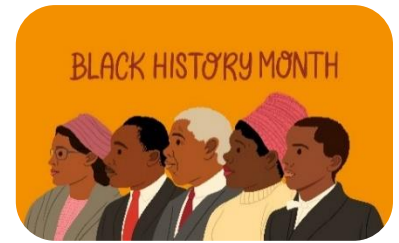


February – a month full of activities and events. Check out what's happening here at St. Paul.

As we celebrate **Black History Month**, we remember that Black history is everyone's history. Black individuals have been at the forefront of some of the most significant cultural and scientific advancements in history. Their gifts, skills and talents have blessed our world. Black Methodist pioneers did the same for the church as they challenged us to experience God in new and unique ways through worship, song, dance and scholarship. They continue to show us that God can transcend boundaries and connect with us, no matter who or where we are. The life of the United States and of The United Methodist Church is richer because of Black individuals and the experiences they bring. Jesus calls us to walk the way of love and peace that leads to inclusion and acceptance. When we choose to follow Christ, we stand against racial injustice and to do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. A timeline of Black Methodist Church History is included with this letter. Also included is a list of 29 ways you can participate in Black History Month.



Invite family and friends to cheer on the Eagles playing at **Super Bowl LVII!!** Come watch the game on our big screen TV in Ridgway Hall on Sunday, February 12 at 5:30 pm. Bring your favorite snack; beverages will be provided. There's no cost but donations of non-perishable food items for area food pantries will be gratefully received. Reminder: this is a no-alcohol event.

The Lenten season begins with **Ash Wednesday** on February 22. Our worship service will be at 7 pm and includes imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive. The service will also be live-streamed on Facebook.



During Lent, we will partner with area churches for a weekly **Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship Service**. Two soups will be offered each week, including a vegetarian option, along with bread and crackers, and dessert. A free will offering to help defray the costs of the meals will be accepted but is not required. Come, bring your family and friends and enjoy time together followed by meaningful worship experiences. Supper will be at 6 pm, followed by worship at 7 pm.

We'll begin here at St. Paul on March 1. The rest of the schedule is: March 8—St. Luke Lutheran, March 15—Parkway Baptist Church, March 22—Zion Lutheran Church (Riverside) and March 29—Church of the Good Shepherd. Looking forward to seeing you at all of the services!

A new small group, **Overcomers 12 Step Spiritual Principles** recovery will meet on Thursdays; 6:30-7:30 pm beginning February 9. Anyone struggling with challenges is invited to attend. Share this information with family, friends and neighbors. For more information, contact Sam (609-694-6486).



Congratulations to **Nina Bonner** on her retirement as assistant NJ state attorney general! We wish her well in this next phase of life.

Congratulations to **Betty Blackwell** on receiving the Alumni Leadership Humanitarian Award for 2023 from the College of NJ! The Alumni Leadership Awards are the highest level of honor given to four of the most deserving alumni each year. Betty will be recognized at a ceremony on April 22, 2023 at TCNJ.

Our sympathy to:

Nina Bonner on the passing of her brother, Theodore. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her at 532 Melbourne Ave, Beverly, NJ 08010,

The family of Thelma Allen, who passed away in January. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her sons, Keith Allen and Gary Sharp at 11 Tillman Place, Willingboro.



Coins for Lent (A different take on Lenten coin folders)

During Lent, many of us are reminded once again to examine our lifestyles and ask, "What can we do for others?" These past few years have been challenging when trying to find ways to serve our neighbors while remaining physically distant. Lent is a good time to commit to giving money to a project that helps those in need.

Here's how it works: decide what coins you want to collect. You may want to contribute a quarter (or other denomination) for every item on the giving calendar in your home. Or you may want to simply collect loose change and give whatever coins you have for each item. Choose a container (jar, coin bank, plastic tub, etc.) to collect the money. Place it where you can see it (and contribute to it). After Easter, bring your coins to church or write a check for the amount collected. *The money will be used for the **Dorcus Fund** (also known as the pastor's discretionary fund), which provides confidential financial support to persons in need.*

Items on the daily guide remind us of all we have and how little others may have. Each Sunday, pray for the project and the people who will benefit from your gifts. Our giving begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Saturday. During Lent, Sundays are for worship and praise to God and are reflected with a weekly day of prayer.

<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p>22 – every lamp 23 – every light switch 24 – every candle 25 – every flashlight, including cell phone flashlight 26 - <i>Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light. Pray for those who live in darkness.</i> 27 – every box of cereal 28 – every can of soup</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p>1 – every type of bread 2 – every jar of jelly 3 – every bottle of dressing 4 – every jar of peanut butter 5 – <i>Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy. Pray for those who have no food this day.</i> 6 – every ball cap or hat 7 – every pair of shoes 8 – every pair of jeans or pants 9 – every coat 10 – every t-shirt 11 – every sweatshirt 12 - <i>Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements. Pray for those who lack clothing to keep them warm and dry.</i> 13 – every ball or piece of athletic equipment 14 – every electronic video game 15 – every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.) 16 – every television 17 - every doll or stuffed animal 18 – every board or card game</p>	<p>19 – <i>Pray today, thanking God for how you can enjoy entertainment in your home. Pray for those who would be grateful for just one of these items.</i> 20 – every box of band-aids 21 – every bottle of vitamins 22 – every box of tissues 23 – every bottle of hand sanitizer 24 – every toothbrush & tube of toothpaste 25 – every cough drop 26 – <i>Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick</i> 27 – every room in your home 28 – every electrical outlet 29 – every chair 30 – every desk 31 – every bathroom</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p>1 – every bed 2- <i>Pray today, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who have no place to sleep at night.</i> 3 – every bible 4 – every book of hymns or sacred songs 5 – every cross 6 – every prayer you say today 7 – every story of Jesus you can tell 8 – every person in your family 9 – <i>Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the benefit of the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.</i></p>
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Meetings This Month

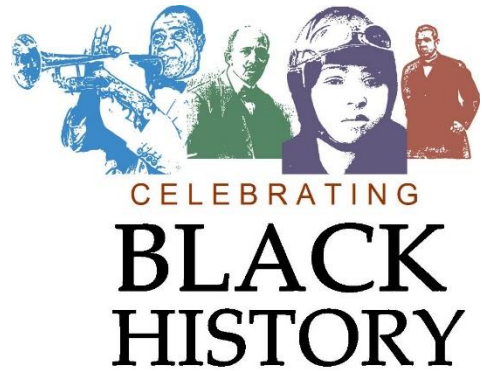
Trustees –Feb. 6 at 7 pm
Education –Feb. 7 at 7 pm
SPRC – Friday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 pm on Zoom
History – Saturday, Feb. 11 at 10 am
Finance –Feb. 15 at 7 pm

HOPE Circle – Monday, Feb. 20 at 12:30 pm
Communications – Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 pm
Outreach/Evangelism – Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 pm on Zoom

29 Ways You Can Participate in Black History Month

No matter your heritage, culture, or racial background, Black history is EVERYONE's story.

Here are 29 ways you and your family can celebrate and participate in Black History Month.



1. Patronize a local or online Black-owned business.
2. Attend church, Bible study, or worship at a historically Black church and experience the Gospel from another vantage point.
3. Sing hymns or songs during worship by a composer from the African diaspora. Include the history of the song or hymn in the church bulletin or on your website.
4. Attend or co-host a Black history or Black culture event in your community, in partnership with a Black congregation.
5. Take a church family field trip to a Black history site or museum in your area.
6. Learn more about "Black Harry" Hosier (c. 1750-1806), an African-American Methodist preacher and evangelist.
7. Research other Black United Methodist leaders from our church's heritage.
8. Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism.
9. Donate to a Black nonprofit or empowerment organization in your community.
10. Watch a film by and about the heritage and lives of Black people. Titles to consider: "Antwone Fisher," "Malcolm X," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "Hidden Figures," "The Hate U Give," and "One Night in Miami."
11. Watch and discuss documentaries about the Civil Rights movement and other series on the challenges and triumphs of Black people. Suggestions: "Eyes on the Prize," and Henry Louis Gates' recent series, "The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song."
12. Visit a landmark about the lives of local Black heroes in your area.
13. Read a contemporary book by a Black author.
14. Read a story featuring a Black hero to your children, grandchildren, or to a local school class.
15. Seek out and talk with a Black elder (75 or older) about their experience in your community.
16. Study one of the 54 nations on the continent of Africa, including the language, culture, current events.
17. Donate to one of the 12 United Methodist-related historically Black colleges and universities in the United States and Zimbabwe.

18. Learn about an unsung hero of Black history.
19. Attend shows featuring local Black artists, actors, poets, local musicians, or dancers.
20. Explore the breadth of Black music, from jazz to hip-hop, and gospel to southern African folk songs.
21. Call out racism and prejudice aimed at Black people and other People of Color in your church and community.
22. Learn about "colorism" and how it plays out in our society.
23. Learn more about the Black UMC caucus, Black Methodists for Church Renewal.
24. Subscribe to and learn from Black media and the Black press.
25. Engage in positive, supportive conversations about Black history and culture on social media.
26. Learn the lyrics to "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing".
27. Read Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." The letter can be found at [Letter from Birmingham Jail \(csuchico.edu\)](#)
28. Read a biography of an influential Black figure, such as Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm, Kobe Bryant, Michelle Obama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Rev. Joseph Lowery.
29. Register and vote.

From United Methodist General Council on Race and Religion website

Timeline: Methodism in Black and White

—This timeline first appeared in New World Outlook, May-June 1992. Adapted by permission and updated by United Methodist Communications.

1758

John Wesley baptizes two "Negro slaves," at least one woman, thus setting the pattern for receiving people of color into the societies and the church. These two return to Antigua to start the Methodist society in the "new world."

1760s

Anne Schweitzer, a black woman, becomes a founding member of the first Methodist society in Maryland. Two years later, another black woman, known to us only as Bettye, is one of five persons to attend the Methodist services inaugurated by Philip Embury in New York City. When the John Street Church is built in 1768, the names of several black subscribers appear on its roster.

1784

The Christmas Conference in Baltimore founds the Methodist Episcopal Church. Among those riding out to issue the call for the conference is "Black Harry" Hosier. Born a slave about 1750, Hosier receives a license to preach in 1785 and becomes one of the best preachers and most effective early circuit riders.

1790

Drawn by the Methodist Episcopal Church's anti-slavery stand, blacks (slave and free) make up 20 percent of the 57,631 American Methodists.

1791

John Wesley dies. His last letter is one written to anti-slavery crusader William Wilberforce, urging him to "Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it."

1794

Increasing segregation within churches causes Richard Allen to form the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. In 1796, blacks walk out of John Street Church in New York and eventually build the Zion Chapel. Similar movements occur in other communities.

1805

The African Union Church is formed.

1816

The African Methodist Episcopal church is formed in Philadelphia. Richard Allen becomes its first bishop.

1819

John Stewart is named as the first missionary to the Wyandot Indians. A black man converted in 1814, he was engaged in this ministry for several years before obtaining a license to preach in 1819.

1821

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is formed in New York. James Varick is elected as first general superintendent.

1844

Rising tensions over slavery come to a head in the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church when Bishop James O. Andrew of Georgia is told to desist from the exercise of his office until he frees slaves passed down from his wife's estate.

1845

In a break along regional lines, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is formed in Louisville, Ky.

1858

The Liberia Conference elects Francis Burns as bishop. The first missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he had served as a missionary to Liberia for 24 years.

1866

A group of black Methodists within the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, petition the General Conference for their orderly dismissal from that church.

- 1870
Those former members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, found the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Tenn.
- 1902
Susan Collins goes as a missionary to Angola where she is welcomed as "one of us" and serves 29 years.
- 1920
The Methodist Episcopal Church elects Robert E. Jones and Matthew W. Clair Sr. as bishops.
- 1939
The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church unite to form The Methodist Church. Blacks are segregated into a separate Central Jurisdiction.
- 1956
The General Conference, meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., adopts Amendment IX, allowing transfers of churches and conferences out of the Central Jurisdiction into geographical jurisdictions.
- 1968
The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church unite to form The United Methodist Church. As part of the plan of union, the Central Jurisdiction is abolished and formal segregation ended.
- Roy C. Nichols becomes the first African American to be elected bishop by a regional jurisdictional conference in the new United Methodist Church. Black Methodists for Church Renewal is organized. The General Commission on Religion and Race is formed, with Woodie White as the first African-American to head a United Methodist general agency.
- 1976
Mai Gray becomes the first African-American president of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.
- 1977
Trudie Kibbe Preciphs becomes the first African-American member of the secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.
- 1984
Leontine T.C. Kelly becomes the first African-American woman to be elected bishop.
- 1990
Charlotte Ann Nichols (Peninsula-Delaware Conference) and Joethel Jeannette Cooper Dicks (West Ohio) become the first African-American women district superintendents.
- 2000
General Conference delegates participate in a service of repentance for racism within the denomination.
- 2004
General Conference delegates celebrate the African-American witness and presence within The United Methodist Church and recognize "those who stayed" in spite of racism.
- 2008
16.6 percent of the U.S. delegation to the 2008 General Conference are African-American.
- 2009
African-American United Methodists speak at the inauguration of the first African-American U.S. president.