

# Steps to Erase Racism

Suggested by the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium (MIM)

- ⇒ If you are white, decenter yourself. Support black-led efforts. Get educated.
- ⇒ Go out of your way to meet and become friends with people from other races, nationalities and religions. Expand this circle of friends.
- ⇒ Educate yourself on race issues
  - Read "[White Fragility](#)" by Robin DiAngelo.
    - Join online discussion about it moderated by Rev. Scott Gallagher, Garden City United Methodist Church. Details TBD
  - Read "[Waking Up White](#)" by Debbie Irving.
    - [Join a 4-part book discussion](#) starting Wed, June 24, led by MIM member Monroeville United Methodist Church.
  - Read "[What Is White Privilege, Really?](#)" on the [Teaching Tolerance](#) website.
  - Read "[Stop Calling the Police and Start Eradicating Anti-Blackness](#)" by the Unitarian Universalist Association, June 2, 2020.
  - Watch a video
    - "Responding to Racism" MIM Interfaith panel which will be accessible on the [Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium YouTube channel](#) shortly after June 18, 2020.
    - "[The Power of Race Unity](#)" produced by the Baha'i community (27 mins)
  - Review State Laws
- ⇒ Take political action
  - Protest or support protesters:
    - Participate in a march or vigil as a show of support.
    - "[Resources for Faith Communities Providing Sanctuary to and Solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter Protesters](#)"
    - "[10 effective ways to support protesters if you can't get into the streets right now](#)" by Erin Bunch, June 1, 2020.
  - Call on your state and local government to conduct reviews and audits on police forces near you ([list of actions](#) you can take on behalf of various victims, including contact names & phone #s)
  - Pick from a rotating [weekly list of actions "In Defense of Black Lives"](#) from the [M4BL.org](#) (Movement for Black Lives) website's. Each day of the week has a focus, and a list of high/medium/low risk actions you can take.
  - [Sign this "Interfaith Response to the Murder of George Floyd | Letter of Solidarity and Commitment to Action"](#) from the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.
  - Ask candidates running for any office questions related to racism. Examples:
    - Do you feel the Council/school board should represent its constituents as much as possible regarding race, ethnicity, religion, LGBTQIA?
    - Does "white privilege" have local impact?

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## ⇒ Speak with your wallet

- Support Black artists, activists, and small businesses owners and operators wherever you can.
  - Patronize a black-owned restaurant. [Some are listed in this Post-Gazette article.](#)
- Make a charitable donation or a donation of your choice to an organization that fights racism, preferably a black-led organization.

## ⇒ Pray as an individual or within your faith community

- In this time of grief and turmoil, of uncertainty, of weariness,  
Let us give ourselves the space and time to pause, to sit with our feelings,  
Alone, and with others.  
Then may we help one another bind our hearts' brokenness,  
And each one begin or continue the work to repair our world and create a  
Beloved Community. (M. Jew, Unitarian Universalism)

- Prayer for Living in Tension

If we have any hope of transforming the world and changing ourselves,  
we must be  
bold enough to step into our discomfort,  
brave enough to be clumsy there,  
loving enough to forgive ourselves and others.

May we, as a people of faith, be granted the strength to be  
so bold,  
so brave,  
and so loving. (Printed with copyright permission from Rev. Joe Cherry)

- Dear Lord,  
Help me to reaffirm and memorialize that every life is your creation  
and we are all related irrespective of color and creed. (Sikh Prayer)

## ⇒ Do the hard, ongoing work of dismantling racism in yourself and your community. Start/join with others in programs sponsored by your faith community, secular group, or interfaith group. MIM will be offering an interfaith Anti-Racism series (Dates TBD).