

Racial Justice Resources & Recommendations

Books for Adults:

- ***How to be an Antiracist (2019)*** by Ibram X. Kendi – Kendi’s concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other.
- ***Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Race in America (2016)*** National Book Award winner by Ibram X. Kendi – if we have any hope of grappling with this stark reality, we must first understand how racist ideas were developed, disseminated, and enshrined in American society.
- ***Understanding White Privilege; Creating Pathways to Authentic Relationships Across Race (2013)*** by Frances Kendall – delves into the complex interplay between race, power, and privilege in both organizations and private life.
- ***Americanah (2013)*** by Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi (Nigerian) – novel exploring the intersection of African immigrant and African-American experiences and See also Adichie’s 2009 TED talk: “The Danger of a Single Story.”
- ***Caste (2020)*** by Isabel Wilkerson
- ***The New Jim Crow (2010)*** by Michelle Alexander – Mass Incarceration in an age of color blindness
- ***The Fire Next Time (1963)*** by James Baldwin – non-fiction/two essays, first a letter to Baldwin’s 14-year-old nephew, discusses the central role of race in American history. The second essay deals with the relations between race and religion, focusing, in particular, on Baldwin’s experiences with the Christian church and Islam as a youth in Harlem.
- ***Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism (1992)*** by Derrick Bell, American lawyer, professor, and civil rights activist.
- ***White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism (2018)*** and ***What Does It Mean to Be White? Developing White Racial Literacy (2012)*** by Robin DiAngelo
- ***Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story about Race (2014)*** by Debby Irving
- ***Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God (2015)*** by the Rev. Kelly Brown Douglass – theological reflection in light of the Trayvon Martin shooting.
- ***So You Want to Talk about Race (2018)*** by Ijeoma Oluo – accessible conversational perspective from author who grew up in predominantly white liberal circles in Seattle. Engages the themes of conversation for these days.
- ***But I Don’t See you as Asian: Curating Conversations about Race (2013)*** by Bruce Reyes-Chow, the youngest PCUSA Moderator elected to date (2008) and current pastor of

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, California and a PCUSA pioneer in use of technology in the church.

- ***Deep is the Hunger (1951)*** by Howard Thurman, Martin Luther King's mentor and theologian, inspiring devotional reading including "Jesus and the Disinherited" and "Meditations from the Heart" among many other writings.
- ***The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race (2017)*** by Jesmyn Ward – collection of essays for our day from the perspective of a younger, rising author.
- **["Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" \(1988\)](#)** article by Peggy McIntosh likens the founding privileges upon which American institutions are built to an "invisible package of unearned assets" and unpacks those assets in terms of power, identity and self-image.

Books for Children Ages 3-5:

- ***Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice (2018)*** by Marianne Celane, Marietta Collins, & Ann Hazzard
- ***The Naming Jar (2001)*** by Yangsook Choi
- ***The Youngest Marcher (2017)*** by Cynthia Levinson
- ***We've Got Jobs: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March (2012)*** by Cynthia Levinson
- ***A Different Pond (2017)*** by Bao Phi
- ***The World Needs More Purple People (2020)*** by Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart
- ***Everybody's Welcome (2018)*** by Patricia Hegarty

Books for Children Older Children:

- ***They Called Us Enemy (2019)*** by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scoot, & Harmony Becker
- ***Heartbeat of Struggle: The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama (2005)*** by Diane C. Fujino
- ***Myth of Model Minority: Asian American Facing Racism, Second Edition (2015)*** by Rosalins S. Chou & Joe R. Feagin
- ***A Stranger from a Different Shore, Updated and Revised Edition (1998)*** by Ronald Takaki
- ***Blackballed: The Black Vote & US Democracy (2014)*** by Darryl Pinckney

Recommended Movies:

- *Just Mercy* – available to stream for free on Amazon through June 2020 – based on the book by Brian Stevenson and the founding of the Innocence Project, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton
- *13th* – in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation’s history with racial inequality, directed by Ava Duvernay
- *Selma* – based on the 1965 *Selma* Montgomery voting rights marches initiated and directed by James Bevel and led by Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams, and John Lewis, directed by Ava Duvernay
- *When They See Us* – account of the Central Park Five, directed by Ava Duvernay

Video Resources:

- National Capital Presbytery African-American clergy reflect: [“Dismantling Racism: A Pastors’ Response”](#)
- [“Where Do We Go from Here? Parts 1+2”](#): Prominent Black thought leaders across genres reflect (June 2020), Oprah Network
- *Eyes on the Prize* tells the definitive story of the civil rights era from the point of view of the ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched a movement that changed the fabric of American life and embodied a struggle whose reverberations continue to be felt today. (available on Netflix and often through PBS)

Recommendations by POC Members of BHPC:

- [John Oliver on policing](#) (Adult Language)
- [“75 things that White People can Do for Racial Justice,”](#) suggested by two members
- [How to Be An Ally](#)
- [Anti-Racism Resources](#)
- [Black Lives Matter dynamic list](#) on how to get directly involved.

Audio & Podcasts:

- Scene On Radio Podcast’s Season 2: [“Seeing White”](#)
- New York Times’ [“1619 Project”](#) essays (podcast version)

Resources for Parents & Educators:

- Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture website "to help [parents help their children understand](#) what race is, how it operates in society, and why race in America is important.
- Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture website [to help students develop racial awareness](#).
- New York Times' "[1619 Project](#)" essays (print version)
- Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture's tools and guidance for "[Talking About Race.](#)"

The 21 Day Racial Justice Challenge (January 2021):

Day 1: Read the PC(USA) vision statement of the churchwide anti-racism policy, "[Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community](#)," at facingracism.pcusa.org.

Day 2: Locating ourselves and racial identity formation. View 3 minutes [VoX video](#).

Additional item: *TED* Radio "[Hour-How Does Racism Affect Your Health?](#)" Dr. Marry T Bassett speaks about how and why race affects the medical attention you receive, your baby's chance of living, and even life expectancy.

Day 3: Watch "[Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man-episode 1](#)"

Additional item: "[Understanding Our New Racial Reality Starts with the Unconscious](#)"

Egalitarian goals can be undermined by deeply rooted implicit biases, says John A. Powell. To address racial discrimination, we need to look inward.

Day 4: [Watch the Plight of Black Man Poem](#)

Additional item: [White Anti-Racism: Living the Legacy from Teaching Tolerance](#) What does "white anti-racist" mean? How can guilt get in the way? And what's all this talk about being "colorblind"? Teaching Tolerance asked community activists to share their thoughts on these questions, and others. Their answers shine light on the concepts of comfort, power, privilege and identity.

Day 5: Explore the racial justice section of the "[Equal Justice Initiative](#)" website and watch some of the posted videos.

Day 6: Be inspired by the [street artist Banksy](#) and his support of racial justice.

Day 7: Listen to the NPR program "[Fresh Air](#)". Rev. James Cone explains Black Liberation Theology. He describes how God's concern for the weak and the poor is liberatory for all people – including but not limited to Black Americans.

Day 8: Reflect on [**“Public Action and Contemplation”**](#) Dr. Barbara Holmes describes how the relationship between contemplative prayer and social action shaped the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s and invites this relationship between contemplation and action into modern movements for racial justice

Day 9: Choose a resource on the Doctrine of Discovery to read from facingracism.org.
Additional item: [**“What is Doctrine of Discovery?”**](#)

Day 10: Watch the PBS documentary [**“Unspoken America’s Native American Boarding Schools.”**](#)

Additional item: watch [**“Jingle Dress,”**](#) a documentary on Canadian Residential Schools.

Day 11: Read the resolution of the [**223rd General Assembly of the PC\(USA\)**](#) on environmental racism.

Day 12: Read what youth at the [**2016 PCUSA Triennium**](#) learned about environmental racism.

Day 13: [**Pick a story and read.**](#)

Additional item: [**Paintings by Jacob Lawrence**](#)

Day 14: Read and feel the poems by Langston Hughes: [**“I, Too”**](#) & [**“The Weary Blues”**](#)

Day 15: Watch [**“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man-episode 7”**](#)

Day 16: Be inspired by black gay artist [**Kelinde Wiley**](#).

Day 17: By reflecting on today’s Adult Ed presentation by Kerm Towler, read [**the Confession of Belhar**](#). Reflect on how BHPC is using and living into it.

Day 18: On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, let us remember and honor [**the sacrifices that Dr. King made for the Soul of America**](#).

Day 19: Watch [**“He Has the Whole World in His Hands”**](#) – Spoken word worship video created by the Black Presbyterian United Youth of our presbytery. These are black youth who attend churches in our presbytery who wanted to create a worship video in response to the pandemic.

Day 20: On this day of the Presidential inauguration, let us remind ourselves “the history of [**“We Shall Overcome”**](#) and learn the roots of the song.

Day 21: Visit the [**Presbyterian Intercultural Network’s website**](#). Connect with a chapter near you or inquire about creating one.

Additional Resource: Six-part study by the PCUSA. [**“Facing racism: A vision of the Intercultural Community Antiracism Study Guides.”**](#)