

A Call  
to Prayer  
& Self-Denial

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR  
RACIAL JUSTICE WORK

Llamado  
a la Oración  
y al Sacrificio

OFRENDA ESPECIAL A  
FAVOR DEL TRABAJO  
POR LA JUSTICIA RACIAL

기도와  
절제의 날

인종 정의 사역을 위한  
특별 제안

2023



BECAUSE WE BELIEVE ...  
*that racism is a rejection of the teachings  
of Jesus Christ.*

PORQUE CREEMOS ...  
*que el racismo es un rechazo de las  
enseñanzas de Jesucristo.*

우리는 인종차별이  
예수 그리스도의 가르침을  
거부하는 것임을 믿습니다.



United  
Women  
in Faith

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Date/Fecha/날짜

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Time/Hora/시간

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Location/Lugar/장소

# Because we believe...

That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

... We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed, and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

—*Charter for Racial Justice*

## You Are Invited

“God loves all [God’s] children and we as Christians need to work harder on the injustices in the world, spreading the love of Jesus to all we come in contact with.”

—Let Justice Roll Down! Lenten study series participant

For more than 150 years, United Women in Faith members have taken action to turn faith, hope, and love into work on behalf of women, children, and youth in every corner of the world. As an annual part of our action, United Women in Faith invites women from all over to gather locally and participate in A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.

**One hundred percent of the offering goes to the focus projects for that year.**

This yearly event is a faith-filled time when we assemble with lifted hearts and hands to celebrate selfless giving for a common cause and spiritual communion with God. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial's 2023 offering will support the ongoing racial justice work of United Women in Faith's national office. We invite you to gather, pray, reflect, and put your faith into action.

## Imagine, Reflect, and Give

“The journey toward justice is not over.”

—Let Justice Roll Down! Lenten study series participant

In Luke 4:18–19, Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He invites us to imagine a world that is radically different—a world where the incarcerated are set free, where the blind can see, and where we all live together in “the year of the Lord’s favor.” Let us continue to imagine this and together and transition from imagining to acting through prayer, advocacy, service, and giving.

This year, your gift supports our campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and our work to increase members' capacity for implementing the Charter for Racial Justice throughout the organization. Your collective prayers and sacrificial giving in tandem with your sisters across our faith community have the capacity to impact generations of women, children, and youth. It is vital that we prayerfully work together to continue United Women in Faith's long-standing commitment to advancing racial justice in the church and in the world.

### A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2021 by the Numbers

- **100 percent** conference participation
- **\$384,980** was raised to directly support programs promoting leadership development and the well-being of underserved women, children, and families
- Approximately **62,000 women and children** and **12,000 families** were served through projects supported by the 2021 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

## Why Give?

“God lives in and through us. We need to be active!”

—Let Justice Roll Down! Lenten study series participant

As God’s people, we are called to give generously to help others. Generosity looks different for everyone, and the Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 8:12 that all gifts are acceptable when given with a willing and eager heart. Below are some stunning statistics that will awaken your heart to the injustices we are working to correct through your generosity.

- 1.7 million children in the United States attend schools with a police officer on site but no counselor.
- Between 1970 – 2010, there was a 500 percent increase in the number incarcerated people.
- More than 2 million people are held in jails, prisons, and detention centers in the United States today.<sup>1</sup>
- Black children experience rampant disparities at all levels of the discipline spectrum, from suspensions to school-based arrests, impacting even the very youngest.
- Black children make up 18 percent of pre-school enrollment but comprise 43 percent of students suspended from school and 38 percent of students expelled.

To learn more, read the August 2021 *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange* op-ed, “Preventing needless punishments, including some student arrests, demands new approaches as classes resume,” by Emily Jones, executive for racial justice at United Women in Faith, [tinyurl.com/bdej6v7r](https://tinyurl.com/bdej6v7r).

## Our Work

“Having faith is more than talking about it; it's demonstrating it in our actions and attitudes as you do God's will.”

—Let Justice Roll Down! Lenten study series participant

United Women in Faith members continue to engage with our campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, an expression of our priority to end mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color.

- More than 1,000 members and friends advocated for the Ending PUSHOUT Act and the Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act using our digital advocacy tool.
- More than 1,000 members and friends participated in the Mission u study,
- *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, by Monique Morris.
- United Women in Faith offered more than \$17,000 in seed funding to eight powerful, member-led projects to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline for 2023 implementation.

United Women in Faith offered numerous programs in 2022, which encouraged members from all over to deepen their knowledge of racial justice issues, grow in fellowship with their sisters in Christ, and be inspired into action including:

- Weekly Lenten series, Let Justice Roll Down!, co-led by Janelle Gayle and Faye Wilson
- AAPI History: Breaking Barriers, led by Sunmin Lee
- Understanding and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline, led by Emily Jones
- The Criminalization of Black Youth, with Professor Kristin Henning
- Justice, Healing and the Legacy of Native American Boarding Schools, including educational content recommended by NAIC and United Women in Faith member reflections
- Screening and Discussion of *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*
- “Not Allowed to Be a Kid”, with Amaru Howard
- State-Sanctioned Violence, led by Janice Harper and Dianna Freelon-Foster

1. Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner, “Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020,” Prison Policy Initiative, accessed March 19, 2022, [prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html](https://prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html).

## Inspiration and Impact

“Listen more intently to voices which are not like mine.”

—Let Justice Roll Down! Lenten study series participant

We invite you to listen to these short, yet powerful, member voices on seven different racial justice topics to gain inspiration, insight, and connection to the impact of the work we must do together, as United Women in Faith members: [bit.ly/RacialJusticeVideos](https://bit.ly/RacialJusticeVideos).

## Plan and Promote Your Service

“Women of all kinds, across the nation, can be of like minds and powerful voices for change and peace.”

—Let Justice Roll Down! Lenten study series participant

Whether you choose to organize a virtual observance of A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial or plan to gather in person, we hope our resources will help you to organize a meaningful, intentional time of sisterhood, where attendees can pray, learn, and give sacrificially. Services can be held anytime in 2023, though most choose to hold theirs early in the year.

When planning your A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial service, consider the following recommendations for hosting a successful event: [bit.ly/2023CallToPrayer](https://bit.ly/2023CallToPrayer).

- Distribute/mail the save-the-date prayer cards early, and spread the word in your community, district, and conference whenever appropriate.
- Email marketing campaigns and social media posts can be a big help in drawing attention to your unit’s observance.
- Event invitations and digital calendars can also serve as helpful, easy reminders.
- Consider joining with other units or circles in your community or district for a larger service.
- Provide multiple options for giving, such as: online donations, cash collected at a local church, or checks mailed to a treasurer.
- Use the resources provided below to reach out to your group easily and clearly.

### Planning Resources

Visit: [bit.ly/2023CallToPrayer](https://bit.ly/2023CallToPrayer) to access the resources below:

- Poster
- Prayer Card
- A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial service
- PowerPoint Slides



You or your local group can make your gift today through your local treasurer by visiting [bit.ly/CallToPrayerGift](https://bit.ly/CallToPrayerGift) or sending a check to:



United Women in Faith  
att: Call to Prayer 2023  
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New York, NY 10115

*“I so admire the work that the United [Women in Faith] members do to advocate for girls and women at risk, whether it is from human trafficking, racial discrimination, or any other multitude of marginalizing factors. Women and girls around the world have a voice and are safer because of the work you all do - with passion, courage, and determination.”*

—Becker Holland,  
Pace Center for Girls Alachua  
Gainesville, Florida