

Subject: Allies for Racial Justice Newsletter

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 10:49:44 AM Central Daylight Time



Connect
Unite
Act

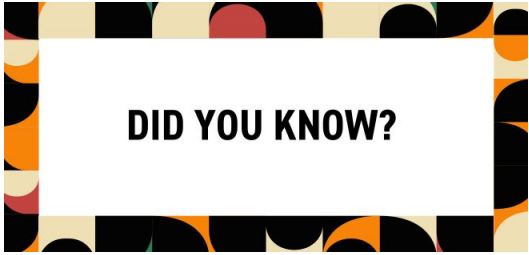
ARJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

NEWSLETTER



May 2025



DID YOU KNOW?



See the young man in this picture? He was 18 when it was taken at the train station in Mobile, Alabama, in 1952. There is \$1.50 in his pocket. In that bag by his foot are two changes of clothes. (And if his mama was anything like most other mamas in the South, probably some sandwiches and other snacks.) He was on his way to Indiana to take a job. He was going to play baseball for the Indy Clowns of the Negro Leagues. Apparently, he was pretty good at it. A couple of years later, he was signed by the (then minor league) Milwaukee Brewers. He played for the Brewers for 2 seasons, then moved across town to the Braves, and later followed them to Atlanta. Eventually, he was the last Negro League player to be on a major league roster.

His name is "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron.

[story courtesy of Quora. Source: Vintage Art Times. Credits:
Fight For Equality, Cheryl Brown]

Hank Arron is an amazing success story. From a childhood of poverty, he rose to become one of the greatest baseball players in history. Aaron broke record after record during his 23-year baseball career. On April 8, 1974, he belted his 715th homer to break Babe Ruth's all-time record, which he held for 33 years.

His playing career spanned the time between the Brown v. Board of Education decision (1954) and the US Bicentennial (1976), celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Through it all, he endured the degrading Jim Crow South and faced racist slurs and death threats. Still, he retained a quiet strength and gentle, gracious demeanor. Aaron was a lifelong member of the NAACP. He used his platform to speak out against pervasive racism and injustice. He found in Jackie Robinson a friend and model to emulate. In his autobiography, *I Had a Hammer*, Aaron notes, "I can't let Jackie down, or my people, or myself. The day I become content is the day I cease to be anything more than a man who hit home runs."

After retiring from baseball, Aaron became executive vice president of the Atlanta Braves and a leading spokesman for minority hiring in baseball. He and his wife, Billye, co-founded the Chasing the Dream Foundation. The organization prioritizes helping disadvantaged young people develop their talents and pursue their dreams. The foundation provides scholarships, mentorship programs, and community initiatives.



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



ARJ NIGHT AT THE KC MONARCHS GAME

Saturday, June 14 - Gates Open at 6 PM

Tickets On Sale Now

Make plans now for a fun evening of baseball and socializing at the ballpark. We'll share an all-you-can-eat buffet, enjoy music, games, prizes, and even a movie if you want to stay late!

The KC Monarchs vs Milwaukee Milkmen game starts at 6:35 PM on Saturday, June 14th.

We'll be sitting in a private location on the Party Deck with access to our food and the game. The all-inclusive special ticket price is just \$38 per person. The buffet will include: hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, baked beans, and cookies. Parking, soft drinks, and water are all free.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets to sit on the field after the game to watch the movie, "Jurassic Park."

Our special ARJ-discounted tickets for this special event will go quickly, so add it to your calendar and get your tickets now by [clicking here](#).

ST. JAMES CHURCH & RESURRECTION

ANNUAL JUNETEENTH COMMEMORATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 – 4 PM

At St. James Church - 5540 Wayne Ave,
KCMO 64110



ARJ is pleased to present this annual event on behalf of our two partner churches. Add the June 21 date to your calendar and plan to gather with family and friends for this very special occasion commemorating the end of chattel slavery in the United States. There will be music, song, spoken word, and stepping – an African American percussive dance form. All is designed to inspire and inform.

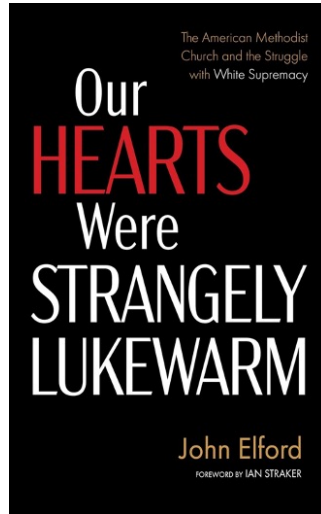
- Learn about many of the highly significant contributions of formerly enslaved people
- Hear the story of the Black soldiers who delivered the news of freedom to the still-enslaved in Texas, two years after emancipation
- Witness the legacy of the American Legion Wayne Miner Post 149 and the impact of Black Americans in the military
 - Explore an exhibit of Black military memorabilia

This community-wide event is free and open to everyone. Middle and High School students will especially gain historical insights by attending.

Registration is not required, but for planning purposes, we'd like to know if you'll be joining us and how many will be in your group. [You can let us know here.](#) Light refreshments will be provided.



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



3-WEEK SUNDAY STUDY MAY 4, 11 & 18

Join Rev. Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Resurrection Pastor of Community Justice and ARJ Spiritual Advisor, in a three-week study of the book *Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm* by Rev. Dr. John Elford.

This study invites Christians to engage in deep reflection and open dialogue about the impact of racism within both the church and society. This class will allow participants to engage in honest, transformative dialogue to envision a future of equity and inclusivity within the church.

The class will be on Sunday mornings, May 4, 11, and 18 at 9:00 AM at the Resurrection Leawood location in room B257. It is not necessary to read the book to attend the class, however, the book is available at the Resurrection Leawood bookstore and through various retailers.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

JOIN THE TRUTH SEEKERS



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION ON ZOOM

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone to Learn Something New

Tuesday, May 20th – 6-7 PM

This ARJ small group has fittingly named itself the “Truth Seekers.” It is open to anyone to attend regularly, occasionally, or even just once. We meet for one hour once a month on Tuesday evenings.

The purpose of this group is to have authentic conversations about differing perspectives related to race, religion, and/or culture. There is generally a reading or experiential assignment to do before the session. This forms a basis for the discussion and takes only 20-40 minutes at the most to complete. We always come away knowing something new that we didn't know before.

Please join us to expand your capacity to have courageous conversations. To receive the assignment and the Zoom link for this small group discussion, send a request to Debra Jarvis at djjarvey60@gmail.com with “Truth Seekers May 20th Discussion” in the subject line.

A Night of Celebration, Culture, and Creativity



MAY 25 – 5 - 9 PM
THE GEM THEATER
1615 E. 18th Street, KCMO

The 2025 18th & Vine Arts Festival! - rooted in the historic 18th & Vine District - brings together the heart of Black culture, art, music, and community. This festival includes multiple events throughout the year and is brimming with opportunities to connect, create, and celebrate.

On May 25, 2025, at the historic Gem Theater in Kansas City, MO, you can experience an unforgettable evening as we honor the legends, trailblazers, and rising stars in Kansas City's visual and performing arts scene. This highly anticipated event recognizes 12 outstanding honorees across multiple artistic disciplines, highlighting their contributions to the city's vibrant culture.

Don't miss this powerful night of tributes and performances, showcasing the best in visual arts, gospel, jazz, R&B, hip-hop, spoken word, dance, and more. For event details and tickets, click below.

[**CLICK HERE**](#)



SATURDAY, JUNE 14 at 8:30 AM
Field at the Corner of Troost & Truman
KCMO 64108

Unite KC's 5th Annual Walk for Unity is a celebration of community, diversity, and togetherness. This family-friendly event brings people together to walk in solidarity, promote peace, and strengthen bonds across Kansas City.

The walk is short; less than a mile. Participants will also enjoy inspiring conversations, local performances, and activities that highlight the power of unity. Join us in walking for a brighter, more connected future for our city! The event is free, but please register in advance [HERE](#).



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

A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS



FREE SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday, May 7 - 6 PM

606 Gladstone Ave., Kansas City, MO 64124

Independence Ave. Christian Church

Beyond the Bridge is an ambitious documentary film about solutions to homelessness. A Bigger Vision Films team traveled over 40,000 miles around the US to answer a single question: How can this country solve homelessness, in a comprehensive way? The answer surprised with its simplicity, as two large cities proved that solving homelessness is within reach of any community.

Following the screening of this groundbreaking film, there will be a powerful interactive panel discussion with experts, filmmakers, and local leaders determined to end homelessness in Kansas City.

This is more than just a film—it's a movement. Event hosts are uniting organizations, faith groups, service providers, and individuals to demand better systems and solutions to homelessness in Kansas City. The goal: to show our city and state representatives that Kansas Citians are ready to take action.

For more details, a list of speakers, and free tickets, click below.

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

FREE EXHIBIT AT ST. PAUL SEMINARY NOW THROUGH MAY 14



Open a conversation about what it means to be human by seeing this unique and fascinating exhibit with your friends, family and small groups. It comes to the Kansas City area from the Smithsonian National Museum and the American Library Association. St. Paul School of Theology is one of just six theological seminaries in our country selected to host this exhibit.

Through panels, interactive kiosks, hands-on displays, and videos, viewers of all ages can learn about the evolutionary journey of becoming human. The exhibit presents multiple perspectives to help engage us in conversations that matter scientifically, theologically, and socially.

The free, self-guided tour is open to the public daily through May 14 at St. Paul School of Theology, located adjacent to Resurrection Leawood, 13720 Roe Ave., Bldg. C, Leawood, KS 66224.

For additional exhibit information: <https://www.spst.edu/special-events/>
Group tours can be scheduled through Dr. Nancy Howell (howellnr@spst.edu)

RESURRECTION HUMAN RIGHTS IMMERSIVE TRIP TULSA BLACK WALL STREET & OSAGE NATION JUNE 12 - 13 TULSA, OK, UNITED STATES

Join Resurrection Pastor Robert Johnson for a 2-day (1 night) human rights immersive trip to Tulsa, OK, this coming June. Tour the Greenwood district, also known as "Black Wall Street", learning from expert guides about the history and continued impact of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre.

You will also spend time at The Osage Nation, immersing yourself in the history, art, and culture of the Osage people.

The registration fee includes round-trip bus fare, hotel (breakfast included), exhibition entrance fees, and Thursday night dinner. Please register by May 30

LEARN MORE & SIGN UP HERE

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
St. James Church 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

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 (ARJ) is a partnership between St. James Church and Resurrection, two United Methodist churches. ARJ exists to build authentic relationships to eliminate the existing racial divide in our churches and communities. Inquiries are received at allies4racialjustice@gmail.com



No longer want to receive these emails? [Unsubscribe.](#)
Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS 66224