

**E Blast**  
**November 27, 2020**  
**Racism In America- The History We Didn't Learn in School**

At last month's zoom conversation on race and policing, Sue Linderman, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church offered to share with us her six-week course on Racism in America. I reached out to her shortly after and I am pleased to announce that Sue will offer this six-week course beginning on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> which is the Second Sunday of Advent. The zoom details follow. These sessions will be one hour in length and will be at 1:00 on Sunday afternoon. I have included a brief bio about Sue as well as the themes she will cover in each of the six weeks.

Sue grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, graduating from Mount Pleasant High School before attending Mount Holyoke College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. A long-time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Sue is a co-founder of its Peace & Justice Work Group, formed in Spring 2018 with the twin goals of combating violence in Wilmington and promoting racial justice.

The series of police shootings of unarmed black men in recent years galvanized her to develop a better understanding of how America's race relations developed. The information being presented in this series is the result of significant research about our country's history in this regard.

**RACISM IN AMERICA – THE HISTORY WE DIDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL**

Much of the racial turmoil in our country today can be traced directly to elements of our history, even before the founding of the United States. Many of the racial stereotypes we hear – or hold – are a direct consequence of intentional economic and public policy. Understanding this history gives us a foundation for action to address the profound inequities that exist in our society today.

This series of six one-hour classes includes both presentation and discussion. The topic areas are:

**THE EARLY YEARS (December 6, 2020)**

We trace our history starting in August 1619 with the arrival in the Colony of Virginia of a ship bearing 20+ kidnapped Africans up through the hopeful start and abortive end of Reconstruction.

**SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME (December 13, 2020)**

This class focuses on one of the least-known eras of American history, with a focus on black codes and convict leasing, Jim Crow laws, terror lynchings and the Great Migration.

**PUBLIC POLICY AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (December 20, 2020)**

Many of us think of programs like FHA mortgage guarantees, Social Security and the G.I. Bill as beneficial to society, but all citizens were not treated equally, and segregation intensified. We will

also cover the Brown v Board of Education Supreme Court decision and other key events in the Civil Rights Movement.

**MASS INCARCERATION AND THE WAR ON DRUGS (January 3, 2021)**

The huge expansion of the U.S. prison population from 1970 to 2017 was driven in large part by racially targeted drug laws, reinforced by financial incentives to law enforcement and changes in civil forfeiture and Fourth Amendment protections that foster a criminal justice system racialized from beginning to end.

**VOTER SUPPRESSION – THEN AND NOW (January 10, 2021)**

We will study the legal history of U.S. voting rights, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the end of Reconstruction, 100 years of voter suppression tactics, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Shelby v Holder Supreme Court decision that intensified the current assault on minority voting rights.

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ? (January 17, 2021)**

We will look back over these classes to consider what we have learned, how does this history affect us today, what do we need to do in the way of education, dialogue, self-examination, and action, asking what commitments will we make – individually and collectively.

Peace,

Fr. David

Topic: History of Racism

Time: Dec 6, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun, until Jan 17, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Dec 6, 2020 01:00 PM

Dec 13, 2020 01:00 PM

Dec 20, 2020 01:00 PM

Jan 3, 2021 01:00 PM

Jan 10, 2021 01:00 PM

Jan 17, 2021 01:00 PM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82039285274?pwd=cDI1M2V4ckMrekRyK2lrTkNaeWwrZz09>**