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*A partnership between St. James UMC and
Church of the Resurrection
**You must love your
neighbor as you love***

yourself. Matthew 22:39

**Spiritual Advisors
Named
to Allies for Racial
Justice**



Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell
Rev. Jacqueline
McCall

Allies for Racial Justice (ARJ) is a ministry partnership between St. James United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Established in 2016, we are dedicated to forging authentic relationships to eliminate the existing racial divide in our communities and churches as we follow Christ’s command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

To realize the full potential of our partnership and to work more collaboratively on shared concerns, Senior Pastors Emanuel Clever III and Adam Hamilton have

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appointed Pastor Jacqueline McCall from St. James and Pastor Cheryl Jefferson Bell from Resurrection to serve as Spiritual Advisors to the ARJ ministry leader team. The two advisor pastors will liaise directly with the senior pastors to help coordinate all race and racial justice matters, events and activities under the ARJ banner. They will also connect with other ministries and missions within their two churches to avoid any duplication of efforts. As Spiritual Advisors, they will encourage the members of our two congregations to become more involved in the work and activities of ARJ.

To learn more about Pastor McCall and Pastor Bell click [HERE](#)



February is Black History Month

Since 1976, every US president has declared February as Black History Month. This year's theme,

April 2020

February 2020

January 2020

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“Black Health and Wellness”, explores the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine and Black *self-determined knowing* throughout the African Diaspora. There are numerous ways for you to learn, celebrate, and honor Black history. The list below will get you started and you’ll find other opportunities and links in the “Other Information & Activities” section of this newsletter.

- Support Black-owned businesses
- Learn about noteworthy Black figures and their contributions
- Donate to charities that support anti-racism equity and equality
- Purchase, read, and share books by Black authors
- Support and learn about Black women
- Listen to or read “The 1619 Project” by the New York Times
- Participate in online events
- Attend live and virtual Black History Month celebrations

**Live Theatre
Performance
Memphis – The**

Musical Sunday, February 20 – 2:00PM



Join ARJ and see this Tony and Olivier Award-winning play! *Memphis* is a musical by David Bryan and loosely based on the story of Memphis disc jockey Dewey Phillips, one of the first white DJs to play Black music in the 1950s. The show features irresistible songs, explosive dancing, and a thrilling tale of fame and forbidden love. ARJ is pleased to offer a limited number of \$20 discounted tickets so we can attend together with small groups, family and friends.

Memphis is a co-production of the White Theatre and The Black Repertory Theatre of Kansas City. The White Theater, is located at 5801 W. 115th Street, Overland Park, KS 66211. For more

information and mask and vaccination requirement policies, go to [Memphis – The Musical](#) . To purchase your ARJ discount tickets [click here](#)

**Strength to Love –
Online Series
Thursdays, January 27
and February 3, 10, and
17
6:30-8:00PM**

This month, ARJ's popular **Strength to Love** sessions are offered on February 3, 10 and 17. Each stand-alone session explores two of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermons from his book, *Strength to Love*. This work reveals many of King's deepest insights about life, good, evil, social justice, and faith. Sign up for all three or select the ones that fit your schedule. You can click the button below to see more details about each week and to register or you can contact Debra Jarvis directly at djjarvey60@gmail.com.

If you are buying your book online, consider purchasing it from <https://www.blissbooksandwine.com/>, a local black-owned bookstore. It is also available through Resurrection's The Well Book

Store (<https://thewell.cor.org/>) or through Amazon.

Click [HERE](#) to see more details and to register

Getting to Know Our Partner Churches Better

Forging authentic relationships to eliminate the existing racial divide in our communities and churches.

Join a Crosstown Group

St. James and Church of the Resurrection offer many excellent online and in-person small groups that we can all join and appreciate. It's one of the best ways to meet and get to know one another. Here are a few to check out and join!

Chew the Word – Join St. James Pastor Jacqueline McCall, starting Feb 15th, on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and learn how to purposefully dive into the scriptures so you can clearly hear God's

direction in how you *eat* and are *fed* through the Word. This hybrid small group meets at the South Campus (9420 James A. Reed Rd, KCMO 64138) and online. Click [HERE](#) to register

Mid-Day Bible Study –

Join St. James every Wednesday from 11:30am-12:30pm to grow and get strengthened in the Spirit. Learning more about the Bible and literature brings insight to what is going on in the world today. All are welcome. Zoom Meeting ID 894-1440 7088 Pass code: 173449 or Phone: 312-626-6799

Speak Fire – Poet-Artist Randy McCall leads this 6-week *sacred poetry writing* small group. The group meets at the St. James South Campus at 6:30 pm starting Feb. 17. Click [HERE](#) to register

Tuesday Night Vespers – Join Resurrection Senior Pastor Adam Hamilton on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm on [Facebook Live](#) for discussions on a variety of faith-driven topics.

Maverick Circle – The women of Resurrection's **Maverick Circle** invite you to attend the February 14 meeting at 10:00AM when speaker Sheri Shiedler shares her life in prison, how she transitioned to life outside prison and show she is making it in the

world now. Guests **REGISTER** to Zoom.

For other COR UMW groups and activities go to <https://www.cor.org/umw>.

Five Love Languages Study – In a time when many of us feel increasingly isolated and lonely, building strong connections with the people we love is important. Discover simple ways to strengthen relationships. Class will be held in person only at the Resurrection Leawood campus on Wednesday, February 16 from 6:30-7:45PM. Click **HERE** to register

Worship Together

Both St. James and Resurrection have returned to modified in-person worship and gatherings while retaining the options for virtual connections. Consult websites and sign up for weekly pastor messages to better connect within our two congregations.

St. James UMC

Sign up for Pastor Cleaver's Newsletter

Register **HERE** for In-Person Worship!

Church of the Resurrection

Sign up for Pastor Adam's Newsletter

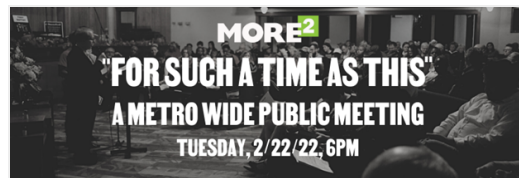
Other Information & Activities

14th Annual UMKC Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series
Tuesday, February 15
6:30PM Virtual Event



The UMKC Martin Luther King Lecture Series honors contributions to furthering civil rights. It brings national thought leaders to campus to provide insight and advocacy to current civil rights issues of education, economic and justice system inequalities and increase awareness through free thought, action and scholarship. This year's honored featured speaker is PBS White House correspondent, Yamiche Alcindor, a go-to voice in analyzing the critical political and social issues of our time, for both sides of the aisle. Kansas City Star breaking news and accountability

reporter, Glenn E. Rice will host. For more information go to the UMKC Division of Diversity & Inclusion website ([Events & Programs – Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series \(umkc.edu\)](#)) The virtual online discussion is free but registration is required. [Register for the Lecture Here!](#)



You are invited to join faith and community leaders, elected officials, and 1,000 concerned metro area voters at this important meeting to lift up the pressing issues of racial and economic justice. Register to attend in person at St. James UMC church, 5540 Wayne Avenue, KCMO 64110 or remotely by Zoom at www.more2.org

**Read How Methodist
Slave and Poet
Phillis Wheatley Beat
All Expectations**



This Smithsonian article by Kovie Biakolo tells the story of the Revolution-era Boston establishment who couldn't believe that a young African American woman wrote such an exquisite book of poetry. Click [HERE](#) for the article.

National Museum of African American History & Culture Presents

A Virtual Conversation Featuring Kinshasha Holman Conwill and Paul Gardullo

**Wednesday, February 09 6:00-
7:00PM Central**

Make Good the Promises shows how Black Lives Matter, #SayHerName, antiracism, and other current movements for change find inspiration from the lessons of Reconstruction. Powerful and eye-opening, it is a reminder that history is far

from past; it lives within each of us and shapes our world and who we are. Free virtual event, however registration is recommended.

[View event details](#)

Black Health and Wellness

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) promotes, researches, preserves, interprets and disseminates information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. Each year the organization selects the theme for Black History Month. This year's theme is *Black Health and Wellness*.

To learn more about ASALH and their month-long festival of virtual events, go to

<https://asalh.org/festival/> For a copy of their executive summary of this year's theme [Click here to download a printable pdf](#) For additional information go to [Books, Websites, and other Historical Materials and Guides on Black Health and Wellness](#)

The Zinn Education

Project – Teaching People’s History

The Zinn Education Project promotes and supports the teaching of people’s history in middle and high school classrooms across the country. Based on the lens of history highlighted in Howard Zinn’s best-selling book *A People’s History of the United States*, the website offers free, downloadable lessons and articles organized by theme, time period, and reading level. The Zinn Education Project is coordinated by two non-profit organizations, rethinking schools and Teaching Change. For more information

<https://www.zinnedproject.org>

Celebrate African American Film Industry Contributions AARP’s Soul Cinema 2022 – Free Movie Screenings.

Soul Cinema is a free film series that celebrates the contributions of African Americans to the film industry. Each weekend in February, AARP members and their guests may screen a pre-selected film. You must register for

each film you choose to watch separately in order to receive a confirmation number. Available nationwide. For more information, [click here](#)

PBS Salutes Black History Month

PBS television presents an excellent lineup of specials this month including: *American Masters – Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands* on Feb. 8 and *America Reframed: Fanny Lou Hamer's America* on Feb. 22. Frontline and Retro Report, with support from Chasing the Dream, premieres the feature-length documentary *American Reckoning* on Feb. 15. On Feb. 17 reporter Catherine Hoffman hosts *Preserving Our Past: Kansas City Stories of Black History* bringing five underrepresented stories of Black excellence, oppression and history to light. *Flatland* also returns Feb. 17 with host D. Rashaan Gilmore and a panel of experts focusing on police staffing as the city prepares for budget negotiations. In addition to re-airing Ken Burn's new epic *Muhammad Ali* on Friday nights at 8pm throughout the month, PBS will feature encore presentations of *Unforgivable*

Blackness, the story of prize fighter Jack Johnson, and Burn's two-part *Jackie Robinson* special. Check local listings for dates and times.

Special February Programming National Museum of African American History and Culture

Throughout the month of February, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture is offering virtual events and conversations that affirm and preserve the accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. The museum's social media channels will feature Black health and wellness stories, including that of James McCune, the first African American to hold a medical degree. Other stories include Henrietta Lacks, a Black woman who was diagnosed and treated for cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1951 and whose cells were taken for a sample without her permission. You'll also find features on historically Black colleges and universities and a new blog featuring practicing doulas and several objects from the midwives' section of the current exhibition, "Making a Way Out of

No Way.” Details can be found at NMAAHC’s [Searchable Museum](#) and on the museum website at [National Museum of African American History and Culture \(NMAAHC\)](#)

Read, View and Learn



Visit the Allies for Racial Justice website for great video and book suggestions that can help us better understand our differences, appreciate our similarities and establish Christ-centered solutions to end racial and social injustices. Terrific selections for ARJ Small Groups!

Click [HERE](#) for all our recommended reading and video resources.

For more information on Allies for Racial Justice, visit our website:

<https://alliesforracialjustice.org>
or join the conversation on