

Report: ANTI-RACISM TEAM

Corinne Berkseth Baker, Chair

Good Shepherd's Anti-Racism Team provides activities and outlets for individuals to:

- Learn about the experiences, tragedies and triumphs of our African American brothers and sisters through history and to today.
- Explore and prayerfully reflect on racism, white privilege and unconscious bias
- Stand with those who face discrimination
- Act to stem structural racism.

We're guided by the resolution adopted by council in August 2015, *Our Response to Racism and the Murders at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Charleston, SC*. A copy of the text accompanies a print of Mother Emanuel Church hanging just outside the sanctuary, across from Pastor Jen's office. www.gslutheran.net/learn/anti-racism

2019 Activities



Gordon Parks Exhibit Outing: The New Tide, Early Work 1940-1950

Sunday, Feb. 17 @ the National Gallery of Art

Exhibition book and children's book on Gordon Parks' life is available in the lounge.

"I saw that the camera could be a weapon against poverty, against racism, against all sorts of social wrongs."

Despite the obstacles of poverty and segregation, Parks was a self-taught photographer who became an iconic photojournalist, chronicling the experiences of African Americans and others from the 1940s through the 1970s. His images captured the reality of real lives lived, with their complex weaving of joy, hardship, love and laughter, determination and exhaustion, joy and tragedy.

Team Members

Kim Anderson
Corinne Baker
Bob Cottrol
Dora Cottrol
Sue Cottrol
Meredith Hurt
Daniel Jackson
Pastor Jeanette Leisk
Andrea Ponsor
Scott Ponsor
Bruce Purdy
Cassi Smith
Lori Strauss

Issues & Upcoming Activities

Details: www.gslutheran.net/learn/anti-racism

Freedom House news and what you can do: *Historic Alexandria house where a notorious slave pen was located is up for sale*

Sweet Honey in the Rock® Celebrating the Holydays

Saturday, Dec. 7 @ 4 PM @ George Mason University Center for the Arts

Join us to ring in the Christmas season with the iconic African American a cappella ensemble for traditional American holiday spiritual songs and hymns, and songs from other cultures and religions.



The People Behind the Integration of Alexandria City Public Schools

Sunday, March 10 @ GSLC

Speaker: Jim McElhatton, freelance reporter discussed his series in the *Alexandria Times* on the people who were part of this historic 1959 event.



Singing in the African American Tradition

Tuesday, April 30 @ Virginia Theological Seminary

Dr. Ysaÿe M. Barnwell, a former long-time member of Sweet Honey in the Rock, led singers and non-singers in the experience of learning in the oral tradition.

Alexandria Equal Justice Initiative Public Meetings

Saturday, Sept. 21 @ Charles Houston Rec Center

Saturday, Nov. 16, 1-3 PM, Nannie J. Lee Rec Center

Community meetings on the City's efforts to claim and install a steel pillar to acknowledge two documented lynchings in Alexandria and grapple with the legacy of racism and associated violence in our past and to today.



Play: *Topdog Underdog*

Saturday, April 13 @ Gunston Arts Center

A Cain-and-Abel fable about two brothers named Lincoln and Booth, *Topdog Underdog* is a tensely funny and dead serious tragicomedy. Matinee followed by a discussion with the cast and crew.



Movie: *EMANUEL: The Untold Story of the Victims and Survivors of the Charleston Church Shooting*

Wednesday, June 19 @ AMC Hoffman Theatre

Marking the fourth anniversary and featuring intimate interviews with survivors and family members, *EMANUEL* is a poignant story of justice and faith, love and hate, examining the healing power of forgiveness.





March on Washington Film Festival

Sept. 22-29, various DC locations

This annual festival features events to learn more about well- and lesser-known civil rights leaders, participants and events through history and to today. It's also an opportunity for important exposure to people and perspectives that may be outside our typical circles.



Dear Church book discussion

Sunday, Sept. 22 @ GSLC

A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S., an enlightening, challenging and hopeful 158 pages.

Dear Church book talk with Rev. Lenny Duncan

Monday, Sept. 23 @ Luther Place



Movie & Discussion: Harriet

Sunday, Nov. 2 @ AMC Hoffman Theatre

From the film website: The extraordinary tale of American freedom fighter Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of our greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

All are welcome to participate on the anti-racism team or in any activities that speak to them. It's our hope that a variety of forums for education, conversation and exploration help us, as individuals and a faith community, approach dialog and reflection that can be difficult and uncomfortable in an open and spirit-filled manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinne Baker, Chair