

Facing Racism

Our Commitment to...

Building Congregational Vitality

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Dismantling Structural Racism



We're a
Matthew 25
church

pcusa.org/matthew25

Courage to face the Challenge



Mark 7:24-30

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre.^[g] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. ²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ 'First let the children eat all they want,' he told her, 'for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.'

²⁸ 'Lord,' she replied, 'even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'

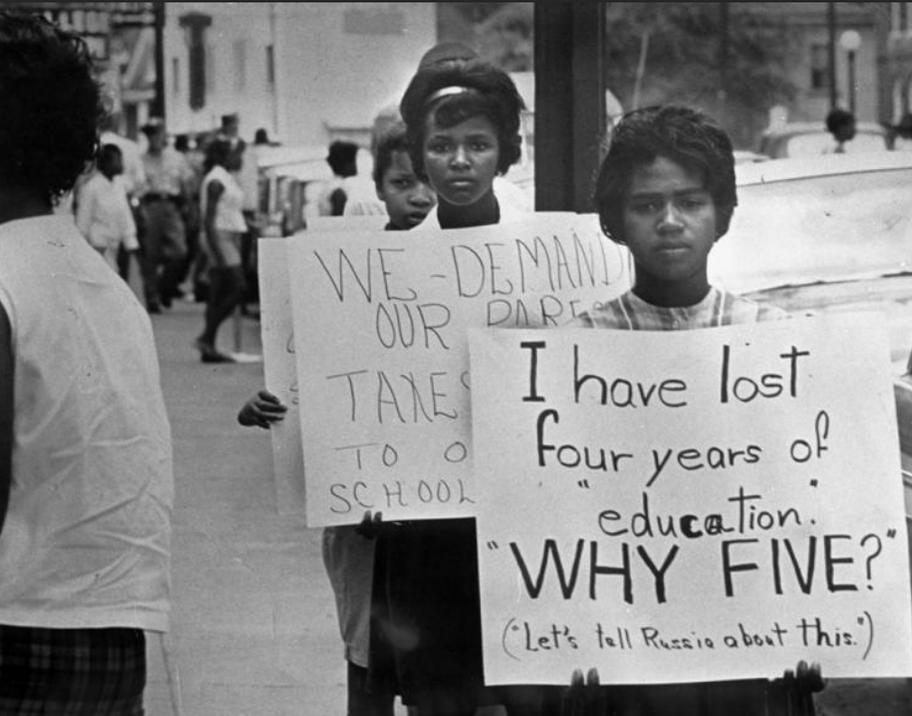
²⁹ Then he told her, 'For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.'

³⁰ She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.



Washington Post article from Warren County Ministers

“It has been suggested by some that churches should open their doors under a device that would enable public schools to continue as a private arrangement. Whether churches could be open for such purpose is something which each church must decide for itself...As ministers while we would abide by the decisions of our churches in their official ruling, strongly emphasize that we could not countenance the use of the Church of Jesus Christ as a means of evading Federal law and continuing a pattern of life which opposes the very nature of the Church as the Body of Christ.”



Structural Racism:

A system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity.

Racial Equity:

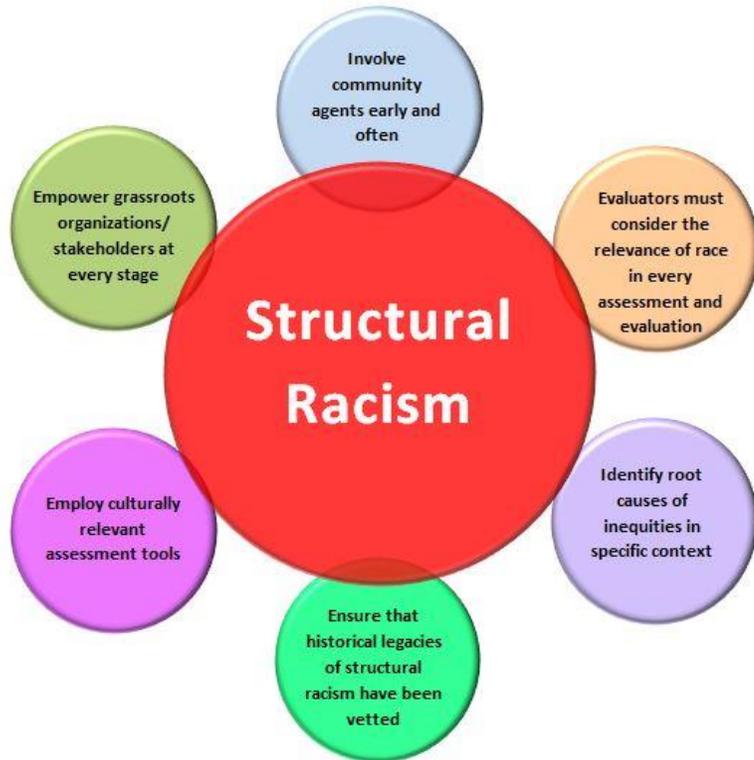
Racial equity refers to what a genuinely non-racist society would look like. In a racially equitable society, the distribution of society's benefits and burdens would not be skewed by race. In other words, racial equity would be a reality in which a person is no more or less likely to experience society's benefits or burdens just because of the color of their skin.

White Privilege:

White privilege, or "historically accumulated white privilege," as we have come to call it, refers to whites' historical and contemporary advantages in access to quality education, decent jobs and liveable wages, homeownership, retirement benefits, wealth and so on.

Institutional Racism:

Institutional racism refers to the policies and practices within and across institutions that, intentionally or not, produce outcomes that chronically favor, or put a racial group at a disadvantage.



White privilege is an invisible package of unearned assets which I can count on cashing in every day, but about which I was meant to remain oblivious." (Source: Peggy Macintosh,

It is no coincidence that the people who are most at risk of dying due to institutional racism are also those who are most at risk of COVID-19.



Pinned Tweet

 **Yolanda** @YoliWriter · Jun 1

White people, no one is asking you to apologize for your ancestors. We are asking you to dismantle the systems they built and you maintain.

7.5K 10K

First there was racism. Then liberals created institutional racism and coded racism. You can only hear it with a dog whistle. ~Evan Sayet

topfamousquotes.com



trial error
@dreamaskew

legalizing marijuana without pardoning everyone in the jurisdiction who's in prison for selling weed is a form of institutional racism.

taxing marijuana sales without allocating that revenue to rebuilding communities devastated by "drug war" policing is institutional racism.



Rashida Tlaib @RashidaTlaib · Apr 1

This pandemic is exposing structural racism in our country. Regions with past and present inequities in employment, wages, health care, and housing are being hit hard.

3.1K

2K

9.9K

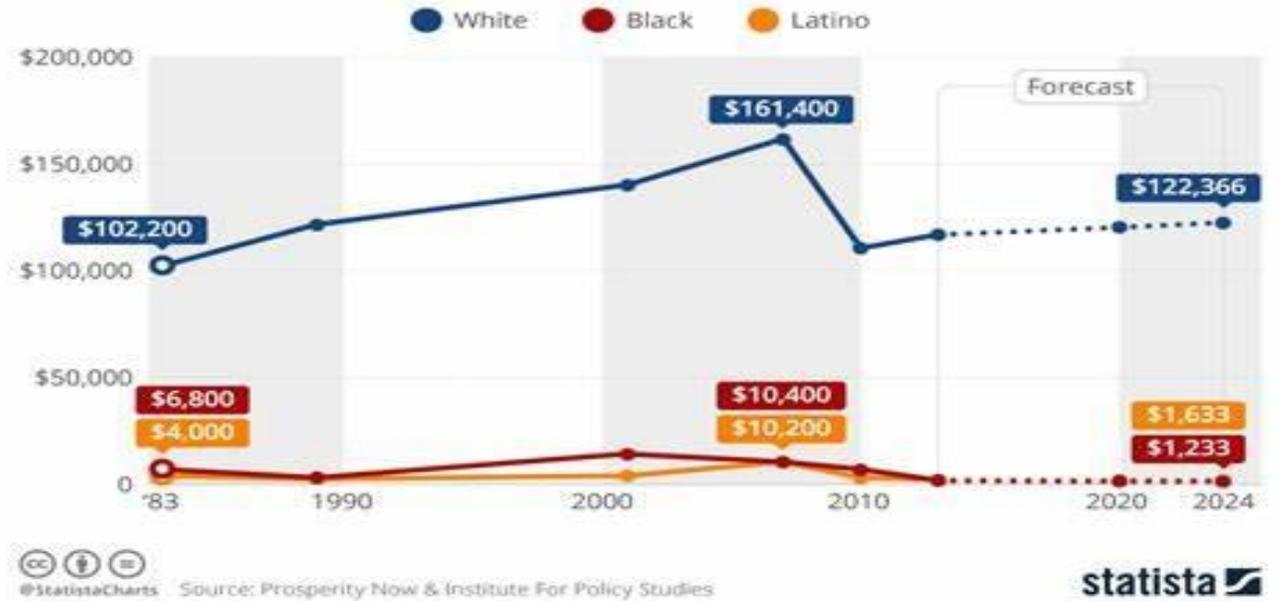




Racial Wealth Gap

Racial Wealth Inequality Is Rampant In The U.S.

Median household wealth by race/ethnicity in the United States (1983-2024)



“I WOULD START WITH THE FAILURE TO GRANT THE FORMERLY ENSLAVED THE 40 ACRES AND A MULE THAT THEY WERE PROMISED. “HAD THOSE LAND GRANTS BEEN MADE, I THINK WE WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT A VERY DIFFERENT AMERICA FROM THE ONE THAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING NOW.” SANDY DARITY, DUKE UNIVERSITY

Inherited wealth
Home ownership

1935, Social Security Act
excluded farmers and
domestic workers from
benefits

Closing the racial wealth gap would add \$1.5 trillion to the entire U.S. economy, according to a new report from McKinsey.

How do we do it?

- ECONOMIC MOBILITY
- EQUITY IN EDUCATION – SUPERHERO STUDENTS
- INCREASED MINIMUM WAGE
- REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY



Racism and Education

The U.S. education system has rampant problems and more than 60 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, school systems in the United States continue to be separate and unequal. Gaping differences for students of color have created an education system that does not serve its children properly. Zero-tolerance discipline policies, gaps in achievement, disparate access to resources along with biased political agendas foster inequalities.

Minorities have ...

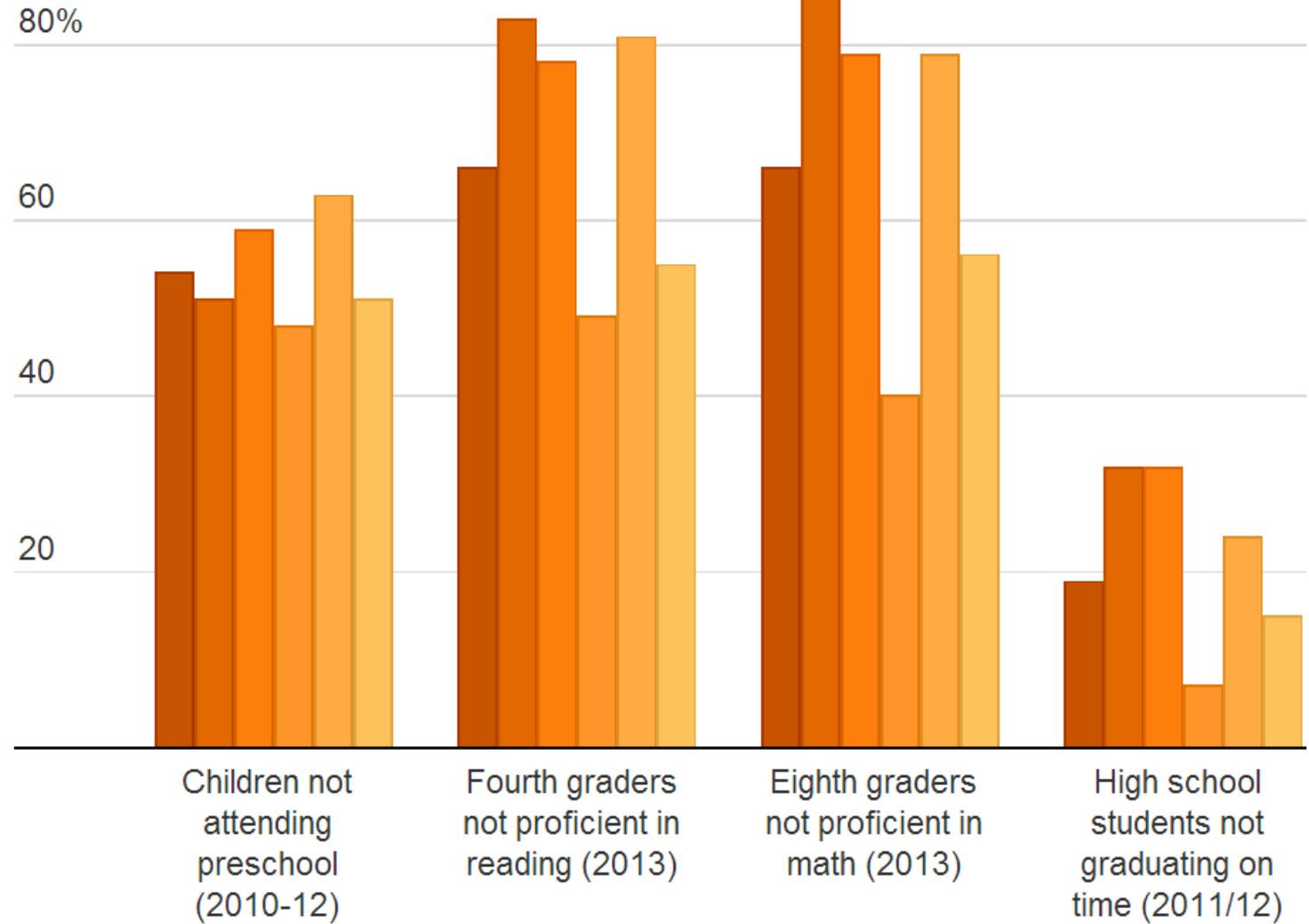
increased rate of suspension

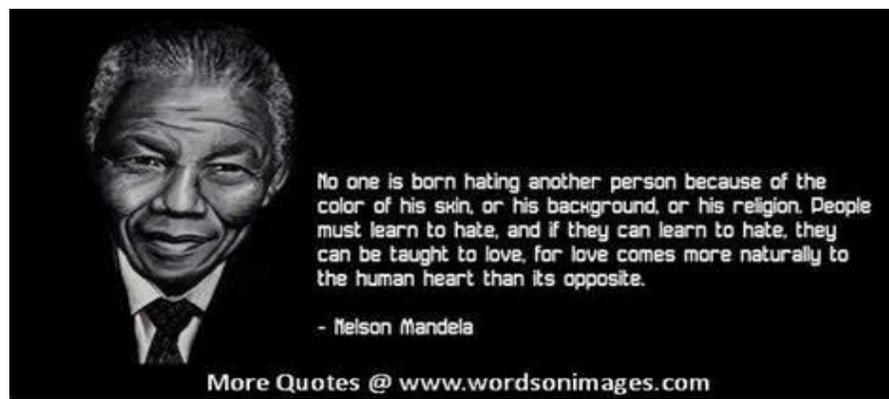
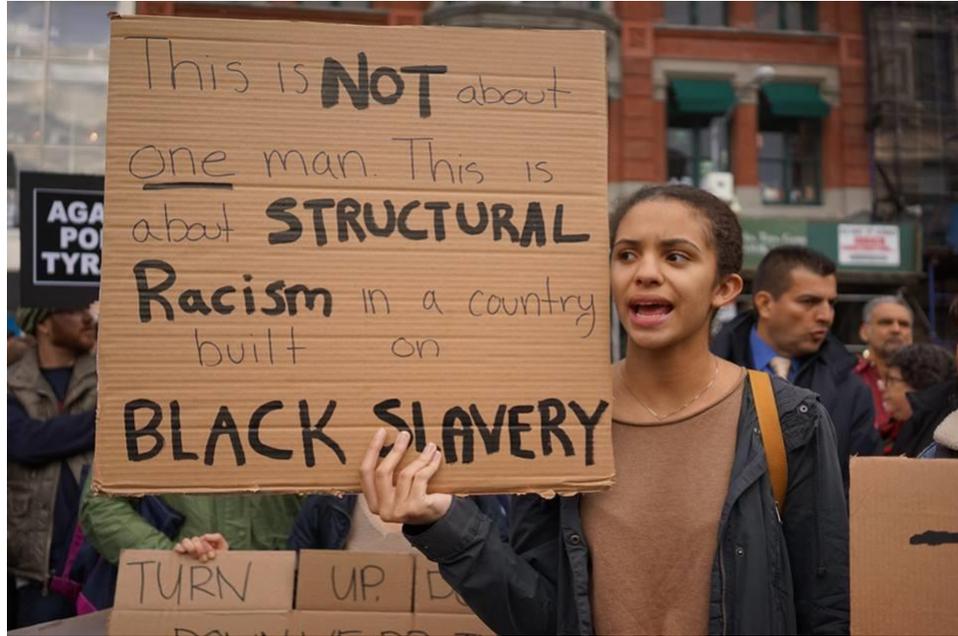
decreased access to rigorous math and science classes

increased probability of begin taught by teachers with less experience and less pay.

Education indicators

■ Average ■ Black ■ American Indian ■ Asian/Pacific Islander ■ Hispanic ■ V





Breakdown of belief that recent killings of black men by police are isolated incidents.

#saytheirnames

George Floyd
Jake Blake
*Freddie Gray
*Tamir Rice
*Michael Brown
*Breonna Taylor
Atatiana
Jefferson
Botham Jean
*Alton Sterling



71% white evangelical Protestants
63% white Catholics
59% white mainline Protestants

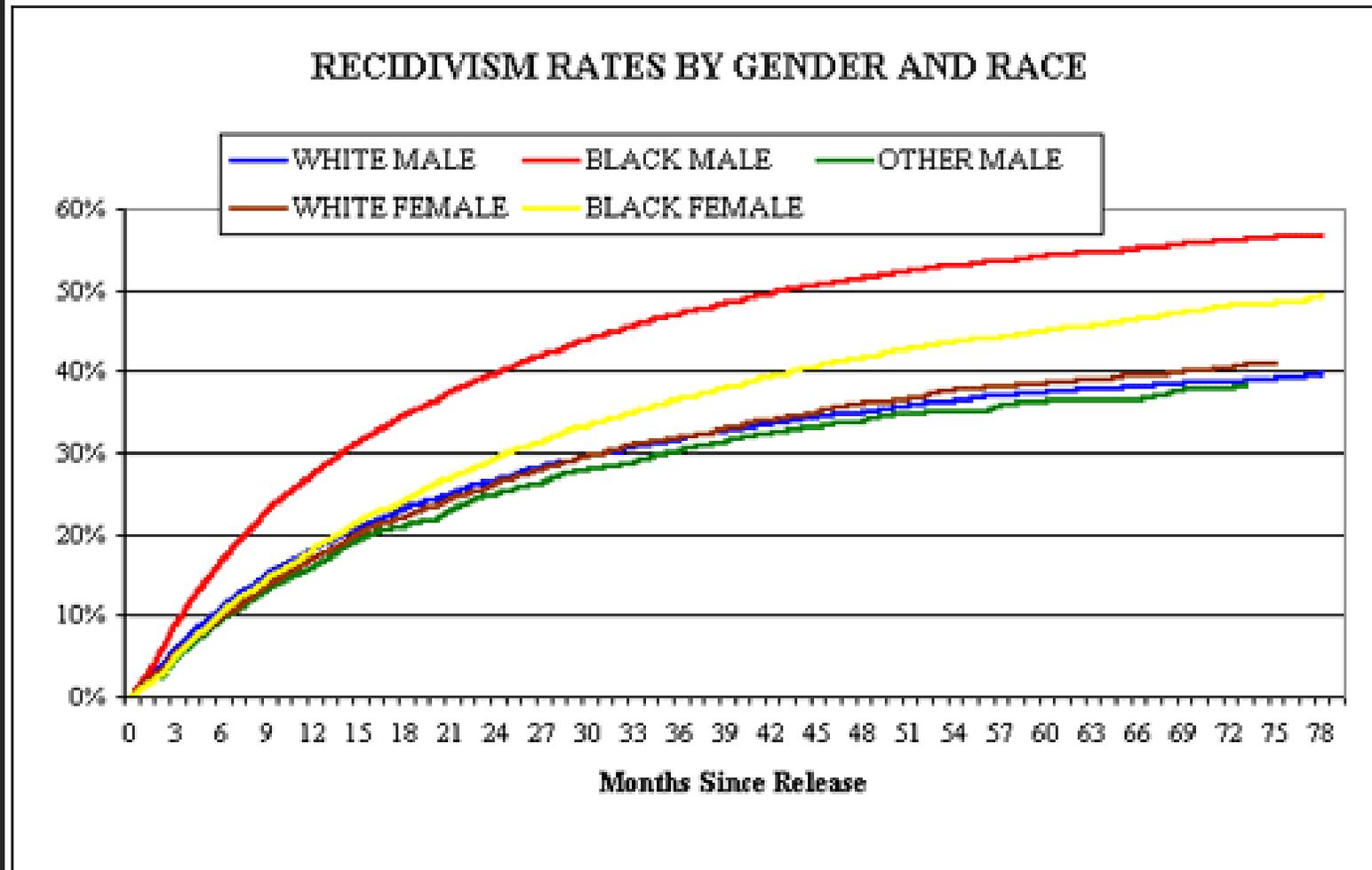
Today, “we see these tropes in things like ‘thug,’ ‘gangster,’ ‘the angry Black woman,’” he said. “These (stereotypes) have been massaged thoroughly into our culture” to portray African American people and some other minorities as criminals.

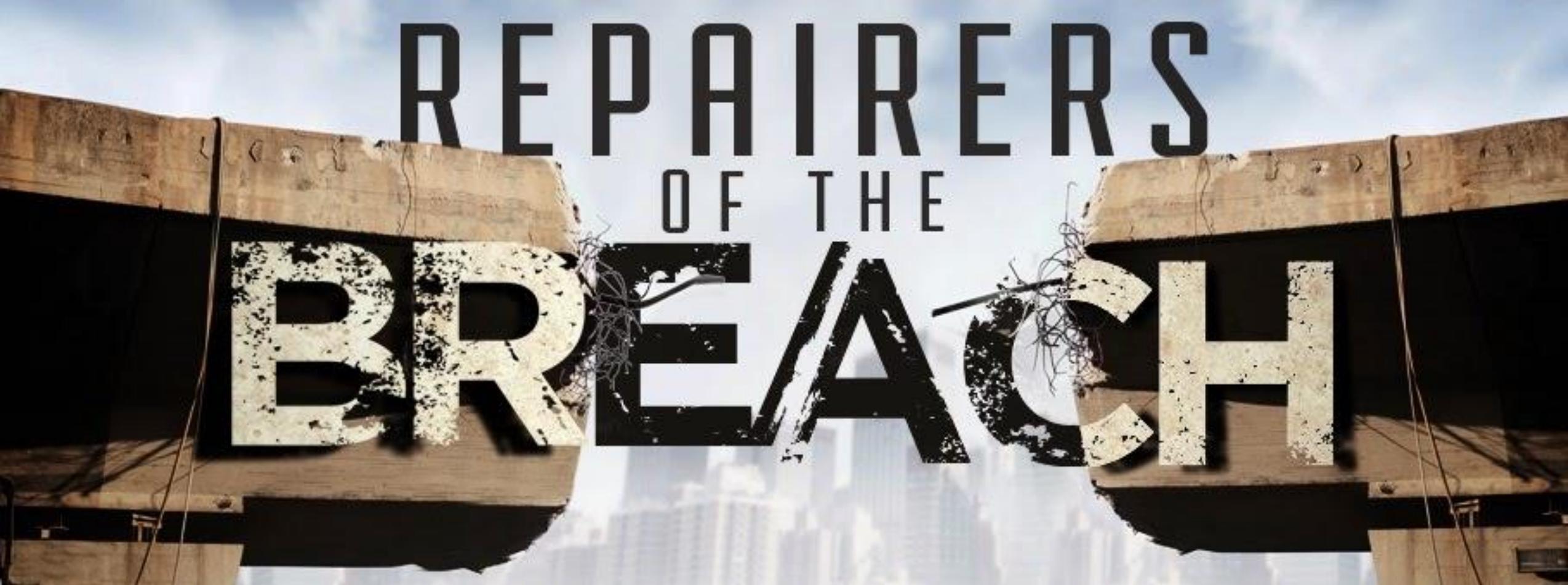
Johnson urged churches to think about how they perpetuate stereotypes and how to become anti-racist.

In 1971, the Nixon administration launched the war on drugs, resulting in increased arrests and harsher prison sentences largely aimed at black people. Former Nixon domestic policy chief John Ehrlichman later confirmed that the effort was designed to hurt black families.

The Clinton administration's 1994 crime bill also resulted in many more black Americans being rounded up by law enforcement officials and put in prison.

From 1980 and 2015, the nation's prison population climbed from roughly 500,000 to more than 2.2 million, with black Americans making up 34% of all inmates, according to the NAACP. Only 13% of Americans identify as black, according to the U.S. Census.



The image features a central graphic where the words "REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH" are displayed. "REPAIRERS" is at the top in a tall, black, sans-serif font. "OF THE" is in the middle in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. "BREACH" is at the bottom in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is set against a background of a city skyline with tall buildings, which is visible through a jagged, torn hole in a weathered wooden wall. The wall is made of horizontal planks and has some debris and twigs caught in the tear. The sky above the buildings is a pale blue with light clouds.

REPAIRERS
OF THE
BREACH

“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.” - Isaiah 58:12

A knee on a neck laying bare for all to see

the evil of callous

Soulless, Entitled, Power

choking the life from God's beloved

just because

We know what must change.

Will we, church?

We have written many true,

significant, sometimes even sincere words.

We have confessed: Belhar,

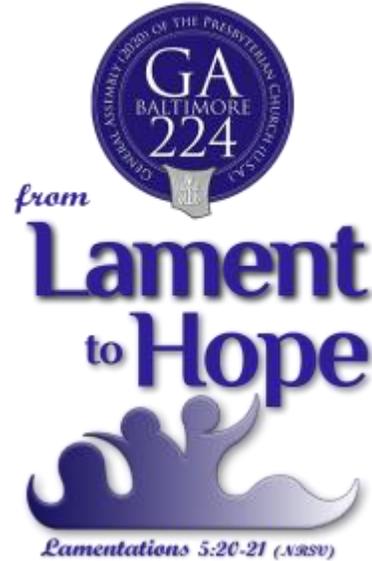
C'67, Barmen...

Enough words?

Never enough witness.

We know we must change.

Will we, church?



[Rev. Ryan J Landino](#)
[Lead Presbyter for Transformation of Great Rivers Presbytery](#)
[Member of Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation](#)

The church must be the first place seeking racial justice and reconciliation, the dismantling of structural racism, and the healing of our marginalized communities. It has, unfortunately, not often been so. We must have our own denominational and congregational houses in order. We must dare to be an image of hope for those around us.



Bell hooks, an American author and social activist says this,
“Love is an action, never simply a feeling.”

If we claim to love our neighbor, especially our BIPOC neighbors, we are called to action. We have said a lot and not done enough. Acknowledging the grief of our siblings in Christ and naming that the Church has a primary calling to be repairers of the breach means nothing without moving towards action.

Each pictures is a link to the website.



Whites for Racial Equity, Free Online Courses



It is James Baldwin's debate with Buckley from 1965, but Baldwin takes a really deep dive into unconscious biases or "systems of reality" that is REALLY worth watching



PCUSA Week of Action Resources



A Conversation on Race and Privilege with Angela Davis and Jane Elliott is the latest installment of the student-led Social Justice Solutions series. Each year, we invite activists, thought leaders, and the community to explore action-oriented strategies to affect social change. This year we are honored to host two luminaries who have long been on the front lines of pushing the national conversation on race and racial justice forward.



Truth, Justice, Healing

Working together to create a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal from the racial wounds of the past, from slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned.



PEACE, LOVE, UNITY.

WE STAND UNITED

The mission of Front Royal Unites is to eradicate white supremacy. We believe silence is complicit and injustices against minority groups must stop! From the courthouse to the schoolhouse, bridges must be built and not burnt down. We want to ensure that regardless of your complexion you are not feared, you feel safe, and you get equal footing.

Together we are united.
Together we are Front Royal.