



Justice Drive OF CHARLOTTE, NC

Learning, Sharing, Praying
FOR JUSTICE

Join Trinity Presbyterian Church's
Justice Drive - a roadmap to explore
and be in prayer around
issues of justice in our community.



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instructions and notes about the Drive:

NOTE:

- Drive on your own or join Trinity for a Congregational Drive following worship on Sunday, March 13th or April 3rd where we will end out drive at a local museum. A bagged lunch will be provided following worship. Sign up **HERE!**
- It's best to use the Google Maps App and to have a navigator in the car.

Instructions:

- Click on the button below for a link to a Google map of the drive. Use the handout to learn more about the history of each location.
- If you are using the PDF handout on your phone, click on the title of each location for direct access to a website for more information. If you are using the hardcopy hand out, Google the locations for more information.
- The Justice Drive route is about a 25 to 30 minute drive starting at the Second Ward Gym (7 stops total).
- Plan to pull over or park nearby at each site. Be mindful of safety! Read the corresponding paragraph and pray together.

For Children:

- Send **Jodi** a picture of one of your stops!

Click Here
For Map!

1

SECOND WARD GYM

710 E. Martin Luther King Junior Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28202

In 1923 Second Ward High School became the first public high school for black students. By 1966, the high school had an enrollment of over 1500 students and many students were recognized for their academic and vocational achievements. The school was closed in 1969 and was torn down as part of Charlottes urban renewal effort. The gymnasium is all that remains.

*God, we pray for the students in our city that they may receive a quality education and be able to pursue their goals. Help us to be a people who seek to support education and the rights of all students to be successful.
Amen.*



2

BROOKLYN COLLECTIVE

229 S Brevard St, Charlotte, NC 28202

In the late 1860s, recently emancipated slaves gathered and established the Brooklyn neighborhood, AKA "a city within a city". Like much of Black history in Charlotte, many of the original buildings no longer exist due to the "urban renewal" movement in the late 1950s when families were displaced from their homes. However, it should be known that the neighborhood provided for its community during segregation by developing Charlotte's first black public school, YMCA, and library. Today, these buildings you see, and a few more in the area, are all that remain.

God of ages past, when we can't obviously see the injustice, open our hearts and minds so we might learn and grow. Amen.



3

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

406 N College St, Charlotte, NC 28202



Established in 1866 when Kathleen Hayes, a former slave who worshipped at First Presbyterian Church, challenged about 30 other black members to “come down out of the gallery and worship God on the main floor.” The congregation renamed itself the Seventh Street Presbyterian Church. The present edifice was erected in the mid-1890’s. Seventh Street Presbyterian Church merged with Brooklyn Presbyterian Church in 1968 to form the First United Presbyterian Church.

Loving God, we thank you for this church and the ways they work for justice for the black community. Help us to be a people who welcome and include all.

Amen

4

ROOF ABOVE

1210 N Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28206

Once known as the Urban Ministry Center, Roof Above serves people experiencing homelessness. Roof Above serves over 1200 people per day through several avenues of outreach - street outreach, shelters, affordable housing, and basic needs. Next winter consider hearing the stories of our neighbors by volunteering through Trinity's Room in the Inn program. Our neighbor's stories are holy and they are the work of the Holy.

God of the burdened, may safe-harbor be given to those on the streets this night. May the basics to strive be affordable and available to all.

Amen.

5

JOHNSON C. SMITH

100 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte, NC 28216



In 1867, the Rev. S.C. Alexander and the Rev. W. L. Miller saw the need to establish an institution in this section of the South named The Freedmen's College of North Carolina. In 1924 JCSU was recognized as a four-year college. The University is rooted in legacy and tradition. The school endeavors to provide a multicultural and transformative experience which educates, prepares, and graduates a diverse group of

students. A good view of the school can be found on Martin St. and from there you have good access to the West Pinewood Cemetary on Summit Ave.

God of inspiration, we pray for the young minds that are transformed through education.Help us to have the courage to see people as you see us. Amen.

6

BONUS: THE WEST PINEWOOD CEMETERY

1335 Cemetery St, Charlotte, NC 28216

Depart Johnson C Smith by 5th St. and turn right on Summit Ave. to see the West Pinewood Cemetery and the I-77 overpass. As with many cities in the USA, in the late 1960s, I-77 was built strategically to separate the black and white community. Can you plainly see the divide in communities? Not only did this build displace many Black family homes and businesses, it also required graves to be dug up and moved to a new location in the Elmwood Cemetery. Pinewood was originally built for black families only with a fence separating it from the white cemetery, Elmwood.

Loving God, remind us to strive for equity over divisions. Remind us to love our neighbors and to embrace our communities with love. Amen.

We encourage you to visit either the Levine Museum of the New South or the Harvey B. Gantt Center at the end of your drive.

7

LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH

200 E 7th St, Charlotte, NC 28202



The Levine Museum of the New South offers exhibits specifically on the Black history of Charlotte. They have exhibits on the Brooklyn Neighborhood, stories rooted in Charlotte neighborhoods, and an exhibit titled, *It Happened Here: Lynching and Remembrance*.

or

THE HARVEY B. GANTT CENTER

551 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28202

The Afro-American Cultural Center was established in 1974, the first visionaries dreamed of a forum to acknowledge the rich history and contributions of African Americans in this country. 2009 marked the opening the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture. They currently have exhibits on the Archives of Jamel Shabazz and an exhibit titled, *Visible Man: Art and Black Male Subjectivity*.



Closing Prayer

God of communities, we've learned much more than we could ever imagine about the city in which we reside. May we continue to be open to learn and seek justice for your beloved children. Amen.



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Location Websites (click below):

- [Second Ward High School Foundation - School History \(secondwardfoundation.org\)](https://secondwardfoundation.org)
- [Second Ward Gym \(mecknc.gov\)](https://mecknc.gov)
- [Brooklyn Collective \(brooklyncollectiveclt.org\)](https://brooklyncollectiveclt.org)
- [Our History | First United \(fupcc.org\)](https://fupcc.org)
- [First United Presbyterian Church | Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission](#)
- [Roof Above \(roofabove.org\)](https://roofabove.org)
- [Johnson C. Smith University History & Biddle Hall - YouTube](#)
- [Johnson C. Smith University \(jcsu.edu\)](https://jcsu.edu)
- [The City of Charlotte](#)
 - [Cemeteries](#)
- [The Levine Museum of the New South \(museumofthenewsouth.org\)](https://museumofthenewsouth.org)
- [The Harvey B. Gantt Center \(ganttcenter.org\)](https://ganttcenter.org)

More history on Charlotte and locations:

- [SouthBound Extra: A Preview Of Harvey Gantt Interview | WFAE 90.7 - Charlotte's NPR News Source](#)
- [Author's Note: 'Legacy: Three Centuries of Black History in Charlotte' | Queen City Nerve](#)
- [Queen City Nerve - Black History of Charlotte](#)

Books:

- [Color and Character: West Charlotte High and the American Struggle Over Educational Equality](#) by Pamela Grundy
- [Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte 1875-1975](#) by Tom Hanchett
- [The Hundred Story Home](#) by Kathy Izard
- [A Good Night for Mr. Coleman](#) by Kathy Izard (Children's Book)

Other resources on anti-racism:

- [Trinity Presbyterian Church - Doing the Work Resources](#)