

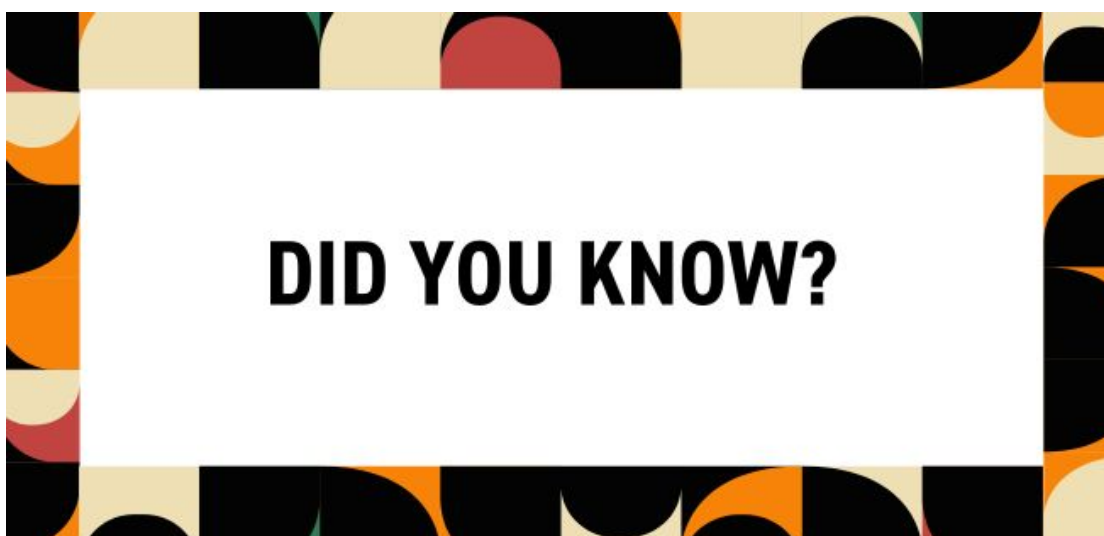


Connect
Unite
Act

ARRJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

October 2025





Gordon Parks was born into poverty and segregation in Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1912. Against the odds, he became one of the greatest photographers of the twentieth century, documenting American life and culture from the early 1940s into the 2000s. He was a humanitarian with a deep commitment to social justice. He was also a distinguished composer, author, poet, educator, and filmmaker. He traveled the world. He interacted with the ordinary and the extraordinary people of his era.

To learn more about the amazing life and legacy of Gordon Parks and explore his exceptional body of work, visit the Gordon Parks Museum, located on the campus of Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, KS. It's a perfect half-day car trip for small groups! Archives of Parks' work also reside at The Gordon Parks Foundation in Pleasantville, NY, Wichita State University, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian.

Use the following links for more about the inspirational life of Gordon Parks:

<https://www.gordonparksfoundation.org/gordon-parks/biography>

<https://www.instagram.com/thegordonparksmuseum/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-gordon-parks-museum/>



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



HEARTLAND BOOK FEST

The third annual Heartland Book Festival is presented by the Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Humanities, the Missouri Center for the Book, and Mid-Continent Public Library. Festival highlights include nationally prominent and regional authors, book signings, workshops, panel conversations, local vendors and nonprofits, food trucks, and story times.

Friday, October 11 6:30-7:45 PM

This Friday evening event is sold out (lucky you if you've snagged a ticket!). However, the presentation will be livestreamed on YouTube and will be available to view for 14 days after the event.

Percival Everett shares his thoughts on his latest novel, *James*, with Fox4's Jared Bush. *James* was published in March 2024 to great critical acclaim, winning both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Everett's novel is not just a reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the enslaved Jim's point of view; it offers deeper insights into American culture over three centuries.

Saturday, October 12 9 AM - 4 PM

Workshops, speakers, panels, readings, and book signings start at various times. All are held at the Downtown Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, KCMO 64105

For a complete list of speakers and bios: <https://www.heartlandbookfest.org/speakers>

For the full event schedule: <https://www.heartlandbookfest.org/schedule>

URBANKORE ART EXPOSITION



**COMING TO QUINDARO COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 11 AM – 6 PM
QUINDARO COMMUNITY CENTER
2726 BROWN AVE. KANSAS CITY, KANSAS**

You won't want to miss the UrbanKore Art Exposition organized by Kansas Citians Harold Smith and Shaka Myrick. It is designed to showcase and empower emerging local urban core artists. The initiative aims to inspire the next generation of Black artists and contribute to a legacy of Black arts and culture in Kansas City.

Multidisciplinary artist and activist Harold Smith is the founder of UrbanKore. His art and the UrbanKore movement focus on uplifting Black voices, celebrating Black culture, and critiquing systemic inequality through various media, including painting, film, and online publications. Shaka Myrick is an artist, art educator and researcher, and curator of this exhibit.

20-plus participating artists will feature in the one-day exposition, including new and established names, such as Anita Easterwood, Vivian Bluett, Anthony "Trey" Loomis, and Warren Harvey. Joining them are featured KCK artists Amber Underwood and Leonard Le'Doux, Jr.

For more information, contact the Quindaro Community Center, 913-321-5022.



Bringing people together to **UNITE** by growing authentic relationships through interactive programs.

Let's learn from each other



SEASON PREMIERE

THE IMPACT OF BEING 'BORN POOR' IN AMERICA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 on PBS

Over a decade ago, the Frontline documentary series *Poor Kids*, explored poverty in America as it's rarely seen: through the eyes of children. Three kids from three families shared their struggles living in the Quad Cities, a crossroads along the border of Iowa and Illinois on the Mississippi River, hard hit by the recession at that time.

Now, Frontline reveals the stories of those grown children, chronicling their lives from childhood to the present day and offering a powerful, personal, and longitudinal look at the realities of growing up in poverty in the U.S.

Amid today's headlines on economic uncertainty, inflation, and the faltering U.S. job market, *Born Poor* is a must-watch documentary that offers an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of trying to overcome the grinding poverty that shaped many childhoods.,

Check local listings for times and media viewing options. [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/frontline). Then bring your family, friends, church groups, and discussion groups together to watch and talk about what you've learned.

SATURDAY MORNING WALKS IN OUR AREA PARKS



OCTOBER 4, 11, 18, 25 +

Looking for a refreshing way to connect with others and grow spiritually? Look no further because ARJ's 'Walking with Jesus' is back—and we'd love for you to join us! You'll find friendly faces, meaningful conversations, and peaceful walks through several of our community's beautiful parks. There's no prep work—just show up and enjoy! We walk in a different local park each week.

Whether you are new or returning, this is a great way to start your Saturday with purpose and connection. Jesus walked—and so shall we. Come walk, talk, and be inspired. We can't wait to see you there!

Contact: Crystal Johnson – Crystal.H.Whitmore@gmail.com

Arrival Time: By 7:30 AM Walk Begins: 8 AM (for one hour)

- **October 4th** - Mill Creek Park – W. 43rd Street and Broadway Blvd. KCMO (meet by the Fountain)
- **October 11th** - Liberty Memorial - 1 Memorial Drive, KCMO
- **October 18th** - Swope Park – Meyer Blvd and Swope Parkway, KCMO (meet at the entrance)
- **October 25th** - Lowenstein Park 1901 NW Lowenstein Dr Lees Summit, MO 64081 (meet by the shelter house)
- **November 1st** – TBD Weather Permitting

REIMAGINING HISTORY

With Kevin Willmott



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 6 - 7 PM
Gem Theater 1601 E. 18th Street KCMO 64108

The American Jazz Museum, Gem Theater, and Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art invite you to an inspiring evening with Kansas City-area filmmaker and Oscar-winning co-writer for *BlackKkKlansman*, Kevin Willmott!

Kevin will discuss his film repertoire through the lens of the *Stan Douglas: Metronome* exhibit, currently on view until October 12 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Its themes include memory, history, global connectivity, socio-political unrest, the power of protest, and the complexities of cultural interaction.

Think of the conversations that can start!

Admission to the Kevin Willmott evening is free; however, registration is encouraged.

[Register Here](#)

Reconciliation Services
SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Join Reconciliation Services for this one-of-a-kind event that brings the Kansas City metro area together to celebrate community, connection, and resilience.

Troost Avenue will come alive for a family-friendly block party bursting with energy, music, and fun. Enjoy face painting, games, and bounce house adventures, explore the Mobile Leadership & Arts Building (mLab) from Urban Neighborhood Initiative, and dance along with a live DJ. Guests will savor delicious food from Thelma's Kitchen.

For those seeking a deeper experience, this year's Hike for Reconciliation offers a self-led journey along the historic Troost Corridor, Troost Park, and the east side of Kansas City. Along the route, hikers will encounter reflection stations that highlight the lasting impacts of racial segregation, discrimination, and disinvestment, while also honoring the resilience and strength of our neighbors.

Mark your calendars and [register for the Hike HERE!](#)



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

Let's act together

A red rectangular poster with white and black text. The word "REDLINED" is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, "CITIES • SUBURBS • SEGREGATION" is in smaller white capital letters. The title "Legacies of Redlining Summit" is in bold black text, followed by "Water, Justice, and Community" in a slightly smaller bold black font. At the bottom, the date and time "Wednesday, October 22, 2025" and "8:00am - 12:00pm" are listed in bold black text.

REDLINED
CITIES • SUBURBS • SEGREGATION
Legacies of Redlining Summit
Water, Justice, and Community
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
8:00am - 12:00pm

Many of you will recall ARJ's involvement in supporting the Johnson County Museum *REDLINED: Cities, Suburbs, and Segregation* exhibit and digital release. Those programs have helped spark important conversations about how the past continues to shape our communities today. The museum is about to take the next step in that journey, and we're all invited to be part of it.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2025, the Johnson County Museum will host the inaugural Legacies of Redlining Summit, a half-day gathering focused on this year's theme: "Water, Justice, and Community." Together, we'll explore how historic housing discrimination continues to influence environmental outcomes and what we can do to build more equitable futures.

Event Details:

- Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 8 AM – 12 PM
- Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center | 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS
- Featuring keynote speaker Queen Wilkes, regional environmental advocate, plus a panel discussion, Action Lab, and networking
- \$25 per person

Learn more and reserve your spot today: [Legacies of Redlining Summit here](#).



In this episode of Justice Takes Courage Podcast, host Bishop Julius C. Trimble and guest Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling talk about the challenges of today's political landscape. They discuss moving beyond prayer to action, giving voice to issues that touch our communities, sustaining justice work over the long haul, and more.

Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling is the Resident Bishop of the Baltimore Washington / Peninsula-Delaware Episcopal area. Bishop Easterling also serves as an At Large Executive Committee Member of the Board of Directors for the General Board of Church and Society.

[Listen to Episode 4](#)

This podcast is produced by Church and Society Communications.
Also available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Amazon Music.

The Justice Takes Courage podcast explores national and international social witness

issues and actions in response to today's most pressing social concerns. Hosted by Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of The General Board of Church and Society, the podcast brings together United Methodists and interfaith partners to share ideas and perspectives that drive faith-based advocacy and legislative action.



JUSTICE TALKS. A GRACE OVER GREED UPDATE

On September 23, 2025, Church & Society staff discussed the United States federal budget and how spending decisions will have dramatic and widespread implications for our priorities. It's more important than ever for all of us to understand the impact funding cuts have on our ability to do God's work in so many ways on the local, national, and global level.

Watch a recording of this conversation on the [YouTube channel at UMCJustice](#). Links to helpful resources mentioned by panelists and live viewers can be found in the video description. Consider viewing this episode of Justice Talks with your small group, Sunday School class, or by hosting a watch party with family and friends.

Discussion participants are:

- Bishop Julius C. Trimble – General Secretary
 - Rev. Camille Henderson-Edwards – Sr. Exec. Dir. For Advocacy
 - Rev. Kendal L. McBroom – Dir. of Civil & Human Rights
 - Colleen Moore – Dir. of Peace with Justice
 - Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards - Methodist Climate & Energy Fellow
-

YOUR VOTE COUNTS



Are you ready for November 4th? That's general election day in Kansas and Missouri for important school board, municipal government, county government, utilities, and local ballot measures that will impact you and the community where you live.

Get up to speed on who is running for each open office and make sure you're registered and know your polling location. Here are some resources to help.

State of Kansas

[Kansas Secretary of State | Elections](#)

Voter Information

Johnson County

For voter status and sample ballot, go to:

<https://www.jocoelection.org/>

<https://www.jocoelection.org/eventselections/november-4-2025-general-election>

Wyandotte County

[WycoVotesKCK.gov](https://www.WycoVotesKCK.gov)

[WycoVotesKCK.gov/VoterView](https://www.WycoVotesKCK.gov/VoterView)

Other Resources

League of Women Voters

<https://lwvk.org/>

Voting in Kansas

<https://www.lwvjoco.org/>

https://ballotpedia.org/Kansas_elections,_2025

State of Missouri

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/calendar>

Jackson County

For sample ballot, go to:

<https://jcebmo.org/wp-content/uploads/11.04.25-Notice-of-Election-Sample-Ballot.pdf>

[Jackson County Missouri Election Board](#)

Other Resources

League of Women Voters of Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties

www.vote411.org/ballot

https://ballotpedia.org/Missouri_elections,_2025

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

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

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