

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is on Monday, June 19, 2023. It is the annual holiday that celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is a combination of the words June and nineteenth. Other names include Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Jubilee Day. For those not in the know, Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when Union Troops, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce that enslaved people within the state were free. This date was two and a half years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and almost two and a half months after the Civil War ended. On June 19, 1866, freed people in Texas organized the first annual celebration and the day became an official holiday on June 17, 2021.

Colors commonly associated with Juneteenth are red, black, and green. Red signifies the blood, struggle and sacrifice, the millions of Black men and women who have lost their lives. Black represents the soil of Africa as well as the black race. Green stands for natural wealth of the land of Africa. Ways to celebrate Juneteenth include with prayer, speeches, festivals, or even with donating to a worthy cause.

The Just Faith “Youth for Justice: Our Faith in Action Racism-Gotta Deal With It” module will be held on Sunday June 25th. If you have a niece, nephew, grandchild or other young person who would like to attend, please email Mandy Stanley at mandy6112@hotmail.com for enrollment. Any interested person middle school age and up is welcome to enroll.

As part of the Just Faith module, you are invited to share your voice on how racial equity has impacted you. We are looking for responses to the following prompt:

What is your experience with racial equity? What has been its impact on you? How did you respond or how would you like to have responded if you encounter a similar experience in the future?

Responses will be shared to show the community experience. A box will go up on Tuesday June 20th to collect submissions. Thank you for sharing your voice.