

Racial Justice Team

In 2023 POP's Racial Justice Team continued to lead Prince of Peace toward a better understanding of various marginalized racial and cultural groups treated unjustly in our country so that we can recognize our complicity and become better advocates for justice by:

- Sponsoring Speaker Shirley Satterfield, Princeton historian and founder of Witherspoon-Jackson Historical and Cultural Society to share the Black History of Princeton
- Organizing a Black History Walking Tour of Princeton using Witherspoon Jackson Historical and Cultural Society's Self-Guided Heritage Tour
- Advertising/representing POP at WHAM Interfaith Worship for MLK Day and Juneteenth
- Advertising/supporting Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM)
- Adding a Land Acknowledgement, recognizing that here in NJ we are on Lenni Lenape land, to POP's weekly bulletins and website
- Sponsoring program ad and trip to Nanticoke Lenape 42nd Annual PowWow
- Continuing displaying orange banner in sanctuary for 225 days and later in POP's narthex to honor and pray for Indigenous children killed in residential schools
- Providing Weekly Meditations read during Lenten worship on Indigenous needs and injustice (THANK YOU, Nancy Herrington!)
- Enhancing and expanding POP's Free Racial Justice Lending Library with relevant book donations from team and congregants
- Increasing number and recognition of Banned Books in library including Pastor Froehlke's Banned Book Club focused on 1619
- Gratefully welcoming our new volunteer librarians (THANK YOU, Kathy and Greg Nowak!)
- Submitting monthly newsletter articles sharing highlights of meetings, advertising upcoming opportunities and inviting participation in our work for racial justice
- Submitting monthly newsletter articles delving deeply into cultural holidays and traditions to educate the congregation (THANK YOU, Con Sweeney!)
- Supporting Pastor Froehlke's Adult Forums and Pastor's Classes such as Israel-Gaza history and suggested other racial justice topics and ELCA sponsored curricula
- Posting "Love Thy Neighbor" banner and signs as antisemitic and Islamophobic hate increased

Team members also represented POP, sharing their learning with the team

- by attending workshops by ELCA NJ Synod and ELCA in other parts of the country
- as active members of local and state-wide civic, religious, and educational organizations such as NJ Synod Anti-Racism Team and Justice Groups, NIOT, PPBC, Second Chance NJ, and FaithNJ which are working for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Racial Justice
- by attending conferences exploring possibilities for reaching out to Hispanic neighbors
- by reaching out to local activists and Rev. Sara Lilja regarding affordable housing issues

and legislation to investigate related advocacy

- by attending various workshops and webinars on many other justice issues and
- by dedicating time in monthly meetings to discuss the various cultures within the Asian
- diaspora and related issues to increase our understanding so we can advocate against
- Anti-Asian incidents

POP's Racial Justice Team meets on Zoom on the first Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30 and is always looking for new members as well as suggestions and related concerns. To join our team and/or email list, contact Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239 or nancyauerreyes@gmail.com

Submitted by Nancy Reyes, chair