

# Montgomery Pilgrimage for Justice

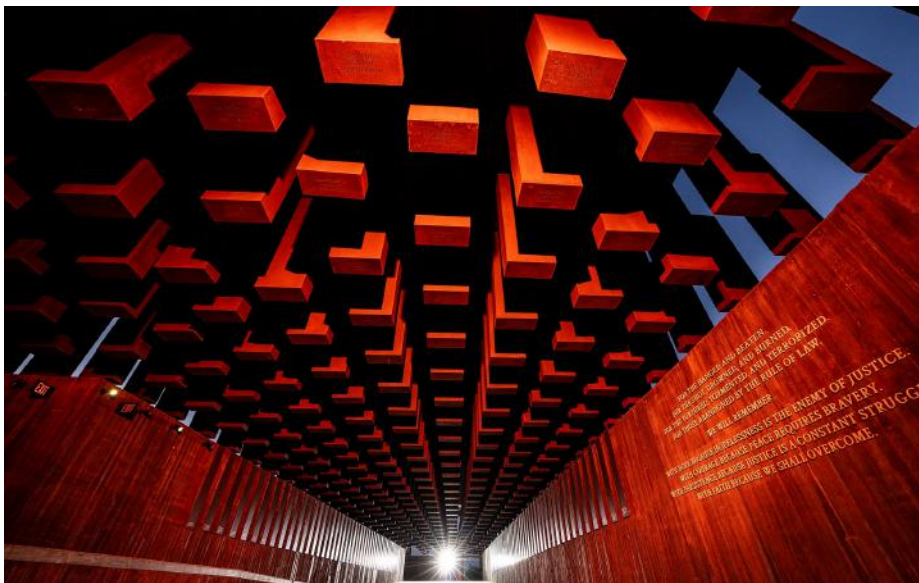
## March 13-15, 2025

### *Why This Pilgrimage? Why Now?*

The **Montgomery Pilgrimage** envisions a 3-day interracial journey from Brevard, N.C. to Montgomery, AL to build community, reckon with past racial injustices, and explore how to live with their continuing legacy. We plan to travel to and from Alabama in a charter bus, providing opportunities for interpersonal exchanges among people of different races and generations. We expect the pilgrimage will create experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Our pilgrimage is based on the belief that peace and justice require being reconciled and in relationship. However, reconciliation requires truth telling, acknowledging any harm caused and pain felt. Building relationships requires letting go of perceptions of tribes, “us and them”, preconceived stereotypes and assumptions, and accepting all – others and ourselves – can change. Based on this belief, the goal of the pilgrimage is to provide opportunities for truth telling, compassionate listening, and building relationships which do not currently exist.

**Truth telling:** Pilgrims will experience truth telling by vividly witnessing the history which has shaped our nation, our individual formation, our heritage, values, and perceptions. This will occur through experiencing and reflecting on the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Legacy Museum, and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. Each of these were created by the Equal Justice Initiative which is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in America and is based on the belief that *the power of history in telling the truth.*



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is sited on six acres of land in Montgomery, Alabama and is the first national memorial to victims of lynching in the US. In a city where markers commemorating the Confederate South still abound and markers to the Civil Rights Movement and slavery are few, the memorial provides the necessary space for truth-telling, hope, healing, and reconciliation. The structure suspends eight hundred Corten steel monuments to represent the counties in the United States where racial terror lynchings took place, each engraved with the names of its victims.



Legacy Museum. On the site of a cotton warehouse where enslaved Black people were forced to labor in bondage, the Legacy Museum tells the story of slavery in America and its legacy through interactive media, first-person narratives, world-class art, and data-rich exhibits. Travel through a comprehensive history of the destructive violence that shaped our nation, from the slave trade, to the era of Jim Crow and racial terror lynchings, to our current mass incarceration crisis—and find inspiration in our soaring Reflection Space and world-class art gallery.

Pilgrims will learn countless things they did not know about this history, experiencing it viscerally through written materials, photos, videos, and interaction with 3D holograms. Major newspapers and magazines, artists, architects, and historians have commented on the unique and profound manner in which visitors experience the museum's content intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Freedom Monument Sculpture Park is a 17-acre site on the banks of the Alabama River that combines historical artifacts, contemporary art, original research, and first-person narratives to provide an authentic and historically significant space that explores the institution of slavery, the lives of enslaved people, and the legacy of slavery in this country. The Sculpture Park is home to one of the most significant narrative collections in the world—a curated effort featuring newly commissioned works by artists like Charles Gaines, Alison Saar, and Kwame Akoto-Bamfo

alongside major sculptures from Simone Leigh, Wangechi Mutu, Rose B. Simpson, Theaster Gates, Kehinde Wiley, and Hank Willis Thomas. The art works in tandem with historical artifacts to dramatize the brutality of slavery while simultaneously illuminating the strength, dignity, and power of enslaved people and their descendants.



For more information on each of these sites, click [Visit - The Legacy Sites Pilgrim Reflection](#). While no one will share their personal stories, after visiting the sites, we will have a pilgrimage dinner at Pannie-George's Restaurant . Following dinner pilgrims will reflect on what they did and saw and will share (as they desire) their reactions to what they experienced e.g. what surprised them, what they learned, what disturbed them, how they reacted to what they saw, what questions it elicited, etc. Also, pilgrims will discuss how what we saw draws us to action. We will continue sharing our reflections approximately one month after the pilgrimage.



***Building relationships.*** Throughout every aspect of the Montgomery Pilgrimage for Justice, pilgrims will develop relationships with fellow pilgrims different from themselves – racially, age, economic, faith traditions, etc.

**Pre-Pilgrimage Gathering and Orientation** (mandatory attendance to go on the pilgrimage). Approximately one month before the pilgrimage we will gather to share a communal meal, discuss why we call this a pilgrimage, what it means to be on pilgrimage, and

how to prepare for a pilgrimage. At this gathering no reference to race or racism will occur, not will anyone tell their personal history. We will learn our similarities and our differences – where we were born, how long we have lived in Brevard, how many children, things we do for fun, etc., including what you would like to know about your fellow pilgrims.

Our shared bus ride. Both riding to and from Montgomery, pilgrims will sit among others they do not know, change seats after stops, and share a communal meal (boxed lunch at a state welcome center picnic area). Other activities are yet to be determined but may include singing (voluntary).

Pilgrim Reflection. As already described, pilgrims will share a communal meal at Pannie-George's Restaurant immediately following the visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum and how they reacted to these experiences.

Post-Pilgrimage Dinner and Reflection. Approximately one month after the pilgrimage, pilgrims will share another communal meal, discuss how our reactions may have changed 30 days after visiting the 3 sites. We will also discuss any desire to have future gatherings either as a whole group or in smaller groups and any action we would like to take as a result of the pilgrimage.

### **PILGRIMAGE DETAILS**

Thursday, March 13, 2025. Gather at Ingles Parking lot at 7:00 a.m. for 7:30 a.m. departure. Box lunches served at the Alabama Welcome Center. Arrive at the Montgomery Freedom Monument Sculpture Park approximately 2:30 p.m. The Monument closes and the last shuttle at 5:00 p.m. Check-in at the Trilogy Hotel begins at 4:00 p.m. No evening activities scheduled, pilgrims may dine individually or in small groups.

Friday, March 14, 2025. Complimentary breakfast at the Trilogy Hotel. Individually or in small groups visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (open 9:00 - 5:00, allow 1-2 hours) and the Legacy Museum (9:00 - 5:00, allow 3-5 hours). Pilgrims may dine for lunch individually or in small groups. 5:00 p.m. Dinner at the Pannie-George's Restaurant at the Legacy Museum. 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Post Pilgrimage Reflection at St. John's Episcopal Church, a 3-minute walk from the Legacy Museum. At 8:00 p.m. we will walk 3 minutes to the Trilogy Hotel.

Saturday, March 15, 2025. Complimentary breakfast at the SpringHill Suites. 8:00 a.m. depart from the Trilogy Hotel. Box lunches at the South Carolina State Welcome Center. Arrive at the Brevard Ingles Parking lot approximately 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

#### ***Pilgrim cost and what's included.***

Cost per pilgrim is \$500. To achieve our goal of pilgrim diversity, scholarships are available. All pilgrims are requested to pay as they are able (minimum of \$25 required) and request assistance from their churches and other sources. This fee includes 2-nights double occupancy at the SpringHill Suites, bus transportation to/from Montgomery, admission and shuttle transportation to/from the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Legacy Museum, box lunches on March 13 and 15 on the bus to/from Montgomery, dinner at Pannie-George's Restaurant on March 14, and pre-pilgrimage dinner and post-pilgrimage dinner.

***Fundraising.*** In order to offer the scholarships to reach our diversity goal, the Pilgrimage Planning Team is raising scholarship funds through donations from team members, individuals, churches and organizations. Pilgrims able to pay more than the full fee are encouraged to do so.

All contributions are tax deductible and comply with IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution. Checks should be made payable to CSW (Center for Spiritual Wisdom) with "Montgomery Pilgrimage on the memo line, and mailed to The Rev. Bill Livingston, 37 Sheffield Place, Brevard, NC 28712.

***Registration process.***

An application form. Once applications can be received an application form and instructions will be emailed to donors and advertised in local media, at contributing churches and through the NAACP and other organizations. If you are interested and have not received an application, please request one at [rector\\_bill@bellsouth.net](mailto:rector_bill@bellsouth.net). We expect more applications than bus spaces available, resulting in a waiting list. Therefore, submitting applications promptly once they are available is recommended. Applications will be processed in the order received but in compliance with the goal for pilgrim diversity.

Registration. Once the 56 pilgrims have been identified, each will receive a registration form with a deadline for submission. Following the application instructions, registrants will complete and mail the registration form along with registration fee and any additional donation to The Rev. Bill Livingston, 37 Sheffield Place, Brevard, NC 28712.

*Montgomery Pilgrimage Planning Team*

The Rev. Bill Livingston, pilgrimage organizer, relationship building activities co-facilitator

Pastor Spencer Jones, Liaison to predominantly black congregations and pastors, relationship building activities co-facilitator

The Rev. Rob Field, Executive Director of the Center for Spiritual, pilgrimage sponsor

The Rev. Angela Emerson, NAACP Religious Affairs Committee pilgrimage liaison

The Rev. Kevin Todd, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Service Corps, pilgrimage co-sponsor

We thank all generous donors who make it possible for us to offer scholarships and allow those unable to pay the full fee to pay what they can.

**Justice Activist -- \$2000+**

Marcia Millar

The Rev. Bill and the Rev. Diane Livingston

**Justice Advocate -- \$1000+**

The Rev. Carter Heyward

Beverly and David Yeager

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Deacon Discretionary Fund

**Scholarship Provider -- \$500+**

Brandon and Rebecca Cook

Dr. Barbra McCune and the Rev. Rich Kuntz  
First United Methodist Outreach Ministry, the Rev. Veranita Alvord  
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Outreach Ministry, The Rev. Ken Albright  
St. Philip's Episcopal Rector Discretionary Fund, The Rev. Elizabeth Roles

**Justice Supporter -- \$100+**

Arnie and Suan Andresen  
Polly and Paul Averette  
Dr. Sim and Liz Cozart  
Cindy and Terry Decker  
Sam and Deda Edney  
Milbrey and Dr. Bev Raney  
Joellen Risacher  
The Philadelphia 11 Fund

**Scholarship Supporter – All other donors**

Billie and William Begg  
Jim and Barbar Douglas  
Charlotte and Bob Ferrand  
The Rev. Joan Grant  
Bonnie Jensen  
Nancy Stewart

If you would like to join our donors in making scholarships available to those who cannot afford the Pilgrimage fee, please choose one of the following methods most convenient to you for making your donation: 1. Mail your check to the Montgomery Pilgrimage for Justice, c/o Center for Spiritual Wisdom, 100 Elks Club, Brevard, N.C. 28712, note "Montgomery Pilgrimage for Justice" on the memo line. 2. Click <https://ddock.co/1HF2D7NZMK>, click on amount and follow instructions. 3. Scan QR code and follow instructions.

