



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANTA FE

Dismantling Structural Racism

A GOAL OF THE PC(USA) MATTHEW 25 INITIATIVE



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Overview

- ▶ What “race” is and is not
- ▶ History of racism
- ▶ Systemic racism
- ▶ What we can do

What race is not

- ▶ “Race” is NOT a biological construct.
- ▶ Humans are among the most genetically similar of all species, with “racial” characteristics being superficial.



What race is

- ▶ “Race” is a social construct, used to justify disparate resource allocations and domination of other peoples.
- ▶ Racial classification is real and affects every aspect of a person's life.



Doctrine of Discovery 1452

- ▶ Pope Nicolas V directed King Alfonso of Portugal
 - To "invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Sacraments and pagans whatsoever...
 - To reduce their persons to perpetual slavery...
 - To convert them to his or their use and profit..."
- ▶ Europeans used this as basis for colonization and domination of other peoples.
- ▶ In 1492 Columbus claimed the New World for Spain.

In America

- ▶ When we needed more labor, we turned to the African slave trade and justified it with “racial inferiority.”



In America

▶ When we wanted land, we drove out the indigenous population and justified it by declaring them to be “savages.”



In America

- ▶ When we wanted yet more land, we took it from the Mexicans residing in what is currently America and justified it by calling them an “inferior mongrel race.”



America's racial tensions

- ▶ Slavery ... Rebellions ... Violent suppression
- ▶ "All men are created equal" ... Citizenship for "free, white persons" only
- ▶ Abolitionist movements ... Justifications of slavery
- ▶ Annexation of Mexico territory ... Protections for Mexican landowners
- ▶ Confiscation of land ... Mob violence against Mexican Americans
- ▶ Treaties with Native Americans ... Broken promises
- ▶ Trail of Tears ... The Long Walk ... Reservations ... Indian boarding schools
- ▶ Civil War, Reconstruction, 14th & 15th Amendments ... KKK, Jim Crow laws

America's racial tensions (continued)

- ▶ Separate but equal doctrine ... Founding of NAACP ... Eugenics
- ▶ WW II veteran benefits ... Segregation of nonwhites by policy
- ▶ Brown v. Board of Education ... Little Rock school integration crisis
- ▶ Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr. ... 1964 Civil Rights Act
- ▶ John Lewis march on "Bloody Sunday" ... 1965 Voting Rights Act
- ▶ Assassinations of black leaders ... Racial turmoil
- ▶ Oprah Winfrey's success ... Continued suppression of black Americans
- ▶ First black President ... Part of Voting Rights Act declared unconstitutional
- ▶ Videos of blacks killed by police ... BLM, Racial protests including whites



Recognizing racism in...

- ▶ Law enforcement and justice
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Economics and wealth
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Health care
- ▶ Environment

Law enforcement and justice



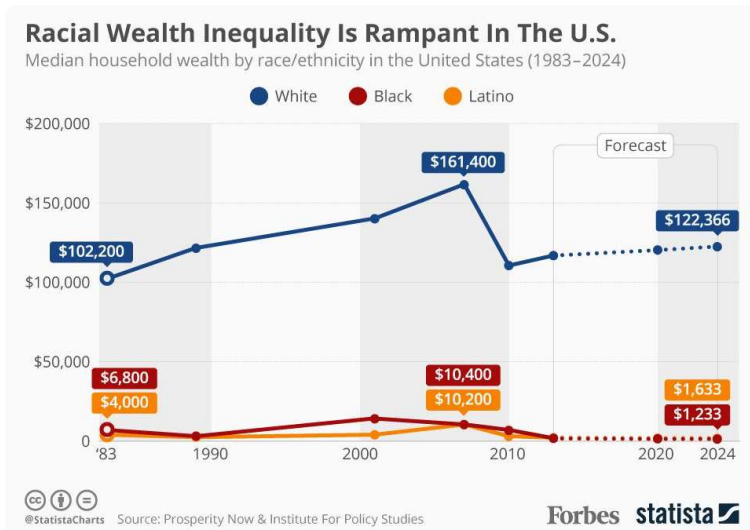
- ▶ Over-policing of people of color and unwarranted deaths
- ▶ Incarceration rate disparities
- ▶ Death penalty disparities
- ▶ For-profit prisons; carceral slavery
- ▶ After incarceration, people face employment, housing, voting issues

Housing



- ▶ Residential segregation was at the heart of federal policy for decades.
- ▶ Blacks and Hispanics are less likely to own homes, credit is restricted, interest rates are higher, and homes do not appreciate as much.
- ▶ Evictions have nearly doubled since 2000 with black and brown communities hit the hardest.

Wealth and economics



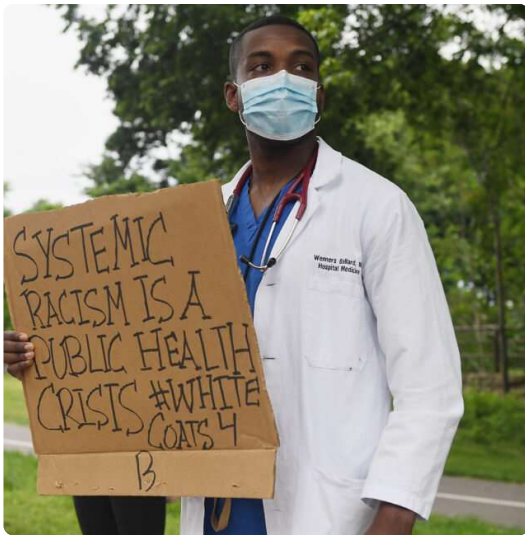
- ▶ Median net worth and median income for Black households is a fraction of that of whites, even when Black households are led by college degree holders.
- ▶ People of color face discrimination in the workplace.
- ▶ People of color are more likely to lose jobs and wealth during downturns.
- ▶ Black owned businesses are more exposed to stress during downturns and have a harder time obtaining loans.

Education



- ▶ Funding is provided through local taxes, with spending ratios between districts ranging as much as 3 to 1.
- ▶ Teachers with more seniority are paid more and, in some locations, get to choose where they teach.
- ▶ Educational outcomes are a function of unequal access to key resources—funding, senior teachers, technology, facilities, internet service.
- ▶ Our educational system is one of the most unequal in the industrialized world.

Health care



- ▶ Money = quality health care = longer life
- ▶ Three related problems:
 - ▶ Disparities in health itself: rates of afflictions.
 - ▶ Disparities in care, including access to hospitals, clinics, doctors, medical technology, essential medicine, etc.
 - ▶ Inequality in health insurance.
- ▶ Race itself is also a significant factor.

Environment

- ▶ Disproportionate percentages of people of color live in places that are polluted with toxic waste.
- ▶ Black communities are disproportionately located in areas that are physically vulnerable to climate hazards and are often afforded unequal levels of protection from the government.
- ▶ Racial inequality means that the people most at risk from climate change have the fewest resources to cope.





So what can we do?

- ▶ Educate ourselves
- ▶ Engage with others on race
- ▶ Call out racism, even if it makes us uncomfortable
- ▶ Join in group actions that address racism
- ▶ Participate in interracial activities
- ▶ Vote for candidates who support antiracism policies
- ▶ Engage in political activism