

## Christ Episcopal Church Kensington Stands Against Racism, Intolerance, and Exclusion

The vestry of Christ Church affirms that Christ Church stands against racism, intolerance, and exclusion. We stand for justice, inclusion and equity.

To equip our community to live into our Baptismal Covenant “to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves”, Christ Church is sponsoring the following activities:

**Sacred Ground** - The Vestry unanimously agreed that we would lead by example; all making the commitment to take part in the national Episcopal Church’s initiative *Sacred Ground: A Dialogue on Race & Faith*. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the vestry, Children’s Minister Ann Enkiri, Bishop Marianne Budde, and Paul Budde will begin a Sacred Ground dialogue circle. Sacred Ground is a small-group 10 session program which uses films and readings to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity (more information at: [Sacred Ground](#)). The vestry encourages parishioners to form their own small groups to participate as well. For more information, contact: [leepuricelli@yahoo.com](mailto:leepuricelli@yahoo.com) or [Emily@ccpk.org](mailto:Emily@ccpk.org).

**How to be an Antiracist - Book Group** - Beginning Thursday August 13, from 7:00-8:00pm, CC member James Kennedy will facilitate a Zoom\* book group on [How to be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi. Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society. This book group will be a safe space to discuss a difficult topic and examine how your faith affects your thinking on this issue. For more information contact: [jkennedy@me.com](mailto:jkennedy@me.com)

**Celebrate Black Voices and Verses – Book Group** - Beginning August 24 and meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm, CC member Mari Casey will facilitate a monthly Zoom\* book club dedicated to black authors and poets. Mari invites you to "read, enjoy, and discuss powerful and beautiful works of fiction and poetry by Black writers because story and verse work beyond our minds-- they work in the soul. In our meetings, we will engage with texts that challenge us, move us, and teach us, and delight us. We will also reflect on our own intentions, our goals, and our spiritual progress as we go through discussion, prayer, and a little creative writing. The relaxed pace of this group will allow us the time to fall in love with the words on the page, with the characters in the stories, with the imagery and rhythm of the poems."

The first book is [Beloved](#) by Toni Morrison. Many of you may already be familiar with this treasure. Few of us, however, might have engaged with this text from a perspective of personal faith and growth, as a way to hear Christ's calling us to love our neighbors. We'll begin our first session, August 24, to discuss Parts 1 & 2 of [Beloved](#). If you have questions, contact: [mari.casey@gmail.com](mailto:mari.casey@gmail.com)

\*Zoom links will be provided for the book groups in future announcements.

## Support of Black-Owned and Latinx-Owned Businesses

Christ Church has taken advantage of an opportunity offered by the Diocese to order Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) through the Community Purchasing Alliance (CPA). CPA is member-owned cooperative ([www.cpa.coop](http://www.cpa.coop)) that helps educational, religious, coop, and community institutions lower the cost. At this time, they have made a concerted effort to add multiple vendors that are Black-owned and Latinx-owned, particularly for purchasing PPE. Christ Church has ordered masks and gloves through this offering from CPA and will continue to look for opportunities to support these and other minority-owned businesses in our purchasing processes.

## New Church Signs

Soon you will see the signs similar to those shown here at our church. We, as a church, plan to make it clear to everyone that racism, intolerance, and exclusion are absolutely antithetical to the teachings of Jesus and that we as Christians are dedicated to ending them by Jesus-inspired action.

