

To Whoever Vandalized the Black Lives Matter Banner

I'm writing as a member of First Parish in Bedford to whoever vandalized the Black Lives Matter banner on our church by painting over the word "Black":

What you've done symbolizes the problem that the banner addresses. It's a perfect example of what we call "erasure". Erasure is what we do (I'm speaking as a white person, and it seems likely that you are white as well) when we assume that racism is a thing of the past. The point of "Black Lives Matter" isn't that black lives matter more than those of white people; it's only that black lives matter as much as those of white people. Sadly, some people still need to be reminded of this.

And erasure is exactly what you tried to do to that sign, although you didn't succeed. The message still comes through. In fact, it's louder than ever now.

Let me leave you with this: If you're out to make the world a better place, know that you won't do it by destroying other people's messages. You'll do it by crafting your own. So, instead of defacing our banner, why not bring your message to us? Come. Talk with us. We'll listen. We know your life matters too.

Dan Breslau