

Pilgrimage to Search for Truth and Justice, Selma Alabama
A transformation experience to Understand the Civil Rights Movement and Ourselves
October 2023

Led by the Reverend June R. Cooper and Marrey Embers

Goals of the Pilgrimage

Acknowledge the living legacy of white supremacy in our country.

Learn the history of white racial violence from Reconstruction to Jim Crow.

Acknowledge the strengths of the of the African American community to resist white supremacy in the struggle for freedom.

Create a learning community with the participants so that we can consider working on anti-racist activities.

Highlights of the Pilgrimage

Visit to the Equality Justice Initiative Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice which memorializes 4400 African American victims of lynching

Visit the newly constructed Mothers of Gynecology Monument at the More Up Campus in Montgomery.

Walk the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and visit the Morris Brown Chapel and the By the River Center for Humanity

Daily reflection time with the Pilgrimage facilitators

Pilgrimage Leaders

The Pilgrimage will be led by June R. Cooper, who is the Theologian in the City at Old South Church in Boston and Marrey Embers who is an organizational development consultant and diversity equity and inclusion trainer. Together they have designed and led virtual and in-person civil rights pilgrimages since 2014. They will lead three (3) pre-pilgrimage training events, facilitate the pilgrimage, and conduct one post Pilgrimage debriefing session.

Preparation for the Pilgrimage

We expect this trip to be rich with emotions, history, good food, music, and conversations. Therefore, to maximize this learning experience preparation for the Pilgrimage includes 3 (2 hour) Study Sessions that will be scheduled 6 weeks prior to our departure date. One (2 hour) post-Pilgrimage debriefing session will be scheduled within 2 weeks of our return.

Scheduling

There are two dates that we are offering in October 2023

October 9-12, arrive Monday by 3 pm for opening/Thursday mid-day programming ends.

October 12-15, arrive Thursday by 3 pm for opening/Sunday mid-day programming ends.

Sample Itinerary

Day One: Arrive in Montgomery for orientation and dinner together.

Day Two: Travel up to Selma for a full day- walk the Edmund Pettis Bridge, visit the By the River Center for Humanity, Brown Chapel AME, lunch that will, dinner on your own.

Day Three: Visit to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial in Montgomery, facilitated conversation, dinner on your own and an evening to explore other sites in the city.

Day Four: Visit the More Up Campus and hear from local artists and social justice advocates and the closing of the formal program.

Cost

The expenses will be approximately \$600 per person. The cost covers the pre and post study sessions, admission to all of the planned sites, and transportation to Selma, at least one community meal.

Registration Information

July 15, deposit of \$200.00 non-refundable will be due

August 31, final payment

Payment should be made out to home church

Email the Reverend June Cooper (junercooper@comcast.net) for more information.