

## RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM NEWS

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First Congregational Church of Stratford

# LOVE COMES FIRST

## BEING AN ALLY

The word “ally” probably makes you think of some leader or nation that comes to the aid of another country during a time of war. By definition, “to be an ally is to unite oneself with another to promote a common interest. In an alliance, both parties stand to benefit from the bond or connection they share.” In a time of crisis, like a war, an ally is a much-needed source of support. During World War II, America helped England because we were their allies and we wanted England to win the war against their enemy, Germany. By helping England in their struggle, we as a nation benefited from this alliance as well.

Today, we still have many things to fight against such as racism, bias and social injustice. You can join the fight and become a social justice ally to someone you see who needs your support. You can offer help to individuals who are marginalized because of their color, gender, social status, sexual orientation or religious affiliation when you see them be attacked, excluded, or ridiculed at your work place or in a public setting.

Remember not everyone comes from the same place of privilege, encouragement, opportunity, or acceptance growing up. Educate yourself and keep learning about social injustice. Confront your own biases and prejudices. Learn from your past mistakes.

Today, you can decide to be an ally to someone you see being picked on or ostracized. You can be the ally they need right at that particular moment. Stand up and speak up for someone who needs your help. Put yourself in that person’s place. Speak up and speak out against racism, bullying, belittling comments, and cruel jokes made at someone else’s expense.

When an opportunity presents itself to you to support someone who needs an ally, be courageous and be an ally to that person.

