



September 2024

A NEW LOOK FOR ARJ!

With our September 2024 newsletter, Allies for Racial Justice introduces new branding as seen in our masthead above. The new logo and our newsletter design highlight our goals to help people *Connect, Unite and Act* to fulfill our mission to eliminate the racial divide that exists within our churches and communities. We accomplish this by connecting people to learn about and address racial injustice issues, by growing authentic intercultural relationships that unite us as God's children, and in taking steps to model Christ's commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves.

*Lord, open our eyes that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.
 Lord, open our ears that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the
 frightened, the oppressed.
 Lord, open our hearts that we may love each other as you love us.
 Renew in us your spirit.
 Lord, free us and make us one. Amen.*

Prayer by Mother Teresa

CONNECT 

 The word "CONNECT" is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. To its right is a network icon consisting of a central red node connected to five surrounding nodes (two orange, three green) by thin lines.

**An Invitation to Participate
 In The Pilot
 Of a NEW ARJ Workshop**

The Leadership Team of Allies for Racial Justice (ARJ) is piloting a new workshop - **“Develop Your Superpower – Listening from the Heart to Heal a Divided World”** - on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at Resurrection in Leawood. Please help us by participating in this pilot workshop.

- Is it possible, in such a polarized world, to have important conversations about race, religion, and politics and come away still liking and respecting each other?
- Would you like to improve your relationship-building skills at home, at work, and/or in your community?
- Did you know that it's possible to quantitatively measure progress on your ability to understand differing viewpoints?

In a world where opinions often clash and conversations can feel like navigating a minefield, how do you turn a tense discussion into a constructive dialogue – even on topics like race, religion, and politics? Listening from the heart is the first step. Join us for an engaging and interactive workshop designed to transform your approach to tough talks!

This isn't just another workshop—it's a dynamic, hands-on experience where you'll leave feeling empowered and excited about tackling difficult discussions. Whether you're looking to improve personal relationships, enhance professional interactions, or just become a more effective communicator, you will walk away with practical skills and a refreshed outlook.

In 2025, we plan to put this workshop on as a large event. The advantage of participating NOW is there's no registration fee and you will be able to sign up for a free 30-minute one-to-one coaching session with one of the workshop presenters.

No matter which way the election goes on Nov. 5th – you are needed to help bring people together. This workshop will give you a jumpstart on ways to unite, not divide. If you are interested in being part of the pilot program on Saturday, Sept. 28 or have questions, please email Debra Jarvis at djarvey60@gmail.com with “ARJ Pilot Interest” in the subject line and your name, email, and phone contact information.

[Learn More](#)

Walking with Jesus & ARJ



Saturday mornings – Sept 7, 21, 28, Oct 5 7:30 - 9 AM

Fall is in the air! That means it's time to head outdoors for fellowship and light exercise.

Family members, buddies, ALL fellow nature-lovers are welcome. We'll get to know each other, share interesting conversations, and enjoy the beauty of God's nature. We meet in a different local park each week. There's no prep work required. All you do is show up, walk leisurely for an hour, and make new friends. Arrive by 7:45am to stretch and we'll start walking at 8:00am.

The first walk will be at beautiful Loose Park, 5200 Wornall Rd., KCMO on Saturday, September 7th. Please let Crystal Hart-Johnson know which Saturdays you'll plan to attend. Email: Crystal.h.whitmore@gmail.com Include your name, email and cell phone number...and put "ARJ Walks" in the Subject Line. We'll be looking for you!

Insightful Webinar on The White Power Movement

**Presented by Dock C. Bracy Center
for Human Reconciliation
Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 6-8 pm CDT**



The white power movement has long posed a threat to our safety and to our democracy. In this session, Julie Farnam will discuss the origins of the white power movement in the United States, how it has inspired violence throughout the years, where the movement stands today, and what we can do to address its danger. She will examine the continued assault on our educational system to deny children the right to know and understand different perspectives and that prevent the healing of past wrongs as well as strategies to recognize and combat hate in our communities.

For complete details on how to join this Zoom webinar and participate in the pre-event survey [CLICK HERE](#).



UMC Updated Social Principles Online Resources

Church and Society has refreshed its online resources in support of the United Methodist Social Principles as approved by General Conference Charlotte, 2024. The Social Principles will officially take effect January 1, 2025. Cokesbury, the United Methodist publishing house, will print the updated, official UMC Social Principles booklet in 2025. Access the refreshed social principles online webpage [HERE](#).



**“Pioneers of Change:
Shaping the Future Together”
Sept 15 – Oct 15, 2024**



It's the time of year when we celebrate our Hispanic and Latin brothers and sisters by recognizing their achievements and contributions to our world. The observation of National Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. Hispanic Heritage Month spotlights the histories and cultures of our neighbors with roots in Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Sept 15 is the date when five Latin American countries declared independence from Spain in 1821 — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexican Independence Day is Sept 16, while Chile's is Sept18.

Below are several opportunities for you to celebrate and unite with our Kansas and Missouri Hispanic communities.

KC Fiesta Hispana

This annual event will be held on Sept 13-15 in a **new location** – the American Royal Facilities Kemper Parking Lot in the historic West Bottoms of KCMO. The 3-day event is filled with great music, entertainment, food, children's play area, exhibits, booths and more. Admission is free for everyone. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/FiestaHispanaKC/>

Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center's Latino celebration is on Wednesday, Oct 02 from 6-8pm. The Kansas City region has deep Latino history – from Spanish explorers, to Mexican traders and laborers, to recent Central and South American immigrants. Today, the Latino community is Johnson County's fastest growing population. This event is FREE and open to the public. No tickets required.

Latinos in the Heartland / Latinos en el Corazón de los Estados Unidos is also from the JOCO Arts & Heritage Center. First displayed as a bilingual digital interactive exhibit in 2019 for Hispanic Heritage Month, it is now available online. From Spanish explorers, to Mexican traders and laborers, to recent Central and South American immigrants, the Kansas City region has deep Latino history. [Learn more HERE.](#)

The Chicano Art Festival is scheduled for October 6, 2024. This celebration of the vibrant and diverse world of Chicano art will be held at the West Bottoms Liberty Courtyard from 11am to 5pm. It promises to be a rich cultural experience, showcasing the best in Chicano artistry and heritage. [Latino Foundation for the Arts](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month events are being added continuously; check this KC website for more info [HERE.](#)

100TH Birthday Celebration KC LEGEND BRUCE R. WATKINS

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
(1989 – 2024)
35th Anniversary

LEGACY CONCERT

(and 100th Birthday Celebration of the Center's namesake – Bruce R. Watkins)
Featuring
Performances by Nationally Acclaimed Artists

REGINA BELLE

SHAI

SUNSHINE ANDERSON

SEPT 14
Saturday
7:30 p.m.

Historic Gem Theater
(18th & Vine District, KCMO)
Purchase Tickets at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) – Reserved Seating
For More Information – Call 816.513.0700

All Proceeds Benefit BRWCHC Programs & Exhibits



Social Justice Institute – A Student Leaders Experience



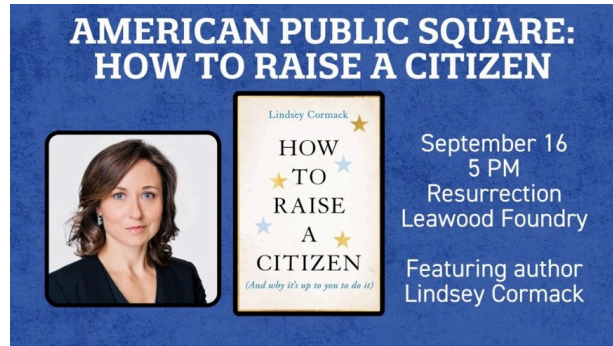
**"Preparing The Next Generation of Leaders
to Advocate, Inspire, and Empower"**
Tuesday, Sept 10 – 8:30am-2:30pm
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66210

Social Justice includes a commitment to challenge the social, cultural, and economic inequalities imposed on individuals arising from any disparity in the

distribution of power, resources, and privilege.

The **Social Justice Institute** provides student leaders with an experience in which they can come away with simple tools to help them grow as advocates for social justice in their school communities and organizations. This one-day event also provides high school leaders with an opportunity to become advocates/fellows for change.

The experience will specifically focus on how to address programming to foster inclusive communities through best practices and theoretical education. For more information and to register [CLICK HERE](#).



Bring your family, friends and small groups to this American Public Square Discussion Group to learn practical strategies for discussing political issues, understanding the inner workings of government, and instilling the values of democracy in the next generation. This program is ideal for parents, grandparents and educators teaching kids about the voting process and the Constitution; ensuring our children are prepared to be informed and active participants in our democracy. Don't miss this vital conversation featuring Pastor Adam Hamilton and author Lindsey Cormack. For more information and to sign up, click the button.

[CLICK HERE](#)

“Supressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote”

**Wednesday, Sept 18 – Reception 5:30,
Program 6 - 7 PM**

**KC Central Library – 14 W. 10th Street, KCMO 64105
Helzberg Auditorium**

This 30-minute documentary focuses on the rolling threats to free and fair elections in the United States and provides suggestions for getting democracy back on track.

It highlights the efforts to disenfranchise voters across the country by spotlighting, the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp; a case study for understanding today's restrictive measures. The film uses personal stories from those in battleground states who are disproportionately affected by voter suppression: older and younger adults, first-time voters, Black, Indigenous, Latine, people of color, and people with disabilities.

It is a film for every American concerned about voter suppression and election subversion ahead of the November 5 elections.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

18th & Vine Arts Festival September 27 - September 29, 2024



This 3-day festival provides a perfect opportunity to bring friends, family and small groups together to celebrate the contributions that Black art has made to the world. The annual event highlights the work of Black artists from different artistic disciplines, highlighting the art, history, and culture of people of the African diaspora. Get full details and event schedules [HERE](#).



Help free the innocent and provide care when they come home.

7th Annual Gala Benefit
Friday, Sept 6 –Social & Silent Auction 5PM
Program 6PM

Foundry, Bldg. B - Resurrection Leawood, KS

Enjoy an elegant evening of fun and fundraising!

LEARN MORE



The 2024 National Summit on Mass Incarceration & Social Justice is an essential gathering for clergy, leaders, justice-involved individuals, families, and the broader community. It's your opportunity to commit to the important work of social justice, criminal justice reform, and advocacy.

The U.S. continues to lead the world in incarcerating its citizens, devastating communities and families. The church has a vital role to play and this summit provides a space to explore how we can contribute to ending mass incarceration. Whether you're new to this work or deeply engaged, the program's exceptional content will provide best practices and a clear playbook to transform your congregation, your organization and your community.

For more details, visit the website: Summit Registration. The conference hotel, Hilton Club Plaza, offers a special rate of \$159, you can register for your hotel here. Discount hotel room ends September 11. Summit registration fee is only \$199.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Dandridge at cdandridge@sbc21.org or visit www.sbc21.org. You can also contact Dr. Yvette Richards at St. James Church 816-444-5588.

Sign up now for upcoming Fall classes and activities.

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.

Sign up now for upcoming Fall classes and activities.



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

Websites

Resurrection 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](#)

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>



9/4/24, 3:49 PM

klaviyo.com/campaign/01J6CPYB1MYYXH3WM88W6R25NZ/web-view

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