

# The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent...

[e.onrealm.org/groups/afaf5539-c91c-4055-902e-a97b010e5663/posts/08f8edee-cf41-4a0a-846a-6ec34c78fa78](https://e.onrealm.org/groups/afaf5539-c91c-4055-902e-a97b010e5663/posts/08f8edee-cf41-4a0a-846a-6ec34c78fa78)

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As many of you likely read, the late Representative John Lewis wrote an op-ed, “Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation,” that was to be published in *The New York Times* on the day of his funeral, Thursday, July 30, 2020. In his powerful piece he notes:

*“Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.”*

As we work as a congregation to dismantle racism, we are reminded by Representative Lewis that we have the responsibility and opportunity to create a just and equitable country by voting. In light of the many obstacles this year in getting to the polls in person, we want to share alternatives with everyone and key dates to keep in mind:

- **Register to Vote:** If you haven’t already done so, you must register to vote for this year’s General Election by Tuesday, October 13.
- **Vote Absentee Without a Reason:** Anyone in Virginia can vote by mail without a reason. You must request an Absentee Ballot by Friday, October 23.
- **Vote Early Without a Reason:** Anyone can vote early in Virginia, starting 45 days before an election, without a reason. For this year’s General Election, you can vote early between September 19-October 31.

For more information, including forms to register and request an absentee ballot, please visit the [Virginia Department of Elections](#).

In addition, the City of Alexandria recently shared a “[30-Day Challenge -- Alexandria Social Justice Edition](#)” in which you can learn, listen, explore, and act to make positive change. Please consider exploring this resource further, both listening and considering additional actions this month.

-Written on behalf of the OPMH Dismantling Racism Team