Social Justice Memorial Vandalized.
We Will Not be Deterred.

Over the last few months, the people of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Fort Greene, Brooklyn have found creative and meaningful ways to express our love and unwavering commitment to social justice and to the movement to love and cherish Black lives in our society.

Children from our congregation shared messages of support and grief, celebrating and memorializing the Black people we have lost to police violence through sidewalk chalk drawings and an installation of ribbons on the church fence, each ribbon bearing the name and age of a life taken.

At a time when we must find community outside of the church walls, these creative expressions hold even greater significance. Members of the Fort Greene community added additional ribbons and flowers to the memorial, took reflective moments at the site, and shared photos of it on social media.

Last week we were alerted that someone vandalized the ribbon memorial and tore down our rainbow banner, an affirmation of LGBTQIA inclusion in our church.

While we do not know the intention of the act, we know this act tried to disparage our message of love and hope. We also know that we will not be quieted or made small. Our church is one of love and inclusion -- values that we live out that will not be reduced, torn down or taken from us.

So, it is in this moment we are going to make a louder statement: replacing the 3-feet wide Black Lives Matter and rainbow banners with flags measuring 12 x 10 feet and installed up high on flagpoles, well out of hate's reach. But we need your help.

We have raised a percentage of our goal to mount permanent flags outside of our church, and we hope you will help us raise the remaining $5,000. The installation of permanent flags boldly affirms our belief for a more just world, starting with our corner of Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

Visit our website and click the Donate button to be a part of placing these permanent signs of hope, love and inclusion in our beloved community.

We will not be made quiet. We will not shy away from our demands for inclusion, justice, and liberation for all people. Thank you for being a part of the beloved community inside and outside these church walls.