

ABSALOM JONES CONTEST & DR. GEORGE H. LOVE YOUTH AWARDS CEREMONY

**SPONSORED BY THE BISHOP BAXTER CHAPTER,
UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS**

This contest is your chance to learn about **Rev. Absalom Jones**, an inspiring leader who never gave up—even when life was very difficult. His story shows how faith, courage, and determination can help change the world.

CONTEST THEME | “Keep Going, No Matter What” — *A motto inspired by Reginald F. Lewis*

WHO WAS ABSALOM JONES?

- Born in 1746
- Enslaved during the Revolutionary War
- Bought his freedom in 1784
- Became a community leader and abolitionist
- First African American priest in the Episcopal Church

Absalom Jones faced many obstacles, but he kept going. Through **prayer, planning, preparation, and perseverance**, he made a lasting difference in Philadelphia through both church and community service.

WHY THIS THEME MATTERS

The phrase **“Keep Going, No Matter What”**—inspired by Reginald F. Lewis—reminds us that challenges don’t have to stop us. Absalom Jones lived this message by continuing forward even when the odds were against him.

YOUR CHALLENGE

Think about these questions as you work on your entry:

- What social justice issues matter to you today?
- Which ones deserve your time and attention?
- How will you keep going toward your goals?
- How does Absalom Jones’s life inspire you?

Be sure to include examples from Absalom Jones’s life that show how he kept going—even when it wasn’t easy.

You have a voice. You can make a difference. **Keep going—no matter what.**

JUDGING & AWARDS

Winners will be chosen using the contest criteria and notified in **early February 2026**.

Awards will be presented at the **Absalom Jones Day Celebration** on

Saturday, February 14, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (lunch included)

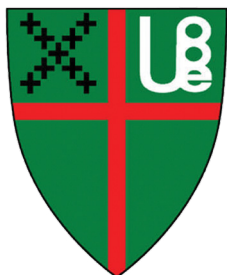
ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

248 Seneca Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Winning students will have the opportunity to **present their work in person**. All participants and their families are warmly invited to attend and celebrate together.





ABSALOM JONES CONTEST SUBMISSION FORM

The **Absalom Jones Contest & Dr. George H. Love Youth Awards Ceremony**, sponsored by the Union of Black Episcopalians, offers students an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of Rev. [Absalom Jones](#), a leader in the struggle for freedom and justice. Students are invited to explore how Jones's journey—from enslaved person to community leader and the first priest of African descent in the Episcopal Church—can inspire their own responses to human rights challenges today. It provides a platform for youth to share their insights and inspire others to “keep going” in pursuit of justice and freedom.

ENTRY GUIDELINES:

1. Grades: The contest is open to two categories:

- Grades 5-8
- Grades 9-12

2. Submission Formats: Students may submit either an

- **Essay:** 100-200 words (for grades 5-8 or 9-12)
- **OR Creative Piece:** Poem, song, dance, video, podcast, vlog, artwork (for both age groups)
- If submitting a creative piece, students should also include a paragraph explaining how their research on Absalom Jones's push for freedom and justice influenced their work.

3. Evaluation Criteria:

- **Content:** How well students connect their chosen issue with Absalom Jones's example of faith and activism.
- **Clarity:** Clear communication of ideas and message.
- **Critical Thinking:** Demonstrating deep thought on human rights and personal engagement through faith and perseverance.
- **Creativity:** Originality and quality of the creative piece.

4. Prizes: Monetary awards for winners and an invitation to present their submission at the Absalom Jones Day celebration on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

Students in **Kindergarten through 4th grade** are encouraged to submit **original artwork** or short essays that reflect the ways that they keep moving toward solving social justice issues. Selections of their work will be displayed at the awards ceremony.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Deadline: February 4, 2026

Contact: Ms. Karen Love at klove7511@gmail.com

Submission Method: Entries can be submitted through email at ubebbc@gmail.com, or handwritten and sent to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 248 Seneca St., Harrisburg, PA 17110. Students must attach a picture of original artwork to electronic and handwritten submissions.





CONTEST ENTRY FORM:

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

AGE: _____

PARENT NAME(S): _____

SCHOOL, CHURCH, OR SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE CHOSEN: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ESSAY OR CREATIVE PIECE ALONG WITH THIS FORM IF MAILING YOUR ENTRY.

