



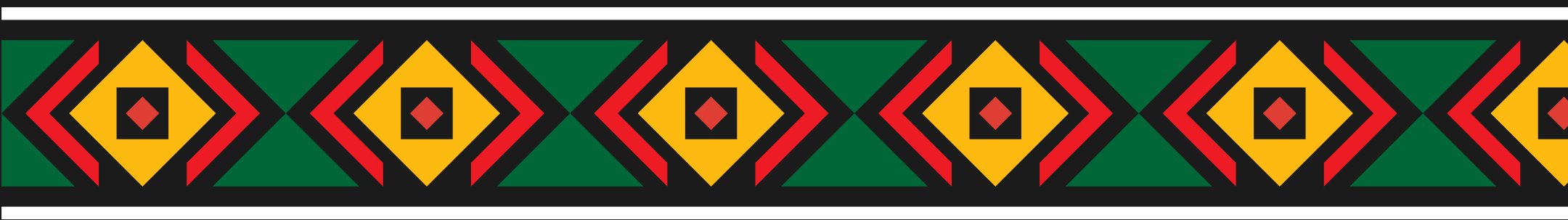
# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PERRIS

- In 1926, the First Baptist Church of Perris was officially incorporated.
- It was the first African American church in Perris
- Dora Nelson established the church



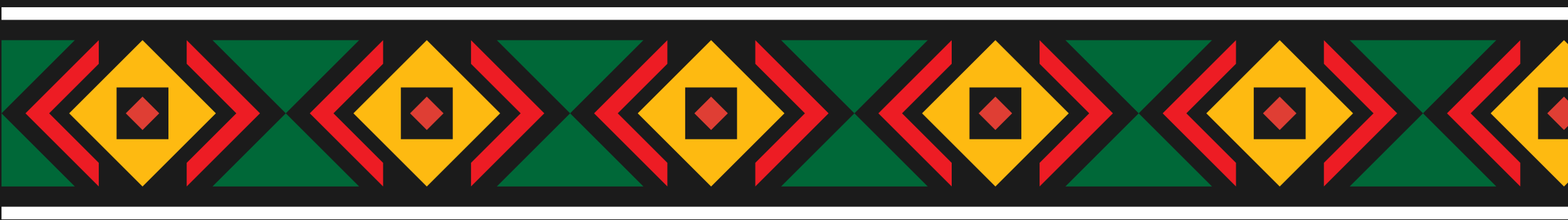


## Dora Nelson

- Born in slavery in 1852, Dora Nelson moved to Perris, CA
  - Nelson's family was one of the early Black families to settle in the area.
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# Dora's impact on the church

- Since there was no Black church for the local community, Dora began hosting prayer meetings in her home, located on F and Sixth Streets.
  - The meetings outgrew her home, people began to gather in her yard under her China Berry tree. From this location, the First Baptist Church of Perris was established.
  - As local ministers assisted with ministerial duties, credit wasn't given to Dora for establishing the church.
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# Preserving the Church's Historical Legacy

ALBERTA & CHARLES KEARNEY

MOVED TO PERRIS IN 1957



- Living near the church they didn't know it's history until the city tore down the building
- She saved the doors to the church and soon began to document Black history in Perris
- She created the Dora Nelson African American Art and History Museum in 1998 preserve our history

# Credits

The Press Enterprise--A Look Back: Dora Nelson  
The IE Voice:

Perris Visionary & Matriarch Alberta Mable Kearney Leaves a Gift, a Legacy

*A special thank you Mrs. Kearney for your dedication to honor  
Dora's legacy and the Black community in Perris!*



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