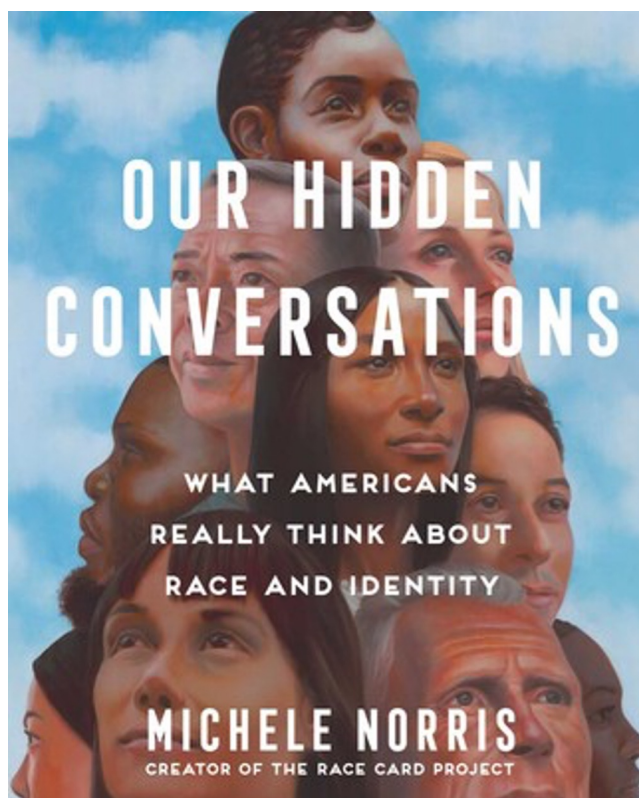


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A partnership between St. James UMC and Church of the Resurrection
You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.
Matthew 22:39



We are often asked to recommend books to help people understand the

myriad issues around race. *Our Hidden Conversations*, by Peabody Award-winning journalist Michele Norris, is such a book. It is unlike any book you've ever read. It provides a window into what Americans really think about race and identity. It will be eye-opening to you, regardless of your experience or perspectives.

Through her decade-long work at the Race Card Project, Michele Norris unearthed a transformative dialogue on race and identity. She began by asking people to condense their thoughts about race to just six words. Over half a million people responded to her. Submissions were originally on post cards and later by computer. Some people shared the backstory of their six-word choice. Their stories reveal fear, pain, anger, exhaustion, triumph, and sometimes humor.

Many of the stories were submitted by white respondents and people of ethnic groups often overlooked in conversations about race. The outcome is this amazing book filled with poignant statements, candid stories, richly reported essays and photographs spanning all the dimensions of race, ethnicity, identity, and class. It is a book that will open eyes and spark conversations. Hopefully, it will empower people to move forward, interacting with each other as individuals; people who can work together to build bridges of understanding and even empathy.

SUCCESSFUL ARJ THEATRE EVENTS



ARJ enjoyed an excellent turnout for our two winter live theatre programs. A pre-play talk was provided for “North – The Musical”, Ashli St. Armant’s

powerful musical about a teenage boy and his mother who escape slavery in the Deep South through the Underground Railroad. Presenters included Ms. St. Armant; Rev. Stacy Evans, Chairperson of Quindaro Ruins Townsite Project and Senior Pastor at African Methodist Episcopal Church; and Dr. James Leiker, History and Political Science Professor at Johnson County Community College. They discussed the history and importance of the Kansas Underground Railroad and the Black experience.

A post-play discussion was provided for KC Rep's production of "Nina Simone: Four Women" by playwright Christina Ham. The play imagines how the iconic songstress reacted to the historic, horrific moment in 1963 when the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed, resulting in the deaths of four young girls. Simone is joined by three other women, who are also dealing with the trauma of that event. Each individual's perspective is shaped by the pervasive and persistent racism enacted against Black women in America. Associate Director Teresa Leggard and actor Brittney Mack (who portrayed Sweet Thing; both shown in photo above), along with Director of Education/Community Programs Melinda McCrary, discussed the challenges of presenting the complex Black women characters and the various production aspects of the play.

GET INVOLVED! OUR PARTNER CHURCHES

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

St. James Church and Resurrection offer wonderful worship, fellowship and community volunteer activities each and every month of the year. Check the individual websites and weekly newsletters to stay up to date on all opportunities. Here are a few events to get on your calendar.



Women's Chair Yoga & Affirmations – Join your friends in the worship center on Saturday mornings in March from 10 to 11:15 am. Everyone is welcome, no matter your mobility or age. No experience necessary. Mats, chairs and props provided or bring your own. Questions? Contact Carolyn Celestine at celestineyoga@gmail.com.

Good Friday Cantata – Join us at 7 pm on March 29 at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1834 Woodland Avenue, KCMO 64108. This inspirational performance is sponsored jointly by St. James, St. Andrew, and Centennial churches.

Psalms for Black Lives – This online study is open to all. Offered daily, Monday through Friday at 12- Noon CT and 10 am Saturdays throughout Lent. Zoom ID: 865 4368 6103 Code: 294 166

Next Movement - St. James continues to drive forward with the 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. Join a team today!

- Generation to Generation (Tracy Milsap – tmilsap@sjumckc.org)
- Prayer Watchers (Pastor Elmer Cunningham – ecunningham@sjumckc.org)
- Fellowship (Dr. Yvette Richards – yrichards@sjumckc.org)
- Disciples for Change (Pastor Jacqueline McCall – jmccall@sjumckc.org)
- Young Adult Connection (Min. Kyren Martin – kmartin@sjumckc.org)



Mid-Day Lenten Concert Series - Join us in the Leawood Sanctuary for weekly family-friendly concerts on Wednesdays during Lent. Hear from a variety of amazing Resurrection musicians each week. Concerts start at 12:15 pm in the Leawood Sanctuary. You're welcome to join us at 11:30 am, prior to the concert each week, for lunch from the Spring Cafe. For weekly performance details [CLICK HERE](#).

Beloved Dress – A Prom Boutique - Shop for a FREE prom dress at Resurrection Brookside, 5144 Oak Street, KCO, 64112. Choose from a selection of 3,000+ dresses and sizes 0-24! Private fitting rooms, shoes, purses, & jewelry are available with your dress. All are welcome, no questions asked on Friday, March 15 from 3 - 7 pm and Saturday, March 16 from 9 am - 1 pm. [CLICK HERE for more information](#).

Women's All Church Lenten Luncheon – Join with all Resurrection campuses for the United Women in Faith 10th Annual Lenten Luncheon on Thursday, March 21 at 11AM in the Leawood Foundry, 13720 Roe Ave, Leawood, KS 66224. Enjoy music and an inspiring message from local author Joel Bond, recently returned from Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Learn More & Register Here](#) →

We Too Sing America –

Watch the replays of Leawood Location Pastor John Roberts and Dr. Shana Mashego's Black History Month conversations on the Christian's role in knowing Black History. You can [find them here](#).

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

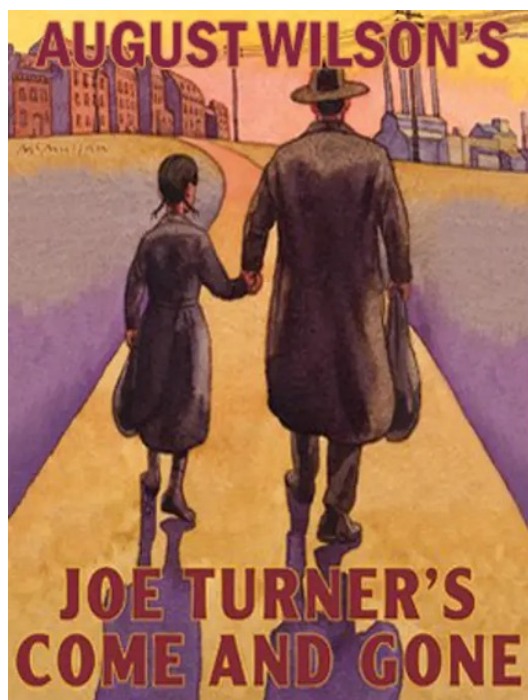
better connect within our two congregations.

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

METROPOLITAN ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS



MARCH 7-10
NEW VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED

August Wilson's American Century Cycle returns to the MET with his masterpiece, Joe Turner's Come and Gone. Set in a Pittsburgh boarding house in 1911, the play examines African American's search for cultural identity long after slavery ended. Harold Loomis arrives in search of his lost

wife, but first he must regain a sense of his own heritage and identity. A stunning story of spiritual and emotional resurrection, the play pays tribute to a makeshift community that spring up in the Great Migration.

Please Note: The Warwick Theatre, Home to the Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre Company (MET), experienced a devastating and destructive fire in early February. However, the MET is committed to moving forward with their 2024 schedule. They are currently seeking alternative performance space. Details will be announced soon and will be posted to their website. This play has not been cancelled and tickets can still be purchased [HERE](#).

MORE2

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

MARCH 7, 6 - 8 PM

Metropolitan Baptist Church

2310 East Linwood Blvd, KCMO 64109

MORE2 is a grassroots social justice organization representing different faith traditions, cultural backgrounds, races, and economic means. Thirty-two Kansas congregations are represented along with many individual members. The organization is committed to transforming communities by changing policies through movements that promote racial and economic equity in Kansas and Missouri. The group is affiliated with the Gamaliel Network, which includes 45 affiliates in 17 states. Current Active Issues Task Forces include Criminal Justice, Education, Healthcare, Immigration, Housing and others. For more information: Info@More2.org

[Register here](#) to attend the **MORE2** annual public meeting.

To help people develop the skills needed to make community and national policy changes, **MORE2** offers local training and development. The next scheduled training will be on June 1, 2024. Contact Lucas@more2.org for details.

HOW TO RIGHTLY WRITE ABOUT RACE WHEN AFRAID TO SAY THE WRONG THING



Participants will walk away with concrete concepts and a uniform vocabulary to write about what we often fail to recognize or articulate effectively. Using his new book “Race and Media Literacy”, author Frederick W. Gooding Jr offers twelve clear, cogent, and concise racial rubrics to help users of mainstream media more readily discern patterns hidden in plain sight. You’ll never see media the same way again! The program will be on Zoom and a JOCO library staff member will contact registrants via email the day before the workshop with instructions to access the program. Registration closes March 8 at 9 am (space is limited) [Register for event here.](#)

ISAAC CATES & ORDAINED IN CONCERT WITH THE SPIRE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE



SUNDAY, MARCH 10 at 5 PM
Resurrection Brookside
5144 Oak Street, KCMO 64112

The Spire Chamber Ensemble joins forces with Kansas City's own Isaac Cates & Ordained to amplify the music of black composers. This high energy 75-minute concert will showcase gospel songs that are rhythmic, balladic, dramatic, and exciting, always delivered with thoughtful arrangements, polished harmonies, and expressive lead vocals. Non-Idiomatic (non-spirituals or gospel) concert music will include works by Ulysses Kay, Florence Price, B.E. Boykin, Ken Burton, and more. Additionally, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the passing of Moses Hogan, famed for the revitalization of his concert arrangements of Negro spirituals. This concert is not to be missed! Tickets are available at \$25 Adults, \$5 Students, 12 and younger free. [Purchase HERE.](#)

URBAN LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY
"DIFFERENCE MAKER" AWARDS
LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, MARCH 28 — STARLIGHT THEATRE

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 | 11:45 AM–1:30 PM | STARLIGHT THEATRE

Urban League of Greater Kansas City

Join us in honoring...
QIANA THOMASON
 President and CEO
 Health Forward Foundation

FIRESIDE CHAT
 Dr. Elliott Currie, author of *A Peculiar Indifference: The Neglected Toll of Violence on Black America*, and Dion Sankar, Chief Deputy Prosecutor for Jackson County, will speak in depth about the root causes of and remedies for addressing urban violence.

ALL SPONSORS RECEIVE A COPY OF DR. CURRIE'S BOOK, A PECULIAR INDIFFERENCE
ALL ATTENDEES RECEIVE A COPY OF THE URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY'S BOOK, FROM REDLINING TO CHALK LINES

SPONSORSHIPS: \$1,000–\$20,000 / RESERVATION: \$100
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TANEISA BLUE: 816-471-0550 OR TBLUE@ULKC.ORG

DIFFERENCE MAKER
66TH AWARDS LUNCHEON



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Celebrating 100 Years of Social Witness

On February 13, 2024 the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) held a special event celebrating 100 years of social witness on Capitol Hill. The program included:

- Remarks from John Hill, Interim General Secretary (GBCS), and Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, former General Secretary (GBCS)
- Reflection by The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II, the representative from Missouri
- Presentation by Dr. Ashley Boggan D., General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH)
- Roundtable discussion with Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin and Mr. Sam England, Board Members (GBCS) and moderated by Aimee Hong, Senior Executive Director of Education and Engagement (GBCS)
- For Justice and Peace book Introduction by author Dr. Jessica Smith, Senior Executive Director of Research, Planning and Spiritual Formation (GBCS)

To watch the “Celebrating 100 Years of Social Witness” video and for more information on the year of celebration, go to UMC [100th Anniversary webpage](#).

SAVE THE DATE – APRIL EVENTS



Saturday, April 13, 8:30AM - 3:30PM
Hillcrest Covenant Church | RSVP bit.ly/3SEpg0d



Plan to join this inspiring in-person conference focused on racial justice and unity. A collaboration of local churches, it will include speaker and author Drew G. I. Hart, PhD, breakout sessions, and meaningful discussions. All is aimed at equipping and empowering the Church to actively pursue racial justice in our communities. For more information, contact Rev. Andy Johnson [816-268-5485](tel:816-268-5485), andy.johnson@nts.edu at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

2024 WOMEN OF COLOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

APRIL 19, 2024
UMKC STUDENT UNION
9AM-4PM

UMKC Diversity and Inclusion presents this annual conference on Friday, April 19 at the UMKC Student Union. Registration fee - \$100 (includes seat, continental breakfast, conference sessions and keynote luncheon).

Registration Portal will close on Friday, March 15 so register now. For details and registration [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

[Unsubscribe](#) - [Unsubscribe Preferences](#)