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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

NEW ARJ LAY LEADERS ANNOUNCED



Olivia Dorsey, St. James Church, and Mark Mears, Resurrection West, have accepted the Lay Leader roles for Allies for Racial Justice effective in 2024. Both have served on the ARJ Leader Team and actively participated in the ministry’s long-term strategy planning sessions held in 2023. The co-leaders work closely with the ARJ Spiritual Advisors, Pastors Cheryl Bell and Jacqueline McCall to plan, develop and align church-wide activities related to racial issues.

When asked about their ARJ plans for the coming year, Olivia noted: "I was delighted to be invited to join the Allies for Racial Justice leadership team last year. Now, I am humbled and honored to be selected to co-lead the ARJ team, as the St. James Church representative. I look forward to working with the volunteers and church staff as we implement meaningful ARJ programs that connect and unite us." Mark echoed her sentiments and added: "My purpose in becoming a leader within ARJ is to love others in the way that Christ loves me; modeling his requirements to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

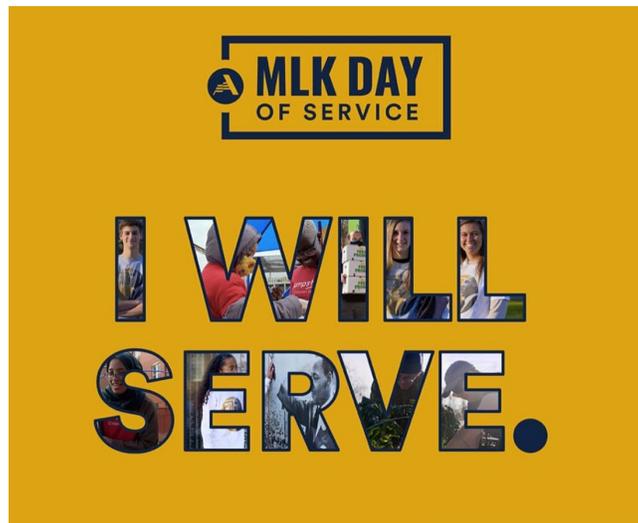
To learn more about our new ARJ Lay Leaders, [click here.](#)

ABUNDANT GRATITUDE FOR ABUNDANT SERVICE ARJ SALUTES ANITA MALTBIA



ARJ is blessed to have enjoyed the leadership of Anita Maltbia over the past 3 years. As the Lay Leader representing St. James, she has shouldered quite a load to help bring ARJ's many programs and activities to fruition. During her time of service, ARJ introduced numerous joint educational and connecting events, including the annual Juneteenth Celebration and the Strength to Love group study series. In partnership with Resurrection's Lay Leader Emeritus Betsy Triplet, ARJ also hosted an Awareness to Action Workshop in association with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum. This past year, Anita helped drive a major organization review and strategic planning initiative which will allow ARJ to grow and prosper as we move forward to connect, unite, and act on matters of racial justice. While Anita is retiring from her ARJ role, she will remain an active participant in ARJ activities. To learn more about Anita, [click here.](#)

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday marking the birthday of the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement. ARJ encourages you to engage in serve opportunities offered throughout the community.

St. James Church is hosting a volunteer "Get Our House in Order" event from 9AM to 1PM on Monday, January 15. Come meet new folks and help

declutter, clean and organize the building facilities. Contact Nyrobi Collins at 816-802-8241 for details or just show up and help. St. James is also doing a “Sock Collection Drive” on January 15. Bring socks of various sizes and thickness for distribution to unsheltered individuals in need.

Resurrection wants to help you work alongside numerous area service agencies on January 13 and 15 where your volunteer services are welcome and needed. Learn more and [sign up here](#).

DON'T MISS NORTH – THE MUSICAL

**Saturday, January 27 at 2 PM at Yardley Hall,
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, Kansas 66210**



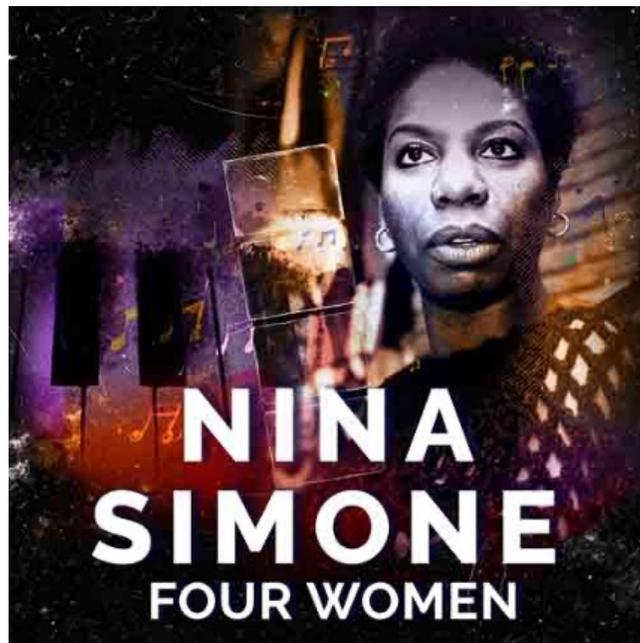
ARJ continues to bring you informative and entertaining educational opportunities in 2024 to better understand the Black experience. This month, we invite you to join us to see **North – The Musical**. It is Ashli St. Armant’s powerful musical about a teenage boy and his mother who escape slavery in the Deep South through the Underground Railroad.

The moving story explores the multi-faceted reality of Black life during the antebellum period, and brings out the full range of experiences of freedom

seekers. While acknowledging the realities of slavery, the narrative and original musical compositions explore themes of optimism, bravery, playfulness, wonder, suspense and mystery. The musical is intended for intergenerational audiences, ages 10 and up.

At press time, there were still a few **ARJ \$20 discount tickets available for the January 27 performance**. Purchase yours now by [clicking here.](#) If they're all gone when you go to purchase, you can secure regular price tickets from the box office: [Online HERE](#), in person, or by phone [913-469-4445](#).

COMING IN FEBRUARY ANOTHER LIVE THEATRE OPPORTUNITY



Sunday, February 18 at 2:00PM
Presented by KCRep at the Copaken Stage
13TH & Walnut Streets inside the H&R Block Bldg.

Described as “riveting, relevant and oh so real” (Broadway World), this deeply personal play imagines how the iconic songstress gave voice to countless Black women fighting to overcome stereotypes and racism. The bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL on September 16, 1963 led

Nina Simone to shift her career from artist to artist-activist. The play uses the framework of one of her most blistering songs, “Four Women”, to look at an artist and the women around her as their journey leads them down a path of discovery and healing.

ARJ has a limited block of \$30 discount tickets for the February 18 matinee performance. Purchase your tickets now by [clicking here](#).

GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARTNER CHURCHES BETTER

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

St. James Church and Resurrection are rolling out 2024 programs that you'll want to be part of. Get these on your calendar now!

Resurrection Conferences

A February of inspiration and growth awaits you! Don't miss these amazing conferences designed to help you grow in faith, be inspired, and connect with others.

Women's – Feb 2 & 3 / Resurrection Leawood

- The 2024 Beloved Resurrection Women's Conference with keynote speakers Melissa Urban and Jami Nato, plus breakout sessions on timely, meaningful topics

Men's - Feb 24 / Arrowhead Stadium

- The Men's Conference with Emmy award-winning broadcaster and author, Joel Goldberg and Senior Pastor, Adam Hamilton. Plus, an exclusive opportunity to tour Arrowhead Stadium.

[Women's Conference →](#)

[Men's Conference →](#)

St. James Church Next Movement

St. James is driving forward in 2024 with their Next Movement campaign. Church members and all other interested persons are encouraged to get involved in areas where their God-given talents can be put to use to create connections and positive changes in the church and community.

THE NEXT MOVEMENT
STUDY FELLOWSHIP PRAY COMMUNITY

The Church is called to study the Apostle's teachings, fellowship and break bread together, pray together, and share in community.



GENERATION 2 GENERATION (LUKE 1:39-40)
Are you a middle or high school student (or recent graduate) or an adult 65+ interested in intergenerational exchanges?
Team Leader: Tracy Milsap, tmilsap@sjumckc.org



PRAYER WATCHERS (NEHEMIAH 4:9)
Is God calling you to pray for the disciples of this new movement and the work that they are tasked to complete?
Team Leader: Pastor Elmer Cunningham, ecunningham@sjumckc.org



TEAM FELLOWSHIP (1 JOHN 1:7)
Is God calling you to help plan fellowship opportunities for the followers of Jesus?
Team Leader: Dr. Yvette Richards, yrichards@sjumckc.org



DISCIPLES FOR CHANGE (MICAHAH 6:8)
Discern the greatest needs in the Greater Kansas City area. With the power of the Holy Spirit and community partnerships, which needs can we eliminate in the next five years?
Team Leader: Pastor Jackie McCall, jmccall@sjumckc.org



THE YOUNG ADULT CONNECTION (DEUTERONOMY 34:9)
Are you aged 18-35 and interested in visioning what the "new church" should look like?
Team Leader: Min. Kyren Martin, kmartin@sjumckc.org

Stay Connected

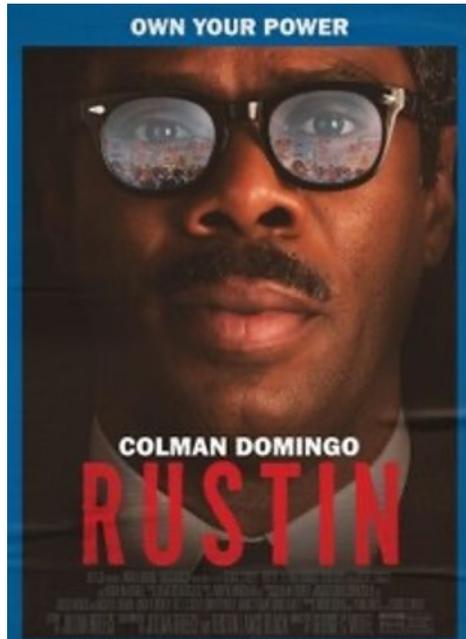
Visit our church's web pages and sign up for pastor newsletters.

Resurrection resurrection.church/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



Barack and Michell Obama founded a film company, Higher Ground, in 2018. Its purpose: to elevate new, diverse voices in the entertainment industry and inspire, inform, and entertain the masses with powerful stories. One such movie is **Rustin**, the story of Bayard Rustin, an advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr., who dedicated his life to racial equality, human rights and worldwide democracy. Facing incredible odds, he managed to organize the March on Washington in 1963. However, as an openly gay man, he was erased from the Civil Rights Movement he helped build. The movie raises issues about all the ‘isms’ that still challenge us today, but in a way that is uplifting and hopeful that “all things are possible.” The movie is now showing on Netflix, at <https://www.netflix.com/title/81111528>. You can check out the Higher Ground website for more truly amazing movies and documentaries at: <https://highergroundmedia.com/>.

Störling Dance Theater Presents



February 1-2, 2024 Muriel Kauffman Theatre

Celebrate Black History Month with one of the best storytelling productions to ever hit Kansas City. The incredible cast of Störling Dance Theater takes the stage for its 17th annual performances of Underground. And this year, a special guest appearance by Grammy Award-winning gospel singer, Israel Houghton!

The story of the Underground Railroad is performed to original music, features beautiful costumes and has a pace that keeps you on the edge of your seat. Underground will capture your heart and revive your spirit. Even if you've seen it before, you'll want to see it again! For information and tickets visit [Events & Tickets — Störling Dance Theater \(storlingdance.org\)](https://storlingdance.org).

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://resurrection.church/arj>

or join the conversation on Facebook:

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

Allies for Racial Justice Team
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