

6/18/21

Driving South on Route 145 I spotted an American flag on the side of a shed. It was before the election so I figured there would probably be a political sign on the lawn... Imagine my surprise when — as I got closer — I saw, not a political sign at all, but a statement over the flag:

NO PLACE FOR RACISM



What a fabulous, unexpected message of HOPE!!

In these days when so many people in our country work hard to support white supremacy, seeing those words proclaimed on a country barn is BEYOND WONDERFUL!!!!

There is a saying that says “Happiness is contagious... we catch it from one another.” The same thing seems to be true when someone has the courage to speak up against injustice. In response to the murder of George Floyd, our church members attended the vigil on the Madison Green and Heather bought signs for all of us to display at our own homes. When ours went up, we noticed that several of our neighbors were displaying hand-crafted BLACK LIVES MATTER signs as well. Now when we drive anywhere, we observe a significant number of signs supporting equality of all kinds. YAY!!!



NMCC’s mission statement is paraphrased in one of the choir’s favorite anthems entitled OFFERTORY.

John Ness Beck put to music the powerful words of Micah 6:6-8: ([click here to listen](#))

With what shall I come before the Lord?

Shall I come before God with burnt offerings? Yearling calves?

Will God be pleased with thousands of rams? With 10,000 rivers of oil?

Shall I give God my first-born?

NO! NONE OF THESE!

God has shown you what is good What does God require?

TO DO JUSTICE TO LOVE KINDNESS TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD

This week, President Joe Biden signed a law declaring a national holiday for Juneteenth, the day long recognized as the official end of slavery in the United States. (Only a few weeks ago he also confronted past inequities as he traveled to Tulsa to commemorate the 1921 massacre of Tulsa residents at the hands of a white mob, a massacre which was actively covered up for nearly a century in order to suppress any memory of the atrocity).

Civil rights leader, 94 year-old Opal Lee, was present at the signing. Her house had been torched by a white mob when she was 12, but such hate never stopped her.

She said: “when we all decide that we’re brothers and sisters under the skin, that we all want the same thing— a decent place to stay, a job that pays decent wages, schools, adequate health care. When we get together and dispel those discrepancies, we will be the greatest nation in the whole world.” Amen, Opal.

May we all celebrate Juneteenth by working to eliminate all traces of racism from our thoughts, our actions and our hearts!

