

CALL TO ACTION

Attend virtual worship at a Black church in our community and compare the experience with that of worshipping at FPCW. Talk about what is the same and what is different between the two services. What did you like about “Black church?” What (if anything) made you feel uncomfortable? What did you find most different from your own worship experience at FPCW?

While many of us might feel hesitant about visiting an African-American church on our own, during this time of the pandemic, “attending” worship at almost any other congregation near or far is easy and readily accessible. Here are the links to on-line worship services at two Evanston Black churches that you might want to check out tomorrow morning:

Second Baptist Church, 1717 Benson Avenue, Evanston

Live service is streamed at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday

Live.secondbaptistevanston.org

That pastor of Second Baptist is Rev. Michael Nabors who also serves as president of the local chapter of the NAACP.

First Church of God, 1524 Simpson Street, Evanston

Live service can be viewed on Facebook Live at 10 a.m. on Sunday

First Church of God Christian Life Center

You also might want to tune into one of the three services at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago which is the former church of President Barack Obama. The church offers on-line live worship on Sundays at 7:30 am, 11 am and 6 pm at trinitychicago.org

Christian churches in the United States have shown a pattern of racial segregation for more than 400 years. Almost 80 percent of Christian churches are completely made up of only white or Black members. There are many reasons for the history and the continued relevance of racial segregation in the American church, including widespread and systemic racism as well as geographic and denominational differences across different Christian denominations.