

February Observances

From CUMC's Multicultural Committee

The United Nations established February 20th in 2007 as World Day of Social Justice, recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections. While primarily focused on governmental and agency roles and activities, it should also remind us of the needs our own communities should be trying to address more locally.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," focuses on the various ways that work of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – is part of the collective experiences of Black people. A vast amount of Black history and culture derives from those experiences, whether the agricultural labor of enslaved Africans, or labor enhanced by vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or by organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice. It also includes the community building of social justice activists, voluntary workers serving others, and institution building in churches, community groups, and social clubs and organizations. Understanding Black labor and its impact in all these settings is integral to understanding Black people and their histories, lives, and cultures.