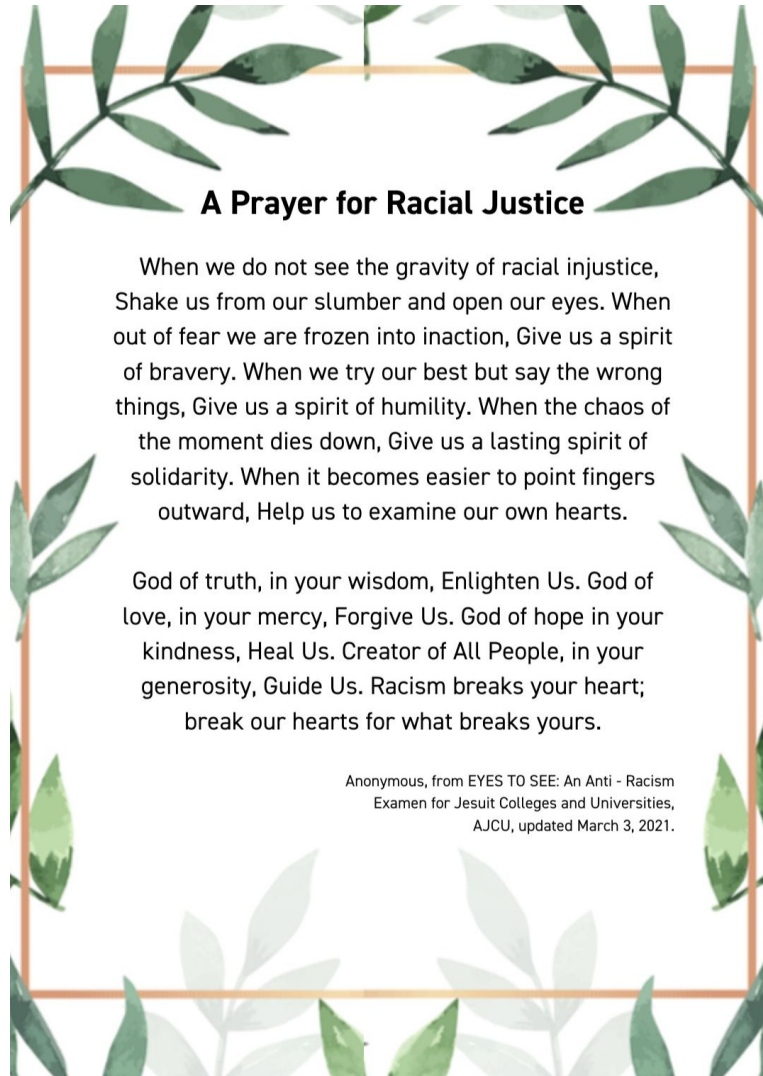


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A partnership between St. James UMC and Church of the Resurrection
You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.
Matthew 22:39

APRIL 2024



PRAYING FOR CHANGE: DAILY PRAYERS FOR ANTI-RACISM



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES
The United Methodist Church

While the headlines come and go, the sin of racism continues to be seen and felt on both individual and systemic levels.

Dismantling racism is not a short-term task but a lifelong moving forward to perfection in love—to use Methodist movement founder, John Wesley’s words. Agencies and bodies of The United Methodist Church continue to provide resources and guidance on how to become anti-racist individuals and churches and help transform our communities.

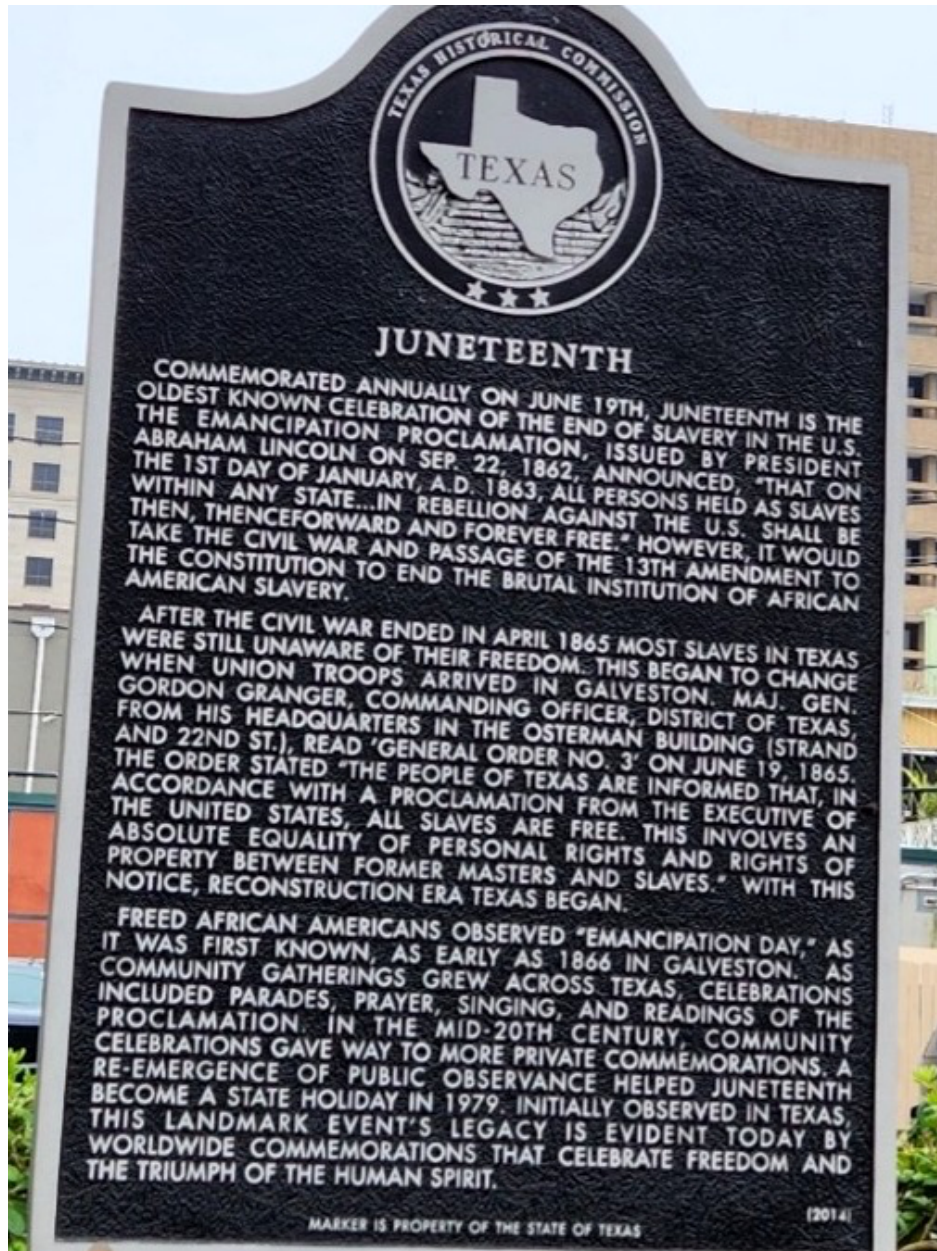
Such changes will not happen unless the whole process is bathed in prayer every step along the way. To help us stay centered on the ongoing journey of transformation, UMC Discipleship Ministries posts a new prayer every weekday to use in personal devotions and share with your family and small groups. To receive these prayers each day in your email, [sign up here](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

**Historical Discussion: 4:00PM in the Parlor Program:
5 PM in the Sanctuary**
Resurrection Leawood, 13720 Roe Ave. Leawood KS



The Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863 freeing America's enslaved Black population. The news didn't get to everyone until mid-June 1865 when Union soldiers brought word to Galveston, TX. African Americans have celebrated that day ever since. In 2021, Juneteenth became a National Holiday in our country; a time for everyone to commemorate and celebrate the transition from slavery to freedom. Allies for Racial Justice is proud to present the 3rd Annual St. James and Resurrection Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 22. This free event is open to the public and will include fabulous music performances, dance, spoken word, refreshments and more. Watch for details in future newsletters and put the date on your calendar now!

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.



Young Adult Fellowship Event - Young adults are invited to gather at Chicken N Pickle, 1761 Burlington Street in North KCMO for an evening of fun and fellowship on Friday, April 26 starting at 7 pm. For more information and to RSVP, email Kyren Martin, M.A. at kmartin@sjumckc.org.

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)



Bible Study for College Students – A new 3-week study dives into Christianity’s toughest questions, fostering meaningful discussions and a supportive community. In person at the Leawood location and online starting at 7 pm on April 9. Free pizza at 6:30 pm for those attending in person. If you’re a college student seeking to grow in your faith or you know of a college student who might be interested, we encourage you to find out more and [register here.](#)

We Too Sing America : An Exploration of the Story of Black People in America’s Story - Watch replays of Leawood Location Pastor Robert Johnson and Dr. Shana Mashego’s Black History Month conversations on the Christian’s role in knowing Black History. Presented in partnership with Allies for Racial Justice, panelists also included Resurrection Pastors Cheryl Jefferson Bell and Ashley Morgan Kirk, LaDonna Williams-Hunt, and Mark McCormick. You can access the programs [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

**2024 RETHINKING HUMAN
DIGNITY SYMPOSIUM**
Monday, April 8 - 8 AM-4 PM
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Road Kansas City, MO 64110



This day-long event is focused on creating dialogue around issues facing all of those in the criminal justice system – current and formerly incarcerated, counties and local governments, prison officials, business leaders and community advocates. Topics that will be discussed include Innovations in Justice, Successful Reentry, Workforce Development and others. Program is available in person and virtually. For details click the button below.

[Click Here](#)



SevenDays was founded after the April 2014 tragedy when a white supremacist murdered Dr. William Corporan, his grandson Reat Underwood, and Teresa LaManno outside the Jewish Community Center and the Village Shalom senior living community in Overland Park. The organization marks its 10th year of **overcoming hate by promoting kindness and understanding through education and dialogue** spreading kindness in the community starting April 10. **Each day, a new theme helps us practice kindness.** This year's themes are Love, Discover, Connect, Go, and Onward. More weekdays have been added to the yearly celebration and the usual "Kindness Walk" is being replaced with a new Community Kindness Festival.

For full details [click here.](#)



TOWN HALL: A CASE FOR LOCAL CONTROL

Thursday, April 11 at 6PM

St. James Church, 5540 Wayne Avenue KCMO

More2 has pressed for local control of the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) since 2018. Under the current system, a governor-appointed police board has complete authority to make decisions about KCPD policy, the hiring of the police chief, and how city revenue for the police budget is spent. Last month, local residents filed a suit against **Governor Parson and the Board of Police Commissioners in Federal Court** to end state control of the KCPD.

You have an opportunity to hear from Dr. Barbara Johnson, Narene Crosby, and Dr. Nicole Price on why they had the courage to become plaintiffs. Their attorney, Spencer Webster, will share why the current system violates both the U.S. Constitution and the Civil Rights Act because it was intended to discriminate against Black Missourians and preserve the institution of slavery. Join the discussion at St. James Church, 5540 Wayne Ave, KCMO 64110. Event is open to the public.



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. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a movement that seeks to create a more just and unified Church and society the Jesus Way. Register now and let's make a difference together! Event is free; however, any donation helps cover lunch for the day. Once you register you will be sent a link to select your breakout session options. Breakout session topics include:

- The Local Church as a Witness for Racial Justice
- Holiness and Justice in the Bible:
- Housing Equity & Trauma
- Creating Ministry Partnerships between Black and White Churches
- A Safe Space: For People of Color
- White Savior: Racism In the American Church
- An Introduction to Reparations

For more information, contact Rev. Andy Johnson at [816-268-5485](tel:816-268-5485) or

andy.johnson@nts.edu at Nazarene Theological Seminary.



APRIL 15-16, 2024

Kehilath Israel Synagogue & Rockhurst University

The Jewish Community Relations Bureau|AJC will host the first summit on combating antisemitism in our region. Programming starts the evening of Monday, April 15 at Kehilath Israel Synagogue and continues through Tuesday, April 16 at Rockhurst University. A Unity Seder on the Monday evening will bring community and interfaith partners together to share in the Jewish Passover seder ritual to further build bridges, foster greater understanding and affirm our shared commitments to the pursuit of justice and liberation. The full-day symposium on Tuesday, offers leaders from throughout our region a space to learn about rising antisemitism, and mobilize toward action. You'll hear directly from nationally recognized speakers along with local activists and leaders. To register and view the full schedule [click here.](#)

**BROWN v. BOARD AT 70:
LOOKING BACK AND STRIVING
FORWARD**

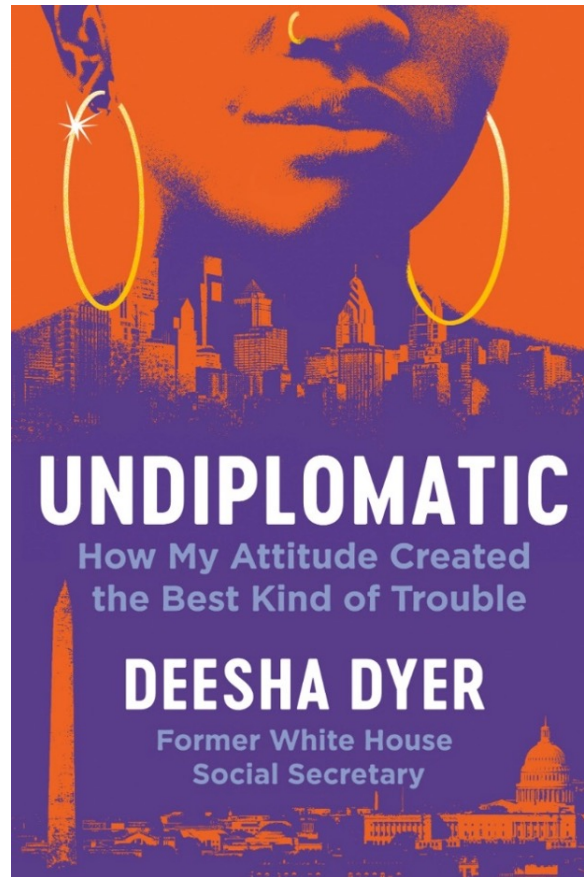
**April 18-19 University of Kansas, Lawrence KS
+ Live Stream**



The University of Kansas and the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, Topeka, KS will host an event series and conference exploring the legacy of the landmark decision. The Keynote Address will be given by Sherrilyn Ifill, renowned lawyer and the Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Esq. Endowed Chair in Civil Rights at Howard University. The event series includes an opening dinner and address from Charise Cheney, associate professor of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon and an all-day conference on KU's Lawrence campus, concluding with transportation and a tour and discussion at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park in Topeka. Visit the [event website](#) for more information and the full list of speakers.

NAT'L MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Wednesday, April 24 – Virtual Event 6-7 PM CDT



In this vivid portrayal from a true “around the way girl” on the personal impact of the Obama presidency, Deesha Dyer, former White House social secretary, shares her road map from imposter to impact. In *Undiplomatic*, she invites you on a journey of self-discovery where she overcame doubt, unearthed true love for herself and learned that your unique worth is not something to be earned, but something inherently deserved. Dyer will be joined in conversation by Shaniqua McClendon, Vice President of Politics for Crooked Media. Event is free but registration is required.

[Register 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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