

“Let’s Talk About...” is a column in our monthly newsletter where we will learn one thing at a time about how we can love others the way they want to be loved. We will learn something each month that helps us understand and respect people who are different from us a little more deeply.

Let’s Talk About Jewish American Heritage Month

May is Jewish American Heritage Month. In the Christian church, one of the most persistent mistreatments of Jewish people is called supercessionism. This is an idea that Jesus and Christianity perfected what Judaism started, and it implies that Judaism should only exist as a past tense historical thing. Perhaps the most effective way to counter this is to highlight Jewish voices. I have not had a lot of time for writing this month, so in lieu of reading my micro-research paper about Jewish Americans, let's listen to some of their voices.

As a federally recognized heritage month, there are governmental resources about Jewish American history, successes, and present challenges. Here is the official website for this heritage month:

<https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/>.

And here's the White House proclamation from 2023:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/04/28/a-proclamation-on-jewish-american-heritage-month-2023/>

Finally, if you read the newsletter regularly, you may wonder how we balance this important respect for our Jewish neighbors with a humanitarian concern for the people of Palestine (which relates to last month's discussion of Arab American Heritage Month.) I highly recommend Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg as a resource for showing compassion to all while also seeking justice. Here's her recent post on antisemitism, and her whole website is full of thoughtful, well-researched reflections. [https://www.lifeisasacredtext.com/the-antisemitism-post/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3D-](https://www.lifeisasacredtext.com/the-antisemitism-post/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3D-SNm_ZZi2dlfXtlk0xRF8eAqkFDzOWpaB9iOEGr_L_RcJCtfvfjYzlU_aem_AYbb9EkQGWRwYMXyVgY8FBMOEgpiAu_U_T3o0UpkUmWiP5nF9b9kxAQmNaug4F4kN2PCFVcU6vKRCXh2R2NAGEuJ9)

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Our “Let’s Talk About...” column is one place where we can help one another learn how to be better allies for all our neighbors. If you have a question you’d like answered, or if there are things you wish others in our congregation better understood about your own marginalized identities or those for whom you are already a strong ally, please submit suggestions to <https://forms.gle/E9eRqZJGLgVagbDZ9> or email me directly at virginiag@smokyhillumc.org.