

28 Ways to Honor Black History Month 2023

February is Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements and contributions of African Americans to our nation and our common cultural heritage. It is also a time to reflect upon how African Americans have played key roles in every American story, ranging from military service to economic development and social justice. Here are 28 ways you can use the days of February to better understand yourself, manifest God's love for all people, and help all of us together advance toward a non-racist society.



1. Read *A Journey of Hope Plan*, by The United Methodists of Greater New Jersey, which aims to deepen our ministry to create a more just, inclusive, equitable church. Download here <https://www.gnjumc.org/journeyofhope/> or pick up a hard copy from our church office.
2. Watch Rev. Patti Walz's video *Methodism in Black and White*, found on our church website: <https://meetwithgod.com/about-us/equity-and-social-justice-committee/>
3. Watch the documentary *Making Black America: Through the Grapevine*, PBS-WHY Channel 12.1, Feb. 3, 9-11 PM (episodes 1+2) and Feb. 10, 9-11 PM (episodes 3+4).
4. Read Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Download here <https://letterfromjail.com> or pick up hard copy in our church office.
5. "Diversify" your circle of friends (part 1): Order hoagies and expand your circle of friends, as you make plans for Super Bowl Sunday.
6. Learn about unsung heroes of Black history: *African-American Stories*, Monday, February 6 (7:00-8:00PM) at Moorestown Library Meeting Room A&B. Burlington County Parks' Museum Curator of History Marisa Bozarth will tell stories of notable African Americans throughout our history with connections to Burlington County. Registration required: <https://moorestownlibrary.libcal.com/event/9444508>
7. Check out a book from the "Equity and Social Justice" bookshelf in our church library!
8. Read **Pentecost Acts 2**. All people of all nations, races, and tribes celebrated the coming of God's Holy Spirit. God made us in all colors and intended that we celebrate this diversity. This story teaches us how to be antiracists, how to celebrate the diversity of Creation and 'see color' as a gift from God, without ascribing greater or lesser value to God's people based on their differences.
9. Learn more about these special local historic sites, plan a visit with your family and friends:
Underground Railroad Museum of Burlington County, 803 Smithville Road, Mount Holly
Jacob's Chapel, Mount Laurel
Kay-Evans House, Croft Farm in Cherry Hill
Elisha Barcklow House (1765), 274 West Main St., Moorestown, an underground railroad station
10. Watch any of the many PBS documentaries, hosted by Dr. Henry Lewis Gates Jr's, such as **Eyes on the Prize** and **The Black Church: This Is Our Story This Is Our Song**, found on WHY Channel 12.1 and other streaming services.
11. Visit a museum, such as:
The African American Museum of Philadelphia
701 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
<https://www.aampmuseum.org/>
or...
Lest We Forget Museum of Slavery
5501 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144
<https://lwfs.com/>

or...

The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

12. "Diversify" your circle of friends (part 2): Super Bowl Sunday! Get together, share, listen, enjoy community with an open heart. Consider the accomplishments and achievements of Black athletes, as well as the challenges they may have confronted and worked to overcome.



13. Read a biography of an influential Black figure such as Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm, Kobe Bryant, Michelle Obama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Justice Thurgood Marshall, the Rev. Joseph Lowery. Shortcut: look them up in Wikipedia!
14. Read a book by a contemporary Black American author, such as Ta-Nehisi Coates.
15. Donate to The Black College Fund, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, which supports United Methodist-related historically Black colleges and universities in the United States and Zimbabwe. <https://www.gbhem.org/>
16. Read a story featuring a Black hero to your children, grandchildren, or to a school class.
17. Seek out and talk with a Black neighbor or acquaintance, ask about their experience in your community. Listen.
18. Attend a show featuring local Black artists, such as **Black History in Song**, Saturday, February 18, 2:00-3:30PM, Moorestown Library Meeting Room A&B. Gifted musicians will perform selections from the Black experience, spirituals,

art songs by Black composers, and standards from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. In-person and on Zoom. Registration:

<https://moorestownlibrary.libcal.com/event/9769593>

19. Explore the breadth of Black music, from jazz to hip-hop, and gospel to southern African folk songs. Watch the PBS documentary **Fight the Power: How Hip Hop Changed the World**, WHYY Channel 12.1, Feb. 21, 9:00-11:00 PM.
20. Call out racism and prejudice aimed at Black people and other People of Color in your church and community.
21. Learn about "colorism" and how it plays out in our society.
22. Learn more about Black Methodists for Church Renewal. <https://www.bmcrcumc.org/>
23. Engage in positive, supportive conversations about Black history and culture on social media.
24. Learn the lyrics to "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing", found in our Methodist Hymnal, #519.
25. Watch the movie **Harriet**.



26. Fearlessly learn more about how racism has and still affects Black people around the world and start confronting racism.
27. Support our youth in their 30-Hour Fast on Fri-Sat February 24-25 by donating food and/or funds which will be used to support those in need in our diverse community.
28. Examine and confront your own implicit biases. Interrupt when you hear a racist joke, statement, or story. Recognize and call out a racist trope.

Inspired by the work of The General Commission on Religion & Race of the United Methodist Church www.GCORR.org