

Building deeper racial harmony is one of the greatest tasks facing our nation in 2020, and the ministry of Jesus calls his followers to exert ourselves strenuously toward that task. As a step toward better understanding the concerns of African-Americans, we can extend our learning of their history in the United States by viewing the documentary video "13th" (a 2016 Netflix release), which is available for viewing at no charge on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>.

We're proposing to members and friends of Westport Presbyterian Church that you view "13th" (individually or with family and friends) as soon as possible. It runs 1 hour 40 minutes. We would like to convene small groups for a one-hour discussion of this video and its implications for reducing racism and its harms to our society. To see our tentative schedule of the discussions, please see <https://doodle.com/poll/gszfvgh6bbvn78ry> where proposed discussion times are listed. To help us assemble a list of invited participants for each group, please type your name into the blank provided there, and then place a check in each column that holds a date that you're available to participate in an **online Zoom discussion of "13th"** with others of our community. (And please note that Doodle enables you to tick the checkbox twice to select "Yes, if need be" for any time that is less than convenient for you but you're still available for.)

We'll be checking the numbers of availabilities for each date, and when we see that eight to ten persons can participate in one of these groups, Rev. Scott will email those participants to confirm that date for you. **That email will give you info needed to log onto Zoom for the discussion.** The email will also name the person designated to lead the discussion. At the outset of the group's discussion you'll have opportunity for each participant to self-introduce.

In anticipation of the group discussion, you might find it helpful to jog your thinking by looking at a synopsis of "13th", and some discussion questions, provided at <https://educationforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Film-Discussion-Guide-13th.pdf>. But that is optional, because we anticipate these discussions to be open-ended, with the discussion leader steering discussion along shared interests of that group.

If you have any questions about this, please phone or send a text to Rev. Scott at 816-804-4539, or send him an email at scottwmyers201@gmail.com.

The corona19 pandemic, in slowing up our nation's economic and social activity, is providing us an opportunity to make deep repairs in relationships and start to heal the fragmentation of American society. That work can be informed by looking back at the history that brought us to this moment. Your participation in a discussion of "13th" can be a helpful thread in this repair work.