

*“If love is the binding glue; if it’s expressed in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness, especially when there’s unintended hurt; if interracial churches in America default to being places that are comfortable for whites; and if doing so is an actual hindrance to the pursuit of beautiful community, then we have a problem that needs addressing.”*

Irwyn L. Ince, Jr., *The Beautiful Community: Unity, Diversity, and the Church at its Best*

We know that racism is a big problem we must address - in ourselves, our church community, and our society. And given the complex, systemic nature of racial injustice in this country and the complicity of the church in perpetuating this evil, we know that the work of rooting out racism and seeking justice is an enormous, multi-dimensional effort that will take the rest of our lives - a marathon more than a sprint. We as a church community are learning more about how we can become more just, equitable, and inclusive - a church that humbly owns and repents of the unintended hurt we have caused toward Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) members of our community who have borne the burden of belonging in a predominantly white church, and a church that humbly and courageously seeks to be allied in the cause of resisting racism and promoting racial justice in our church and in our city. We have much to learn, much room to grow, and much work to do.

Here are some voices and resources many of us are learning from right now, and we invite you to listen to and learn from them as well as you begin or further your own marathon journey of becoming more like Jesus as we seek together to become the beautiful community God is calling us to be.

- **Be the Bridge** - Join the Online Community (Facebook Group), and use their online resources for self-education.
- **Justice in June** (can be used year-round) - Participate in this 30-day anti-racism program that can be done in 10, 20, or 45 minutes per day.
- **Project HOME Anti-Racism Resources** - Visit this library of resources compiled by one of our local ministry partner organizations. This library includes the widely respected “Scaffolded Anti-Racist Resources” as well as curated lists of articles & essays, videos & film, podcasts, social media accounts, books, resources for parents and people working with children, and other resources.