



*A partnership between St. James UMC and Church of the Resurrection*

**You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.  
Matthew 22:39**

July - August 2024

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## JUBILANT MUSIC AND SONG AT 2024 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. James and Resurrection Juneteenth Celebration was held on June 22 at Leawood Resurrection. In partnership with St. James Church and Resurrection United Methodist Church, this year's theme was **"Lift Every Voice and Sing...TOGETHER!"**

An outstanding music program, created by Tyrone Yarbrough, St. James Director of Worship, and Isaac Cates, Resurrection Director of Music Outreach, left the audience breathless. Performers included powerful combined singers from both churches with renditions of "Trust In God" and "You Are Good".

The celebration continued with a host of Kansas City-based artists performing in music, song, dance and spoken word. Multi-instrumentalist and composer Charlie Harris, presented his guitar solo, "Suite for the Forgotten Black Heroes," against a visual background that highlighted Black inventors and leaders. Singer Devion Williams brought the audience to its feet with his solo rendition of "A Change Is Gonna Come." A stunning interpretive dance was performed by Lauren Thompson to "Love Supreme Pt. 1" by John Coltrane, and poet extraordinaire, Glen North, delivered his newest noteworthy creation, "Make Sure You Get It Right." You can [view the full poem HERE.](#)

Keynote speaker Dr. Shana Mashego, provided a historical and lyrical analysis of the 1900 communal anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," tracing its roots from the enslavement of Africans in 1444, through American colonization, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the early Civil Rights movement. The song's lyrics are by James Weldon Johnson and the music is by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. In 1917, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People began to promote the hymn as a Negro national anthem. Today it is featured in 42 different Christian hymnals and recorded and performed extensively. Fittingly, the Juneteenth program closed with Dr. Mashego leading the voices in singing the hymn to resounding applause.

ARJ thanks Sheri Dikus for displaying beautiful quilts featuring traditional designs, including symbols from the Underground Railroad. Special bouquets are extended to ARJ Leadership Team member, Anita Maltbia who inspired and led the entire event for the third year. Dwayne Lewis, Deborah Cheadle, Justin Huey and James Felver, please take a bow for the "Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing" and the "6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion" all-Black Women's Army Corps unit videos, and other audio-visual support. Extra thanks to Dr. Mashego for stepping in when history professor Dr. James Leiker had to cancel due to illness at the last minute. (He's recovering and we'll have him at a future ARJ event.)

Kudos to the entire ARJ Leadership Team, the church staffs and other volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this major event to fruition. [Click here](#) to see selected photos taken at the event.

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## NEW FROM THE UNITED METHODIST GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

### Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm: The History of Anti-Black Racism in The Church



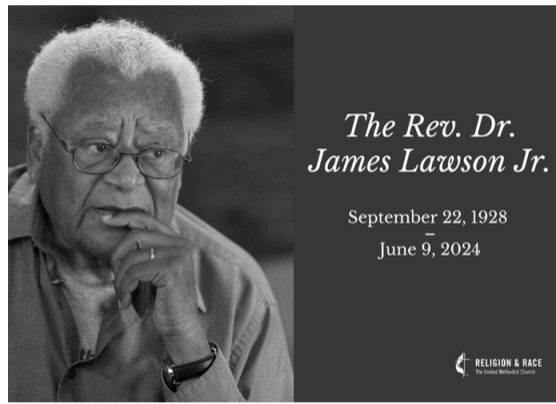
This 3-session, self-directed course is based on the book "Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm: The American Methodist Church and The Struggle with White Supremacy" by Rev. Dr. John Elford. It offers a no-holds-barred look at the denomination's checkered history of systemic and institutional racism targeting African American people.

This 3-part online course challenges white Christians to face the past and chart a more faith-filled, anti-racist future so that United Methodists may become co-workers with Jesus Christ to transform the world.

[Learn More](#)

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## IN MEMORIUM



With sorrow, we share the news of the passing of the Rev. Dr. James Lawson Jr. on June 9, 2024. He was a distinguished leader in the United Methodist Church and a revered civil rights activist.

Rev. Lawson's legacy began in 1959 when he led nonviolence workshops that led the successful campaign to desegregate lunch counters in Nashville, TN. Inspired by Christ's suffering, he empowered both Black and white students to organize sit-ins and other actions that confronted the immorality of segregation.

His influence extended widely as a key organizer of the Freedom Rides in 1961 and the Meredith March in 1966. While serving at Centenary Methodist Church in Memphis, he significantly contributed to the 1968 sanitation workers' strike; efforts that earned high praise from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who described Lawson as "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world."

In 1974, Rev. Lawson moved to Los Angeles to serve as pastor of Holman Methodist Church. There, he hosted "Lawson Live," a weekly call-in show addressing social and human rights issues. He continued his activism by speaking out against racism, the Cold War, and U.S. military involvements. Even in retirement, Rev. Lawson championed the causes of justice, protesting with Janitors for Justice in Los Angeles and advocating for LGBTQ+ rights in Cleveland.

Rev. Dr. James Lawson Jr. will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to justice and equity. As he profoundly stated, "No human being in the sight of God is illegal."

May his legacy continue to inspire us all. For more insights, see James Lawson: Reflections on Life, Nonviolence, Civil Rights, MLK <http://www.umc.org/videos>

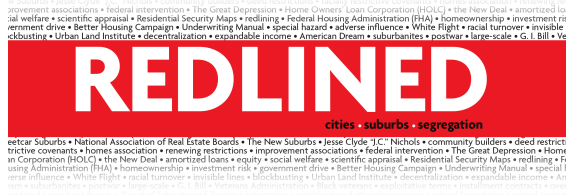
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## CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 7-Days / Alabama & Georgia

Imagine walking into one of the most important periods in modern history. The upcoming Civil Rights Tour, led by Resurrection Pastor Robert Johnson, allows you to experience real American history as you visit some of the most important places in the Civil Rights movement. This trip will inspire, teach and shape you in powerful and positive ways. There are still a few openings. Don't miss this rare opportunity. You can register individually, invite a friend, or come as a small group. [Here is the link.](#)

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## AVAILABLE NOW IN DIGITAL FORMAT



In 2022-23, the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center presented an amazing special exhibition titled "Redlined: Cities, Suburbs, Segregation." The comprehensive exhibit took us on a journey through the origins, evolution and enduring consequences of redlining in Johnson County, our area communities, and nationwide.

Redlining refers to the systematic disinvestment of some people and neighborhoods in favor of others by the federal government and private lenders, most often on the basis of race. The exhibit details the 19th and 20th century foundations of redlining and how the private practice became federal policy during the Great Depression. It showed how the system expanded during postwar suburbanization, the failed attempts to dismantle it during the Civil Rights Era, and how the legacies of redlining continue to impact communities and individuals today.

The award-winning exhibit has now been preserved and transformed into a digital website format that allows expanded access to audiences everywhere. According to Dr. Mary Murry, Johnson County Museum Director, the digital platform is intended to preserve the true history and legacy of redlining while helping more people learn from the past in order to build a better future. The visionary Johnson County Museum Curator of Interpretation, Andrew R. Gustafson, expressed gratitude to the local community who demanded that the exhibit continue on, and gave generously to support the transformation of the physical exhibit into a digital one.

Once you learn the history of redlining, the world around you will never look quite the same. [Take a look HERE.](#)



## The Heroic True-Life Adventures of Alvin Brooks



Academy Award-winning filmmaker Kevin Wilmott brings us this new documentary about the extraordinary life of Alvin Brooks who has dedicated over six decades to making Kansas City a better place. Born in 1932 in rural Arkansas, Alvin Brooks faced adversity from the start. His resilience led him to become one of Kansas City's first Black police officers in the 1950s and, later, the city's first Black department head. He founded the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, becoming a national figure in civil rights and local activism. *The Heroic True-Life Adventures of Alvin Brooks* is a timely tribute to a man whose relentless fight for justice and equality continues to inspire Kansas Citians today. Folks in trouble with the law, the police themselves, politicians

and city officials all came to Brooks for help. His unique skills and courage brought trust and respect as he saved lives and the made the community safer. Watch it on PBS July 11, 13 and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM. Check local listings for other streaming opportunities.

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## OUR PARTNER CHURCHES

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

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.



Stay Connected – Visit our church’s web pages and sign up for pastor newsletters.

### Websites

Resurrection [resurrection.church/next](https://resurrection.church/next)

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

### Pastor Newsletters

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

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

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## OTHER INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

### KANSAS CITY ACTORS THEATRE PRESENTS



AUGUST 7-25

### City Stage - Lower level of Union Station.

From acclaimed novelist, actress, and playwright Alice Childress comes *Trouble in Mind*, "a monumental work, whose time has finally come" (*New York Amsterdam News*). A funny and moving comedy-drama following an experienced Black stage actress through the first days of rehearsal for a 'powerful' new play about racism—a play unfortunately filled with racist caricatures, shallow dialogue, and led by a condescending white director. A workplace comedy that looks at racism, identity, ego, and the high-pressure world of 1950s Broadway.

All Season 19 performances take place at City Stage, in the lower level of Union Station. 30 West Pershing Rd., KCMO 64108

For tickets and information [CLICK HERE.](#)

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES



**Now On View**

**5235 Oak Street, KCMO 64112**

Explore the themes of race, gender and identity through 135 handmade Black dolls dating from 1850 to 1940 plus period photos and paintings depicting dolls. Additional perspectives are provided through a selection of more recent Black dolls from the museum's collection. Plan a summer outing with your friends, family and small groups to see this interesting exhibition.

The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures in Kansas City holds the world's largest fine-scale miniature collection and one of the nation's largest historic toy collections on public display. The Museum's collection currently numbers more than 93,000 objects – and counting. [Learn more here.](#)

## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON INCLUSION

**Sunday, July 28 – Noon**

**Centennial United Methodist Church  
1843 Woodson, KCMO 64108**

An invitation is extended to attend an important informational session at Centennial United Methodist Church. A conversation about the United Methodist Church's stance on inclusion will be facilitated by Judge Jon R. Gray (Ret.), Rev. Dr. Jeff Williams, and Rev. Danielle Quinn. We look forward to welcoming you.

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## QUINDARO RUINS – A DOCUMENTARY FILM

Explore the Kansas history of the Underground Railroad in this excellent documentary directed by Mark Meisenheimer and produced by Jerry Smith. It tells the story – the true history – of slavery in our own backyard. Learn the importance of Quindaro as a starting point for slaves escaping Missouri and how the road to freedom involved the help of Native Americans and other brave individuals. Learn about the 1860s town of Quindaro, its importance in the Underground Railroad, the movement to preserve it and the obstacles faced by its citizens to become a National Commemorative Site. You will find it on YouTube [HERE](#).

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## VOTER RESOURCES



### Your Vote Counts

It's more important than ever that we become informed voters and exercise our rights at the ballot box.

To help you cut through the clutter, Allies for Racial Justice continues to bring you reliable, easy to use voter resources.

Here are two that you can tap into now.



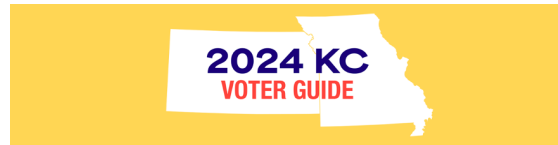
The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

The future of our families, our communities, and our country are at stake. No matter what zip code we live in or the color of our skin, our voices are equal at the ballot box, and we could all use some help making sure our voices are heard. [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) is the League's one-stop-shop where you can find all the information you need to cast your ballot. It's virtual, nonpartisan, and available in both English and Spanish.

Even for those of us who've voted before, the process can be confusing. Election rules differ from state to state, and can change between elections. [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org) gives you personalized information so you're prepared to cast your vote in every election. Whether it's local, state, or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities. Discover all your voting options, from early voting to absentee and mail-in voting, to voting on Election Day, and make an election plan that fits your life.

**[VISIT VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org)**

## KC MEDIA COLLECTIVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KANSAS CITY STAR



The 2024 KC Voter Guide is a first-of-its-kind collaboration that aims to harness the reporting power of multiple media organizations across the Kansas City metro. Support for the Guide comes from the [Kauffman Foundation](#), the [Health Forward Foundation](#) and other donors. Together, we're working to provide crucial election coverage to our communities at a time when local newsrooms have diminished capacity to undertake such a project alone.

The 2024 Primary Elections in both states are on August 6, 2024. The [KC Voter Guide](#), provides the information you need to vote in Jackson, Johnson, Clay, Platte and Wyandotte counties in 2024. In [Missouri](#) you must be registered by July 10. In [Kansas](#) you must be registered by July 16.

The deadlines to register for the November 5, 2024, General Election are October 9 in Missouri and October 15 in Kansas.

The KC Voter Guide will be publishing even more information in mid-July explaining every single candidate and race in the region — [so sign up for reminders now!](#)

### 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>



No longer want to receive these emails? [Unsubscribe](#).  
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