

**JUSTICE PEACE AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION COMMISSION
JUSTICE NEWS THE WEEK OF February 16, 2026**

Urgent Actions of the Week:

Voting Rights - The Episcopal Office of Government Ministries **calls on us to act to Safeguard our right to vote**. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed S.1383, a Senate-passed bill that was amended with the text of the SAVE America Act. The SAVE America Act would require voters to present proof of citizenship when registering or reregistering to vote, adding significant challenges to the voter registration process. S.1383 now returns to the Senate with the SAVE America text. Now is the time to ensure it does not become law. Please contact your senators and ask them to oppose these new voter restrictions in S.1383. [Take Action](#)



Calling All Knitters and Crocheters ! Sign up to make “Melt the Ice Hats.” Join the trend across the country to say “No Ice.” Episcopalians are among the thousands of knitters and crocheters who are making specially shaped [red hats](#) in opposition to the aggressive actions of federal immigration officials in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and to raise money to aid immigrants. [Sign up for Knitting or Crocheting here!](#)
Read more from Episcopal News Service shares [more ...](#)

Immigrant Support Response Survey

Fill out a [survey](#) to volunteer for rapid response to ICE presence, and food delivery or laundry in **Morris County** for those afraid to venture out.

This Month

February marks Black History Month, a time to honor and celebrate the rich history, achievements, and contributions of Black individuals and communities. This is the 100-year anniversary of Black History Month. This historical timeline showcasing the moments and voices that have shaped the past and continue to inspire progress today.

A Century of Black History Commemorations Timeline.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, <https://asalh.org/about-us/a-century-of-black-history-commemorations-timeline/>.

Episcopal Church Immigration Updates

Tuesday, February 17, 1:00-1:30pm (and every Tuesday)

Join Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Office of Government Relations every Tuesday at 1 for 30-minute updates on U.S. immigration policy and how Episcopal churches and communities are responding. Spanish interpretation is available. Register [here](#).

Tuesday, February 17, 4-6, and subsequent Tuesdays and Fridays

Wanaque4Democracy Rally

Rally behind resistance to authoritarianism. Ringwood and Union Ave, Wanaque, NJ

Tuesday, February 17, 7:30PM

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM ICE: STAYING SAFE WHILE STANDING UP FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Across the country, communities are standing up to protect their neighbors from harmful ICE raids. If you want to be prepared to respond where you live, this training will equip you with the tools and knowledge to take action safely in your own community. ACLU and Democracy Security Project will help you understand your rights, including filming and engaging with ICE, along with physical and digital safety strategies to protect yourself and others. You'll also hear directly from moms and community leaders who are organizing on the ground and getting results. [Register here](#) See in person training on Sunday Feb 22 at Holy Trinity below.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 8:00 pm

Protect, Resist and Defend with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Join a monthly webinar that brings together AFSC constituents to learn about how to protect, resist, and build just peace, just migration, and just economies. Register [here](#).

Wednesday, February 18th, 2pm-3pm

Great Homes and Neighborhoods for All

What makes a community friendly for older New Jerseyans is what makes a community friendly for all. The Great Homes and Neighborhoods for All (GHNA) initiative is a statewide, pro-housing initiative tackling New Jersey's housing and neighborhood challenges. Hear about the priorities of GHNA from NJ Future's Director of Research, Tim Evans and Policy Manager, Helen Kioukis, and learn more about the zoning and land use barriers standing in the way of progress. Register here: [Meet GHNA](#) or at agefriendlynj.org/events/

Wednesday, February 18, 4-5 and subsequent Wednesdays

Teaneck Peace and Justice Vigil

Join the local New Jersey Peace and Justice to express your support for the end of deportations and the war in Ukraine. National Guard Armory, 1799 Teaneck Rd, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

Thursday, February 19, 12pm-1pm

Episcopal Divinity School - Join EDS instructor Dr. Oluwatomisin Olayinka Oredein for *Story/Telling: How Art Can Liberate with Dr. James Howard Hill*,

Dr. James Howard Hill, Jr. of Boston University will show how an artist's viewpoint creates opportunity for theological truth-telling. Learn how his artistic approach to thinking (about) theology enhances opportunities to witness divine movement. Liberating one's perspective about the divine only enhances possibilities for divine encounter. [Learn more and Register](#)

Thursdays, February 19 and 26, 2026 1:00pm – 2:30 pm (live, recordings available)

New Class: Ritual, Creativity, and Commitment with Omkari Williams

Even when you care deeply about what's going on in the world, it's challenging to sustain the effort necessary to create change. In a new class called [Ritual, Creativity, and Commitment](#), Omkari Williams moves beyond her book, *Micro Activism*, to assist you in building practices that help you respond to these times. Learn how to create a rhythm that makes civic engagement sustainable and even fun—so we can sustain the work that creates change. Join us on February 19 and 26, 2026. [Sign up for the class here](#).

Thursday, February 19th at 6 PM.

Join Senator Kim for a Town Hall in Asbury Park:

Greetings from Asbury Park! Join Senator Kim for an in-person town hall.
Please RSVP to receive the full location: <https://sen.gov/LVW2L>

Thursday, Feb. 19, 6:00 pm

Getting on the Ballot: Campaign Finance and Compliance

Thinking of running for office to try to change the tenor of the conversation? It's a great way to work for justice! Join the New Jersey Working Families Party to learn how to get started. The possibilities are exciting! Register [here](#).

Thursday, February 19, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Greenfaith – Central Bergen Greenfaith Circle Meeting

Cresskill Congregational Church, 85 Union Ave. Cresskill

RSPV – In person potluck and Meeting, email Tracey to find out more tracey@greenfaith.org

Friday, February 20, 1:30-5:30

Whistle Kit Event

Join local Trouble Nation/Red Wine and Blue folks to assemble whistle kits to distribute to neighbors to help them notify their friends and neighbors when ICE is in the vicinity. Dover Public Library [Register](#)

Feb 21st at Fort Nonsense. [Postcard Writing](#) Since we are at a business, I ask that you purchase something if attending this session. TY in advance.

Saturday, Feb. 21, 12 noon, and subsequent Saturdays

ICE Out for Good

Protest ICE actions at rallies hosted by Springfield Visibility. At the Tesla dealer at 135 US-22, Springfield, NJ 07081.

Sunday, February 22, 3:00 pm and March 1

Delaney Hall

Join other Episcopalians in being present during visiting hours at the ICE detention center, Delaney Hall in Newark. The Diocese of Newark has a regular presence on the 4th Sunday (January 25) and the first Sunday (February 1) at 3:00 pm. Bring materials to support family members waiting for hours in the cold. Blankets, supermarket or uber gift cards are welcome. Reach out to Nancy MacDonald macdonald623@aol.com and Rev. Miguel Hernandez miguel_h92@yahoo.com to get involved.

February 22 at 3 pm in person

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 315 Main Street, West Orange

Rapid Response Training

Rapid response training aims to connect you to your local immigrant support network.

Learn who to call if you see ICE in the streets. Learn how to identify ICE and verify ICE presence in your community. Learn about your rights to document and bear witness to injustice. Learn what you can do to help families being racially profiled, detained, & targeted by racial profiling at the hands of immigration enforcement operations right now. A core principle behind all our

events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values. No registration necessary. Reach out to Rev. Miguel Hernandez miguel_h92@yahoo.com for more info.

Sunday, February 22, and subsequent Sundays, 3-4

Montclair Sunday Protests

Bring your signs to the corners of Church St & Bloomfield Ave **EVERY SUNDAY** from 3-4pm. This is a grassroots event unaffiliated with any organization. [For information](#)

Sunday, February 22, and subsequent Sundays, 4-4:30

Leonia Vigil for Peace and Justice

Join Leonia's New Jersey Peace and Action branch at the intersection of Broad Avenue and Fort Lee Road, in Leonia, NJ.

Monday, February 23, and subsequent Mondays, 11:45

Public Witness Prayers

Hear the prayers aloud, in the context of a simple liturgy, prayed by members of the Community of Francis and Clare. [Join by Zoom](#)

Monday, February 23, and subsequent Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The Lantern League

A network of grassroots advocates, rallying every Monday in Denville at the corner of Pocono and Diamond Spring Rd, Gazebo Park.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2:30-3:30

Support Ukraine Rally

National Ukrainian Association

2200 Rt. 10 W, Parsippany

Support Ukraine on 4th Anniversary of Russian Invasion

Register [here](#) for more information and to receive notification of cancellation.

[Support Ukraine Rally!](#)

Tuesday, February 24, 7:30PM

THE REALITY OF BLACK MATERNAL MORTALITY IN AMERICA

Black women in the United States are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women and this disparity persists across income, education, and geography. This is the result of systemic racism, gaps in care, and policies that fail Black mothers and families. Join us to hear from experts who will explain what is driving this crisis and what real solutions look like. We'll explore how bias impacts treatment, the role of access and quality of care, and the urgent reforms needed to ensure safe pregnancies and births for Black women. [Register here](#)

February 26, 2:30-4:00

[Let's Talk About Reparations](#)

For this month's Briefing, we'll be joined by Jean-Pierre Brutus and Assatta Mann of the [New Jersey Institute for Social Justice](#) (NJISJ) who will spend time dissecting NJISJ's groundbreaking report "[For Such A Time As This: The Nowness of Reparations for Black People in New Jersey](#)" and further go into New Jersey's history as "the slave state of the North".

Reparations isn't a new word to any of us, but it's one that gives many people pause, even more so in the current political climate. Save your seat today and be a part of this nationwide movement! [Register](#)

Monday, March 2, 8:00 pm

Episcopal Compline Prayer Service, first Mondays

An evening of peace-filled meditation and prayer as we gather around the country to pray for God's beautiful creations. Register here: [Creation Care Compline - Registration](#)
[Creation Care Compline - Intellistack](#)

Wednesday, March 4, 2-5 pm

Whistle Kit Event

Join local Trouble Nation/Red Wine and Blue folks to assemble whistle kits to distribute to neighbors to help them notify their friends and neighbors when ICE is in the vicinity. Dover Public Library [Register](#)

Wednesday, March 4-5,

Sheraton Eatontown Hotel

Survivor Informed Human Trafficking Training in Preparation for the 2026 World Cup

Join the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NJCAHT) for a two-day, survivor-informed training conference designed to equip law enforcement, community leaders, and partners with the tools and knowledge to prevent and respond to human trafficking in preparation for the 2026 World Cup. <https://njlawenforcementconference.com/>

Wednesday, March 11, 12:00 pm

Unity Prayers at Noon

Monthly - 2nd Weds through May

In this conflicted time prayer is a welcome balm. Join us monthly via zoom at noon. We come together to hold each other UP in prayer. We gather to share interfaith prayers of lamentation, protest and intercession, prayers for courage and resilience.

[Sign up today!](#)

Wednesday, March 11, 2-5 pm

Whistle Kit Event

Join local Trouble Nation/Red Wine and Blue folks to assemble whistle kits to distribute to neighbors to help them notify their friends and neighbors when ICE is in the vicinity. Dover Public Library [Register](#)

Thursday, March 26, 7pm-9pm

Beyond Red Flags: Rethinking Healthcare's Response to Human Trafficking

"People don't heal because we identify them, they heal when they feel safe."

Many victims of trafficking, abuse, and violence are unable to self-identify or safely disclose what they are experiencing. Yet systems often rely on red flags, checklists, and direct questioning, placing the burden of disclosure on those least able to carry it. Presented by the **NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking and HEAL Trafficking**, with funding from RWJ Barnabas Health, this survivor-informed webinar shifts the focus from identification to safety. Through lived experience and survivor perspective, participants will explore what helps people feel safer in moments of care and interaction, even when disclosure never happens. The conversation centers on language, environment, and responses that reduce harm, build trust, and open pathways to support. **This webinar is free to attend and open to all. [REGISTER HERE](#)**

Saturday, March 28 – time TBD.

NO KINGS Day!

Stay tuned for evolving information!

May 30-31, 2026

Human Trafficking

World Cup ACT - New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking

There will be more forthcoming, but they have issued this announcement for a May 30-31, 2026, in the field event. Trainings will be offered before the World Cup.

To Learn More Video: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2026 World Cup in a Survivor Inclusive Way <https://youtu.be/AC3-iReyJDI?si=nZeGrnsKN7q22YEZ>

Learn more: [Homepage - New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#)