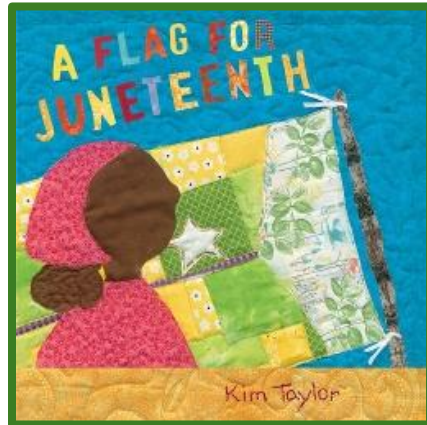


Juneteenth 2025

Children's Take-Home Worship Bag



First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

In this Juneteenth Take-home Worship Bag you will find:

- ❖ Picture Book: A Flag for Juneteenth, written and illustrated by Kim Taylor
- ❖ Juneteenth bookmark
- ❖ Juneteenth pinwheel
- ❖ Juneteenth pencil
- ❖ Juneteenth magnet
- ❖ Juneteenth silicone bracelet
- ❖ Juneteenth learning wheel
- ❖ Official Juneteenth flag to color and construct
- ❖ Juneteenth Word Search

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, is a federal holiday marking the end of slavery in the U.S. Also known as Freedom Day, Black Independence Day, and Jubilee Day, it commemorates the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and informed the last enslaved people of their freedom—over 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.

About the Featured Book

A Flag for Juneteenth, written and illustrated by Kim Taylor, is a gorgeous picture book about this important holiday. The story is told by Huldah, a young girl who is about to celebrate her 10th birthday on June 19, 1865. That very day, soldiers come to the Texas plantation and one of them reads an official statement that says in accordance with a proclamation from the President of the United States, all slaves are free. Great joy and celebration begin as the women start to make freedom flags, others begin to pray and most all begin to sing.

Each of Kim Taylor's illustrations are beautiful, informative, and full of joy. These story quilts were hand-made by Taylor and are exceptional in content, color and feeling. The illustration that shows Huldah, before her birthday celebration, sitting in her favorite tree with a small jar into which she catches a sun beam is eye-popping.

Young readers 4-8 years of age will want to reach out and touch the fascinating story-quilted illustrations!

Source: adapted from WCMU Public Media - The Children's Bookshelf

About the Author



Kim Taylor is a speech language pathologist and Department Supervisor at a large school for deaf children on Long Island. She is also an expert quilter whose works have been exhibited at several venues throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Taylor's quilts reflect African American life, and she tells stories through her materials (visit Kim's website to see her quilts). After researching the origins of the Juneteenth celebration, she created a Juneteenth story quilt which she has exhibited and presented in dozens of local schools. Realizing that few teachers and students had ever heard of the holiday, she was moved to write the book, *A Flag for Juneteenth*.

Kim Taylor's website: <https://materialgirlstoryquilts.com>

Source: African American Literature Book Club.

About the Official Juneteenth Flag

By Harmeet Kaur, CNN



The official Juneteenth flag is the brainchild of activist Ben Haith, founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF). Haith created the flag in 1997 with the help of collaborators, and Boston-based illustrator Lisa Jeanne Graf brought their vision to life. The flag was revised in 2000 into the version we know today, according to the National Juneteenth Observation Foundation. Seven years later, the date “June 19, 1865” was added, commemorating the day that Union Army Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, and told enslaved African Americans of their emancipation.

“This country has so many aspects to it that are spiritual, and I believe this flag is of that nature,” Haith said. “It (the idea for the design) just came through me.” Designing the flag and its symbols was a deliberate process, Haith said. Here’s what each element of the flag represents.

The Star: The white star in the center of the flag has a dual meaning, Haith said. For one, it represents Texas, the Lone Star State. It was in Galveston in 1865 where Union soldiers informed the country’s last remaining enslaved people that, under the Emancipation Proclamation issued two years earlier, they were free. But the star also goes beyond Texas, representing the freedom of African Americans in all 50 states.

The Burst: The bursting outline around the star is inspired by a nova, a term that astronomers use to mean a new star. On the Juneteenth flag, this represents a new beginning for the African Americans of Galveston and throughout the land.

The Arc: The curve that extends across the width of the flag represents a new horizon: the opportunities and promise that lay ahead for Black Americans.

The Colors: The red, white and blue represents the American flag, a reminder that the enslaved and their descendants were and are Americans. June 19, 1865, represents the day that enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas, became Americans under the law.

And while African Americans today are still fighting for equality and justice, Haith said those colors symbolize the continuous commitment of people in the United States to do better – and to live up to the American ideal of liberty and justice for all.

Additional Books about **Juneteenth** for Young Readers

- ❖ Free at Last – A Juneteenth Poem by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle
 - ❖ Juneteenth – A Children's Story by Opal Lee
 - ❖ A Flag for Juneteenth by Kim Taylor
 - ❖ Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper
 - ❖ Jayylen's Juneteenth Surprise by Lavaille Lavette
 - ❖ Juneteenth Jamboree by Carole Boston Weatherford
 - ❖ The History of Juneteenth by Arlisha Norwood, PhD
 - ❖ Juneteenth by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson & Drew Nelson
 - ❖ Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free by Alice Faye Duncan
 - ❖ Juneteenth: Our Day of Freedom by Sharon Dennis Wyeth
 - ❖ The Juneteenth Story: Celebrating the End of Slavery in the United States by Alliah L. Agostini
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*This **Juneteenth Take-home Worship Bag** is presented to you by the CARE Committee of First Pres Libertyville. The **Committee on Anti-Racism & Equity (CARE)** began in June 2020 and was formally elevated to the status of a standing committee at First Pres, September 2021. CARE strives to provide opportunities for members of our congregation and our wider community to learn and grow in their understanding of anti-racism; establish and grow deeper partnerships that foster racial reconciliation with accountability to people of color and communicate about this work both within our congregation and in the wider world.*

Our CARE Team is made up of pastoral staff, Session members and members of the congregation.

*We invite you to share comments, questions and/or ideas anytime at:
growingbelovedcommunity@gmail.com
and, of course, we invite you to join the committee in this work if you feel so called.*

For more information about CARE, or to sign up to receive CARE's Beloved Community Newsletter, visit: <https://firstpreslibertyville.org/anti-racism/>