



Why Stories Matter

As we are about to enter into our House Meeting season, let's ground in why this justice work depends on good stories.

1. Stories motivate us to action;
2. Stories help us know where and how to take that action;
3. Stories then motivate our public officials and decision-makers to action;
4. And stories bring us together.

A quote from Marshall Ganz, in Sojourners magazine, captures this well:

"A story communicates fear, hope, and anxiety, and because we can feel it, we get the moral not just as a concept, but as a teaching of our hearts. That's the power of story. That's why most of our faith traditions interpret themselves as stories, because they are teaching our hearts how to live as choiciful human beings capable of embracing hope over fear, self-worth and self-love over self-doubt, and love over isolation and alienation."

So, what do we need to do to gather these stories?

1. If you are a Network Member or you plan to attend a House Meeting, please start thinking about the LOCAL community problems that you experience or see, and pick out a story to tell. This can be something that directly impacts you or your loved ones, or something that you have heard about from a first-person source (i.e., "I volunteer at the food pantry and have gotten to know some of the people we are serving - they are experiencing XYZ.")
2. If you are a Team Leader and/or facilitating a House Meeting, think about how you can ask clarifying questions during the meeting in order to get to the details of a story. Think about how you can prepare your House Meeting attendees to be thinking about their stories ahead of time. Select a good note-taker and meet with them beforehand so that they know the level of detailed notes that we need. We will be talking about these topics and best practices at our Listening Process Kick-Off on 9/29— anyone facilitating a House Meeting should be there to get the script and this valuable training! ([Register here!](#))

As we push ahead in this justice work, we want to be connected in our foundation, and that is this grassroots listening process. We must understand the who, what, where, and why of our community problems, in order to make effective change.

Upcoming Events



What: Listening Process Kick-Off (Team Assembly I)
Who: Team Leaders & Clergy / Anyone who is facilitating a House Meeting!
When: Monday, September 29th, at 6:30pm
Where: Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church
[Please register here.](#)



What: *House Meetings!*
Who: Anyone with a story to share about community problems; and/or anyone who would like to commit to being a Network Member for the 2025-2026 CAJM cycle!

Between September 30 and October 26 -- each congregation's Leaders will schedule time/date/locations!



What: Community Problems Assembly
Who: CAJM Network Members, Team Leaders, and Clergy - all fully committed CAJM Members should attend to vote on what new issue CAJM should focus on!

When: Monday, November 17 @ 6:30pm

Where: Location TBD

GOAL: \$250,000



We've already raised **\$106,499** this year in individual investments. We look forward to your continued support this year as we reach our goal of \$250,000!

[Click here to invest](#)

[Click Here - Invest in CAJM Today!](#)

In the Community:

Join our Environmental Justice Committee at the **Hope Summit Community Solutions Festival, on September 27, from 1 to 4 pm**, at the Charleston Museum.

[Click here for more information.](#)

This is a family-friendly event that is free and open to the public.

Community Disaster Prep Event - September 27

FREE!

COMMUNITY DISASTER PREP EVENT

Saturday, Sep 27th
10:30AM - 1:30PM
CHS Atlantic Presbytery
4701 Park PI West

Bring a Bag to Fill Up With Emergency Supplies! [REGISTER NOW](#)

10:30AM: Bleed-Control Training
12PM: CPR Training
All day: Water Safety

Registration: [Tinyurl.com/LowcountryPrep](https://tinyurl.com/LowcountryPrep)
 Sponsored by *Tri-County Community Care and Edisto Presbyterian Church*



Community Resource Night - October 8

Charleston Promise Neighborhood

COMMUNITY RESOURCE NIGHT!

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING EVENING OF LEARNING, CONNECTION, AND HANDS-ON FUN!

8 October 2025 5-7PM Free!

CHICORA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Learn about the upcoming Lowcountry Rapid Transit
- Get up close with vehicles used by local businesses
- Meet organizations offering valuable goods & services to the community at our Indoor Fair!

CHARLESTON PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

Charleston Promise Neighborhood

EVENTO DE RECURSOS COMUNITARIOS

ÚNETE A NOSOTROS PARA UNA NOCHE LLENA DE APRENDIZAJE, CONEXIONES Y ACTIVIDADES PRÁCTICAS DIVERTIDAS.

8 Octubre 2025 5-7PM Gratis

CHICORA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Infórmate sobre el próximo sistema de tránsito rápido de Lowcountry.
- Acércate a los vehículos utilizados por los negocios locales
- Visita nuestra feria interior y conecta con organizaciones que aportan a la comunidad.

CHARLESTON PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD

Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees? Let us know [here](#).



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