, ed. M. S. Harper and A. Walton (Vintage Books, 2000), available on Amazon in used paperback.

Malcolm X and MLK: A Talk by Peter Murray, Twin Lakes Resident and retired history professor from Methodist University. **Twin Lakes Community Gathering Room, Friday, October 7 @ 2:00 p.m.**

Book Discussion of *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation*, by Anna Malaika Tubbs. Beth Hooten will facilitate a conversation for the FPC Book Group on **Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 at Noon in the John Knox Room.**

Suggested Area Events to Attend On Your Own

Bryan Stevenson, author and pioneering human rights lawyer, will be speaking at Duke University on **Wednesday, September 21, and Thursday, September 22.** Although the in-person events are sold out, you may still register for the livestream for each event. For more information and to register for the livestream events for either night, visit the website: <https://tickets.duke.edu/Online/default.asp>

Rebellious: Triad Stage, October 4 - 23. This powerful World Premiere production follows four Bennett Belles through the Sit-in Movement. They must navigate the complexities of friendship, their growing sense of self, and the brutal racism and oppression that they face in daily interactions in Greensboro, NC. As they work to define who they are in this crucial moment in time, they must decide if and how they will take a stand and be REBELLIOUS. Ticket info: <https://triadstage.org/performance/348/rebellious>

RACE Exhibit at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh (ongoing) This is a smaller exhibit for the next two years based upon the larger exhibit of the same name from 2017. This version is updated and works to serve the Southeast, as well as highlight the race-related stories that are unique to this part of the country. More info at <https://talkabouttrace.org/>

In the works...stay tuned!

Screening of At The River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South, a film by Carolyn Crowder (Time and Date TBD)

At The River is a feature-length documentary about a certain time and place in the deep south. In the Civil Rights era of the 50s and 60s most Presbyterian ministers stood on the banks of the cultural river of segregation and white supremacy. They opted not to stir the waters in their congregations and communities by speaking out. However, a few young southern Presbyterian ministers did brave those currents through their sermons, community organizing, and participating in marches and protests. They faced dangerous, hate-filled consequences for these actions. RJTF will be hosting a screening - more details to come! Learn more about the film here: <https://filmfreeway.com/AtTheRiver889>

COMING SPRING 2023: What Lies Between Us Workshop. This 5-week curriculum has been selected by the Salem Presbytery Peace & Justice Task Force to form the foundation of the racial equity equipping (training) now required for Teaching Elders, Christian Educators, and Ruling Elders serving on Presbytery Committees. Beth Hooten is a Certified Instructor for this curriculum, and the RJTF is excited to bring this program to members of our own FPC congregation who seek racial healing in our lives and communities. With each module, you will receive instruction and engage in heart work, which includes reflective journaling and completing assignments. Topics covered include:

1. How/why race/ism was created
2. Reinforcing narratives and policies
3. Immigration Intersection
4. Analysis of structural power
5. Brain and belief bias

Look for more details in the spring!

RJTF is also planning upcoming field trips to the **International Civil Rights Center & Museum** in Greensboro, and an **Underground Railroad Walking Tour** in the Guilford College Woods. More details coming soon!



Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against, and work against racism.