

This Memorial Day, We March — Vote Early

Yesterday we honored the soldiers. Today we march to the polls.

Memorial Day has just passed and we carry its meaning with us into this week. The freed people of Charleston who marched 10,000 strong to the Washington Race Course in 1865 did not wait for a convenient moment. They showed up. That same spirit is what CAJM is made of. We honor every soldier in the long fight for civil rights and every leader being raised up in this current moment by refusing to sit out what is happening right now. Get to the polls. Stay in the line. Your vote counts.

Early voting starts TODAY. VOTE NOW.

Decisions are being made right now about who gets resources and who doesn't, about whether our communities are protected or sacrificed. Redistricting is happening across this state — the lines being drawn today will shape who holds power in our neighborhoods for the next decade. The candidates on this ballot will be in the rooms where those decisions get made. They need to know that CAJM's communities are watching and voting.

Early voting runs May 26 through June 5. Find your location at scvotes.gov.

If you are in CCSD District #4, REMEMBER: Voters MUST check in for BOTH elections primary and school board special election. Be sure to let poll workers know you want to vote in both the Charleston County School Board Special Election and the Statewide Primary. These are separate ballots, so you must request each one.

Don't Go Alone. Bring Three.

What a night — thank you, CAJM family.

Last Monday, May 18th, CAJM gathered on the lawn at Zion Olivet Presbyterian Church for our Stuck in the 70's Celebration — and it was exactly what this season called for. The evening air, the music, the laughter, the people dressed up and showing out — it reminded every person on that lawn why this coalition exists and why it is worth fighting for. Games were played, good food was shared, and we fellowshiped with each other in a way that reminded us that even in hard times, the joy in this community is real. That joy is not a distraction from the work — it is the fuel for it.

A very special thank you to Rev. Alex Porter — for his brilliant MC energy, for the costume that had everyone talking, and for opening the doors and the lawn at Zion Olivet so that we could celebrate as a community.

Thank you to our childcare providers, Shayd Williams and Jaylin Manning, who made sure our youngest members were loved and looked after so that parents could be fully present. That kind of support makes this whole community possible.

And thank you to the vendor partners who made it all come alive:

Food: Bailey's Wings and Things

Food: Vibrant Alkaline Vegan

Kids' Bounce House & Tent: Al's Jump World

Music & Sound: The 88 Sound

To every committee member who gave your time and hard work behind the scenes, this celebration was yours. Thank you.

We are still tallying the full numbers of those who attended and the dollars invested at the Celebration. Please be patient with our staff as we work through that process. If you are interested in volunteering to help with data entry, please let us know, we would love the help.

Our honorees

At the Celebration, we were proud to recognize three expressions of the spirit that holds this coalition together.

Justice Cup — Congregation of the Year

We are still configuring the Justice Cup winner — stay tuned for that announcement coming very soon!

CAJM Spirit Award — Ann Birdseye

Circular Congregational Church

Ann has given years of faithful service to CAJM through her work on the Personnel Committee and the Housing Committee showing up consistently, doing the work that doesn't always get the spotlight, and making this coalition stronger for it. Ann, we see you and we are grateful.

Rising Star — Rev. Dr. Daniel Smoak

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Rev. Smoak came to CAJM as a new clergy member from a newly covenanted congregation and he did not ease in slowly. He jumped straight into justice work with exceptional participation and a spirit that has energized everyone around him. That is exactly what this coalition is built for. We are so glad you are here.

Costume Contest Winners

Mrs. Cheryl — Zion Olivet Presbyterian Church

Mrs. Delores Pugh — Mount Moriah MBC

You brought the 70's all the way back. We loved every moment.

The work continues. Thank you for showing up.

A heartfelt thank you to every CAJM member who showed up to the North Charleston Committee of the Whole last Thursday to continue our push for food insecurity solutions in our region. Thank you to our committee members and to every person who turned out to support the work. You are what makes this organization move. We do not take that for granted.

We are in the investment season, and we need you to help us hit our goals.

The Celebration happened. The Nehemiah Action happened. The meetings are happening. Now we have to fund the work that makes all of it possible. This is the investment season for CAJM and we are pressing hard toward three goals. We cannot hit them without every member leaning in. Please do not wait. Make your commitment or investment today and reach out to your team leader if you have any questions about how to invest.

Individuals — Goal: \$200,000

Every person who believes in this work has a role to play. Have you made your personal financial commitment to CAJM? Every gift at every level brings us closer to this goal. We are asking you to make a commitment right now. Do not let this season pass without adding your investment to this work.

Congregations — Goal: \$75,000

Congregational dues are the backbone of CAJM's financial foundation. If your congregation has not yet turned in your investment, now is the moment. This is what keeps our organizers in the field and the work moving forward. Talk to your congregation Clergy leader today and get it in.

Corporate Sponsors Goal: \$65,000

We are actively building our corporate drive and we need your help to get there. If you know a business that shares our values and should be investing in a more just Charleston, refer to us and make the connection. If you or someone you know wants to be in the room, join us at an upcoming corporate meeting. Reach out to our team and let's get it done.

Have questions? Not sure where to start? Reach out to your Team leader and they will walk you through it. Every dollar counts and every commitment moves us forward.

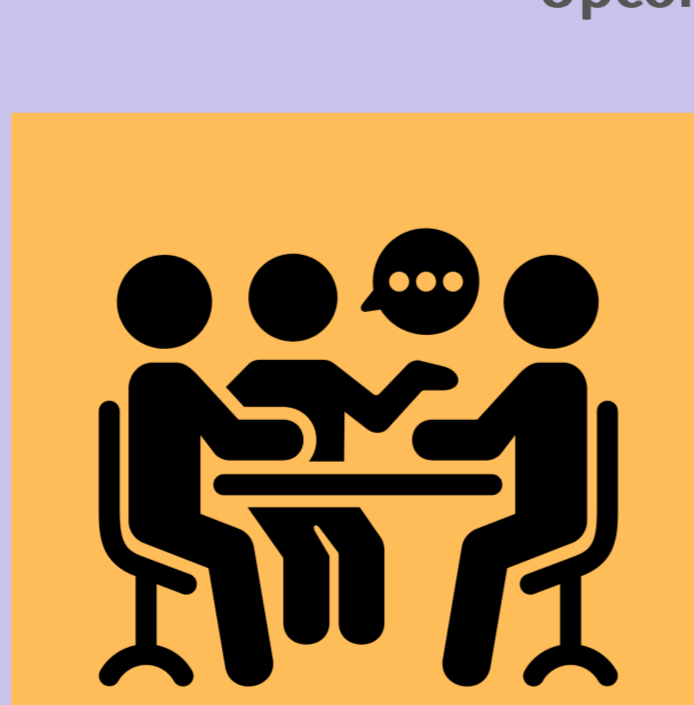
We are the ones we have been waiting for.

In 1865, 10,000 people marched in Charleston to declare that the lives of those soldiers mattered, that freedom was worth fighting for, and that they would not let either be forgotten. They did not know if anyone was watching. They marched anyway.

We carry that same spirit to the polls, to city hall, to every table where justice is being decided.

Vote. Invest. Show up.

Upcoming Events



Clergy Connect

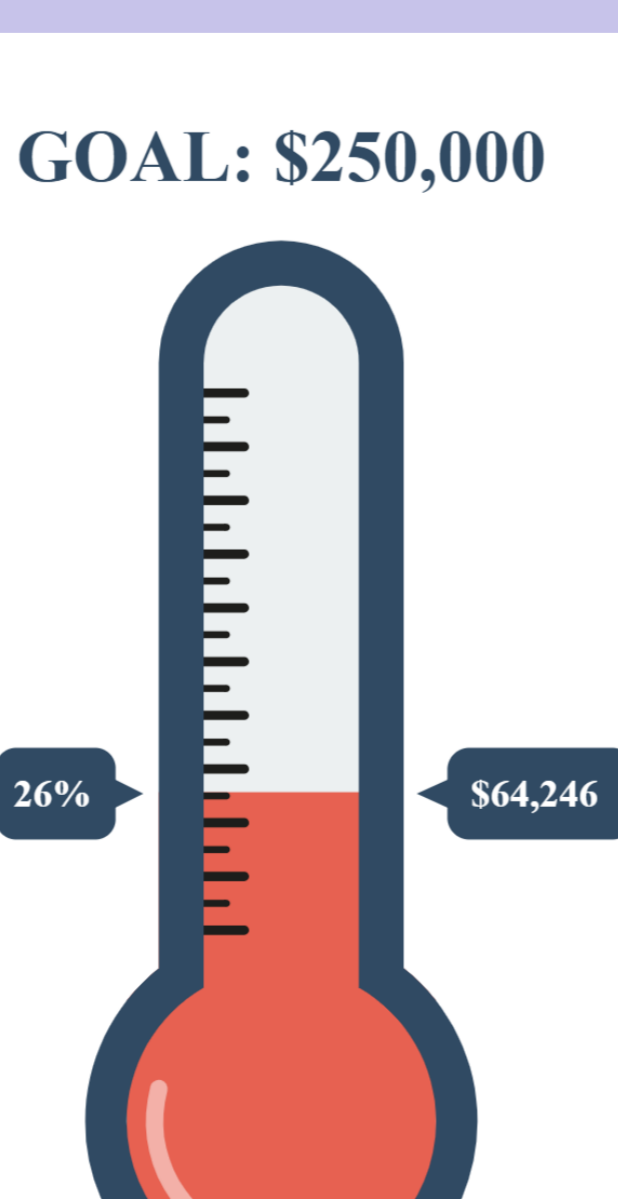
**Thursday, June 4
11:30am to 1:00pm
Charity Missionary Baptist Church**

Clergy Only

We will gather for fellowship and a text study among CAJM clergy! Lunch is provided, please register so we know what food to get.

[Please register.](#)

GOAL: \$250,000

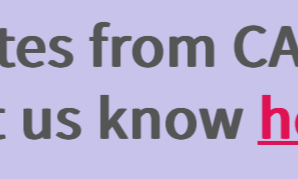


We've received a total of \$64,246 so far in 2026 toward our \$200,000 individual investment drive goal! We look forward to your continued support this year.

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

Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees?

Let us know **HERE**.



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