



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing

One Hundred Years of Faith, Hope, Love and Action, 1916 to 2016

Churchwide Racial Justice Project—October 2015

All congregants are invited and encouraged to participate and it is hoped that participants will make two monthly commitments between October 2015 and April 2016. One is to ENGAGE in one of the various action offerings and the second is to REFLECT on racial inequality in a small group setting.

October Worship Theme: A People of Letting Go

UUCWC participates in the Our Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a group of over 130 UU congregations who follow the same monthly worship themes and share small group material, as well as sermon, music and children's religious education resources. Sharing resources helps avoid duplicative work and frees us for other ministry. However, the greatest gift is deeper connection. Despite great distances between us, we are spiritually connected by the themes, traveling each month on the same journey. Like a favorite reading from our hymnal says, "alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed." (uua.org)

A People of Letting Go

The late UU minister and theologian, Rev. Forrest Church, said, "When cast into the depths, to survive we must first let go of things that will not save us. Then we must reach out for the things that can." This is the twofold work of October: to explore the places in our lives that we must release, and then a spiritual practice of reaching out. What sacred work this spiritual two-step will be.

Opportunities for Participation in UUCWC's Racial Justice Project

"Spirit in Practice" Reflection Groups

Gather in the monthly churchwide Racial Justice Reflection Groups. What they are:

- A place to connect with yourself and with others in your group, in the experience and conversation of race.
- A place to explore your own challenges, capacities and place.
- A place to see more clearly where you stand, and in knowing this, to honor it, and perhaps to let go and move on.

October's reflection groups will spend some time introducing participants to each other and affirming the group covenant. Then the groups will do an exercise that seeks to identify both the obstacles and the benefits experienced in our life to see how they function in society.

Groups are currently scheduled as follows:

- First Sunday of the month: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Fourth Monday of the month: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

- First Thursday of the month: 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
- Fourth Wednesday of the month: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

TO REGISTER, SEND AN EMAIL TO ARE@UUCWC.ORG LISTING THREE (3) CHOICES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE.

HomeFront Volunteer Opportunities

(Facilitator: Ronnie Dobrowolski)

Ice Cream Social:

Ronnie Dobrowolski is planning an ice cream social for UUCWC families and children to meet and socialize on Saturday, November 7 at 12:30 PM at The HomeFront Family Campus. The group will be making sundaes and having some games and/or a craft project. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the Racial Justice bulletin board in the lobby or email racialjustice@uucwc.org.

Individual Volunteer Opportunities at the Family Campus in Ewing:

There are quite a few volunteer opportunities for individuals 15 years and older and these are detailed below. This information was taken from the HomeFront web site and can also be seen at <http://www.homefrontnj.org/polVolunteer.cfm> If you are interested, please contact HomeFront directly at 609-989-9417 or by email to getinvolved@homefrontnj.org. **The Racial Justice implementation team would greatly appreciate if you would please email them at racialjustice@uucwc.org and let them know what you're doing. Thank you.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY	DESCRIPTION
Client Support – Front Desk (Age 20+)	A personable volunteer willing to assist with customer service by helping with their daily operations at the front desk. They would like someone that is able to commit to at least one morning (9 - 1) or afternoon (1-5) a week on an ongoing basis. Tasks include answering the phone/directing calls and assisting with other administrative needs.
Free Store	Every morning the HomeFront truck takes all of the donated clothing and small household items that were donated the previous day, to the Free Store. Volunteer needs involve assisting with unloading, sorting and organizing the items in the store.
Annual Drives	Volunteer on site to assist with the organization and distribution of the Annual Drives which include Back to School, Thanksgiving Drive and Christmas Wishes Drive.
Homework Helpers	Assist the children at the Family Preservation Center with their homework Mon – Thurs from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
One on One Tutoring or Teach a Class for Adult Women *	Help tutor adult women at the Family Preservation Center for one hour increments on Mon - Thursday 9:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Assist with GED preparation, teach a class on Life Skills, etc.
Tutoring (offsite) Children (Age 18+) *	Help by tutoring children offsite: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesdays 6pm-8pm-Tutor children 5-12 years old @ ETS in Princeton OR Teens at the Lawrence Community Center• Tuesdays 6pm-8pm- 5-17 year olds @ The Lawrence Library
* To volunteer for these tutoring opportunities, contact Liza Peck at the HomeFront Family Campus, (609) 883-7500 ext.315, e-mail Lizap@Homefrontnj.org .	
Serve on Event Committee & Volunteer to Participate	Be a part of the committee to help with the Annual Events (Poker Tournament & Casino Night (February), HomeFront Run for Hope 5k Run (May), ArtJam (June)) and volunteer at the event.
Represent HomeFront in the Community	Be an advocate and help spread the news of the wonderful things that HomeFront does for our community. You can help by participating in and staffing the table at local fairs in the area.
Offer Professional Services	Please help families in need by volunteering your time and professional services. Examples are dental, medical , physical therapy, etc.

Restorative Justice

"Houses of Healing – A Prisoner's Guide to Inner Power and Freedom"

Congregant Pris Gaver has been facilitating this course for 18 years. It involves a 13-week commitment for two hours per week, beginning in either mid-October (time off over the holidays) or early April. You would be an intern sitting in on the groups that Pris runs, at either Jones Farm Minimum Security Correctional Facility for Men in West Trenton (Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) or the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, in Clinton (Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

"Houses of Healing" Correspondence Course:

This is a one-on-one correspondence program where you would be set up with an inmate and would help them to do the course by mail. All mail from inmates is sent to the Lionheart Foundation and then forwarded to facilitators and vice versa. Training is provided including 4 hours of video, if wanted. Time requirement is 45-60 minutes per session (13 sessions), and is designed to be completed within 6 to 8 months. Cost outlay is \$50 which pays for the book, training manual, and matching fee which covers all the material sent to inmates, as well as postage and handling used in the forwarding process.

"New Life in the Beloved Community"

This is an opportunity to help mentor an inmate being released from the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton. The organizers are trying to build a statewide network of Community Mentor Teams (2-3 people per location) who would work with the women for at least 10 months as they transition back with their families and communities. Training and certification are provided.

Pris Gaver is the facilitator for the above opportunities and can provide more information about each area. However, please do not contact Pris directly but rather send an email to racialjustice@uucwc.org and the project implementation team will ensure that it is sent to Pris.

UU Church of the Larger Fellowship Letter Writing Ministry:

Participants will engage in a letter correspondence with incarcerated people. One of UUCWC's congregants has been doing this for many years. Most CLF prisoner-members are brand-new to Unitarian Universalism. With no access to the web or UU Sunday services, they can only learn about Unitarian Universalism from the mailings sent by us and the letters they exchange with CLF staff and other Unitarian Universalists.

Prisoner-members are matched with non-incarcerated UUs for an exchange of friendly letters on topics of mutual interest. All letter-writers (prisoners and "free-world") agree to the same guidelines, which emphasize that the program is not intended for romantic, legal-aid or financial/gift interactions. All mail to and from prisoners will be via snail-mail (on paper, mailed in envelopes with stamps). Prisoners send their letters to the CLF to be forwarded (un-opened) to the non-incarcerated UU they've been paired with (prisoners are told only the first name of their pen pal match and are given no other contact information). We hope participants will exchange letters for at least six months, although many matches last longer. The CLF staff remains available to all letter-writers for advice and support.

Michelle Hunt is the coordinator for this program and can provide more information. However, please do not contact Michelle directly but rather send an email to racialjustice@uucwc.org and the project implementation team will ensure that it is sent to Michelle.

Study Group

This group will explore areas of direct action that we might be able to pursue for Year Two of the project. The group will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month starting on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 201. Rich DiGeorgio is leading the group. If you are interested in participating, please email racialjustice@uucwc.org.

OCTOBER'S "BANQUET TABLE" OFFERINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

This is a selection of offerings, none of which require a long term commitment, and which hopefully will encourage exploration and reflection on racial inequity and racial justice.

MOVIE SCREENING

(Facilitators: Jim Bicksler & Rich DiGeorgio)

"Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible"

Friday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. The movie is 50 minutes long and will be followed by a discussion. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Please sign up for the movie on the sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby or send an email to racialjustice@uucwc.org.

"A brilliant documentary, this video is a must-see for all interested in justice, spiritual growth and community making. It features the experiences of white women and men who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge the notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States. The stories in the film reveal what is often required to move through the stages of denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear, and shame into making a solid commitment to ending racial injustice. This film catalyzes powerful dialogue to support the learning, change and healing of all people who want to undo race-based oppression."

BOOK SUGGESTION

"Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debbie Irving

"For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us."

Bernice Husk will lead two discussion groups about the book, as follows:

Monday, November 16th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Room 201

Friday, November 20th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Room 201

Please sign up for one of the discussion groups on the sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby or send an email to racialjustice@uucwc.org.

BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN

(Facilitator: Barbara Jensen)

A library of books will be available in the Crossings Room on Sundays for parents to check out for a period of time. In the back of each book there will be paper with some starter questions to discuss with your child. There will also be room for the reader to share their experience of a book with the future readers. The selection will continue to expand as Barbara identifies more books.

Slavery and Civil War

5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery

Pink and Say

Henry's Freedom Box

Civil Rights

Let them Play

Little Rock Girl 1957

Today

These Hands

Ninth Ward

Other

Material World

People

Of Thee I Sing

SUGGESTED ARTICLES FOR READING DURING OCTOBER

Links to the articles will be on the Racial Justice Project webpage, www.uucwc.org/faith-in-action/churchwide-racial-justice-project

[Which Side of History are you on?](https://medium.com/@jess_rimington/what-side-of-history-are-you-on-83ac8dc4d334) Jess Rimmington https://medium.com/@jess_rimington/what-side-of-history-are-you-on-83ac8dc4d334

[The next time someone says 'All Lives Matter' show them these five paragraphs](http://fusion.net/story/170591/the-next-time-someone-says-all-lives-matter-show-them-these-5-paragraphs/) Kevin Ruse
<http://fusion.net/story/170591/the-next-time-someone-says-all-lives-matter-show-them-these-5-paragraphs/>

[It's not just about bad choices](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/14/opinion/sunday/nicholas-kristof-its-not-just-about-bad-choices.html?_r=0) Nicholas Kristoff, New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/14/opinion/sunday/nicholas-kristof-its-not-just-about-bad-choices.html?_r=0

[To all my White Friends who See Tragedy in the Black Community and Say Nothing, Make it Personal](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kiara-imani-williams/to-my-white-friends-who-see-tragedy-in-the-black-community-and-say-nothing-make-it-personal_b_7666594.html?utm_hp_ref=black-voices)
Kiara Amani Williams, Huffington Post Black Voices http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kiara-imani-williams/to-my-white-friends-who-see-tragedy-in-the-black-community-and-say-nothing-make-it-personal_b_7666594.html?utm_hp_ref=black-voices

[Be Less Racist: 12 Tips for White Dudes, by A White Dude](http://www.mashupamericans.com/issues/be-less-racist-12-tips-for-white-dudes-by-a-white-dude/) Dan Zanes <http://www.mashupamericans.com/issues/be-less-racist-12-tips-for-white-dudes-by-a-white-dude/> THIS ARTICLE IS PRINTED BELOW.

Be Less Racist: 12 Tips for White Dudes, by A White Dude By Dan Zanes

From "Mashup Americans" <http://www.mashupamericans.com>

We all want to do better, and be better. Part of being a Mash-Up American is participating in challenging conversations about race and culture with curiosity and kindness. But in a complex, racially charged society, sometimes it's hard to know how to become a more engaged and fully present person — not to mention ally — without inadvertently offending someone, or doing real harm. This is especially true for a white guy. [Dan Zanes](#), a Grammy-Award-winning musician, regular dude and work-in-

progress [Editor's note: *His words! We think he's magical*], gives us his top tips for how to start living a less racist life. Read about his journey from an all-white world to a Mash-Up America [here](#).

It doesn't help anyone if I start chastising other white folks for doing the same things I've undoubtedly done at one point or another in my own life. Racism has been systematically harming people of color for millennia, and it's been stripping white people of their humanity every step of the way. For me as a white dude, the process of becoming aware and engaged has been awkward, exciting, heartbreaking, mysterious, and ongoing. Here's my best advice if you want to join me on the way. Welcome!

1. Smile and say hello.

I'm a big believer in positive energy. I try to smile when I catch people's eyes on the street. I usually say hello. If someone doesn't say hi or smile back, that's ok. I don't know what this has to do with anti-racist work other than expressing in a simple way that we're here together. I see you. I see you and I'm happy to see you. It's a blessing to be a part of the human race and each little interaction is an opportunity to share that feeling.

2. Do a headcount.

Once I got in the habit of checking who was in the room (or in the office, or on the stage, or at the board meeting, or on the movie poster, etc.), it was easy to see that white cultural dominance is real and we have more than our fair share of *everything*! Who's been invited to the party and who hasn't? It's easy to see when I do the head count.

3. Change up your liberal media diet.

The New York Times and NPR are often called liberal media, but it's important for me to recognize that they're *white* liberal media! If I want the big picture, and some of the other views, I need to look around. One of my favorite sources is [The Root](#). I depend on their daily e-mails to stay up on news, culture, and lifestyle from the Black perspective. [TheGrio](#) also covers this very well. [Colorlines](#) is a great place for racial justice news and analysis. [Latina Lista](#) has news and culture from the Latino communities and is available in English, which is helpful for me. [Racialicious](#) addresses the intersection of race and pop culture. And of course [The Mash-Up Americans](#). [Editor's note: Sign up for our [weekly newsletter](#)!] These are the tip of the news iceberg.

4. Read, read, read.

Mike, who started this whole thing for me, suggested that to start to understand white privilege I might want to read an article called "[Unpacking the Invisible Backpack](#)" by Peggy Macintosh. "[Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#)" and "[Can We Talk About Race?](#)" by Beverly Daniel Tatum were next. Then I moved on to Tim Wise's books, starting with "[Speaking Treason Fluently](#)." I went online and went crazy, there's so much! These days I'm delving deep into the writings of Joseph Barndt and highly recommend his book "[Understanding and Dismantling Racism](#)" to any white person who shows even the slightest interest in becoming anti-racist.

5. Listen, listen, listen.

Once I began to understand a little bit about the pervasive, systemic nature of racism, I was able to start to hear what people of color were saying and had been saying all along. What I needed to do was listen. Listen. And listen. Listen and learn from people who understand racism in ways I'll never know. *What I needed to do was listen and learn from people who understand racism in ways I'll never know.*

6. Expand your cultural intake.

Once my circle of friends became more diverse, I started hearing about movies, books, TV shows, musicians, plays, and other pieces of the cultural puzzle that aren't on the radar in the white communities. My world became undeniably fuller and richer. I remember watching [Kings of Comedy](#) one night with a friend and all I could think was, "Where the hell have I been?" It was as if I was finally landing on Planet Earth. The cultural piece for me has also included many movies about the nature and history of systemic racism. "[Race: The Power of an Illusion](#)" and "[The Color of Fear](#)" are two of my favorites.

7. Protest.

Part of me trying to become a useful white person has included taking to the streets when the situation arises. I do as much reading and listening as possible beforehand so I really know what's going on. I follow the lead of people of color.

8. Talk to other white people, kindly.

My friend Mike changed my life with one conversation. Sometimes my conversations with other white people haven't been very

satisfying (to say the least), but I have to remember that we're all muddling along trying to do our best and I came to this because I was attracted to the way Mike was feeling and living. It wasn't because he told me I was behaving like a racist fool!

9. Attend a workshop.

When I first started thinking about race and privilege, I was in kind of a lone wolf state of mind. But I couldn't just read and be cranky around other white people who didn't have much interest in what I was saying. It wasn't helping anyone! I looked online and found a workshop called "Undoing Racism" held by [The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](#). Anti-racist training is available in most parts of the country. There are many other organizations and individuals leading training sessions, including one called [The Crossroads Antiracist Organizing and Training](#), which Joseph Barndt mentions frequently in his books. Crossroads is based out of Chicago and works primarily with institutions.

10. Don't ask your Black friends to explain.

Instead, join a white affinity group. Hear me out! It seemed like a weird idea to me at first, but now it makes complete sense. I need to spend time with white people interested in examining race, power, and privilege!

Why should it be up to people of color to educate me about racism?

Why should it be up to people of color to educate me about racism (that sounds exhausting) if there are white folks around who can get me started and keep me grounded? In a white affinity group I can open up and say things that might slow down the conversation in a multiracial setting. I've said a lot of knuckleheaded things in my life and I'm sure there are more to come! Yet, it's important to have a place to share whatever comes to mind if I want to keep growing. Another one of the valuable things about the white affinity group is that it helps get me get up to speed for the multiracial conversations.

I attend a monthly group in Manhattan called [European Dissent](#). Much of the focus is on organizing and community building and the atmosphere is welcoming and supportive. There are other groups around the city, including [Constructive White Conversations](#) in Brooklyn, and a spinoff, which launched in Harlem. There are snacks! There's no doubt in my mind that if I'm not working with other people, eventually my fear, isolation and racial superiority will be right back. Find a group in your neck of the woods.

11. Dig into your own cultural identity.

Just because we're white, doesn't mean we don't have our own culture. For me, learning about my heritage has been one of the many pleasures of this process. I'm white but there's more to it than that. My people on both sides come from England. They left there and sailed to New England about 300 years ago. I don't know if they sang English drinking songs, but these days I do, and they can really liven up parties. I heard someone once say: "I love my people but I hate what racism's done to us." That makes sense to me.

12. Live with love and imagination.

My friend Akaya Windwood, of the [Rockwood Leadership Institute](#), said these wise words to me about living an anti-racist life. When I'm in a place of love and imagination I'm so much less likely to get cranky when the world is being brutal, and we are being brutal to each other. These words guide me and help me remember that we're all in this together. These are times of limitless possibility.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES DURING OCTOBER

Sunday, October 11, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton is co-sponsoring an OUT the BOX event together with the Campaign to the End New Jim Crow. OUT the BOX is a project of the Campaign and involves the installation of a replica of a solitary confinement cell. On October 11, the replica will be at UUCP and people will be able to walk through it between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and see what a solitary confinement cell is like. The guest speaker for their 10:30 service is Rev. Hope Johnson who will speak on race, racism and Black Lives Matter.

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey Fall Issues Conference

Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave, Summit, NJ

Anyone interested in the work of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ is encouraged to attend. The conference will identify UULMNJ focus issues for the coming year for each of our task forces: economic justice; reproductive justice; criminal justice reform; immigration reform; environmental justice and gun violence prevention. Special Guest & Keynote Speaker is Janice Marie Johnson, Multicultural Ministries and Leadership Director, UUA.

For more information please go to <http://uulmnj.org/issuescon2015/>. Lynne Quinto and Nick Mellis can also be contacted for more information.

Friday, October 23, 2015 to Sunday, October 25, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Association 2015 Joseph Priestley District Racial Justice Conference

“Strengthening Racial Justice & Social Justice Connections - The Journey Toward Wholeness Continues”

The Joseph Priestley District invites people to join them for the 12th annual racial justice conference, hosted by the UU Church in Cherry Hill, in partnership with the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey. Will stronger racial and social justice partnerships help us to build Beloved Community and dismantle racism?

You can attend all or part of the program but registration is required. For more information on the schedule and to register online, please visit: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/2015-jpd-racial-justice-conference/>. As of this writing, Sallie Dunner is planning to attend at least part of this conference.

Saturday, October 24, New York City

#RiseUpOctober. A large scale public march to bring attention to police brutality and racially-biased policing, organized in part by Dr. Cornel West and Carl Dix. UU Rev. John Buehrens has endorsed this march. For more info go to <http://stopmassincarceration.net/>. Marchers will begin to gather at Washington Square Park, NYC, at 11:00 a.m. Colin Campbell (thiscolincampbell@gmail.com) and Jennifer Rehbein (llyra2001@gmail.com) should be contacted by congregants who are interested in attending.

Did you know that

- \$241 vs. \$75 is the average daily cost of incarcerating a young person compared to that of an effective, community-based alternative-to-incarceration program?**
- black youth are incarcerated in state-run youth prisons at five times the rate white youth are?**
- 60,000 children are incarcerated in juvenile facilities on any given day.**

The Council for Faith in Action has overall responsibility for UUCWC's Racial Justice Project. If you have questions or concerns about the overall project, please contact Sallie Dunner, CFA Chair and project coordinator, or another member of the implementation team, Nathalie Edmond, Lynne Quinto, Jennifer Rehbein & Dan Tuft.
