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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



**“Lent is a time for reconsidering our feelings,
For letting our eyes be opened to injustice,
To open our hearts to those suffering.”**
Pope Francis

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Truman’s Civil Rights “Aha!” Moment

Awareness to Action Workshop



**April 22, 2023 – 9 AM - Noon
Resurrection Foundry – Building B
13720 Roe Avenue, Leawood, KS 66224**

Have you ever had an “Aha!” moment where something happened that forever changed how you saw the world and your role in it? Join us for ARJ’s first large event of 2023 and learn about hometown President, Harry Truman’s big Aha moment that moved him from his segregated upbringing to desegregating the military and federal agencies, and the ripple effect that followed.

In addition to learning this important history, our half-day workshop will help us discover the personal power we each possess and how it can be used for the betterment of all. Senior Pastors Adam Hamilton, Resurrection, and Emanuel Clever III, St. James, will participate. The workshop is free and open to all. There will be a light breakfast served and workshop materials provided, so please register for our planning purposes.

[Register Here](#)

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

Sunday, March 19, 2023 – 2 PM



A Raisin in the Sun was the first play written by a Black woman to be produced on Broadway. The play, by Lorraine Hansberry, tells the story of a South Chicago Black family's experiences as they attempt to improve their financial circumstances with an insurance payout following the death of their father. This heartfelt play deals with continued relevant issues such as housing discrimination, assimilation, generational divides, and racism. **The ARJ block of discount tickets for the Sunday, March 19 matinee performance has sold out.** You can still join us by purchasing regular priced tickets at the Kansas City Black Repertory Theatre [HERE](#) or the White Theatre at The J Box Office at 913-327-8054 or boxoffice@thejkc.org.

**ARJ PACKS THE COTIERIE FOR
“ONE DAY A YEAR”**



More than 70 ARJ discount-ticket holders came together for the Saturday, February 18 performance of the play, “One Day A Year”, at the Coterie Theatre. Inspired by Kansas City history, the play intertwines present day issues with the last segregated days of KC Fairyland Park. If you missed it, the play is suitable for families, ages 9+ and continues through March 5.

Go to: <https://thecoterie.org/individual-tickets>

ARJ TEEN POET LAUREATE 2023 UPDATE



Last month we announced the upcoming poetry competition for High School teens who attend St. James or Resurrection United Methodist churches, either in person or online. The competition will now officially open on **March 17 and entries will be accepted until April 21**. Original 21+ line poems can be created on topics around either Juneteenth or Racial Justice. One Teen Poet Laureate will be selected from each church and will receive \$500 for their creative endeavor. Winners will be announced and will present their poem at the ARJ Juneteenth Celebration on June 24. The website containing full details and entry forms is still under development and will go live on March 17. Watch for an email blast containing the link. Alert your teens to this opportunity now!

THE MANY COLORS OF GOD'S LOVE

Insights to Multiracial Foster Care & Adoption

Tuesday, April 11, 6 - 8 PM Virtual Class



Plan to join us next month for this thoughtful discussion as we explore the ins and outs of multiracial foster care and adoption. How does it work and how does it impact children, teenagers, families and communities? Participants are encouraged to watch the movie “The Color of Love”, available on

youtube.com and other streaming services prior to the class, as it will be part of the conversation. ARJ's Patricia Ross will lead a panel that includes middle school counselor Lynette Walker; foster and adoptive parent Dr. Traci Marshall; and businessman, volunteer and foster advocate David Rock. Register now to participate using [THIS LINK](#). A link to join the Zoom event will be sent to you prior to April 11.

SHARE STRENGTH TO LOVE Coming in April

ARJ is working with the adult education teams at St. James and Resurrection to create an in-person 4-week "Strength to Love" class this Spring. Two sessions will be held at St. James and two at Resurrection. This is an opportunity to get to know folks from both congregations while you share and discuss the inspiring sermons of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. **Save the dates - Wednesday, April 19, 26, May 3 and 10 at 6:30 PM.** Watch for registration details coming soon.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTNER CHURCHES BETTER

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

New studies are forming at both church locations. Sign up now and enjoy making new connections while diving deeper into our shared faith.

Resurrection [COR.org/next](https://cor.org/next)

St. James Church <https://sjumckc.org>

Sign up for the weekly Senior Pastor messages for updates and to better connect within our two congregations.

St. James Church [Sign up for Pastor Cleaver's Newsletter](#)

Resurrection [Sign up for Pastor Adam's Newsletter](#)

OTHER INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

THE HISTORYMAKERS.

The HistoryMakers is now the single largest collection of African American first-person video oral history testimony in the world. The HistoryMakers is a national 501C (3) non-profit research and educational institution committed to preserving and making widely accessible the untold personal stories of both well-known and unsung African Americans. Through the media and a series of user-friendly products, services and events, The HistoryMakers enlightens, entertains and educates the public, helping to refashion a more inclusive record of American history. Learn more [HERE](#) and watch the recent 60 Minutes interview with founder Julieanna Richardson [HERE](#).

“CANCELED, CENSORED, BANNED”



**March 21 – National WWI Memorial & Museum
Reception 5:30 PM, Program 6 PM (also virtual)**

From city and state legislative efforts to control content in public libraries to local universities blocking conservative speakers on campus, “Canceled,

Censored, Banned” picks apart our growing reluctance to tolerate divergent viewpoints and to silence voices we disagree with. Kansas City PBS, American Public Square and the National World War I Memorial and Museum partner to offer this citizen engagement event featuring a wide-ranging panel of politicians, educators and thought leaders.

For More Info & To Register Click Here



INDEPENDENT LENS “Coded Bias”

Premieres: Monday, March 22, 9 PM CDT

When MIT researcher Joy Buolamwini discovers that the majority of facial-recognition software does not accurately identify darker-skinned faces, she embarks on an investigation that uncovers widespread bias lurking in the algorithms that shapes the technology powering our lives. View the show page [HERE](#).

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE “The Blinding of Isaac Woodard”

Premieres: Tuesday, March 30, 8 PM CDT

Discover the 1946 incident of racial violence by police that led to the racial awakening of President Harry Truman and set the stage for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education decision, jumpstarting the civil rights movement. View the show page [HERE](#).



TAKE ACTION

Tell U.S. Congress to Support Meaningful Police Reform Now

What the world saw happen to Tyre Nichols was a travesty. Tyre's memory will forever be a reminder that our policing system must be transformed without delay.

It is no secret that our justice system is in need of deep repair. For far too long it has functioned outside of the biblical mandate of doing justice and seeking mercy. Time and time again we have witnessed innocent Black people murdered—Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Michael Brown, Walter Scott, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Atatiana Jefferson and Botham Jean, just to name a few—at the hands of police.

As United Methodists, our Social Principles, state that when it comes to criminal justice, “we reject all careless, callous, or discriminatory enforcement of law.” Furthermore, “we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole.” (Social Principles ¶164.H)

Congress has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of everyone. The 118th Congress must reintroduce and pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to bring about accountability to law enforcement officers and justice for victims.

As United Methodists we support policies that keep our communities safe and reflect our understanding of true justice for all. Today, we call on Congress to support the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act - meaningful police reform that will hold officers accountable to the communities they serve.

Tyre Nichols along with countless others should be alive today. Let us be empowered by the Holy Spirit to take action and bring about the necessary change for a better criminal justice system, better humanity and a better world.

Contact your members of Congress. [View](#) here for sample letter and further information to support meaningful Police Reform legislation.

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 Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlliesForRacialJustice>

Allies for Racial Justice Team

13720 Roe Ave, Leawood, KS 66224

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