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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



WE TOO SING AMERICA
THE CHRISTIAN'S ROLE IN KNOWING
BLACK HISTORY

Virtual Series 7- 8:30 PM Central Thursdays: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

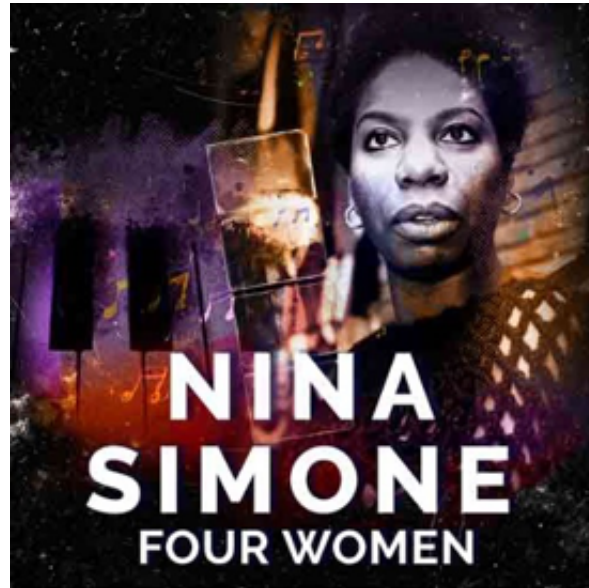
Allies for Racial Justice and Resurrection Adult Discipleship announce a 5-week exploration of the Black experience in America through a Christian lens. Learn why Black history cannot be excluded from American history. Discern what you can do to demonstrate Christian love and compassion to an entire group whose story is being marginalized.

Resurrection Leawood Location Pastor Robert Johnson will interview guest scholar and educator Dr. Shana Mashego as they introduce you to key Black individuals, well known and unknown, in the story of Black history. You'll hear about the most significant historical moments that shaped the Black experience. We'll explore the history and legacy of Black music, and look into the roles Kansas and Missouri have played in shaping the Black story.

This series is the ideal "next step" for those who participated in our Strength to Love program and for anyone who seeks a greater understanding of the real history and lives of our Black brothers and sisters. Through heartfelt discourse we will come to understand and value the experiences of all God's people. Our hope is that this class will engage more people in the work of listening, valuing, protecting, and advocating for the stories of others and of all Americans. That we will engage in this work as a direct expression of Christian life and ministry.

The series is free and will be available on Facebook Live. [Follow Pastor Robert's Facebook page for updates.](#) For specific class details [click here.](#)

ANOTHER ARJ LIVE THEATRE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY Sunday, February 18 2 PM



**Presented by KCREP at the Copaken Stage
13TH & Walnut Streets inside the
H&R Block Bldg.**

Live theatre offers entertainment and learning opportunity. This play has been described as “riveting, relevant and oh so real” (Broadway World). It is deeply personal as it 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 18th matinee performance. Purchase your tickets now by [clicking here](#). If our block is sold out, you can still purchase full price tickets at <https://kcrep.org/>.



All St. James Church and Resurrection congregants automatically belong to Allies for Racial Justice. You don't become a "member", per se, but you can become more involved as a volunteer. ARJ is a joint church ministry aligned to the second great commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. We work to bring people together to Connect, Unite, and Act on matters that result in racial understanding and justice.

Throughout the year, ARJ sponsors and promotes numerous programs, such as those featured in this newsletter. Perhaps you've attended some of them. Our programs are designed to raise awareness, educate, collaborate, build relationships, and get folks involved in building God's Kingdom here on earth. The more volunteers, the more we can do! That's why we need YOU!

Please bring your God-given talents to the ARJ table. All ages and skill sets are welcome. You can spend just a little time on one activity ...or a lot of time involved in many; it's whatever your interests and schedule allow. We currently have openings on our Leader Team and our Planning Teams. So please raise your hand and join us in this important work.

For more information, email allies4racialjustice@gmail.com and include **"ARJ Volunteer Information Requested"** in the Subject line.

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 (MICAH 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

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month, celebrated annually in the United States, is a time to recognize and honor the achievements, contributions, history and struggles of African Americans. It is a month dedicated to acknowledging the significant impact that Black individuals and communities have had and continue to have on our nation's history, culture, and progress. Below are just some of the ways you can participate. **Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)**

A VIRTUAL FESTIVAL



This month, ASALH puts a national spotlight on the richness of the past, present and future with innovative virtual programming that celebrates the 2024 Black History theme: **African Americans and the Arts**. African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences.

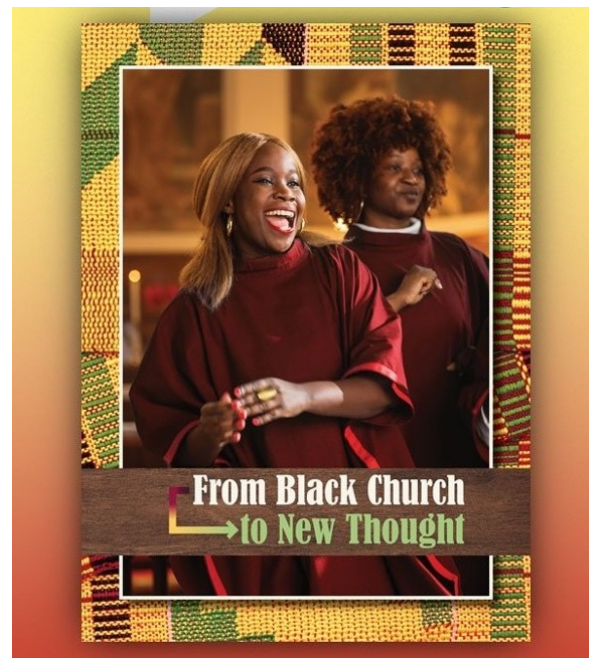
In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore,

language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

In 2024, ASALH examines the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans. [Learn more here.](#)

BLACK CHURCH – A CELEBRATION

Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:30-8:30 PM
Unity Southeast 3421 East Meyer Boulevard KCMO



No experience in America quite matches the traditional Black church on a Sunday morning with its roof-raising music, sermon exhortations, dancing, and sometimes fainting. Many Black ministers and church members who are now part of the New Thought spiritual movement grew up in these conservative Christian churches. They remember them fondly and still

miss elements of the church services, especially the music. Experience what they have found in New Thought that serves them now. On this special evening we remember the Black church and tell why and how we came to New Thought. You'll discover we have not abandoned our roots. Instead, we've learned the two can be integrated through music, teaching, and prayer in creative ways that speak to nearly everyone. Speakers include Rev. Randy Fikki and Rev. Wentworth Jenkins; Vocalists are Angela Carole Brown, Bukeka Blakemore, Willis White and more. All are welcome.



Get ready to step back in time with 'Hi-Hat Hattie,' a delightful theatrical production that celebrates the life and legacy of the iconic entertainer Hattie McDaniel. Join the journey through the vibrant and glamorous world of this trailblazing actress, singer, and Hollywood's first African-American Academy Award winner. Through captivating storytelling and unforgettable music, 'Hi-Hat Hattie' takes you on a rollercoaster ride through the highs and lows of Hattie's extraordinary career. With her indomitable spirit and undeniable talent, Hattie McDaniel's story is a testament to resilience, talent, and the enduring pursuit of dreams. Don't miss this entertaining and inspiring tribute to a true entertainment industry pioneer. Tickets available now [HERE](#).



ALLYSHIP IN KANSAS CITY

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

9-10:30 AM

KC Chamber Board Room Located inside Union Station

Kansas City

30 West Pershing Rd. Kansas City, MO 64108

The KC Chamber Allyship Series returns, kicking off the first workshop in tribute to Black History Month. Topics will relate to the perspectives of the Black community in KC and feature the Chamber's signature fusion of DEIB and Design Thinking. Participants will hear about and actively explore how to be better allies with Black colleagues in the workplace, and ways to support and help grow Black-led business in our community.

The Allyship in KC Series is presented in partnership with Ally Lab. Parking validation for the Union Station West Yards Garage given at check-in. Sign up today.

[Register Here](#)

BUY BLACK EXPO & 'THE BIG PAYBACK' SCREENING

Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 AM - 4 PM

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center

3700 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

KCMO 64130

The 2024 Buy Black Expo will feature a screening of the documentary, “The Big Payback”. The documentary chronicles the journey and work of Robin Rue Simmons that resulted in establishing Evanston, IL as the 1st US city to adopt and distribute tax-funded reparations for Black Americans. It will educate you on the grit it takes to persevere despite the naysayers, and inspire you to engage in the payback movement brewing in Kansas City! This event is sponsored by the Buy Black Empowerment Initiative, National Black United Front Kansas City Chapter, KC Reparations Coalition, and Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center. Event includes **vendors market, food court, voter registration, community resources and live entertainment, plus a Q&A session with Ms. Simmons.** Admission is free, but please [register here](#).

**Unified Government
Black History Committee**
Presents
**32ND ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY &
SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION**

Join us for Brunch to Explore African Americans and the Arts

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024
11 AM - Social Hour
12 PM - Event Program

Memorial Hall | KCK
(600 N. 7th Street)
\$110.00 Per Ticket

 Ticket Info: www.wycokck.org/BHC

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Natasha Hampton

Donations & Proceeds go towards scholarships for Wyandotte County Students

**PBS PRESENTS A CURATED
COLLECTION OF FILMS, SERIES, AND
DIGITAL CONTENT TO CELEBRATE**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024



PBS celebrates Black History Month with an expanded new slate of programming, specials, and digital content, shining a spotlight on the diversity of people, stories, and experiences in the Black community. Premieres include Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s GOSPEL and a new season of FINDING YOUR ROOTS. Delve into a wide variety of Black History, music, culture and experiences. Check local listings for program schedules.



VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation at Jesuit Universities Adam Rothman, Ph.D.



Thursday, February 29 7:30PM
Arrupe Hall Auditorium Pedro Arrupe, S.J., Hall,
Rockhurst University 5351 Forest Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64110

How are American Jesuit colleges and universities addressing their deep shared historical ties to slavery? Join professor Adam Rothman, the Director of Georgetown University's Center for the Study of Slavery and Its Legacies, as he traces the Jesuit's involvement in slavery in early America and the current efforts to reckon with that history at Georgetown and other Jesuit schools.

This event is co-sponsored by the Georgetown Club of Kansas City and Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network-Kansas City. Copies of Rothman's book, "Facing Georgetown's History: A Reader on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation" will be available for sale at the reception following the talk. Please [register here](#) to reserve a seat in the auditorium.

ADDITIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES

The United Methodist Church offers a list of 29 ways to celebrate Black History Month at [this link](#).

For more Kansas City Metro Area opportunities, [click here](#).

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

13720 Roe Ave, Leawood, KS 66224

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