

On **June 17, 2015**, nine African-American parishioners were killed at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. during an evening prayer service — an attack carried out in hopes of igniting a race war. Instead, the murders inspired a new dialogue about race, and led to the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina Capitol where it had flown for more than 50 years. Other cities and states throughout the South also took steps to remove symbols of the Confederacy.

The families of those slain offered forgiveness to the murderer.

"Mother Emanuel" is one of the country's oldest black churches, long a site for civil rights activism in the community.



NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, is proud of its history of working with the African-American community to advance the civil rights movement and to promote quality education and health care for all New Yorkers.

For more on the important contributions of African-Americans, visit **www.nysut.org**.