

**Subject:** Allies for Racial Justice Newsletter

**Date:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 2:40:50 PM Central Standard Time

**From:** Allies for Racial Justice



Connect  
Unite  
Act

# ARJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

# NEWSLETTER



March 2025

Despite the full slate of outstanding events, programs and activities that took place during *Black History Month* in February, we know the work of *Allies for Racial Justice* is not confined to a given month. Rather, it is an ongoing commitment to help educate, inform and inspire all of us to **Connect, Unite** and **Act** together to eliminate the racial divide that exists within our churches and communities.

Based upon recent events, this commitment is needed now more than ever.

Politically motivated directives are taking place to diminish, remove and even punish corporate enterprises for continuing to pursue Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) initiatives that help level the playing field in both commerce and the workplace.

**DEIB should not be viewed as a political issue; it is 100% a humanity issue that impacts the wellbeing of our neighbors and communities.**

We must embrace the power of diversity that stimulates innovation and growth while striving for fairness and equal opportunities, so that all may thrive. The motivations of ARJ are derived from biblical principles on how we should treat each other.

Simply put, we are commanded by God to “love our neighbor as ourself.”

Please join us in working together to eradicate injustice toward our neighbors and support long-standing justice and equality for Black Americans and people of all color.



Bringing people together to **CONNECT** through engaging educational events.  
**Let's start a conversation.**

**JOIN ARJ SMALL GROUP  
DISCUSSION ON ZOOM**



## TUESDAY, MARCH 18 6 - 7 PM

Did you know that growing personally or professionally does not happen when we stay in our comfort zone? Learning how to have conversations about uncomfortable subjects builds our capability to help bridge differences and find common ground.

Please consider joining our small group discussion to talk about what we can learn from each other when we truly care enough to listen to differing perspectives.

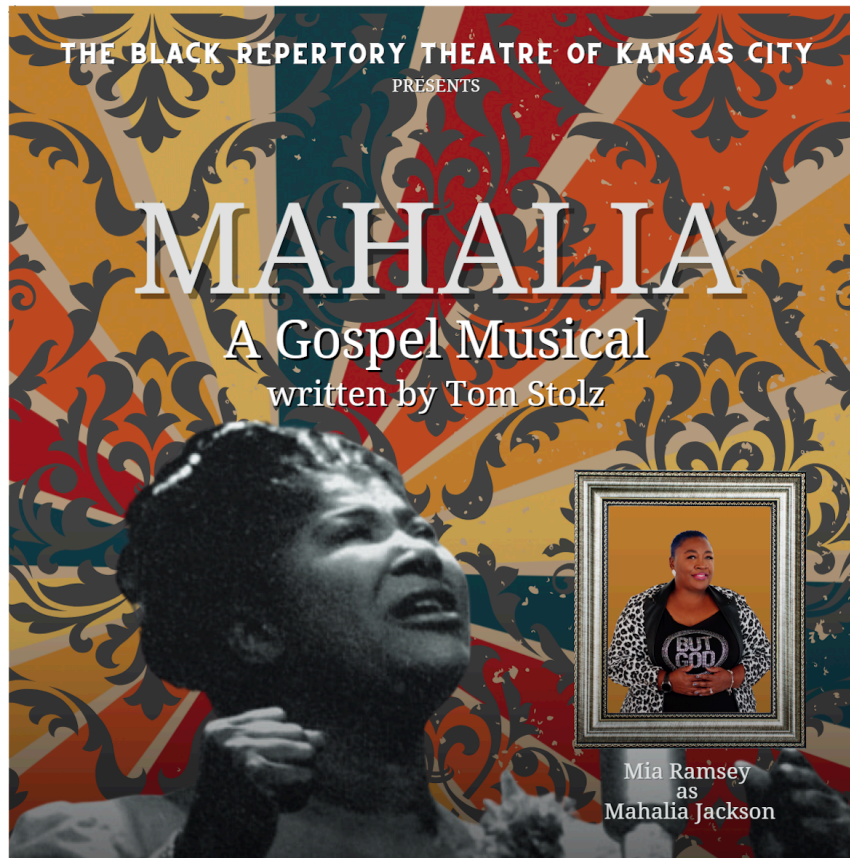
### **Assignment prior to joining on March 18th:**

Go to: <https://www.racialequitytools.org> and select one topic or tool that interests you and be prepared to share for five minutes what you learned that you did not know.

To receive the Zoom link for this small group discussion, send a request to Debra Jarvis at [djjarvey60@gmail.com](mailto:djjarvey60@gmail.com) with **ARJ March 18th Discussion** in the subject line.

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## NEW ARJ LIVE THEATRE EVENT



**SUNDAY, MARCH 30 at 3 PM**  
**BLACK BOX THEATRE**  
**1060 Union Ave., KCMO 64101**

Join ARJ for an afternoon of entertainment and insights into the remarkable talents of gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

**Mahalia – A Gospel Musical** is a joyous celebration of her life and music. A humble, deeply religious woman, Mahalia’s expressive, full-throated voice carried her from a three-room shanty in New Orleans to appearances before presidents and royalty.

The inspiration of Mahalia's heartfelt songs counters the urgent messages her friend, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered. Standing at his side, Mahalia Jackson became the musical voice of the Civil Rights movement.

This play uses simple staging, only three actors, and piano and organ accompaniments to showcase 20 great gospel numbers in a moving, often humorous musical tribute. ARJ has purchased a limited block of discount tickets.

GET TICKETS HERE

**THE POWER OF TRUTH  
UNSHACKLING POTENTIAL  
FOR JUSTICE, EQUITY &  
EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL**



**THURSDAY, MARCH 27**

**11:45 AM-1:30 PM**

**The Abbott – 1901 Cherry Street, KCMO 64108**

The Urban League of Greater Kansas City welcomes you to the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon and Fireside Chat. This year, ULKC honors President and Founder of Teachers Like Me, **Dr. Trinity Davis**, for her Outstanding Leadership in Education and Author, Princeton University Professor and MSNBC commentator **Dr. Eddie Glaude** for Excellence in Truth Telling.

The signature Fireside Chat will feature **Dr. Glaude** and Jackson County Prosecutor **Melesa Johnson**, and will be moderated by ULKC President and CEO **Gwen Grant**.

For sponsorships and tickets visit <https://www.ulkc.org/difference-maker>

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# SAVE THESE DATES! UPCOMING ARJ EVENTS

## **ARJ Night at the KC Monarchs Game – Saturday, June 14**

Get ready for a fun evening of baseball and mingling with an all-you-can-eat buffet, music, games, and even a movie! Full details and a reservation link are coming soon. Watch your email.

## **Annual Juneteenth Celebration – Saturday, June 21**

A joyful community-wide event to inspire and inform.  
Festivities begin at 4 PM at St. James Church.



## **Dr. Nicole Price**

***Spark the Heart: Engineering Empathy  
in Your Organization***

**Thursday, March 13**

**6 - 7:30 PM**

**JE Dunn Construction Theatre**

**3218 Gladstone Blvd., KCMO 64123**

In recognition of Women's History Month, Dr. Nicole Price and The Museum of Kansas City invite you to an inspiring evening celebrating her book, *Spark the Heart: Engineering Empathy in Your Organization*. This is more than just a book signing—it's an opportunity to connect, engage, and explore the power of empathy in leadership.

Dr. Price is the CEO of Lively Paradox, a professional training and coaching business based in the heart of the United States. A few years ago, Dr. Nicole would have been the last person to tell a leader to practice empathy. Today, her work brings empathy to boardrooms across the country and creates stronger, more sustainable companies. Kansas City, as the Heart of the Nation, can be the spark of empathy for the rest of the country.

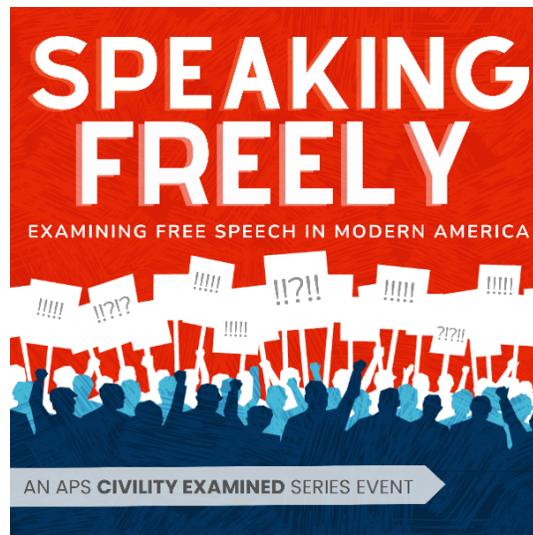
This event is open to everyone. Pay what you can. Space is limited. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

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Bringing people together to **UNITE** by growing authentic relationships through interactive programs.  
**Let's learn from each other.**

**AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE  
PRESENTS**



**TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

**5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

**The National WWI Museum & Memorial  
2 Memorial Dr., KCMO 64108**

This first program of American Public Square's *Civility Examined* series addresses the question of whether free speech is undermining American democracy or is essential to its survival.

Join this thought-provoking conversation with a panel of experts as they explore free speech in America—its evolution, how it is defined, its impact on politics, education and the daily lives of Americans. Panelists will also deliberate the tension that exists between preserving the ideals of free speech and addressing the challenges of free speech in today's America.

The panel includes renowned free speech expert and author, Nadine Strossen; veteran editor, journalist, and professor at Duke University's School of Public Policy, Stephen Buckley; and professor and researcher of political incivility at the University of Kansas, Dr. Ashley Muddiman. Margaret Talev, director of Syracuse University's Institute for Democracy, Journalism and Citizenship, and American Public Square National Steering Committee Member will moderate.

Attend in person or virtually. Doors open at 5:30 PM for a light reception; the program begins at 6:00 PM.

Register at <https://americanpublicsquare.org/event/free-speech/>





Bringing people together to **ACT** by supporting racial justice activities throughout our churches and communities.  
**Let's act together.**

## **RETHINKING HUMAN DIGNITY**



**MONDAY, MARCH 31 8:30 AM – 4 PM**  
**Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation**  
**4801 Rockhill Road, KCMO 64110**

This day-long symposium focuses on creating dialogue around the critical issues facing all of those in the criminal justice system. That includes current and formerly incarcerated, county and local governments, prison officials, business leaders, and community advocates.

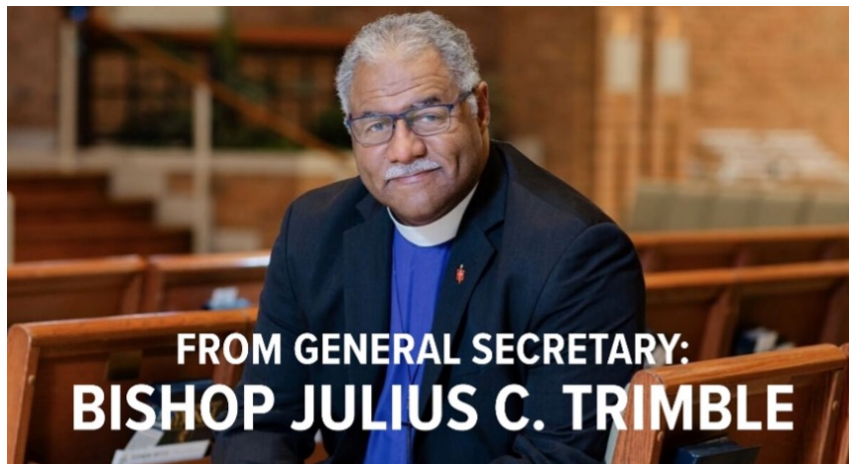
Presentations and discussions include Innovations in Corrections, Restoring Dignity, and a Reaching Out from Within (ROFW) Alum Panel. Breakout sessions will cover topics including Successful Release, Employment, Education, and Housing.

Ticket options include in-person or virtual attendance.

[GET TICKETS HERE](#)

## GO AHEAD – MAKE SOME NOISE!

The following contains excerpts from United Methodist Bishop Trimble's Black History Month message. It is a strong call for our attention and action now!



American History is fraught with contradictions, omissions and pain, worsened by elected officials who often chose to serve some of the people but not all. Presidents owned slaves, backed imperialism, supported segregation, remained silent during decades of Black lynchings, and trampled on the rights of Black Americans and those native to this land.

The current U.S. government's effort to dismantle the advancements in civil and human rights – particularly by targeting historically marginalized communities of color – to maintain White privilege and advantage, is nothing new in our nation's history.

After just weeks in office, presidential executive orders, plus an initial burst of U.S. government activity, are attempting to turn back decades of social justice progress in the U.S. and in the world. Is it a move to deliberately repeat history?

Right now, we are witnessing the roll-back of basic rights and freedoms with arbitrary, inhumane immigrant and migrant deportations; immediate destruction of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) opportunity; Long-standing social safety net programs are under siege; Thousands of Federal workers put on unlawful administrative leave or fired; Senate confirmations of Cabinet secretaries with

unqualified credentials; significant U.S. Justice Department attorney resignations; U.S. withdrawal from the World Health Organization; USAID funding paused; and plans that support the removal of Palestinians in Gaza.

### **Make Some Noise**

Change for justice, diversity, and inclusion has always required people of faith to make “noise.” As the late Congressman John Lewis would say, “**Get into good trouble.**” All people who care about justice, diversity, and inclusion, should look to the example of Jesus, who crossed cultural and religious boundaries... lest we forget his declaration “To proclaim freedom... and set the oppressed free.” Luke 4:18 NIV

Let’s all have a sense of urgency to use our voices and make “noise” against injustice. Call your House Representative or Senator today at the **U.S. Capitol Switchboard 202-224-3121**. Call the **Whitehouse switchboard at 1-202-456-1414**.

Be Encouraged.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

For the full article, go to United Methodist Church & Society *February Is Black History Month - Make Some Noise*[View on our website for larger text](#)

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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 inspiring worship,  
fellowship, studies, and community volunteer activities  
throughout 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 [e-News](#) from Senior Pastor Emanuel Cleaver III

*(click the grey box to join the mailing list)*

Resurrection [Weekly Updates](#) From Pastor Adam

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## 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>

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Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS 66224