Cross Link

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 First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church

 **1515 Cross Link Road**

 **Raleigh, North Carolina 27610**

We Pay Homage To Our African American Ancestors and Those of Our Generations Who Paved The Way That Brought Us Here.

***The 1619 Project***

I was recently given a copy of the very popular and controversial book, *The 1619 Project,* written by Pulitzer Prize winner, Nikole Hannah-Jones. In this masterful work, the author/creator challenges the status quo of the keepers of United States history, by declaring with much certainty that: (1) the institution of slavery was much more a driving force in American history and culture than most would have us believe; and (2) that while institutional slavery in America may have begun in 1776, the first enslaved people from Africa actually arrived on the shores of Virginia 157 years earlier in 1619, a full year before the pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower.

 The book includes historical accounts of African Americans and our influence in the development of this nation called the United States, along with Hannah-Jones’ reflections on subjects from the introduction of slavery, to the Civil Rights Movement in the mid 20th Century, to the killing of George Floyd, a North Carolina native, in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020. She’s includes along with her own writings, a variety of literary pieces, poetry and fiction, composed by other authors.

 I’ve only begun to read the many pages of what appears to be a historical library within the book’s covers. I encourage you to get a copy, check out a copy from your local library. Read and reflect.

 Black History recognition is only highlighted in the month of February, but our people have made and continue to make history in every month and every day of the year. Get a glass of lemon aide and find a quiet place to read through *The 1619 Project*. You’ll see that Black History is very much a part of the American History.

***Church Reopening***

 First Cosmopolitan’s pastor, deacons and trustees look forward to all of our members and friends returning to in person worship, but we recognize that the wisdom of God says use caution to assure (as much as possible) everyone’s safety. Therefore, the Official Board set a target date of Sunday, April 3, 2022 to return to in person worship services. Prior to that time, the we will develop a plan of action for all to follow when we return. Although some safety restriction have

been reduced or lifted by state officials, organizations, including churches, may put more stringent protocols in place. Your church leadership is committed to bringing you back to church

in the safest environment possible. We will update you as new information is available prior to our return to in person services. Thank you for your patience and support. In the meantime, continue to watch *Celebrating God’s Love*.

**Happy Birthday to Persons Born in February!!**

**Selah! Meditate On This.**

**The Season of Lent**

Wednesday, March 2nd will mark the beginning of Lent, a period of abstaining from certain foods or something else that we’d indulge in or engage in for the next forty days leading up to Easter except for Sundays. During Lent, Christians practice fasting as an act of self-discipline, replicating Jesus’ 40 days in the desert where he resisted Satan’s temptations. Fasting during Lent helps to mentally and spiritually prepare us for the Easter celebration, where we commemorate Jesus’ resurrection from death and the grave.

 Consider fasting during this Lenten season. At the least, use these days to draw closer to Jesus who suffered and died to pay the debt for your sins. Remember the words of Romans 8:13, *“*For if we live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live.”Paul continued that thought in Romans 8:17 saying,“…if so be that we suffer with him then we may be also glorified together.”

**Let’s Pray**

Dear God,

 We know that you are loving and kind toward your children. We also know that you are strong and mighty. So we ask today that you protect the people of Ukraine. Please be their God in this time of war, shielding them and giving them victory over their enemy. May you be glorified as you save them.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen

**The Word On Wednesday - WOW!**

Don’t miss *The Word On Wednesday* each week at 6:30 PM. Rev. Melvin Paylor, Associate Minister of First Cosmopolitan, does a marvelous job teaching the scriptures. We’re studying the New Testament Book of *I Peter*.

 You can join us on Zoom at: **<https://us06web.zoom.us/s/99462520514>** or by phone at **1-312-626-6799** or **1-646-558-8656**. The meeting ID is: **944 6252 0514**.

I hope you'll take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to study God's Word together.

**Happy Black History Month**

Presenting Jesus Christ And Helping People Live Committed To Him