

African American History Month (aka Black History Month) has been observed each February in the United States since 1976.

The following information was complied and shared by Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA).

Learn about <u>African American History Month</u> through the documents, photos, audio and video files, and collections compiled by the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The 2025 theme for African American History Month is *African Americans and Labor*. "African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world." Learn more from the <u>Association for the Study of African American Life and History</u> (ASALH).

Do you like documentaries? PBS and your local PBS station offer <u>a list of films premiering this</u> <u>month</u>, <u>as well as programs available to stream in February</u>.

If you'd like to make your observance Presbyterian-focused, <u>click to see images on the Presbyterian Historical Society blog that captured our attention and pulled at our heartstrings.</u>

You can also visit the <u>Racial Equity</u> webpage on the Presbyterian Women website to download and take the <u>8-day racial equity education challenge</u>, <u>read stories and reflections</u>, and <u>download a list of book suggestions</u> on racial equity, and more!





The voting representatives to the 2000 Churchwide Business Meeting of Presbyterian Women unanimously approved a resolution declaring Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) an antiracist organization and reaffirmed Presbyterian Women's 1997 commitment to strive to eradicate racism. Today, we talk about these commitments in terms of practicing cultural proficiency, practicing cultural humility, and striving for racial equity.

Presbyterian Women Churchwide has created the following set of guidelines regarding what a culturally proficient identity means. These guidelines should shape the interactions of all PW groups.

### Presbyterian Women is a community where

- · all persons are treated with respect;
- · all gifts are valued and encouraged; and
- · diversity is a gift to be valued.

#### Presbyterian Women is an organization that

- · enables and facilitates effective interaction in a diverse working environment;
- · nurtures the best performance and fullest contribution of each member of the community; and
- · works in a collegial style.

#### Participating in Presbyterian Women means we are people who

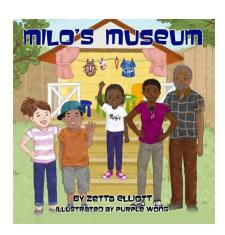
- · willingly examine our own cultural norms and standards and
- · are free to be heard for who we are.

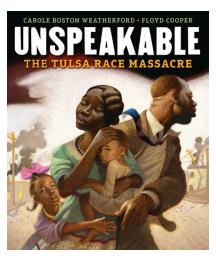
# As an organization committed to cultural humility, Presbyterian Women works intentionally toward transforming culture by

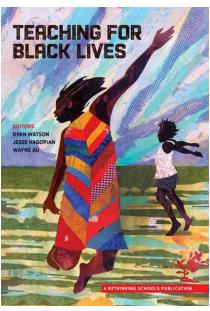
- · becoming self-conscious critical practitioners of culture,
- · understanding the dynamics of power in an organization,
- · learning how to create an environment that is welcoming to diversity and to change; and
- · increases its commitment to becoming an inclusive, caring community.

## Racial Equity webpage, presbyterianwomen.org/antiracism

You can also <u>explore multicultural and social justice books for children, young adults, and</u> <u>educators.</u>







However you choose to commemorate African American History Month, let this be a time to celebrate the African Americans who enrich our communities, our churches, our country, and world.



Presbyterian Women webpage, <u>presbyterianwomen.org</u>

Presbyterian Women is the women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)