



June 7, 2020

The Pandemic of Racism

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit [Πνεύματος pneumatō- a combining form meaning "air," "breath," "spirit"] and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1-4

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life a new
That I may love the way you love
and do what you would do*

New Century Hymnal #292

"Please. Please. I can't breathe." George Floyd, Minneapolis

At the same time the COVID pandemic has taken the last breath of more than 100,000 Americans, the pandemic of racism in America is choking the breath and life, literally, out of people of color. At a point beyond submission, when he was not a threat to himself or to anyone else, the very breath God breathed into George Floyd was choked out by a white police officer.

Both the pandemic of race and virus are unseen to the eye. Both constrict the breath. Both effect one racial group more than the other. Both effect the most vulnerable people in our society. Both are contested by people who want to deny that there is even a problem despite the bodies that continue to pile up. We have cast blame for COVID in different directions. Responsibility for the pandemic of racism, however, belongs entirely to white America.

The COVID pandemic will eventually be overcome with a vaccine. The racism pandemic will be overcome when the Holy Spirit that gave birth to the church draws people together to live fully into the truth, "that when one part of the body suffers, all suffer."

The knee on George Floyd's neck is a knee on our nation and on all people, who seek to "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:24).

Beginning this afternoon, June 7th (and on the five Sunday afternoons following) Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian will lead a Sunday afternoon Zoom reading of *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* (<https://www.amazon.com/Waking-White-Finding-Myself-Story/dp/0991331303>). More information about that will be in next week's PSEC eNews. **PLEASE READ the first two chapters prior to the first meeting.**

The zoom link for these Sunday meetings is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87029754462?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87029754462?pwd=TkdqY3JoOXdcVvY8rYmM1N1ppZHFvUT09)

[pwd=TkdqY3JoOXdcVvY8rYmM1N1ppZHFvUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87029754462?pwd=TkdqY3JoOXdcVvY8rYmM1N1ppZHFvUT09)

Meeting ID: 870 2975 4462 Password: 423414

When we receive the Holy Spirit so that, "your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams," (Acts 2:17), we will call for, and make, the change God wants in the world which begins with the simple command—"Love one another as I have loved you."

Blessings,

Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC Conference Minister



Spiritual Life Workshops for Lay Leaders

A course on Spiritual Life will meet at Trinity UCC, Telford on Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00 as follows:

Sept. 26 - Spiritual growth through congregational worship

Oct. 24 - Spiritual growth through personal disciplines

Nov. 14 - Spiritual growth through small groups

This course is designed for church leaders but is open to anyone who feels challenged to deepen their spiritual life. The course will be led by Dr. Charles Maxfield, an ordained UCC minister with experience in lay ministry training. He will be assisted by Constance Lezenby, a spiritual director recognized by her Friends' Meeting as a traveling minister.

Cost is \$15 per person. Enrollment will be limited due to social gathering restrictions. Registration by sending registration fee to: Trinity UCC, 101 S. Main St., Telford, PA 18969

Email questions to: tuctelford@gmail.com