



# Manito United Methodist Church

Spokane, Washington

April 2021

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter, "Equity Corner." At the conclusion of our small group discussion on the book, "So You Want to Talk About Race", we compiled a list of ways we can make changes to start to dismantle systemic racism. Some of these changes occur at the personal level, some at the congregational level, and some at the regional and national level.

One of those suggestions was to focus on equity throughout the entire year, not just during Black History Month. We would also like to discuss issues affecting all persons of color, LGBTQ persons, the disabled, and women.

This newsletter is being spearheaded by Maureen Miller and Liz West, but we welcome submissions and suggestions from all our parishioners. We will include things we are doing in our congregation, local events that are pertinent, legislative issues on the subject, historical events, book reviews, prayers, and maybe even some personal stories.

## Upcoming Local Event

**Stand Against Racism 2021:**

**Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

**When:** Thursday, April 22nd | 5:30– 7:00pm

**Where:** A virtual event. Link sent on registration.

**Cost:** Free (registration required)

For more information visit:

<https://ywcaspokane.org/event/sar2021/>



*March for Racial Justice / March for Black Women 9/30/17"  
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## A Prayer

### Forgive Us for Not Speaking Up for the Least

O God of justice, miracles, and mighty deeds,

We lift up to you those who have been silenced by hardship, affliction, and injustice. Forgive us for not speaking up for the least among us. We confess that we have not exercised our influence and position to change things. Grant us the courage to be agents of change and instruments of justice. Empower us with the will and the desire to see your kingdom manifest on earth as it is already done in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

*Junius Dotson, **The Africana Worship Book, For Year B**, Valerie Bridgeman Davis, PhD and Safiyah Fosua, eds., (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 156.*

# We've Talked About Race and Now We're Gonna Walk: A Practical Guide to Action

## PERSONAL

- ◆ Become a role model or mentor. Volunteer or support local programs like If You Could Save Just One ([ifyoucouldsavejustone.org](http://ifyoucouldsavejustone.org)), or Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest ([nwbigs.org](http://nwbigs.org))
- ◆ Become a tutor for a student
- ◆ Join the NAACP ([membershispokanenaacp@gmail.com](mailto:membershispokanenaacp@gmail.com))
- ◆ Join SCAR, the Spokane Community Against Racism ([scarspokane.org](http://scarspokane.org))
- ◆ Support minority-owned businesses—Subscribe to The Black Lens, an independent community newspaper (available online), support its advertisers
- ◆ Be an ally—you can legally video interactions between the police and persons of color or step up for a person of color in an uncomfortable situation
- ◆ Learn along with the children you care about—teach them about the histories and cultures of their background and also about the histories and cultures of their friends and classmates
- ◆ Watch what's going on around you and listen more than talk

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL

- ◆ Vote—not just presidential elections, but in primaries and on initiatives
- ◆ Advocate for programs like CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets), ([whitebirdclinic.org](http://whitebirdclinic.org))--This is a community policing initiative which started in Eugene in 1989. Two person teams, a medic (nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a mental health crisis worker deal with cases involving suicide threats, substance abuse, welfare checks, and conflict resolution
- ◆ Become a lobbyist—Faith Action Network ([fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org)) and Earth Ministry ([earthministry.org](http://earthministry.org)) track legislation at the state level on topics such as equity, policing, and environmental justice. When you call or email your legislator, give the number of the bill, for example, HB1091 or SB5141. Also, lead with your faith and say that you are a member of one of these groups. WA Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000
- ◆ Support Public Health Action Coalition Team of Spokane ([facebook.com/PHACTSpokane](https://facebook.com/PHACTSpokane))--They are working on inequity in delivering health care to persons of color
- ◆ Support Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), ([pjals.org](http://pjals.org))--They are planning an anti-extremism event

## CONGREGATIONAL

- ◆ Bringing in diverse speakers—Make a connection with other Christians and look for ways to partner together
- ◆ Support our Partners in Ministry such as Family Promise, Shalom Ministries, and our new ECEAP preschool
- ◆ Participate in local events such as the Martin Luther King Day Rally and Black Lives Matter demonstrations ([waforblacklives.org](http://waforblacklives.org))
- ◆ Have a membership drive in your church for NAACP
- ◆ Involve your youth—there may be projects for racial justice or environmental justice that excite them
- ◆ Expand activities and information on race beyond Black History Month in February