

Hyde Park Community UMC Justice Ministry News for September, 2021

Dear Followers of the Justice Ministry;

Here are a few things coming up in September and early October that we hope you will put on your calendars.

Justice Ministry to Host YWCA Real Reads Book Discussion on 9/20

In recent years the local YWCA has hosted “Real Reads” discussion sessions encouraging the community to read and share thoughts on books of importance and pertinence to their mission of achieving racial justice. This fall they have singled out Richard Rothstein’s *The Color of Law*. The Justice Ministry of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church (HPCUMC) will serve as host for a virtual book discussion on September 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.



Please find a copy and join us for the discussion of Rothstein’s book which explores how federal, state & local housing policies mandated segregation and undermined the ability of Black families to own homes and build wealth. You are encouraged to join in whether you have read the entire book or not. The session will be led by experienced YWCA facilitators.

Here is the link to join the discussion: [Zoom Link for Sept 20 Book Discussion](#). As the time approaches we will send out a reminder invitation. We hope you will take the time to read this informative and important book and we look forward to delving into this crucial conversation with you!

Also note that Mr. Rothstein will be the featured speaker at the YW’s annual Racial Justice Breakfast. This year’s event will be virtual and will take place on the morning of **October 13**. More information about the breakfast will be included in our October newsletter.

Abolition Sunday - October 10

On **Sunday, October 10**, HPCUMC will join other congregations in Ohio by observing Abolition Sunday, an effort to organize people of faith in support of eliminating Ohio's death penalty. Many groups, notably Justice Ministry partner the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC), have been lobbying and organizing in support of proposals pending in the Ohio legislature that would put an end to the death penalty. Although the death penalty has largely been suspended during the current administration, it is still the law in Ohio. Advocates are encouraged by the chances for success and Abolition Sunday was chosen to provide a timely grassroots push from the faith community. The Justice Ministry will provide information and materials for you to contact your state legislators requesting their support for the pending legislation. Look for us in the Welcome Center following services that Sunday.

For further information and an update on IJPC's efforts toward death penalty abolition, go to [IJPC Death Penalty Page](#).

Sister Helen Prejean to Keynote OJPC Conference

Last month we reported that the Ohio Justice and Peace Center (OJPC) will be hosting their annual fundraising event and virtual conference on abolishing capital punishment September 8-10. This is a reminder that the keynote speaker will be noted advocate against the death penalty, Sister Helen Prejean. Sister Prejean's work was highlighted in the award winning film "Dead Man Walking" based on her book of the same title. To learn more about attending the conference and/or the keynote address go to [OH JPC Event](#) .

Peace and Justice to All,
HPCUMC Justice Ministry