I am a person of color at FUMC. How do I navigate this season?

We are approaching this season with an acknowledgment that our church is predominantly white. The pastors have held conversations with people of color in the church to discuss ways to navigate this season. If you would like to talk more, we invite you to reach out to one of the pastors.

Why didn’t we invite any people of color to teach us?

It is important, as Layla Saad writes in her book, *Me & White Supremacy*, that we have made efforts to ensure that people of color entering a predominantly white community are not on the receiving end of racial microaggressions or white fragility. That we have done the grueling work as a community and that we are not merely using behaviors such as tokenism, white saviorism, white centering, and so on to create an optical illusion of allyship rather than the honest and disruptive work of anti-racism. That the exhausting burden of teaching white people about their racism is not put on people of color.

Where is this going? Do you have any goals for this season?

Our overall goal is to make progress toward becoming an anti-racist church—a church that is actively participating in the healing of racism. We hope all who participate will come away from this season having identified a couple of key points of understanding and one key action through which they can join that effort in an ongoing way. In addition, we hope to build a solid foundation of education, so that, as a congregation, we can move toward tangible acts of solidarity with people of color.

What can I do to prepare?

Pray for God to give you an open spirit to receive whatever God wants to show you in this season, so that you might become an even greater part of God’s work! Then, show up!

Conversations on Racial Justice
4:30-6:00 p.m. PLC Room 104

Join us as we work to be anti-racists, seeking to undo racism in ourselves and to recognize and understand our participation in systemic racism. This group meets monthly and is currently watching and discussing the video web series *The Next Question: Imagining How Expansive Racial Justice Can Be*, hosted and produced by Austin Channing Brown and co-hosted by Jenny Booth Potter and Chi Chi Okwu. Register at fumcaustin.org/conversations.
### CALENDAR

**MARCH**

#### 8
- **Sunday**
  - Sanctuary Worship Services
    - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
  - Tacky Prom
    - 4:30-7:00 p.m. FLC Great Hall
  - FEAST Happy Hour for Young Adults
    - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto

#### 15
- **Sunday**
  - Chapel Worship Service
    - 9:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
  - Sanctuary Worship Services
    - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
  - Manna Bag Sale
    - 9:30-11:00 a.m. Sidewalk
  - Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday
    - 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. SAN MLF Kitchen

#### 22
- **Sunday**
  - Contemplative Worship Service
    - 9:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
  - Sanctuary Worship Services
    - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
  - FEAST for Young Adults
    - 7:00-8:30 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel

#### 24
- **Tuesday**
  - Feed My People Fourth Tuesday Breakfast
    - 4:45-7:00 a.m. FLC

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**LITTLE RED LIBRARY**

Looking for a resource to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance? Books can be a great place to begin, offering new information, insights, and representing perspectives broader than our own. The Little Red Library will be available before and after worship throughout the season of Lent. This red cart houses books for adults and children, all available for checkout. Children’s books are one of the most effective and practical tools for initiating these critical conversations; and they can also be used to model what it means to resist and dismantle oppression. We invite you to browse our Little Red Library any Sunday morning at the front right of the Sanctuary. Please contact Pastor Cathy Stone with any questions at cathy@fumcaustin.org.

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### FAQ ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL WORK OF RESISTING RACISM

**We are a pretty progressive church. Why do we need to talk about racism here?**

In her book *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo writes, “White progressives can be the most difficult for people of color, because to the degree that we think we have arrived, we will put our energy into making sure that others see us as having arrived. None of our energy will go into what we need to be doing for the rest of our lives: engaging in ongoing self-awareness, continuing education, relationship building, and actual anti-racist practice. White progressives do indeed uphold and perpetrate racism, but our defensiveness and certitude make it virtually impossible to explain to us how we do so.”

**Are we just doing this to be politically correct?**

We are taking on the subject of racism because we believe our faith compels us to grow in understanding the ways we contribute to the broken systems in our world. Rather than (even unintentionally) being a part of what is harming others, we must do the hard work of learning, reflection, and action to become part of healing. The United Methodist Church recognized this twenty years ago when the General Conference passed a resolution for every congregation to implement “a strategy and program which educates and supports systemic and personal changes to end racism.” We believe church is a safe place to do hard work, and FUMC is ready for this step.

**I don’t see color, I just see people. What’s the big deal?**

LaSha Saad writes, “When you say “I don’t see color” to a [person of color], you are saying “Who you are does not matter, and I do not see you for who you are. I am choosing to minimize and erase the impact of your skin color, your hair pattern, your accent, or other languages, your cultural practices, and your spiritual traditions as a [person of color] existing within white supremacy. Sho Baraka says “all of creation, all of our differences is a beautiful reflection of who God is and to ignore that is not just ignorant, but it is also a spit in the face of our Creator.”

**Doesn’t talking about racism make it worse?**

Carolyn Hebel writes, “Not talking about race and racism has been a strategy our society has used in the past, but it has not worked. People continue to have biases that they act on, with the biggest impact falling upon communities of color. If religious leaders do not talk about it, and if our congregants are not able to talk about it, our biases will continue to harm others. Also, by not talking about it, we are discounting the stories of men and women of color who experience their race as having a daily impact on their lives. If we do not talk about it, it feels as if we are ignoring their pain. As people of faith, we are all called to attend to the suffering of one another. In order to attend to this suffering, we need to first acknowledge that it exists. Racism continues to exist, and refusing to name it will not make it go away.”

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*Continued...*
All are invited 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.

FEAST Happy Hour for Young Adults
5:00-7:00 p.m. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto
In addition to our monthly FEAST dinner gatherings for young adults (ages 20-45), we are adding a monthly happy hour that we are calling TOAST! Come join us. Registration requested at fumcaustin.org/FEAST, but not required.

FEAST for Young Adults
7:00-8:30 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
FEAST is a monthly dinner for young adults (roughly ages 20-45) to build community and dig into the more difficult side of faith together. Led by Dr. Brad King, FEAST is a modern take on the most ancient form of Christian communal worship: the love feast. In addition to delicious food, these meetings are focused on creating meaningful and personal interactions among individuals seeking more connection and engagement in a faith-interested atmosphere. Register at fumcaustin.org/feast.

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PRAYER
WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION
Stephanie Bewold; Sandy Bowles; Michael Crowe; Michele Fenton; Jeremy and Victoria Grogan; Marcia Houston; Sue Norris; Mari Perez; Tom Richardson; Debbie Rippetoe; and Dan Wood.
Condolences to Alan Stephens on the death of his great-aunt, Ruth “Beezie” Stephens.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION
Curt Ashmos’ friend, Elissa Marek; Grady Basler’s sister, Tonya Basler Stout; Tracey Beadle; Cheryl Bias’ niece; Lauren Stafford; Bob Block’s friend, Tim Sullivan; Jim and Jane Bowen’s friend, George Barnette; Fay Brown’s sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Judy Chambers’ mother, Edith Heckmann’s sister-in-law, Jenny Thornell; Mary Melanie Greene’s friend, Dr. Robert Wootton; George Gaston’s Custer; Truman Fenton’s father; George Gaston’s friend, Dr. Robert Wootten; Melanie Greene’s friend, Jenny Thornell; Mary Heckman’s sister-in-law, Susi Tyler; Marcia Houston’s mother, Johnnie; Liz Kilday’s friend, Emilia Williams; Melanie Miller’s and Jen Stuart’s father, Doak Thomas; Andrew Pyle’s father, James Pyle; Ammenarie Potts’ student, E. Cindy Reidland’s friends, Carly and Colton Wimberly; Kent Schuster’s brother, Stan Schuster; Alan Stephens’ father-in-law, Robert McBride; Adam Wooderson’s uncle, Billy Wooderson; and Dick Young’s nephew, Jeff Young.

Condolences to Ann Fields’ mother, Johnnie; Liz Kilday’s Susi Tyler; Marcia Houston’s mother, Johnnie; Liz Kilday’s; Laurie Stoftord; Bob Block’s friend, Tim Sullivan; Jim and Jane Bowen’s friend, George Barnette; Fay Brown’s sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Judy Chambers’ mother, Edith Heckmann’s sister-in-law, Jenny Thornell; Mary Melanie Greene’s friend, Dr. Robert Wootton; George Gaston’s Custer; Truman Fenton’s father; George Gaston’s friend, Dr. Robert Wootten; Melanie Greene’s friend, Jenny Thornell; Mary Heckman’s sister-in-law, Susi Tyler; Marcia Houston’s mother, Johnnie; Liz Kilday’s friend, Emilia Williams; Melanie Miller’s and Jen Stuart’s father, Doak Thomas; Andrew Pyle’s father, James Pyle; Ammenarie Potts’ student, E. Cindy Reidland’s friends, Carly and Colton Wimberly; Kent Schuster’s brother, Stan Schuster; Alan Stephens’ father-in-law, Robert McBride; Adam Wooderson’s uncle, Billy Wooderson; and Dick Young’s nephew, Jeff Young.

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Church Life allows members to review their contact information, access a church directory, schedule one-time or recurring giving, view commitment, and access the church calendar. Plus, the Church Life mobile app—conveniently at your fingertips—provides similar access to church information using your same Church Life login. Visit fumcaustin.org/churchlife.