

#CLOSErikers Bronx Community Forum

May 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Bronxworks Betances Community Center

Directly impacted leaders will articulate the #CLOSErikers [plan to close Rikers](#) on the fastest possible timeline, shrinking our jail system while improving conditions, and secure investments for our communities.

Bronx Community Board 1 Public Hearing on borough-based jail plan

Thursday May 23 from 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Lincoln Hospital

This will be the only official hearing the Bronx community board will hold on the borough based facilities before they vote, and we want to have a strong presence there, testifying in support of a borough based plan to close Rikers on the fastest possible timeline AND outlining key improvements that need to be made to the proposed plan (before the City Council votes on it in the fall). Can you give testimony, or just to be present in solidarity? RSVP to [Sarita](#), and #CLOSErikers will support you in preparing testimony!

Celebrate the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet's Vision of Justice

Heritage Sunday - May 19

Congregations are invited to celebrate the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet's vision and ministry of justice on May 19. The Rev. Garnet escaped slavery as a child and grew to become a leading abolitionist and orator. He served as pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church in New York (parent of [St. James Presbyterian Church](#)) and Washington, D.C.'s Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Garnet was an ardent and dedicated political activist. Last year the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) acted to recognize "[The Reverend Henry Highland Garnet's Prophetic Voice for Today](#)." As part of that recognition, the Presbyterian Historical Society has focused Heritage Sunday on the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet. [Learn more and find resources](#) from the Society.

Self-Development of People Workshop

Wednesday, May 22 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Lafayette Ave. Presbyterian Church

The [Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#) will hold a workshop about grants that are available to grassroots groups.

Broad guidelines are:

Project members must initiate, directly benefit from and control the project.

The project must address community issues or improve the lives of group members.

Most of the group members must be categorized as low income/under served.

To register, contact [Nina Lewis](#)

For more information, contact [Selma Jackson](#)

Dinner with National Self-Development of People Committee

Friday, May 24 at 6:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Newark

820 Broad Street

Newark, NJ 07102

The National Self-Development of People Committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) invites all to join them for dinner. This will be an opportunity to learn about the work of SDOP and to meet national committee members and staff. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Teresa.bidart@pcusa.org by May 13.

Genesis of Exodus

May 31, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Broadway Presbyterian Church

Produced by the PC(USA) Office of Immigration Issues, this film looks at the root causes of migration from Central America's Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras). A panel discussion with Teresa Waggener, immigration attorney in the PC(USA) Office of Immigration Issues, and representatives of local groups working on immigration will follow the screening.

Mental Health Weekend of Faith

New York City's fourth annual **Mental Health Weekend of Faith** is **May 16-19** focused on the theme **The Effects of Stress and Depression**. Observe this week through:

TALK: Encourage and nurture open and honest conversations about mental health

TEACH: Share the educational information from the Faith/Community Leader Toolkit

PREACH: Use the Toolkit's Discussion Guide to frame messaging on mental health in sermons.

POST: Use the Toolkit's Social Media Guide to share messages or support on social media

[Register with the city to receive](#) the toolkits.

State of the Homeless 2019

The Coalition for the Homeless released its [State of the Homeless 2019 report](#), providing a comprehensive look at homelessness in New York City. The report finds that policy failures by the City and State have exacerbated the decades-long homelessness crisis stemming from New York's severe lack of affordable housing. In January 2019, a record 63,839 men, women, and children slept in New York City shelters each night.

Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do

Thursday, May 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

233 Broadway, 12th Floor

The Vera Institute for Justice presents a conversation with Dr. Jennifer Eberhart on her book *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*. The conversation will focus on unconscious bias that can be at work without our realizing it, and even when we genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior. This has an impact on education, employment, housing, and criminal justice.

Exodus: Building a Movement to end Mass Incarceration and Mass Detention

On September 6 and 7, 2019, Color Of Change, Define American, and Union Theological Seminary will host a symposium on mass incarceration and mass detention at Union's campus in New York City. [Learn more and sign up to be notified](#) when tickets are available.