

True Justice: Seeking Equal Justice for People and Communities of Color
A Film Showing, Discussion and Action Planning for Change

TRUE JUSTICE
 BRYAN STEVENSON'S FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

Feb. 22, 2020
 9 AM to 3 PM, at Cedarville UMC, 1092 Laurelwood Rd, Pottstown, PA. **Cost: \$10.** Lunch included. CEUs certification requested. Please register online by **Feb. 17, 2020.**

Join us in viewing together the compelling HBO documentary film *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality* about the lifesaving, life-changing crusade of **Bryan Stevenson**. Stevenson is a dedicated public defense attorney and the founder and Executive Director of the groundbreaking **Equal Justice Initiative** in Montgomery, Alabama.

True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality examines his personal journey, as he labors to bring justice to wrongfully convicted and disadvantaged prison inmates. The film weaves together his own story, those of his clients, and a history of injustice and complicity in our justice system. As Stevenson reveals a troubling narrative of racial inequality still prevalent in this country, he challenges us to seek the truth, confront it and work towards reconciliation.

After we view this powerful film, we will hear from a panel of vital, visionary leaders seeking ways to foster racial justice in the criminal justice system. And then we will gather in groups to learn more and determine how we can live out our faith—how we can “do justice and love mercy”—by joining Stevenson’s fight in a national campaign that seeks true justice for people and communities of color.

Topics for Discussion and Action Planning:

- The Legal System and Returning Citizens
- The School to Prison Pipeline
- Unconscious Racial Bias against People of Color
- Communities of Color: Impact of Mass Incarceration

Come join this diverse, dynamic gathering of advocates, as we learn to seek True Justice together. This event is co-sponsored by the Eastern PA Conference’s Prison Ministries & Restorative Justice Team and Commission on Religion & Race.

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A time for third-mile giving

By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson (Adapted)

Many have heard of second-mile giving. That is the kind of giving that happens when people stretch and give beyond their means or beyond what is expected (which is their “first-mile” gift). But what about the “third-mile giving?” That is when you do what may seem near impossible; and thus, you become a change agent in this world.

I am talking about prison and restorative justice ministry! Jesus calls us all into such ministry in Matthew 25:36: “I was in prison and you visited me.” First-mile prison ministry happens when people minister to prison or detention center inmates by teaching a Bible study or a “Restorative Justice” class, or sending Christmas cards to inmates, or supporting their families who suffer from the incarceration of their loved ones.

Second-mile prison ministry happens when we help released inmates who finish serving their sentences and reenter the community. Most need help adjusting to a new life outside and finding resources, relationships and opportunities that can help them move forward rather than backward. That help is often hard to find.

Third-mile prison ministry is the most difficult of all. It is ministry that advocates for prison reform, fairness and equal justice. It speaks truth to power about unsafe conditions in jails and prisons, about sentencing disparities, and about inequities in a justice system that mistreats people of color, people with disabilities and people who are poor.

I have observed how the ethnicity, wealth and gender of a victim influences the number of years that a convicted perpetrator receives as a prison sentence. It is an undeniable fact that people of color are more often sentenced to death, and many death sentences have been given without the full benefit of legal due process.

The Eastern PA Annual Conference and partners are blessed to have an opportunity to learn more about these dire realities and how we can best respond through opportunities for “third mile” prison ministry. Our event **“True Justice: Seeking Equal Justice for People and Communities of Color”** will open many eyes, ears, minds and hopefully hearts that gather on **Saturday, February 22, at Cedarville UMC in Pottstown, PA, from 9 AM to 3 PM.**



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