

## **Racism Awareness Resources List**

If your congregation has never engaged in a conversation about racism, the following is a list of resources that might open the doorway to dialogue. Several of the sections (books, films, websites, articles and podcasts) include resources for both getting started and in-depth study.

### **Books**

#### **Getting Started**

##### ***One: Unity in a Divided World***

##### **Deidra Riggs**

In *One*, Riggs asks us to put our focus on self-preservation aside and, like Jesus, make the first move toward reconciliation (includes a chapter-by-chapter discussion guide).

##### ***Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism***

##### **Drew Hart**

Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. Free, downloadable, chapter-by-chapter study guide:

[http://www.heraldpress.com/titles/TroubleIveSeen/Docs/TroubleIveSeen\\_StudyGuide.pdf](http://www.heraldpress.com/titles/TroubleIveSeen/Docs/TroubleIveSeen_StudyGuide.pdf)

##### ***America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America***

##### **Jim Wallis**

Biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America. Free, six-week downloadable study guide: <http://americasoriginalsin.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Repenting-of-Americas-Original-Sin.pdf>

##### ***Roadmap to Reconciliation: Moving Communities into Unity, Wholeness, and Justice***

##### **Brenda Salter McNeil**

Based on her extensive consulting experience with churches, colleges and organizations, Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil has created a roadmap to reconciliation. Reflection questions and exercises at the end of each chapter are conducive to group study.

##### ***Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart***

##### **Christena Cleveland**

Social psychologist Christena Cleveland brings together studies and research on the unseen dynamics at work that tend to separate us from others. The author provides practical insights for ministry leaders attempting to build bridges across boundaries. The book also includes discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

### **Books**

#### **In-Depth Study**

##### ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness***

##### **Michelle Alexander**

“We have not ended racial caste in America,” says Michelle Alexander, “we have merely redesigned it.”

Alexander demonstrates that, by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. Several study/discussion guides for purchase as well as available for free download available here: <http://newjimcrow.com/study-guides>.

### ***The Cross and the Lynching Tree***

#### **James Cone**

In this book, James Cone recognizes this profound paradox of the cross and argues that the cross ought to serve as the paradigmatic symbol through which one can talk about being both black and Christian in America. In *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, Cone does this systematically and reflectively, simultaneously looking backwards and forwards, offering a resting place for black America to leave its burdens and providing a path for a better, more united America. Free downloadable study guide available from the United Methodist Church:

<http://www.gcorr.org/study-guide-for-dr-james-cones-the-cross-and-the-lynching-tree/>.

### **Children’s Books**

#### **African American:**

**17 Books Every Black Child Should Read** {and also great for children of every ethnicity}

<http://www.essence.com/galleries/17-books-every-black-child-should-read>

**28 Children’s Books That Celebrate Black Heroes:**

[https://www.buzzfeed.com/mallorymcinnis/black-history-picture-books?utm\\_term=.gtRN6EaA3#.o1lRvWXXK3](https://www.buzzfeed.com/mallorymcinnis/black-history-picture-books?utm_term=.gtRN6EaA3#.o1lRvWXXK3)

**28 Black Picture Books That Aren’t About Boycotts, Buses, or Basketball:**

<https://scottwoodsmakeslists.wordpress.com/2016/01/30/28-black-picture-books-that-arent-about-boycotts-buses-or-basketball/>

#### **Asian:**

**Best Asian American Books for Kids:**

<http://www.pragmaticmom.com/2012/08/top-10-asian-american-books-coolasiankids/>

#### **Latino:**

**Ten Best Latino American Children’s Books Ages 2-16**

<http://www.pragmaticmom.com/2010/09/top-10-best-latino-american-childrens-books-ages-2-16/>

**50 Latino Children’s Books You Should Know:**

<http://mamiverse.com/top-latino-childrens-books-60054/>

## **Middle Eastern/Muslim**

### **10 Picture Books with Muslim Characters:**

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2017/02/picture-books-with-muslim-characters.html>

### **Children's Books with an Islamic Theme:**

<http://library.stanford.edu/guides/childrens-books-islamic-theme>

## **Native American:**

**5 Native American Books** <http://kidworldcitizen.org/2011/11/28/5-childrens-stories-with-american-indians/>

### **5 books about Native American culture and experience:**

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/11/19/beyond-so-called-first-thanksgiving-5-childrens-books-set-record-straight-152337>

## **General:**

**“Children’s Books that Tackle Race and Ethnicity”**: - New York Times Children’s Book Editor Maria Russo’s list (2016) of 23 of her favorite books featuring diverse characters (ages preschool through 12+):

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/22/books/23racebooks.html>

**“14 Children’s Picture Books Exploring Race and Racism” - Institute for Humane Education** (2014): <https://humaneeducation.org/blog/2014/14-childrens-picture-books-exploring-race-racism/>

**“30 Diverse YA Titles” from BookRiot** - Each of these books contains a main character who is either non-white, non-straight, of a non-Christian background, or is disabled. <http://bookriot.com/2014/05/22/30-diverse-ya-titles-get-radar/>

### **25 Books that Diversify Kids’ Reading Lists This Summer:**

[http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/06/07/25-ideas-to-diversify-reading-lists-this-summer/#utm\\_sguid=149047,483899b7-2a80-6d4a-3d7d-b7c7726ce4f7](http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/06/07/25-ideas-to-diversify-reading-lists-this-summer/#utm_sguid=149047,483899b7-2a80-6d4a-3d7d-b7c7726ce4f7)

### **Resources for Talking to Kids about Race and Racism:**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristen-howerton/talking-to-kids-race-racism-books\\_b\\_2618305.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristen-howerton/talking-to-kids-race-racism-books_b_2618305.html)

## **Films:**

### **Getting Started:**

#### **25 Mini Films for Exploring Race Bias and Identity with Students**

25 short New York Times documentaries ranging in length from one to seven minutes tackle issues of race, bias, and identity. Also includes questions, teaching ideas, related readings, and suggested activities. - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/15/learning/lesson-plans/25-mini-films-for-exploring-race-bias-and-identity-with-students.html? r=0>

Also this 2015 series of short films about race from the New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/your-stories/conversations-on-race>

### ***A Time for Burning***

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5rokAeImLY>

The 1966 documentary film which explores the attempts of the minister of Augustana Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, to persuade his all-white congregation to reach out to "negro" Lutherans in the city's north side.

### ***Dear White People***

Film (2014) and Netflix series (2017) – Comedy. At a predominantly white Ivy League college, a diverse group of students navigate various forms of racial and other types of discrimination

### **Short Videos**

#### ***MTV Decoded***

Franchesca Ramsey tackles race, pop culture, and other uncomfortable things in funny and thought-provoking ways. Half sketch comedy, half vlog. Video shorts (5 minutes or less), appropriate for the high school/young group crowd. <http://www.mtv.com/shows/decoded>

### **In-Depth Study:**

#### ***Race: The Power of An Illusion***

3-part PBS documentary

By asking, What is this thing called 'race'?, a question so basic it is rarely asked, *Race - The Power of an Illusion* helps set the terms that any further discussion of race must first take into account. Ideal for human biology, anthropology, sociology, American history, American studies, and cultural studies.

Episode 1- *The Difference Between Us* examines the contemporary science - including genetics - that challenges our common sense assumptions that human beings can be bundled into three or four fundamentally different groups according to their physical traits.

Episode 2- *The Story We Tell* uncovers the roots of the race concept in North America, the 19th century science that legitimated it, and how it came to be held so fiercely in the western imagination. The episode is an eye-opening tale of how race served to rationalize, even justify, American social inequalities as "natural."

Episode 3- *The House We Live In* asks, If race is not biology, what is it? This episode uncovers how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics and culture. It reveals how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status and wealth to white people.

Rent the entire three-part series for a one-week streaming period via VIMEO for \$4.99 (or rent each episode for \$2.99 per episode:

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/race>

Resources, including background reading and discussion guide:

[http://www.pbs.org/race/000\\_General/000\\_00-Home.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_General/000_00-Home.htm)

### ***Racial Taboo***

<http://racialtaboo.com>

**Movement to introduce conversation about race into communities – entails presenting film (cost: \$375 donation to Racial Taboo org.) at church, community center, or theater.** Racial Taboo Events require three things: 1) A racially diverse audience; 2) An hour or more for an audience discussion after the film and; 3) A contribution to the Racial Taboo Initiative. These contributions can be financial and non-financial or a combination.

### **Film topics include:**

Why is “Race” Still a Taboo Conversation in America?

How the Stage was Set for Chattel Slavery

The Psychological Enslavement Process

Lessons That Were Never Taught in School

Is White Privilege Real?

How to Talk About Things Racial

Does Racism Affect Today’s Children?

How Do You Build Friendships Across “Race”?

How to Create Change

### **Articles/Websites**

#### **Getting Started**

### **Project Implicit**

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

Take an online test developed by scientists at Harvard University, University of Washington and University of Virginia to discover your implicit associations about race, gender, sexual orientation, and other topics.

Project Implicit is a non-profit organization and international collaboration between researchers who are interested in implicit social cognition - thoughts and feelings outside of conscious awareness and control. The goal of the organization is to educate the public about hidden biases and to provide a “virtual laboratory” for collecting data on the Internet.

### **“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” by Peggy McIntosh**

<https://nationalseedproject.org/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack>

Peggy McIntosh is a researcher and college educator who first began to think about the issue of white privilege back in the late 80s, when she was researching male privilege. As a result of thinking deeply about and researching white privilege, McIntosh put together a list of conditions

of daily experience that she took for granted, which in turn helped her realize the ways she enjoys “skin privilege” and has been conditioned into oblivion about its existence.

**“What is White Privilege?” by Christine Emba, for the Washington Post**

Good general overview article about white privilege.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2016/01/16/white-privilege-explained/?utm\\_term=.5f7539d0edd2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2016/01/16/white-privilege-explained/?utm_term=.5f7539d0edd2)

**Articles/Websites**

**In-Depth Study**

**“The Case for Reparations,” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, for The Atlantic**

Comprehensive overview of the various iterations of institutionalized oppression of African-Americans from slavery through present time.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

**Podcasts:**

**Code Switch – NPR**

This weekly podcast hosted by a team of journalists looks at overlapping themes of race, ethnicity and culture, how they play out in our lives and communities, and how all of this is shifting. <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/>

**On Being – NPR**

Hosted by Krista Tippett, this weekly podcast digs into the questions at the center of human life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live? We explore these questions in their richness and complexity in 21st-century lives and endeavors. While this series is not explicitly about race, many episodes explore the topics of race and racism in and beyond the church. These are just a few:

“Love in Action,” an interview with Civil Rights leader John Lewis:

<https://onbeing.org/programs/john-lewis-love-in-action/>

“Let’s Talk about Whiteness” – writer Eula Bliss talks about being white and raising white children in a multi-racial world: <https://onbeing.org/programs/eula-biss-lets-talk-about-whiteness/>

“Is America Possible?” – Interview with the late Civil Rights elder Vincent Harding:

<https://onbeing.org/programs/vincent-harding-is-america-possible/>

“Where Does It Hurt?” – Interview with Civil Rights icon Ruby Sales, addressing questions around the “spiritual crisis of White America”: <https://onbeing.org/programs/ruby-sales-where-does-it-hurt/>

“Who We Want to Become: Beyond the New Jim Crow” – Interview with Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*: <https://onbeing.org/programs/michelle-alexander-who-we-want-to-become-beyond-the-new-jim-crow/>

## **The Liturgists Podcast**

Episode 34: “Black and White: Racism in America”:

<http://www.theliturgists.com/podcast/2016/3/29/episode-34-black-and-white-racism-in-america>

## **Our National Conversation about Conversations about Race**

Hosted by authors Baratunde Thurston (*How To Be Black*), Raquel Cepeda (*Bird Of Paradise: How I Became Latina*), and Tanner Colby (*Some Of My Best Friends Are Black*), the three banter back and forth about: “the ways we can’t talk, don’t talk, would rather not talk, but intermittently, fitfully, embarrassingly do talk about culture, identity, politics, power, and privilege in our pre-post-yet-still-very-racial America.” No longer broadcasting, but the archived episodes are worth listening to and are great content for discussion:

<https://www.showaboutrace.com/>