Dear friends,

How do we preach faithfully and effectively about racism? Following the racial justice pilgrimage this spring, the Anti Racism Committee wanted to help resource those in our presbytery who wish to address racism in their preaching. We know that many of us in our presbytery feel compelled to speak about racism and white supremacy in our preaching and in other teaching settings, but we don’t always feel well equipped to do so.

**This fall, we’ll be offering a study group intended to help equip preachers to address racism from the pulpit thoughtfully and effectively.** We’ll meet by Zoom for six one-hour sessions for discussion and learning together. The study is open to anyone in the presbytery involved in the ministry of preaching – ministers, commissioned ruling elders, stated supply pastors, and seminarians.

The focus of our study will be the book [*Preaching About Racism: A Guide for Faith Leaders*](https://www.amazon.com/Preaching-about-Racism-Guide-Leaders/dp/0827231628/ref%3Dsr_1_1?keywords=preaching+about+racism+a+guide+for+faith+leaders&qid=1661260784&sprefix=preaching+about+racism%2Caps%2C96&sr=8-1)by Carolyn B. Helsel. Dr. Helsel is Associate Professor of Homiletics at Austin Theological Seminary. Her work is based on more than a decade of writing, teaching and preaching about racism. It’s a brief book that provides strategies and a theoretical framework for crafting biblical and theological sermons that also incorporate insights from social sciences and psychology. As facilitator, I’ll convene the sessions but we expect the time to be spent in discussion of what we have read rather than presentation. We also hope that the group will provide accountability, that we might encourage one another to put into practice what we learn.

**If you are interested in participating, please register by September 1** [here](https://forms.gle/KFU7gAFv5ntXNksA8).

When you register, you’ll have a chance to indicate your preferred meeting times; the option that works for the most participants will be selected. If you have any questions about the study, please contact me at leanne@svpcusa.org. We hope you’ll join us.

Grace and peace,
Leanne Pearce Reed

Anti-Racism Committee

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley