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PEACE WITH JUSTICE



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APRIL 12 - MAY 31
8-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- April 12 - Food Injustice
- April 19 - Environmental Crisis
- April 26 - Homelessness
- May 3 - Immigrants and Refugees
- May 10 - Mass Incarcerations Effects on Women and Children
- May 17 - Injustice and Exclusion of People with Disabilities
- May 25 - Racism
- May 31 - Sexism, Homophobia, and Transphobia



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Spend time at Glenn Memorial UMC, and you'll quickly see that it is a socially active congregation. We are involved in a variety of areas and support numerous organizations working for justice. This is a church that believes "faith, by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17).

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The question then can be asked, "what do we do, and why do we do it?" This devotional seeks to answer those questions. Members of the congregation have worked to put together weekly devotions based around the different areas Glenn Memorial is involved. Each week contains:

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- Monday - A description of the issue
- Tuesday - Why it's important to us as people of faith
- Wednesday - Scripture
- Thursday - How Glenn is involved
- Friday - How you can get involved
- Saturday - Prayer

It would be impossible to cover all areas of need and the ways members of the church are working to meet those needs, so we hope this devotional will be starting point for understanding our involvement in justice and the connectedness of faith and action, as well as the interconnectedness of each of these areas.

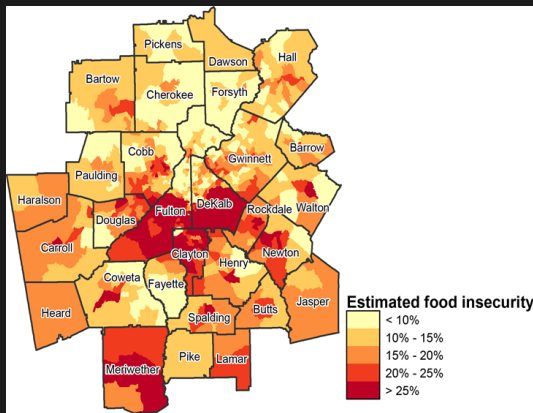
Ultimately, I hope that this will encourage you to continue, or start, finding ways to put your faith into action. Together, we are driven BY our love for God TO love our neighbor as we advocate and work for changes to bring equality and justice to the world.

-The Rev. Brent Huckaby

FOOD INJUSTICE

MONDAY

Written by Dawn Francis-Chewning



(image from atlantastudies.org/2017/06/20/jerry-shannon-mapping-food-insecurity-in-metro-Atlanta)

- 35 million people in the US struggled with hunger in 2019, twice as many as in 2018 (USDA Household Food Insecurity U.S.)
- The pandemic of 2020 will have increased that number by millions more.

Food insecurity is a lack of availability and/or access to sustainable and healthy. It is a social, economic, and political issue; the ability to buy food is based on income

and access while food quality (manufactured as opposed to healthy/organic) is directly tied to health issues.

If all you have available/accessible in your community is a convenience store (typically at gas stations & drug stores) you won't see much by way of fresh or frozen vegetables and fruits. You will see food 'ready to go' that doesn't offer much by way of healthy eating, is already prepared though not inexpensive, and these 'food deserts' are found in low income communities. The real issue with 'fast food' isn't just the lack of nutrition but the lack of true sustenance for you get hungrier sooner and the calorie intake is incredibly high, while nutrition value is dramatically low. Food insecurity is directly tied to income levels and the pandemic of 2020 has direly impacted income levels for many more American families than ever before. Poverty and low/no income can impact and reflect where you live; communities with less have little healthy food available, accessible, and affordable.

There are families with children, who are even more direly impacted because of their need to fuel their growing bodies and minds. It's impossible to get an education in school when all you can think about is your hunger. Older people, young people — people of all ages are negatively

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

The Scripture says that food is a blessing from the Lord. We can share the blessings of good food and faith with our larger family of God by loving God and loving our neighbor in many ways.

FOOD INJUSTICE



WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

John 13:34 *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”* RSV

Sharing food to help those in need is loving one another in action.

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

Glenn has a number of organizations that we help [globally, locally and environmentally](#) through our Service Committees (Environmental, Church & Society, & Missions) with funding support and donations to Action Ministries, Intown Collaborative Ministries (ICM), and events working with the IRC (International Rescue Committee), ICM’s Food Pantry (now 3 days a week!), Habitat for Humanity, Branan Towers, Prison Ministry (be a Pen Pal!), Snack in a Backpack too (almost every Thursday night). We promote education for children in Cambodia, Zimbabwe, and Honduras with tuition, supplies & more.

FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

- Read More about it—start here: [Food First](https://foodfirst.org/) (<https://foodfirst.org/>) and become active helping our non-profits in new ways
- Reduce Food Waste & volunteer at IRC’s [community garden](#) over by North DeKalb Mall working with the IRC and Atlanta Food Bank.
- Advocate for an increased minimum wage and support fair wages and work conditions at [Fight for \\$15](https://fightfor15.org/) (<https://fightfor15.org/>)
- Promote [Climate Justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_justice) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_justice) and Education (for we all have to understand what’s at stake)
- Support [New Communities, Inc.](https://www.newcommunitiesinc.com/) (<https://www.newcommunitiesinc.com/>)

SATURDAY: PRAYER

Heavenly God, thanks we say, for this the food we have today. May there be enough for everyone, everywhere. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

MONDAY

Written by Lynn Speno, Jean Luker, and Jan Lichtenwalter

“Without earth, there is no rain, and without rain the earth cannot endure, and without either, humans cannot exist.”

This quote from the Genesis Rabbah (third-fifth centuries A.D.) is evidence that the issue of creation care and misuse has called out the theologians and poets for centuries. However, we still find ourselves in crisis.

The forces at work in this crisis are numerous, but the simple truth is that we have turned away from God’s initial plan for humans to be caretakers of the garden. Early societies and Indigenous cultures knew and respected the earth and its inhabitants. We have pulled away from that close relationship to the earth. Today the number of people in this country who farm or are closely tied to the land is about 1% of the population. For most of us, food comes from the grocery store and we give little consideration to its production. We pollute the air we breathe through overuse of fossil fuels; we foul our waters and the land through use of chemicals. We have become a disposable society with little thought to the resources we need to live. Lack of education, corporate greed, convenience, and planned obsolescence are rampant.

Time constraints often cause us to make poor choices. We become arrogant, selfish, greedy, and lack the will to change our habits. At other times, we are simply unaware that the choices we make can have profound consequences on the land and on others, including all of God’s creatures who reside here with us. Choices made by governments and corporations adversely impact poor communities and communities of color; i.e. when toxic waste facilities or landfills are installed in their neighborhoods. Air pollution leads to early deaths, cancer, and asthma.

Fossil fuels have dramatically increased our standard of living, but the overuse of these fuels has changed our planet in profound ways. We will need cleaner energy for life to survive as we know it. In a changing world, theologians, scientists, conservationists, environmentalists, and others still call us to creation care.

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

God calls us to care for the earth and its creatures. Being in a covenant relationship with God means caring for family, neighbors, and the earth. We are called to share the bounty of the land, to care for the animals that we depend upon, and to tend to all of God’s creatures.

The *United Methodist Book of Discipline Social Principles: The Natural World* instructs us to “recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God’s creation.”

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS



If we do not care for the earth and its resources, there are many issues that arise from our negligence. Rising seas, drought, floods, unclean air and water, contaminated soil, loss of biodiversity, and rising temperatures all result in displacement of communities, hunger, homelessness, sickness, and death. As Pope Francis is quoted in *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, "Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone."

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24: 1-2 *"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein; for God has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers."* RSV

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

Glenn's Environmental Committee has been involved in education and advocacy for many environmental issues over the past 15 years. This work has been done within the church and in partnership with others. We strive to educate others through written articles such as Green Notes and Caring Tips; distribute environmentally responsible items such as cloth shopping bags and LED light bulbs; sponsor speakers at Wednesday Night Supper and other events; and manage the composting and recycling at church events. The committee also coordinated a trip to Costa Rica to learn how those in more remote areas use their resources wisely.

The committee has partnered with, or supported, organizations such as Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, Trees Atlanta, UMCcreationJustice.org, and Emory Sustainability. Involvement in the community has included cleanups and workdays at area parks and creeks such as IRC's New Roots Community Garden, and the Southfork Conservancy at Zonolite Park and Peavine Creek.

The Environmental Committee continues learning about and discussing approaches to advocate more effectively for environmental issues. We are currently joining with Georgia Interfaith Power & Light to find ways to raise awareness of the consequential effects of plastic pollution on the land and in our waters.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS



FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

Read the Bible through a green lens. Be an advocate beyond your home. Speak up. Using your voice as an advocate is the most important thing you can do. It gives us hope that we can make a difference. Contact your elected representatives about environmental issues that you feel create injustices. Encourage your place of work or worship to become better stewards of God's creation.

Vow to forgo "business as usual" at your home. Make better choices. Take the time to learn about and plan with your family to do something about one issue. Perhaps one of these:

- Buy recycled paper products
- Use cloth napkins
- Support green energy initiatives
- Install solar panels on your home
- Buy organic food
- Support one environmental organization
- Discontinue use of pesticides/fertilizers in your yard
- Avoid plastic bags
- Drive less
- Plant native trees and shrubs in your yard.

If we can develop an awareness of all parts of creation and gain an appreciation of those things, from the tiniest spider to the entire eco-system, stewardship will follow. All that you do will help in the effort to heal God's earth as we all care for creation together. Caring is a means of gratitude for what we have been given.

SATURDAY: PRAYER

O God, our Creator and Sustainer, We rejoice in the abundance of the world that has been given to us - the beauty, the movement of the seasons, and all the constant wonders of creation. We confess that too often we have not been caretakers of the earth. We have been thoughtless, self-absorbed, and preoccupied with our own convenience. We have allowed the exploitation of natural resources by those who would seek profit only for themselves. We have failed to take seriously the pollution of our air, water, and earth, and we have failed to notice the harmful effects on the most vulnerable populations. Humble us, O God, and lead us to seek the knowledge that we need in order to actively engage in creation care - to make the world a more livable and sustainable environment, not just for some but for all. This we ask in the name of the One who came that we might have life and have it abundantly. Amen

HOMELESSNESS



MONDAY

Written by Chloe Cook

Homelessness is a very simple issue: there is not enough affordable housing. And yet, homelessness is also an extremely complex and personal issue. Our neighbors experiencing homelessness face many barriers to maintaining permanent, stable housing: lack of access to medical care, especially mental healthcare, domestic violence, substance use, criminal histories, disabilities, lack of stable, sufficient income, undocumented immigrant status, lack of family support. In January 2020, the last official count to quantify the issue of homelessness in Atlanta, the city

counted 3,240 men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. That is 3,240 of our neighbors sleeping on strips of cardboard under bridges, in tents in the woods, in doorways of churches, in temporary shelter beds, in cars on the side of the road. That is over three thousand neighbors without access to running water, toilet facilities, a place to warm up, or a place to just be.

The Homeless Outreach Program at Intown Collaborative Ministries is grounded in three strategies that, employed together, end homelessness while recognizing the dignity and complexity of every individual: housing first, harm reduction (a set of strategies of meeting people who use substances “where they’re at”), and client-centered care. A Housing First approach, the most effective way to end homelessness, prioritizes permanent housing for folks experiencing homelessness and then, from the stability of their homes, they can address their barriers to stability. “The old model assumed that before you could put people into permanent homes you had to deal with their underlying issues—get them to stop drinking, take their medication, and so on. Otherwise, it was thought, they’d end up back on the streets. But it’s ridiculously hard to get people to make such changes while they’re living in a shelter or on the street. ‘If you move people into permanent supportive housing first, and then give them help, it seems to work better,’ Nan Roman, the president and C.E.O. of the National Alliance for Homelessness, told me. ‘It’s intuitive, in a way. People do better when they have stability.’” (Surowiecki, James. “Home Free?” *The New Yorker*, The New Yorker, 9 July 2019, www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/09/22/home-free.)

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

In the Gospel of Luke, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” With his response, Jesus proclaimed a call given to all of his followers: leave your home and follow me. He said, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:57-58). At the end of a long day, the foxes return to their holes and the birds to their nests to rest. Christians are called to imagine what thoughts, worries, or fears keep our city’s 3,240 men, women, or children (as of January 2020) who are experiencing homelessness from restorative sleep. Through this imagination, we are called to shift our focus outside of the four walls of our homes, beyond the

HOMELESSNESS



hedges of our manicured yards, and out into the world. We are called to recognize our shared journeys through instability and discomfort to create a more compassionate and faithful approach to ending homelessness.

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 32: 15 – 18 "Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

Glenn supports [Hope Atlanta \(hopeatlanta.org\)](http://hopeatlanta.org), the Homeless Outreach Program at [Intown Collaborative Ministries \(intowncm.org\)](http://intowncollaborative.org), Branan Towers Senior Living Facility, [Trinity Table \(atlantatrinity.org\)](http://atlantatrinity.org), [Trinity House \(tcmatlanta.org\)](http://tcmatlanta.org), and Habitat For Humanity through financial support, donations, and volunteers. You can get involved by contacting Rev. Connor for more information.

FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

1. Carry snack packs in your car to pass out when you meet a neighbor experiencing homelessness. At Intown, we like to include a bottle of water, granola bar, cup of fruit, crackers, tuna, salt, pepper, and utensils.
2. Assemble and pass out hygiene kits – soap, shampoo, lotion, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, razor, washcloth or body wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste. Please don't put food in a hygiene kit – everything will taste like soap!
3. When the weather is cold, carry hand warmers, socks, gloves to share with our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
4. If you have land, consider building a [Mad Housers](http://madhousers.org) hut to provide a safe, secure place for a neighbor experiencing homelessness to sleep (madhousers.org).
5. Advocate - with legislators, real estate developers, property owners - for affordable housing in your neighborhood!

SATURDAY: PRAYER

God of the perimeters, Indeed you go to the far ends of our societies to find your people. We confess we neglect those beyond our hedges and contrive worth based on the utility of a person instead of the inherent dignity of a person. Today, let us encounter those who have had status revoked or diminished and meet them with sacred welcome, dismantling those systems which perpetually push the most vulnerable and oppressed to the fringes. Walk with us to the hedges. @blackliturgies

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

MONDAY

Written by Robin Olson

The issue of immigration and displacement is complicated and heartbreaking, but also full of stories of resilience and triumph. I've taught numerous kids who were displaced from their homelands and relocated to the United States as refugees, usually after being born in or living in a refugee camp for several years. Many of these kids lost family members, experienced the atrocity and trauma of war, and had significant gaps in their education before arriving in this country. Over the past ten years, I watched them learn to read and write English to proficiency, receive scholarships, graduate from colleges across the country, write and publish books, start businesses, thrive in their communities, and start families of their own. As a whole, they are remarkable people with an immense capacity to live joyful and determined lives, full of hope, despite the traumatic circumstances of their past.

There are millions of stories just like theirs from the over 40 million foreign-born people living in the U.S. (Pew Research) or the nearly 80 million forcibly displaced people worldwide (UNHCR.org). Issues around refugee immigration are not new. Since the beginning of time people have been forced to flee their homelands because of war, civil unrest, poverty, famine, or natural disaster to pursue freedom, stability, safety, and economic security. Since 1980, 3 million refugees have been resettled in the United States due to these issues. And as of last month there are an estimated 100,000 migrants at the southern border seeking to escape violence and economic desperation. This recent wave of refugees includes a sharp increase in the number of unaccompanied minors being held in detention centers last month and the situation is changing daily.

Longstanding and perpetuated fear of the 'other' leaves us grappling with how to treat the refugee and the immigrant, and that can leave them in the margins and feeling unwelcome in their new homes. People who have fled their homelands and resettle elsewhere get labeled —Immigrant, migrant, refugee, asylum seeker, foreigner, dreamer and tragically, more dehumanizing and fear driven labels such as alien, illegal, animal, vermin, criminal, predator, and rapist. These labels are often used to stoke fear and steer policy, neglecting the God made man, woman, and child to whom they are referring. This deliberate dehumanization of immigrants seeks to take away their humanity and dignity as children of God and to justify keeping the foreigner out to maintain the status quo.

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

The Bible has many stories about strangers, foreigners, and sojourners. Some of the main characters in the Bible are people who are pushing across borders or fleeing their homeland from persecution. The Bible also calls for these strangers, foreigners, and sojourners to be cared for, welcomed, fed, and shown great hospitality. Our modern-day equivalent to the stranger, foreigner, and sojourner are immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons. In Scripture, Jesus calls on us as Christians to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus illustrates this to us in the story of the Good Samaritan, that our neighbor is not only those who live right next door or come from the same sort of family or the same country as us. Instead he teaches that our neighbor is anyone who is a child of God, created in the image of God, wherever they may be from. How we show hospitality to the stranger and welcome the foreigner is held as a marker for those who follow Jesus. They will know we are Christians by how we love others.

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 13:1-2 *“Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unknowingly.”*

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

- Glenn donated a few thousand dollars from the Youth Pumpkin sale to [Memorial Drive Ministries](#) in Stone Mountain, GA
- Glenn held a diaper drive for infants connected with [Los Vecinos de Buford Highway](#)
- Glenn recently partnered financially with Los Vecinos de Buford Highway
- Glenn has had groups go to Lumpkin, GA to visit Stewart Detention center and attend court watching sessions.
- Glenn’s Snack in a Backpack ministry partners with people in refugee communities

FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

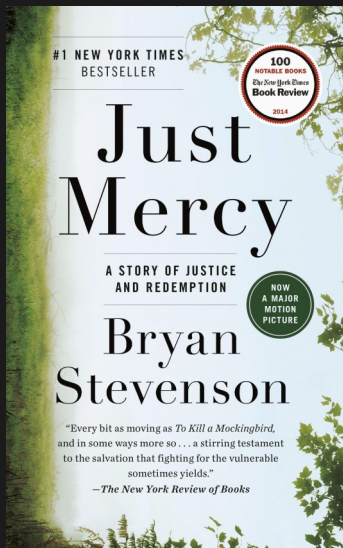
- Read about the Refugee experience in the following memoirs
 - ◊ *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah
 - ◊ *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* by Loung Ung
- Listen to stories about Immigration
 - ◊ *Code Switch: Immigrant Nation*, June 27, 2018 [HERE](#)
 - ◊ *Code Switch: A House Divided by Immigration Status*, February 28, 2018 [HERE](#)
- Learn more about how to support detained immigrants at El Refugio [HERE](#)
- Check out IRC Atlanta and learn how you can help recently resettled Refugees [HERE](#)

SATURDAY: PRAYER

Dear God, Creator of all Humans,

Allow us see your divine image reflected in the eyes of each of your children here on earth. Lead us to be in service to our displaced brothers and sisters and illuminate us on how to bring repair to the world by loving others as you have loved us. On Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

MASS INCARCERATIONS EFFECTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN



MONDAY

Written by Amy Ard

The United States currently has more women in prison and jails than any other country in the world. It's estimated that right now, 225,000 adult females are in prison and roughly 1.7 million women cycle through a county jail each year (USDOJ BJS, Prisoner 2018). Women's incarceration rates continue to rise, increasing by more than 750% over the past three decades, even as rates for men decreased. The number of children who have suffered the loss of a parent to prison or jail is staggering: nearly half of the total population of American children have at least one parent with a criminal record. We know that Black, brown and poor women enter

the criminal legal system with the deck stacked against them and poor women have a hard time navigating the legal system in a way that leads to justice. Bryan Stevenson, author of Just Mercy writes, "we have a system of justice that treats you better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent."

When a woman goes to prison or jail it has a destabilizing effect on an entire family and ripple effects on communities that are already vulnerable. Sixty-two percent of women who enter prisons and jails are the primary caregiver of a dependent child at the time of their arrest and even short periods of separation can have devastating impacts on children. Children with a parent in prison are more likely to have mental health diagnoses, problems learning in schools and are even more likely to end up in prison themselves one day, simply because they grew up with a parent behind bars.

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

The Bible tells us that we are to care about people in prison, even to work towards their liberation. In Matthew 25: 35-36, a guiding scripture in our mission for Glenn's Church and Society Committee, we are reminded to see Jesus in the thirsty, the hungry, the stranger and those in prison. The prophet Isaiah announces that "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." (Isaiah 61:1-3). And then, in Deuteronomy we find the simple exhortation, "Justice, justice shall you pursue." Christian organizations have often focused on ministering to those in prison, focusing on heavenly salvation, but neglected the work of earthly liberation for people caught in a system that is ineffective and unjust. We have not always worked toward "release from the darkness."

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:34-40 *Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food,*

MASS INCARCERATIONS EFFECTS ON WOMEN AND

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

Glenn has supported several criminal justice reform organizations over the years, primarily ones that support women in prison and their families. Glenn is deeply connected to [Georgia Prison Ministries](#), a nonprofit founded to support the Chaplains at women's prisons in Georgia. Over the years, many Glenn members have been involved with GPM and provided financial support and hygiene items for women in prison who cannot afford to buy their own soaps and shampoo from the commissary. Glenn has also provided support for [Motherhood Beyond Bars](#), a nonprofit that seeks to end cycles of incarceration in families by providing support to pregnant women in Georgia prisons and jails and direct services to infants born to women who are in the care of family members.

FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

Read: [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson or [Becoming Ms. Burton](#) by Susan Burton, a formerly incarcerated mother who has transformed reentry for women in Los Angeles and written a compelling book about her journey.

Watch [Tutwiler](#) on YouTube, a film made by Frontline PBS and The Marshall Project for a view into the lives of incarcerated pregnant women in Tutwiler prison in Alabama.

Follow Motherhood Beyond Bars on Facebook or Instagram for action alerts and opportunities to advocate for more human prison conditions, alternative sentencing for pregnant people and opportunities to engage as a volunteer.

SATURDAY: PRAYER

Dear God, we pray for your love and mercy for those who are in prison and jails and for all the families and children who miss a family member. We pray that your light of compassion and healing extends into the darkest corners of our nation's prison and jails. Help us to get closer to those who mourn, who ache, who feel forgotten and alone. Keep us mindful of the humanity of those behind bars, so that we never stop seeing them as a child of yours, a brother or sister in Christ.

INJUSTICE AND EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



MONDAY

Written by Kevin Lazarus

According to the CDC, 1 in 4 adults in the United States lives with some form of disability—whether physical, sensory, cognitive, intellectual, etc. Despite the prevalence of disability in our society, disabled persons encounter numerous barriers in the workplace, healthcare, education, and even in the Church. Within the Church, these barriers take various forms, including architectural designs, prejudiced attitudes and theologies, communication methods, and programmatic inaccessibility.

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

All people, disabled and able-bodied alike, are created in the image of God, with unique gifts and limitations, and as the body of Christ, we are called to honor and celebrate this unity and diversity together in community. Exclusion of disabled persons from the Church is a rejection of part of Christ's body. Jesus's ministry in the Gospels challenged societal exclusion of disabled persons and offered welcome and inclusion into the larger community, which Christians are called to model today.

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 *"¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."*

INJUSTICE AND EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

Glenn supports L'Arche, an organization that works closely with people with and without intellectual disabilities so that each person can benefit from the joys of community and have their voices heard.

FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

1. Learn more about the experiences of disability from disabled voices – [GCDD Storytelling Project](#), GCDD's podcast *Hidden Voices*, [NYT Disability Series](#)
2. Partner with local organizations doing work around disability justice – [L'Arche Atlanta](#), [Friendship Center Atlanta](#), [Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

SATURDAY: PRAYER

*Almighty and Everlasting God,
who has created each of us in your image
and through the crucified and resurrected body of a beloved Son made of us one body:
give us hearts and minds, we pray,
to know the wisdom of human vulnerability;
to see the beauty in bodies differently-abled;
to dismantle the barriers erected by attitudes and architecture;
and to trust the Spirit's power to make us friends, make us whole, make us one.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

RACISM



MONDAY

Written by Karen Leary

Race is a fiction. Racism is not. Racism is a very real system invented by white people to obtain and perpetuate a position in society superior to people of color, (people who are Black, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islanders, or Latinx). When white people first encountered people who didn't look like them, they assumed that people of color were uncivilized savages who were inferior to white people and possibly not even

human. White people concluded that people of color had little value beyond service to white desires, service that was extracted with genocide, torture, and enslavement. Our racist laws and policies segregated people of color on reservations and in ghettos, detention centers, and prisons. Our racist laws and policies continue to control bodies of color by aggressively policing them: people of color are more likely to be stopped by police, arrested, detained pretrial for cash bail, convicted, and given lengthy sentences. They are also more likely to be abused and murdered by the police.

Heather McGhee, author of *The Sum of Us*, says, "[w]ealth is where history shows up in your pocket." Our racist laws and policies excluded many people of color from social welfare programs like Social Security, the GI Bill, and FHA loans, which were the basis for much white intergenerational wealth. After 400 years of economic advantage, white households have accumulated 10 times the wealth of families of color: the wealth of suburban whites is frequently passed to the next generation by paying college tuition, buying a car, making a down payment on a house, or granting an inheritance. Without the head start of intergenerational wealth, a Black college graduate has less wealth than a white high school dropout, and a two-parent Black household has less wealth than a single parent white household. Our racist laws and policies have also created a service class that works for a minimum wage, with no benefits like affordable healthcare, and lives in substandard housing in overpoliced neighborhoods that are frequently near landfills, power plants, and toxic waste dumps and miles from mass transit lines that would take them to a cleaner environment and better jobs, better food, and better healthcare. Too often, people of color are one car breakdown, one illness, or one arrest away from unemployment, eviction, and hunger.

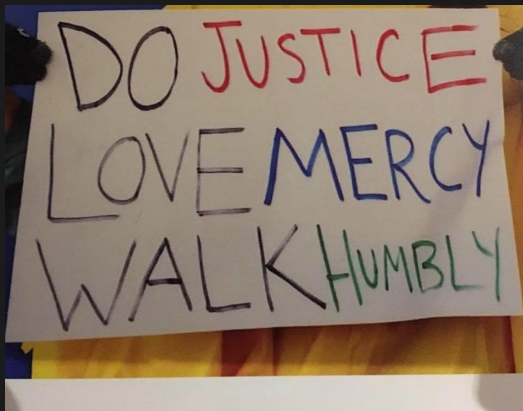
TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

We are called as Christians to speak out to defend the rights of others. It's not enough to say, "I'm not a racist" and remain silent as the laws, systems, and policies of racism continue to oppress our human siblings. Our call is to be anti-racist, to be active in the work of dismantling racist laws, systems, and policies while imagining new ones that are inclusive of all, fair, and equitable.

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 31:8-9 *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."* NLV

RACISM



THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

- Glenn's Racial Justice Caucus (RJC) is represented on the North Georgia Conference Committee on Religion and Race
 - RJC has organized visits to Civil Rights museums and heritage sites, including the Civil Rights Trail, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Alabama
 - RJC sponsored the summer lecture series at Glenn in 2019
 - RJC started a Facebook page in June 2020 (Racial Justice Caucus for Glenn Church)
- RJC has facilitated book discussion groups, two of which are ongoing
 - RJC members have advocated for free and fair elections at the state and national levels throughout 2020 and 2021
 - RJC has sponsored Black-themed movie-watching/discussion groups
 - RJC has provided financial support to Love Beyond Walls and the Ducree-Turner Scholarship at Candler School of Theology
 - RJC participated in the North Georgia UMC United Against Racism march in Atlanta in June 2020

FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

- Learn about our country's history of racism: *White Rage* by Carol Anderson or *America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallis are good places to start
- Have the hard conversation with your family, your friend, or your co-worker about racism
- Follow voices of color on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook, like Carol Anderson, Ibram X. Kendi, Sherrilyn Ifill, Bernice King, Vince Schilling, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Emma Gonzalez
- Volunteer with Black-led organizations like Fair Fight Action, Black Voters Matter, or NAACP
- Advocate federal and state representatives for fair and equitable legislation
- Participate in a Racism Recovery group at Glenn
- Join RJC! Visit the RJC Facebook page for more info.

SATURDAY: PRAYER

God, who labored creation into being, we give thanks for this day and the opportunity to work in your world. Grant us the strength to labor for what is right, just, and fair. Grant us the wisdom to speak out for those who are enslaved, oppressed, and exploited. Grant us the ability to break the chains of injustice and hear the voices of people long silenced. As we seek to work in your world this day, help us make it a better place for all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

from *Book of Common Worship* PC (USA)

SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, AND TRANSPHOBIA

MONDAY

Written by Carol Allums



The country's first female vice president; the legalization of same-sex marriage; the recent Supreme Court decision protecting LGBTQ+ persons from discrimination under the Civil Rights Act. Milestones like these can lull us into thinking that sexism, homophobia and transphobia are fading away. But the truth is much different. Women and LGBTQ+ persons still face inequities in pay and economic opportunity and often face violence because of their gender, sexual orientation or gender identity; laws are being proposed to limit the participation of trans athletes and to deny transgender and nonbinary persons healthcare and access to accurate ID's; and our own UMC denomination

TUESDAY: WHAT IS OUR CALL?

As Christians, we are called to see the reflection of God in each other, to acknowledge that, no matter how different we may look, we are all children of God, created in the image of God. If we cannot see God reflected in another person, the problem may not be with the other person; we may need to reconsider our image of God. We must not be willing to accept any laws or policies that seek to deny the divine in all human beings simply because of their gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

WEDNESDAY: SCRIPTURE

John 1:12-13 *"But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God."*

THURSDAY: HOW IS GLENN RESPONDING?

- Glenn is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network and welcomes same-sex couples to marry in the sanctuary and Little Chapel
- Glenn has consistently objected to and advocated for a change in the portions of the UMC Book of Discipline limiting the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in the Methodist church
- Glenn has provided financial support to the UMC Global Aids Fund
- Glenn has been enriched by lay leadership from people of all genders, sexual orientations and gender identities
- Glenn has coordinated participation in the Pride Parade with other area UM churches

SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA, AND TRANSPHOBIA



FRIDAY: HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

- Watch episodes 4 and 5 of *Amend: The Fight for America* (on Netflix) to learn about the fight for equality for women and LGBTQ+ persons
- Check out The Trevor Project, a nonprofit providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ young people, and learn how you can help
- Contact your US Senators and ask them to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and passage of the Equality Act

SATURDAY: PRAYER

Dear God, Source of All Love, Open our eyes that we may see the divine reflection of you in all of your children. You have shown us that your desire is always for love to expand to include more people. Let us work to fulfill that desire by creating welcoming spaces for all, providing opportunities for leadership in our churches, and by acknowledging and seeking to repair harm done. May we never let fear or prejudice stand in the way of any person experiencing the love of God and the love of our church community. Amen