



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: JANUARY 1, 2025

MISSION STATEMENT: The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

There will not be a regular CCSJ meeting in January, but please join us on January 20th!

CCSJ CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH AT 2:00 P.M.: We are hosting a Zoom celebration entitled “**Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as Remembered by Storytellers in the graphic novel, *West Virginians' Experiences in Civil Rights***” with the co-operation of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at WVU. Eve Faulkes and Mike Attfield are organizing this program that will feature interviews with Al Anderson, Joan Browning, Don Spencer, and Sierra Velez, all of whom are featured in our book. Al will also sing.

The registration link is <https://bit.ly/41JeSJM>. You must register to get the Zoom link for the program.



WEST VIRGINIANS' EXPERIENCES IN CIVIL RIGHTS: HOW WE HAVE BEEN CONNECTED ALL ALONG is now available. You can support local businesses and buy it at:

Appalachian Gallery, 270 Walnut Street, Morgantown. The phone number is 304-296-0163. The store is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Barnes & Noble, 3000 University Town Centre Dr., Morgantown. phone: 304-599-1294. The store is open Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m and from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Terra Cafe, 4325 Industrial Avenue, Star City. phone: 304-554-2233. The cafe is open Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Thursday-Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The book also is now available on Amazon as both paperback (\$15) and Kindle (\$8) versions. The easiest way to find it is to type “Eve Faulkes” in the Amazon search engine.

If you buy the book on Amazon, you may be able to leave a review. Go to Amazon.com, search for Eve Faulkes to bring up the book title. Then go to the bottom of the page where it says “Review this product” in the lower left corner. Here are the guidelines: “Only customers who have spent at least \$50 on Amazon in the last 12 months can submit ratings and reviews. [But you do not have to have purchased our book through Amazon.]

“Before posting a review, we check if it meets our Community Guidelines. That includes our rules against creating, editing, and removing reviews in exchange for compensation.

“We check if the reviewer bought or used (e.g., streamed) the item on Amazon and paid a price available to most Amazon shoppers. If we confirm both, we label the review with Verified Purchase. Reviews without this label can also be helpful. For example, a customer buys an item from a different company, but wants to share their opinion on Amazon.”



With funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council, we are able to reprint the book to offer free copies to libraries, museums, schools, and related organizations and appreciate the support of the West Virginia Association of Museums in our outreach efforts.

We are waiting for these copies to be printed, but still have room in this order so let us know if you know of organizations that might be interested.

It is important to note that *“This project [our reprint] is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, the official state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations do not necessarily represent those of the West Virginia Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.”*



Joan Browning donates copies of her book: *Deep in Our Hearts: Nine White Women in the Freedom Movement*.

We have four copies for sale at \$35 each if conveyed by hand or \$40 if mailed. If you would like one, you can reserve it by sending a note to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu. You can pay for it by sending a check to our P.O. Box at Box 160, Morgantown 26507-0160. Or you can pay using PayPal. For details on this go to our “Join Us” page at ccsjwv.org/join-us.html.

CONTACT US: Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at mdattfieldo@gmail.com. Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for

our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@gmail.com. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbarahowe3@gmail.com.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for “Community Coalition for Social Justice” under “Groups” and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group “leader.”

LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting should be Thursday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m. Contact information for the commission and information on filing complaint forms is at www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission.

You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/.

Vacancies on Human Rights Commission. There are currently four vacancies on the commission. According to the City of Morgantown’s website, “Appointments of to the Commission are made by City Council, and all must be residents of the City. All seats are non-ward specific.” Information on applying for the commission is available at morgantownwv.gov/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-Application-7/Application-to-Serve-on-City-Boards-and--45.

Here are the events for January:

January 18: World Religion Day – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 20: Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Established in 1983 and Monday observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service.

January 27: Holocaust Memorial Day - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM): Follow the League on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LWVMM and contact them by email at lwvmorgantown@gmail.com. You can join the League of Women Voters at tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm.

The Morgantown/Monongalia County League is a member organization of CCSJ.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/ or email at morgantownnow@gmail.com.

Meetings are usually the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown.



MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST. This meeting of the membership will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at 3241naacp@gmail.com for more information and to learn how to participate.

The branch has a Readings on Race and Rights group and does its work with a variety of committees, including Education, Political Action, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, and Health.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal.

We appreciate the fact that the Branch shares this Update with its membership.



MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD NEEDS TWO MEMBERS: The City of Morgantown is currently accepting applications for the two vacancies on the board, and you can get a link to the application and more information by going to morgantownwv.gov/640/Civilian-Police-Review-and-Advisory-Boar. “The Board shall consist of nine members appointed by City Council. Each member shall be a

resident of the city or an active member of an organization that works within the city to promote purposes consistent with the purpose of the Board.”

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Morgantown Public Safety Building conference room. For links to agendas and minutes of past meetings, go to www.morgantownwv.gov/AgendaCenter/Civilian-Police-Review-Advisory-Board-47.



MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN-MENNONITE: Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom with the link available at www.morgantowncob.org. Everyone is welcome.

The church has a Blessings Box outside the church at 464 Virginia Avenue, Morgantown, where you can drop off extra food you may have or take some if you need it, or swap food. Feminine hygiene products are also welcome.

Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634.

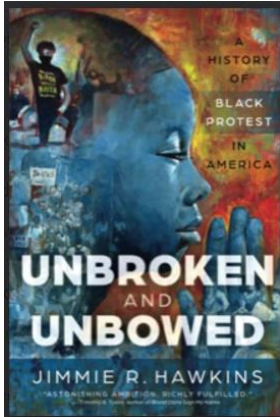
The church is a member organization of CCSJ.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION: If you are interested in this group, please contact Eve Faulkes at faulkeseve@gmail.com.



DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER MEETS MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. by zoom. “We will discuss strategies for action regarding the Monongalia County Schools data on school discipline for the 2023 - 2024 year presented at the December DRT meeting. The zoom link to join is [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85962493623)”



The community is invited to join Dismantling Racism Together and First Presbyterian Church in a community-wide read of *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America*. In this compelling and informative volume, Jimmie R. Hawkins walks the reader through the many forms of Black protest in American history, from pre-colonial times though the George Floyd protests of 2020.

Hawkins will be in Morgantown, Sunday, February 9, at 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church to discuss elements of his book with the community. Please join us by registering for the event. Each week you will receive an email with questions for reflection and a reminder for the February event. Register for the Community Read at wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rgmfVmcB8ReA3c. The book is available at First Presbyterian Church or through online vendors such as

Thrift Books, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, or Westminster John Knox Press.

Follow this group on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown.](http://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dismantling%20racism%20together%20morgantown)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MORGANTOWN: The church is located at 456 Spruce Street. Adult Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. Online worship is at 10:00 a.m., and in-person worship is at 11:00 a.m. The church’s Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/FPCMorgantown and has details about the many activities. The church is a member organization of CCSJ.

Join us and

v. Jimmie Hawki

Sunday, February 9, 2019
at First Pres on Spruce
for a lecture/discussion
on his book and activism




Jim Hawkins is not only an award-winning author/scholar, but also is an advocacy director who leads both the National Center for Public Witness and the National Center for the Ministry at the United Nations. He has chaired several interfaith and non-profit boards. His ministry includes being a leader in the National Monday Movement since its inception in 1963. He has participated in three acts of civil disobedience: the actions of the NC General Assembly to curtail voting rights, refusal to disband, HB2 and other draconian laws. He served as a member of the NC Executive Committee and has been active in social justice advocacy throughout his life. He is engaged with the Poor People's Campaign and participated in a direct action at the Supreme Court.

2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 9th

DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER

Discussing Reverend Jimmie Hawkins's book, *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America*

sponsored by Dismantling Racism Together, a community group begun by First Pres Morgan



FAIRMONT PRIDE: “Welcome to Fairmont Pride! Your friends from PFLAG Fairmont have reorganized to establish a new LGBT non-profit organization in North Central West Virginia! We’re thrilled to have you join us in creating a supportive and inclusive community for everyone. Our mission is to advocate for equal rights, provide essential resources, and foster a safe space where individuals can be their true selves. Together, we can make a positive impact and celebrate the diversity that makes our community so vibrant. Thank you for being a part of this important journey with us. Let’s work hand in hand to build a brighter, more inclusive future for all!”

“If your New Year’s resolution is to get involved, volunteer, or give back, we’ve got you covered! Wanted to come to a meeting but you were worried about being the “new” face? Don’t fret, on 1/1/25, we’re all new!

“Fairmont Pride is proud to announce our January membership drive. On 1/1, we will officially close our PFLAG Fairmont chapter and take the first step on our next journey. Your PFLAG National membership will remain valid one year from the date of submission and you are welcome to self-maintain that membership. Beginning today, we hope you’ll join Fairmont Pride as a member. As a special, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, you can also sign on as a ‘Charter Member!’ This opportunity to get in at the ground floor will never happen again!

“Check out our new webpage where you can learn more about who we are and apply for membership! www.fairmontpride.com.” The Facebook page is www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Fairmont%20PRIDE.

The first official meeting as Fairmont Pride, Inc. will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st, at the Frank & Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center on the campus of Fairmont State University.



Fairmont PRIDE
Supporting Community. Celebrating Diversity.

JANUARY 1ST - JANUARY 31ST, 2025

**FAIRMONT PRIDE
 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Fairmont Pride Mission
 To do our part to create a caring, accepting, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them in the North Central West Virginia (NCWV) area. The mission will be achieved through community outreach, supporting LGBTQ+ members and their families, hosting various Pride events, completing community projects, fostering collaboration with other NCWV non-profit organizations to support our mission, and using the organization to advocate for the NCWV LGBTQ+ community.

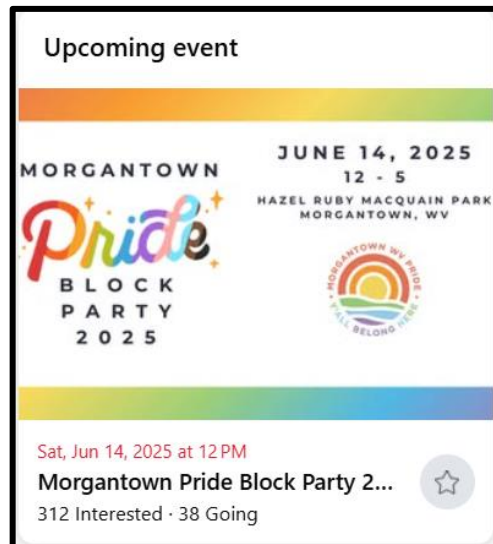
Regular membership - \$30*
 Ability to vote in chapter business
 Ability to run for office or lead a committee
 Lasts one calendar year

Charter membership - \$45*
 Ability to vote in chapter business
 Ability to run for office or lead a committee
 Lasts two calendar years
 Have your name on promotional materials
 A one-time opportunity

APPLY HERE: FAIRMONTPRIDE.COM/JOIN



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS:



Upcoming event

MORGANTOWN

JUNE 14, 2025
 12 - 5
 HAZEL RUBY MACQUAIN PARK
 MORGANTOWN, WV

Pride
 BLOCK PARTY
 2025

Sat, Jun 14, 2025 at 12 PM

Morgantown Pride Block Party 2... ☆

312 Interested · 38 Going

“Come celebrate PRIDE with us in 2025! Join us for an afternoon of entertainment, food, vendors, and community on June 14th, 2025 from 12-5. Stay tuned for updates on who'll be joining us and what surprises we're able to pull off! Registration will open March of 2025!

“As always, this event is open to the public, and we welcome all ages to participate in Morgantown's Pride!”

For information on Morgantown PRIDE, go to www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal or www.morgantownwvpride.org. This is a very active Facebook page so check it regularly for updates and more events.

Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en.

PROJECT RAINBOW: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/projectrainbowwv.



RAISING TRANS KIDS GROUP: Anyone interested in joining the meeting for the first time or to get more information can email raisingtranskids@gmail.com.

The Raising Trans Kids community group is for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender or gender diverse kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender or gender diverse.



MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (MCCAC). Follow this group at moncocac.org/news/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC.

Save the Date for upcoming events:



Girls' Night Out – May 30th. The 2025 theme is “Roaring ‘20s.” The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center. Sponsorships are now available at levels from \$250 (Jazz Age Patrons) to \$5,000 (The Gatsby Gold). You can find information about sponsorships at the MCCAC Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MONCOCAC. Contact Taylor at tshultz@moncocac.org if you are interested in sponsoring GNO 2025!



Golf Tournament – July 26th. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Mountaineer Golf Course.

SCOTTS RUN COMMUNITY SING: This group usually meets the last Monday of the month.

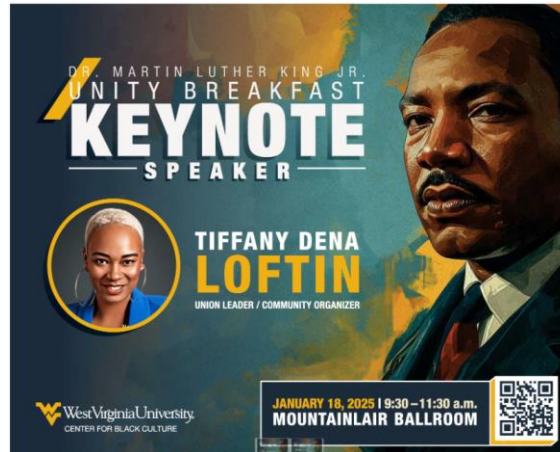


Morgantown WV Mutual Aid

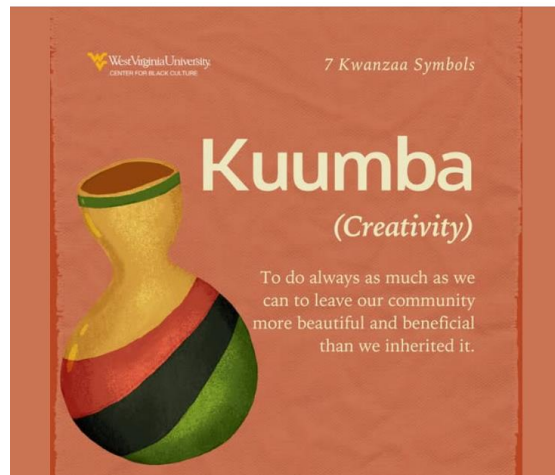
MORGANTOWN MUTUAL AID: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=morgantown%20mutual%20aid.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY BREAKFAST TICKETS AVAILABLE: The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast will be **Saturday, January 18, 2025** at 9:30 a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Please note the

change of day to Saturday, instead of Monday, January 20, in anticipation that people may have wanted to be in Washington, DC, for Inauguration Day. Union Leader and Community Organizer Tiffany Dena Loftin will be our Keynote Speaker. The Breakfast is free; however you must reserve your ticket. Tickets are available now. Please scan the QR code or use this link MLK Unity Breakfast Tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/west-virginia-university-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast-tickets-872790518937?aff=oddtcreator.



The Center for Black Culture has information on the 7 days of Kwanzaa, which started December 26th at www.facebook.com/WVUCenterforBlackCulture. January 1 is the last day of Kwanzaa:



RDVIC (RAPE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION CENTER) SEEKING ENTRIES FOR 'ZINE: Kay Powney, the prevention educator for RDVID, is taking submissions until February of poetry, artwork, questions, and prose for a 'zine entitled *A Common Guide for Ending Sexual Violence*. April is Sexual Awareness Month. Kay's email is kaylam@rdvic.org.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



WEST VIRGINIA NOW: For more information, go to www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow or email Amanda Ray, the state NOW president, at amandajray@yahoo.com.



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA: Follow Fairness West Virginia on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fairnesswv.

The latest Facebook post is “Big news! Members of the Jefferson County Commission on Thursday night, December 19, voted 3-2 in favor of repealing an anti-obscenity ordinance that was enacted last year with the hopes of banning minors from attending any drag performance.

“From the very beginning, it was clear that this ordinance had nothing to do with actually protecting children, and everything to do with making LGBTQ+ people seem like a dangerous threat to families,” said Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia. “It’s a dangerous stereotype that should be beneath our elected leaders. Drag is a beloved art form that has brought joy and laughter to millions around the world.”



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATES: Follow this group at www.acluwv.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACLUWV.



This will be Tuesday, February 4th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. “Are you looking for a way to get involved in the 2025 Legislative Session? Wondering how to navigate the session and have an impact? Join us for our Citizen Lobbyist Training to talk about effective citizen lobbying, tips and tools, and more. Register for the virtual training (held on Zoom) here: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/FbRpTK4cEWtZYXuEJAhhA2>.”



RAINBOW PRIDE OF WEST VIRGINIA EVENTS:

For more on this group’s events, go to www.facebook.com/RainbowPrideWV or rainbowpridewv.org.



WEST VIRGINIA TRANS COALITION: “The West Virginia Transgender Coalition is a grassroots organization that works to ensure the wellbeing, safety and lived equity of all trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive community members within the state of West Virginia.” For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/wvtranscoalition/.

DIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

www.diversityresources.com/january-diversity-calendar-2025/

January 13: Korean American Day – Honoring the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the U.S. in 1903, Korean American Day recognizes the contributions of Korean Americans to American society and celebrates Korean heritage and culture.

January 16: National Religious Freedom Day – This day marks the anniversary of the 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, underscoring the right to practice any faith or none at all, and the importance of religious freedom as a cornerstone of American values.

January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., this day encourages reflection on civil rights, social justice, and the ongoing fight for equality and unity in the U.S.

January 21: National Day of Racial Healing – Observed the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day, this day promotes truth-telling, racial healing, and solidarity, inviting communities to come together in acknowledgment and understanding of racial histories and disparities.

January 29: Lunar New Year – The Lunar New Year marks the beginning of the lunar calendar and is celebrated across East and Southeast Asia. Families gather for festive meals, traditions, and cultural activities, welcoming the Year of the Snake with hopes of prosperity and good fortune.

January Interfaith Calendar 2025 Highlights

January 6: Christian: Epiphany – Epiphany marks the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus, symbolizing the revelation of Christ to the world. It’s celebrated with various traditions that emphasize light, hope, and new beginnings.

January 7: Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christian: Christmas – This Christmas celebration follows the Julian calendar and honors the birth of Jesus Christ. It’s a day of reflection, worship, and community gatherings with family and friends.

January 14: Hindu: Pongal – Pongal is a multi-day Hindu festival celebrated primarily in South India, marking the end of the winter solstice and the harvest season. It’s a time of gratitude, with offerings to the Sun God and festivities centered around food, family, and tradition.

January 14: Buddhist: Mahayana New Year – Mahayana Buddhists celebrate the New Year with prayers, meditation, and acts of compassion. The day serves as an opportunity for renewal and rededication to Buddhist teachings and practices.

January 17: Sikh: Guru Gobind Singh Gurburab – This day commemorates the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, who established the Khalsa and reinforced Sikh values. Sikhs honor his legacy through prayer, gatherings, and acts of service.