

*Let justice roll down like a river  
and righteousness like a mighty stream.*

~ Amos 5:24

## 2021

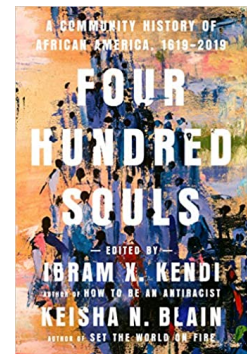
- We sent out a press release to over twenty news/media agencies regarding PSEC's [Anti-Racism Statement](#) two weeks before MLK Day.
- For MLK Day, we created a billboard that was displayed for three weeks on the Route 422 corridor in Pottstown as a public witness against racism:



- We have printed and distributed racial justice yard signs and banners. There are a few left for churches and individuals who would like to show support and solidarity. Suggested donations for yard signs is \$7; donation for church banners is \$70. If cost is a barrier, we will gladly provide assistance.



- In March 2021, our team member, Mr. Ray Edwards, issued an [open letter](#) to members of the conference regarding the shootings of, and escalating violence against, members of the Asian and Pacific Island communities.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup> we facilitated a six-week **book discussion** on [Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019](#), edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain via Zoom. It was very informative and well received. The audio book has all 90 writers narrating their own segment – a choir of voices.
- On August 13, 2021 we held a **service of remembrance and healing to mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the brutal lynching of Zachariah Walker**. It was held on the site where the historical marker commemorating the event was placed. In attendance at the service were members of the Coatesville community who shared with us that on the day of the lynching, people left Sunday worship in order to participate in the lynching.



Unfortunately, with the heavy traffic, the slope of the ground, the heat, and concern for the well-being of some of the participants, our service of remembrance was not conducive to much meaningful conversation following the service itself. As such, we have asked Pastor Cottrell if his Coatesville congregation would be willing to host future events so there can be some sharing by the local people and deep listening on our part. We are thrilled that he gave us a resounding “Yes!”

- October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> marked our **first Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Symposium!** Keynote speakers were Dr. Drew Hart and Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. The speakers highlighted the deep systemic roots of white supremacy in the white Christian church and in the overall culture of the United States. The embrace and defense of “Euro-centric whiteness” as the norm is foundational to the cultures of anti-Blackness, white supremacy, racial violence and the oppression of people of color. We were given impactful illustrations and historical facts to help illustrate these realities. Dr. Hart provided us with a biblical perspective on Jesus’ role in the act of liberation, and as a liberator who viewed his ministry and mission through the lens of the least of these, from the bottom up, vs. from the top down. Dr. Dorhauer provided tools to help recognize white privilege and tools to help dismantle systemic racism. Both emphasized God’s call on the church to work for racial justice through reshaping the culture within the church and to engage in movements, non-violent actions, and civil disobedience to create changes in public policy. The symposium was approved for diversity training credits. Beth Walker will be providing a summary of the event during our team’s 2-minute verbal report.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 21<sup>st</sup> we are offering **an Advent book study**, featuring Dr. Hart’s book, [Who Will Be a Witness: Igniting Activism for God’s Justice, Love, and Deliverance](#). The book study is being held Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Registration is free. Registration information and link is available on the PSEC website & the Racial Justice Page.

### **Racial Justice Initiative Team Members:**

**Co-Chairs:** Ann-Therese Ortíz and Anne Cormier; **Members:** Leslie Mamas, Beth Walker, Stephen Ohnsman, Susan Wargo, and Cean James. We are a growing team and in 2021 welcomed Suzanne Schwartz-Green, Rev. Geneva Butz and Rev. Dwayne Mosier to the team. This year we said good-bye to Ray Edwards as he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, continuing his racial justice work in his new community. Thank you, Ray, for all of your contributions to this work!

We welcome all who have a dedication and heart for racial justice to become a part of this work!

If you are interested in joining our efforts, please contact:

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