

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

January 21, 2021



In this edition (ALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL)

Announcements

From the Moderator

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Elder Michael Rankin

A Message from the Stated Clerk

Jan Moody

From the desk of

Tara Spuhler McCabe, TDir. Of Congregational Dev. & Mission

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longtime Presbyterian pastor, mystic, and civil rights activist
January 21 – Bethesda Presbyterian Church

18th Annual Convocation

“Black Presbyterians and Racial Justice: Reshaping the Reformed Tradition in the U.S.”
January 23 – hosted by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington (RIMW)

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Film Screening Followed by Panel Discussion
February 7 – Bethesda Presbyterian Church (participating host)

NCP Presbyterian Women Annual Prayer Gathering

“Finding Hope and Peace through Challenging Times”
February 13 – hosted by Presbyterian Women

2021 National Gathering

BREAKING, BLESSING, BUILDING: A Call for The Common Good
March 5-7 – NEXT Church

The Challenge of Antiracism Webinar Series:

Are we willing to stand where God stands?

This is a 4-session recorded webinar series
NEXT CHURCH

The AntiRacist Table: A 30 Day Challenge

Offered by Interwoven Congregations
January 25 thru April 2

DISMANTLING RACISM

“Bear public witness to the love, truth, and justice of God in Jesus Christ specifically in the areas of racism and reconciliation.”

Announcements:



National Capital Presbytery welcomes Dina Bickle as Administrative Assistant working with COM, CPM, Leadership Council and Presbytery Meeting Coordinator, effective February 1, 2021

For over five years, Dina served as the Office Manager/Administrative Assistant for Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed supporting Warner in fulfilling their ministries. Prior to this work, she was a stay-at-home mother and a planner/architect at a local architecture firm. Dina holds a BS and MS in Architecture from the University of Maryland, College Park. She brings church administrative skills and a flexible nature to the presbytery and looks forward to working with ministers and congregations.

Dina resides in Kensington, Maryland with her husband, Eric, and three children. She is a member of the United Parish of Bowie where she served on the Parish Board and the PNC. When not working, she enjoys playing tennis and watching her children compete in their sports.

Black Presbyterians and Racial Justice: Reshaping the Reformed Tradition in the U.S.

January 23, 2021 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm- Free – Sponsored by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington

The Reformed Tradition has been complicit in slavery, segregation, and White dominance throughout U.S. history. At the same time, Black Presbyterians have drawn on deep wells of resilience and prophetic vision to contest such racism and to reframe the tradition from within. Two gifted scholars will present the narratives of African American Presbyterians, including Francis Grimke and Gayraud Wilmore, that refashion today's church and its theology to serve racial diversity, equity, and justice. Speakers will explore such history in relation to this moment of racial reckoning in the U.S.

Registration: <https://reformedinstitute.org/event/convocation2021/>

A 10-week New Year antiracism challenge from "The Antiracist Table" and "Interwoven Congregations" beginning on Jan. 25th. Three lessons a week (on your own time) and three community Zoom calls. You can register (for free) at www.interwovencongregations.org. Any Qs, pls contact Pat Jackson at 301-658-4457 or at patjackson@interwovencongregations.org. Last, I bring greetings from my home church of Bethesda Presbyterian! Flyer included in this edition.

Reminder to Clerks of Sessions: **Feb. 1, 2021** is the deadline for submitting The Statistical Report to the Office of General Assembly. Contact Jan Moody, the NCP Stated Clerk at jmoody@thepresbytery.org if you have questions.

The COM Coordinating Commission of National Capital Presbytery voted to strongly encourage sessions and congregations of our presbytery to allow pastors, if they desire to do so, to carry over unused continuing education time and allowances from 2020 into 2021. We offer this advice in light of how the pandemic resulted in the cancelling of continuing education events, discouraged travel, and made it difficult to get away for those who had family members (children or older adults) to care for, and increased pastoral responsibilities that made taking time off challenging. The COM stands ready to assist sessions and congregations in making the use of continuing education more accessible to pastors as we all deal with the challenges presented by COVID-19.

NCP churches looking to transition from Zoom/Facebook live/etc. into live streaming services from their sanctuaries we want to help take some of the guess work out of where to start. The proposal, *"Hybrid Worship Proposal"* posted on the TM page, is from Zeke Dowty. He has produced ALL NCP videos for more than 7 years (*mission highlights, INSIDE with the GP, tribute videos*), all found on NCP's [YouTube Channel](#) and his wife, the Rev. Dana Olson, is a minister member of our Presbytery. Zeke has worked with several churches in our Presbytery, all very happy with his work. What Zeke is offering is designed to be easy to operate and can be done by any leader/volunteer in your congregation. This isn't intended to be the ONLY option for live streaming, but it is one we in the NCP office are fully confident in supporting. [Tech Support Grant Request](#)

We are also offering our congregations information on **web support** through NCP's provider, **Tomahawk**. Posted on the TM page is a proposal for services offering the ability to add streaming services for live church sermons, events, and other social events.

For congregations that might find these options a financial burden we have resources to help. Contact [John Molina-Moore](#) or [Tara Spuhler McCabe](#).

Together We Can Make A Difference!
ON-LINE GIVING

January 15, 2021



Greetings and Happy New Year my dear siblings in Christ,

Happy New year indeed! Let us thank Almighty God, praise His glorious name, for having given us strength and fortitude we needed for the year that was 2020. Thanks all the more, Holy Spirit, for giving us the faith and hope that allows us to move forward into the challenges that lie ahead in 2021. As our General Presbyter recently reminded us, “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7. As Dr. King said in his “I’ve been to the Mountaintop” speech the day before his assassination in Memphis, “...we’ve got some difficult days ahead.” But another great Apostle of our Lord and Savior preached that we must “be strong in the Lord” and resist the “spiritual forces of evil. In order to do this, we must “put on the full armor of God.” With the knowledge that the great “I AM” is always true to His word we can march on into this new year understanding that God is not done with us yet, there is much work to be done, so let’s get busy!

I am excited for our January 26 virtual meeting (*zoom webinar platform*) and I want to thank Rev. Bob Melone and the members of the Worship & Theology Committee for planning this meeting around a theme of **God’s church moving forward amid multiple pandemics**. We have a fantastic speaker in the person of the Reverend Cameron Trimble, a dynamic leader in the United Church of Christ. Her focus is on building both ordained and lay leaders who are empowered to spread the Gospel in new and innovative ways. Rev. Trimble is not only a dynamic speaker, she is also an author, an adjunct professor, a consultant and an airplane pilot. Rev. Trimble leads an organization called *Convergence*. She will lead an Open Space at 4pm prior to the start of the meeting, which of course begins at 6pm.

On the subject of Open Spaces, I will briefly describe our other Open Space opportunities. **Presbytery’s New Things Team, led by Reverends Carrie Yearick and Norm Gordon, will present on *For such a time as this...A Ministry Hub Proposal***. In this Open Space you will learn about the New Growth Fund ministry hub proposal and exciting opportunities for doing a new thing amid such great need in the world. The proposal is an action item that will be presented by the Leadership chair in the business meeting.

Another exciting Open Space opportunity will be led by **Rev. Jessica Tate**, a truly great preacher and **Director of Next Church**. She will talk about **where God is calling us next**. You can go to Nextchurch.net to see and learn more about Jessica’s work. For all you Carolina folk, I’m told that Jessica bleeds Carolina Blue.

We do have a couple action items on the agenda. Our Stated Clerk will present an Omnibus motion, and, Leadership Council will move the recommendation from the Commission on Church Development (CDC) for approval of an allocation of funds for an interesting project in the Germantown area. This project and the proposed allocation of funds is the subject of the New Things Team’s Open Space mentioned above.

I ask you to please go on the NCP website (www.thepresbytery.org) at your earliest convenience and download the packet for this meeting. The action items are described much better there than here. Reading the material in advance of the meeting allows you to ask questions and to gain a more complete understanding of the issues.

I look forward to seeing you and having a joyful time together on the 26th. God be with you,

Michael Rankin, NCP Moderator



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A Message from the Stated Clerk

Dear Clerks of Session,

The deadline for submitting statistical reports to the Office of the General Assembly is Feb. 1. I am hosting a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, January 27** from 10:00 to 11:00 to answer questions about completing the statistical report and general questions about the duties of the Clerk of Session. Here is the link:
<https://thepresbytery.zoom.us/j/93682792207?pwd=REJqa2hHRjhHcDM4Wlp3SmVSdjFiZz09>

With gratitude for the many ways all of you serve your congregations and NCP,
Jan



January 21, 2021

Greetings People,

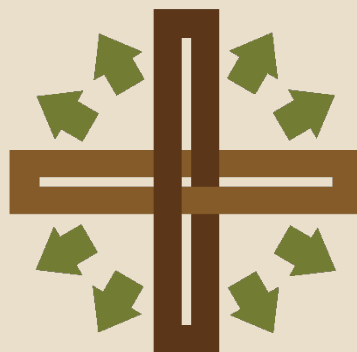
Curious where you have been this week: mind, body and soul? Have you joined in with Black Presbyterians United during the past five days in virtual prayer? Did you watch Rev. Ashley Goff from Arlington Presbyterian Church open the Virginia Legislature in prayer on Tuesday? Did your congregation join other houses of worship and ring bells to honor and remember the lives lost to Covid-19 on Tuesday at 5:30pm? How did you attend the Inauguration this year with your mind, body, and spirit?

Our congregations and leaders continue to participate with God, who is amid everything! Years back I learned a ritual from one of our congregations. The Elder would bring the front page of the paper on the day of a Baptism. This was a reminder that even in ordinary days God is present in extraordinary ways. Our ordinary days are filled with a lot. Your **Mission Coordinating Committee** continues to re-imagine best practices to support our congregations doing extraordinary acts to counter Food Scarcity in your communities (**Local Mission Grants**). Let us know how we can best support your Missional and Prophetic ministry with God!

May we all be encouraged and strengthened in mind, body, and soul as we continue with God's impact and reach in the world.

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe



Zoom "Table Talk" with The Rev. Dr. Paul Smith

Thursday, January 21
7:30-8:30 pm

Public Event - All Welcomed!

"Dr. Paul" - longtime Presbyterian pastor, mystic, and civil rights activist - will share with us his impressions on racial justice, the insurrection, and the inauguration.

Paul's career spans his introduction of Andrew Young to Dr. King in the '50s to his service in "retirement" as a diversity consultant for Macy's and Honda.

Zoom link at
www.bethesdapresbyterian.org

The Deep Calling
to the Deep:

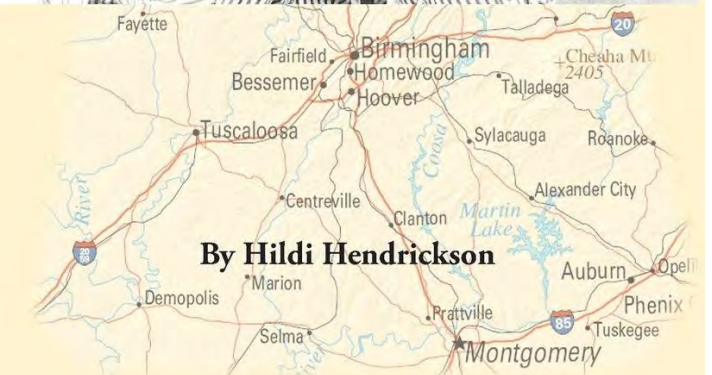
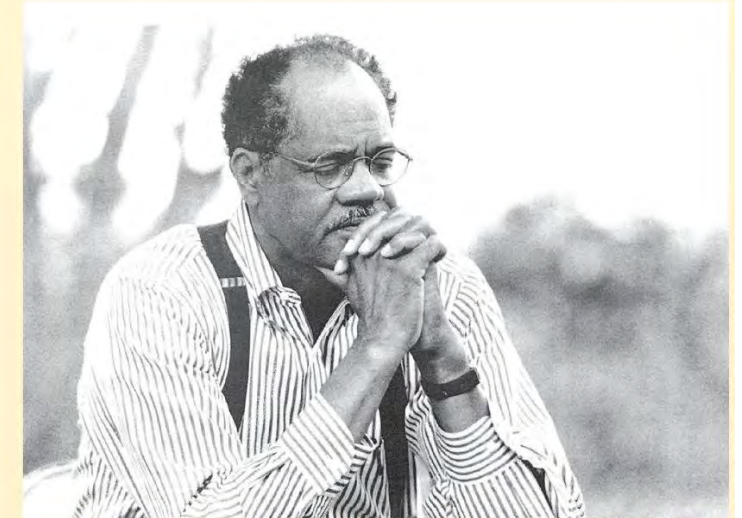


FACING DEATH

by
Paul Smith

Listening for the Sound of the Genuine

Race, Religion and Renewal
in the Life of Rev. Dr. Paul Smith



18th Annual Convocation
Virtual Event, January 23, 2021.
10:00 am - 12:00 noon



REFORMED
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WASHINGTON

Black Presbyterians and Racial Justice: Reshaping the Reformed Tradition in the U.S.



Dr. Perzavia Praylow
Fifteenth Street
Presbyterian Church, D.C.,
Bowie State University



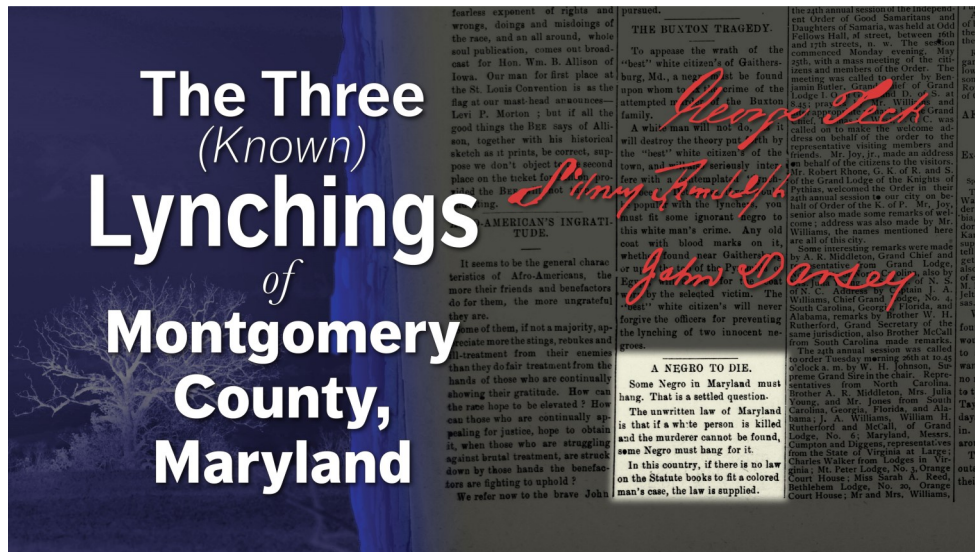
Dr. Douglas Clark
Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary

The Reformed Tradition has been complicit in slavery, segregation, and White dominance throughout U.S. history. At the same time, Black Presbyterians have drawn on deep wells of resilience and prophetic vision to contest such racism and to reframe the tradition from within. Two gifted scholars will present the narratives of African American Presbyterians, including Francis Grimke and Gayraud Wilmore, that refashion today's church and its theology to serve racial diversity, equity, and justice. Speakers will explore such history in relation to this moment of racial reckoning in the U.S.

Register Here: <https://reformedinstitute.org/event/convocation2021/>

Rev. Dr. Perzavia Praylow is Pastor of Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC and teaches African American History at Bowie State University (MD). Previously, she was an assistant professor of American History at Augusta University. Dr. Praylow earned a PhD in American History, an MA in Education Policy and a MA in History all from the University of Illinois (Urbana, IL), an MDiv at Columbia Theological Seminary, a Masters of Sacred Theology at Lutheran Theology Southern Seminary (SC), and a BA in History at Drew University. Dr. Praylow's research focuses on 20th Century race relations, American religious history, African American social equality and the history of education. Her current book project is, *Educating the Talented Tenth: Fisk University Students, the Politics of Race Leadership and the Struggle for African American Equality* and is completing a manuscript on the mission work of Black women ruling elders in Black Presbyterian churches in the Carolinas. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Historical Society, is a member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Mission Development Resource Committee, the DC Mayor's Interfaith Council and has served on the strategy Team of Next Church and the Alumni Council of Columbia Theological Seminary. She is an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Brown Clark is Visiting Assistant Professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he teaches courses in American, African American, and Africana religious history as a part of the seminary's Black Church Studies program. He also teaches church history at Lexington Theological Seminary. Clark received a BA from Davidson College and an MDiv from Vanderbilt Divinity School, where he earned second honors and served as Student Body President. He then earned a PhD at Vanderbilt University, where he studied American and African American religious history with a focus on race, civil rights, and reparations. His current book project, *A Solid Black Hyphen: Race, Religion, Identity, and the Black Power Activism of Gayraud S. Wilmore*, examines the history of religion in the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, with a focus on late 1960s Black clergy advocates for reparations, especially Presbyterian minister, theologian, and activist Gayraud Wilmore. Clark's research has benefited from support as a Research Fellow with the Presbyterian Historical Society, and as a Fellow in Vanderbilt's Program in Theology and Practice. He chairs the southeast regional AAR's History of Christianity section, and previously chaired Vanderbilt's Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister.



Viewing of The Three Lynchings Sunday, February 7, 2021 2:00 pm Eastern Via Zoom Film Screening Followed by Panel Discussion

Between 1880 and 1896, three known lynchings were carried out in Montgomery County, Maryland. All three were committed at night, with groups of local citizens—either masked or unmasked—taking Black men who had been accused of crimes from county law enforcement officers and hanging the men from trees alongside major county roadways. The first occurred in Poolesville, while the next two were in Rockville, the county seat. In the documentary film **The Three Lynchings**, local filmmaker **Jay Mallin** explores these public murders as acts of racial terrorism.

A viewing of the film (45 minutes in length) will take place via Zoom at **2:00 pm Eastern on February 7**, followed by a panel discussion of the movie with Jay Mallin and local historians.

This viewing is sponsored by Westmoreland Congregational United Church and co-sponsored by Macedonia Baptist Church, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda Presbyterian Church, the Briggs Center for Faith and Action, Interwoven Congregations, Bethesda United Church of Christ, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Congregation and other Bethesda-Chevy Chase area religious organizations.

The screening is **free**. Participants will be asked to make an optional donation of \$2 per person to a fund to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities of Maryland.

To register or for more information, go to Facebook.com/WestmorelandUCC and find the film under Events. Or you may email church@westmorelanducc.org or call 301-229-7766.

Peace & Hope

Prayers

Our prayer gathering will pause to remember and give thanks for the lives of those souls who have been called home. We respectfully ask you to include the names of sisters called to Eternal Rest in 2020 when you register for the gathering. We will lift these names up in memoriam and take a moment to pray for all those who died from the Coronavirus.



Please join us for a virtual Prayer Gathering

The National Capital Presbytery Presbyterian Women (NCP PW) host an annual Prayer Breakfast, which this year must be held virtually. We hope you will join us in “Finding Hope and Peace Through Challenging Times.” Our program will include speakers, Megan Klose and Le Quan Turner, who will lead us in thoughtful meditation.

Save the Date!

When

February 13, 2021

10am-12pm

Register

Please register **HERE** by February 3, 2021 or
you may register at

www.presbyterianwomenncp.org

Need assistance joining the Prayer Gathering? Contact
Char Wales by phone (703)-850-4955 or (703)-450-5835



2021 NEXT CHURCH NATIONAL GATHERING

BREAKING, BLESSING, BUILDING: A Call For The Common Good

A **FREE** Live-Streamed Gathering for **ALL** Church Leaders

COVID-19, a pandemic of racism in the United States, economic distress. Our reality right now helps us know that things need to change for the good of us all.

What if church leaders (YOU, not just your pastor) could connect with other church leaders to learn together, be inspired by one another, and be challenged to grow?

What if we gathered together in such a way that inspired us to act so the Church and the world were never the same again?



March 5-7, 2021

REGISTER NOW



Shavon Starling-Louis



Lenny Duncan



Bertram Johnson



Christine Hong



Otis Moss III

The Challenge of Antiracism Webinar Series:

Are we willing to stand where God stands?

This 4-session recorded webinar series seeks to offer participants language and frameworks they can use to talk about systemic racism and white supremacy in effective and nuanced ways. Participants will be engaged in an exploration of what antiracism is and how it will challenge the church to reckon with her historical and current investment in the ideology of white supremacy and systemic racism.

WEBINAR LEADERSHIP



Jessica Vazquez Torres
Facilitator



Shawna Bowman
Facilitator



Laura M. Cheifetz
Moderator and Reflection
Guide Writer

ABOUT THE SESSIONS

Session 1: What is systemic racism and how is it connected to the ideology of white supremacy?

Session 2: How has white Christianity in the United States served as legitimator and propagator of the ideology of white supremacy and systemic racism?

Session 3: What is antiracism and how does it connect to race equity?

Session 4: What will the church have to set aside to become an antiracist institution?

Learn more about options for watching this webinar individually or with a group. Options for adding a trained NEXT Church facilitator are also available for groups who want to dive deeper.

<https://nextchurch.net/product/webinar-series-the-challenge-of-antiracism-rental/>

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR!

Join us as we work together to bring AntiRacism into our daily life to create a more just and equitable world. We will begin the journey together on January 25th. to learn more visit us at,
www.interwovencongregations.org



Additional Details About this Community Challenge

Over a 10-week period:
(1/25-4/2)

- 3 Individual, self paced lessons per week
- 3 Community Zoom calls
- Community Forum

About The AntiRacist Table

The AntiRacist Table is a multidimensional platform that helps people bring antiracism into life as a daily practice, in large part through a curated free 30 Day Challenge. The AntiRacist Table has hosted presentations and workshops for The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, DCPS Parent University, Politics & Prose, and others. Numerous experts and thought leaders have joined The AntiRacist Table's Conversations Around the Table to discuss race, racism, and antiracism. The AntiRacist Table has been featured on the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley, Mindful, and WUSA9.