

Justice and Witness Committee
First Congregational Church, UCC – Eugene, Oregon

Thank-you for being a part of our church's racial justice initiative and proclaiming that black lives matter and are disenfranchised and oppressed. Here are a few ways to take action, big and small.

Actions to take

- Support Lane County Black Owned Businesses
https://lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/county_administration/operations/financial_services/local_black-owned_business_directory
- Looking for an uncomplicated way to help people who suffer from food insecurity? Burrito Brigade needs help keeping its 18 Little Free Pantries stocked with food. Drop by and replenish with nonperishable goods. For current locations, see <https://burritobrigade.org/little-free-pantries/>
- Join the Critical Resistance Write Them All Campaign - Write letters to incarcerated folks in Oregon
https://airtable.com/shrY1XOMk663ylmxm?fbclid=IwAR0RGq4b9eG_UAIMe8SZIN4UrFkE-7IkEajBCpwzl_yRjYHuBFqSYZFYPws
- Lobby the DA to drop the charges against protestors
- Defund the police actions - backing the people's budget
- Write your school boards about de-policing K-12 schools in your district
- Write the University of Oregon about disarming University of Oregon Police Department
- Support the Hunger Strikers in the Lane County Jail

Donate to the leaders: Contact and contribute to these organizations doing significant work locally and nationally:

Local Organizations

- Eugene Bail Fund (Venmo: @EugeneBailFund)
- BIPOC Liberation Collective (Venmo: @BIPOC-L-C)
- Lane County NAACP <http://www.naacplanecounty.org/>
- Showing Up for Racial Justice SURJ <http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/>
- Sign in support of the Oregon Cares Fund for Black Relief and Resiliency
<https://www.theoregoncaresfund.org/>

National Organizations

- Movement for Black Lives: <https://m4bl.org/>
- Campaign Zero: <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/>
- Equal Justice Initiative: <https://eji.org/>
- Legal Defense Fund: <https://www.naacpldf.org/about-us/>
- Black Lives Matter: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>
- National Bail Out: <https://www.nationalbailout.org/>
- Color of Change: <https://colorofchange.org/>

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Educate yourself

Recommended Reading

- The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad
- White Rage: the Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide by Carol Anderson
- My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies, by Resmaa Menakem
- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *Olio* (poetry) by Tyehimba Jess
- Yes, All Cops: An incomplete history of State Violence in Lane County, Oregon (1997-Present) <https://www.mgbelka.com/latest-posts/shlax7w29dn8c82wromhss29i0ilvk>
- Time Magazine – The Overdue Awakening: <https://time.com/5851855/systemic-racism-america/>
- Next 50: What would it take to overcome the damaging effects of structural racism and ensure a more equitable future? <https://next50.urban.org/question/structural-racism#structural-racism-promising-solutions>
- A Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates found here <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- How White Parents Can Talk to Their Kids About Race, NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/03/869071246/how-white-parents-can-talk-to-their-kids-about-race>
- *The Ground Has Shifted: The Future of the Black Church in Post-Racial America* by Walter Earl Fluker
- **Embrace Race** is a resource for parents of multi-racial children, and for all parents who want to help their children learn to think critically about racial equality. See “31 Children’s Books to Support Conversations About Race, Racism, and Resistance.” <https://www.embracerace.org/resources/where-to-find-diverse-childrens-books>
- **White Conversations on Race** is an online resource for conversations on race/racism are for White folks who want to increase their understanding about race and racism www.raceconversations.org

Recommended Films

- *13th* (Documentary/history), Ava Duvernay (available on Netflix)
- *When They See Us* (drama, based on the 1989 Central Park crime for which five boys of color were falsely charged, series available on Netflix)
- *I Am Not Your Negro* (Documentary), written by James Baldwin, directed by Raoul Peck
- *Whose Streets? We Will Not Go Quietly* (Documentary), told by the activists and leaders who live and breathe the movement for justice, an unflinching look at the Ferguson Uprising

Recommended Podcasts and Videos

- *The House We Live In*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW764dXEI_8
- Woman shares information about the serious subject of structural racism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_hx30zOi9I
- Politically Re-Active Podcast with W. Kamau Bell and Hari Kondabolu: Pastor McBride Says Stop Reaching for Whiteness: <https://art19.com/shows/politically-re-active/episodes/58552e70-dc36-493f-88e6-f7c6bda71094/embed>

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- NPR's *Code Switch* Podcast
- *Intersectionality Matters!* Podcast with Kimberlé Crenshaw
- *1619* series. A New York Times podcast. How slavery shaped and transformed our country.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/podcasts/1619-podcast.html>

21-Day Challenge

Change is hard. Creating effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of power, privilege, supremacy, and leadership is like any lifestyle change. Setting our intentions and adjusting what we spend our time doing is essential. It's all about building new habits. Sometimes the hardest part is just getting started. The good news is, there's an abundance of resources just waiting to empower you to be a more effective player in the quest for equity and justice. Please use this plan just as it is, or adapt it to a sector, an ethnic/racial group, or interest area. <https://debbyirving.com/21-day-challenge/>

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There are so many local groups having events. Who is who and what are they doing??

BIPOC Liberation Collective (B.L.C.) - This activist collective formed during the early days of protests locally, and since then have hosted teach-ins, direct actions, feed-ins, poetry events, concerts and marches advocating for the abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex and the creation of systems that support justice and equity. Here is an excerpt from their Facebook page: “We demand that the police be defunded and the resources be redistributed back to the city, especially to communities of color. Our goal is to implement accessible, high quality, and well-funded public safety initiatives and community services, instead of the police...We believe that together we can build a more equitable, healthier, and happy society that doesn’t rely on punishment but instead on rehabilitation, peace-making, dialogue, and other forms of transformative justice”. They have been the steadiest voice in calling attention to the abuses and structural racism of the Eugene police department and other oppressive institutions. Due to their consistent advocacy, they have been targeted and harassed by white supremacists and the police, and as such, practice rigorous security culture, which means that they don’t share their names publicly and are typically masked and in bloc (total body covering to conceal identities). While it might seem strange for activists to keep their identities private, it’s very important to note that it can be necessary to stay safe in a time when white supremacists and cops are increasingly emboldened to enact violence against protestors. Info on what they are doing can be found on Facebook and Instagram.

Black Unity (BU) - Black Unity is also a new group that has organized events, marches, food distribution and protests in the Eugene area. Black Unity is very forward facing, meaning that their leadership team is widely known and they often do events intended to raise attention, including leading marches to parts of town that can be risky, such as recent marches in the Thurston area. They have a very large and active Facebook group that is regularly used. They have refined their message over time with input from the BIPOC Liberation Collective after their leadership received criticism for not having clear goals and objectives. Although they initially called for police reform, since receiving community feedback amid ongoing incidents of police brutality from both Eugene and Springfield police they have begun to speak out a bit more in favor of the growing consensus calling for the defunding of the police and prison industrial complex.

Black Led Action Coalition B.L.A.C. - This is the name for a group that Spencer and Madeleine Smith (two local students) created, which has so far hosted two events; the massive rally at the beginning of June, and Juneteenth at Alton Baker Park. Since then, they have been fairly quiet, mainly boosting the events of other groups, most notably the BIPOC Liberation Collective. This group is also advocating for the abolition of the police and prison industrial complex.

Abolitionist Common Library - This is an education focused group that distributes information and resources to teach about abolition. They have hosted one educational event at the free speech plaza educating about border politics and the need to abolish ICE.

ADOS - This group has hosted one event at the federal courthouse. ADOS, (which stands for American Descendants of Slavery) is a larger group of people advocating reparations only for descendants of slavery that has been very controversial for taking anti-immigrant and nationalistic stances. Locally it is hard to say exactly what their aims are, although they seem to be criticizing and trying to take energy away from direct action-oriented groups.