Lent is a time when we are called to tend to our spiritual lives more than any other season. We set aside worldly distractions and take on additional spiritual practices to discover what keeps us from experiencing the fullness of relationship with God and with others. For decades, the United Methodist Church has boldly declared that racism is a sin at both personal and institutional levels—a sin that “plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ.” This Lent, we are focusing on the Spiritual Work of Resisting Racism. Recognizing that we cannot be complacent with neutrality, we will engage in the steps it takes to actively work against racism in our lives and our world, moving in hope toward the Easter promise and the world that God intends. Take a courageous step in your faith and join us for this challenging series.

Conversations about racism are difficult. Yet, we come together this season, willing to take steps toward resisting its hold on our systems and our lives because we know that God will lead the way. If you are ready to engage with us on a daily basis, interrupting your routine for just 5-10 minutes throughout Lent to consider what it means to resist racism, please subscribe at fumcaustin.org/lent. Daily emails will be a mix of videos, articles, prayers, and personal reflections that will encourage you to consider how God is inviting you to respond to racism.
RESISTING RACISM
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
March 1-April 5, Sundays
10:00-10:45 a.m. SAN Wesley Hall
All are welcome to join Pastor Cathy Stone and Director of Youth Ministries Devon Bailey for a series of classes covering themes from *White Fragility*, with no reading or preparation required. Join us as, together, we engage in steps to actively work against racism in our lives and our world. Register at fumcaustin.org/lent.

BOOK STUDY: WHITE FRAGILITY

All are invited to join a Lenten small group for our churchwide study of Robin DiAngelo’s *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’” (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively. Small groups will meet four times during Lent. Books can be purchased for $15 in the foyer on Sundays, February 16 and 23, or from the church office prior to the start of the study. Register at fumcaustin.org/lent.

Unable to attend one of these small groups? Join Pastor Cathy for a discussion of *White Fragility* on Sunday, April 5, from 4:30–6:00 p.m in FLC Garrison Chapel where Conversations on Racial Justice are held.

CENTRAL AUSTIN
March 3-31, Tuesdays
6:30-8:00 p.m. FLC Room 104
Facilitated by Pastor Cathy Stone

March 5-April 2, Thursdays
11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. SAN Library
Facilitated by Pastor Cathy Stone

NORTH AUSTIN
March 5-April 2, Thursdays
6:30-8:00 p.m. Home of Daviss King
Co-Facilitated by Daviss King and Teresa Edwards

SOUTH AUSTIN
March 4-April 1, Wednesdays
6:30-8:00 p.m. La Madeleine, 5493 Brodie Lane
Co-Facilitated by Caroline Jones and Kathy Morales

FACEBOOK GROUP
Make sure you check our Facebook Group throughout Lent where all are invited to share reflections on “how God is calling you to respond” to our Daily Lenten Interruptions.

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