

Connect
Unite
Act

ARJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

December 2025



**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
Authority rests upon his shoulders;
And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

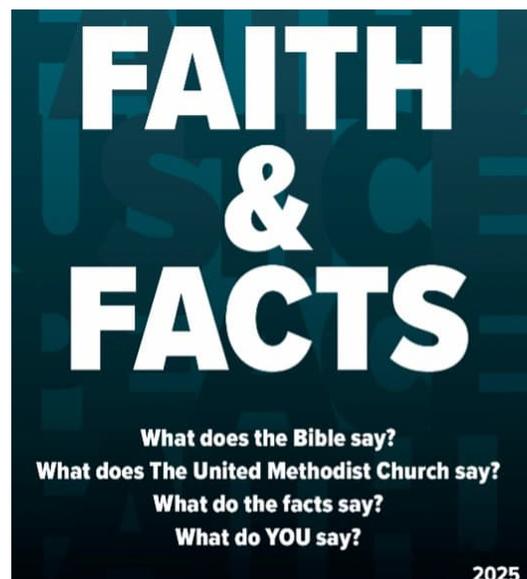
Isaiah 9:6

The Allies for Racial Justice Leadership Team extends wishes to everyone for a beautiful and joyous Christmas season. We encourage you to share in the many opportunities for worship, Advent studies, volunteering, and fellowship offered by St. James Church, Church of the Resurrection, and throughout our greater KC community.

As we look forward to 2026, we invite you to join us as we Connect, Unite and Act to grow awareness of injustice and engage in building authentic relationships to help eliminate the existing racial divide in our churches and communities.

CONNECT

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



United Methodist Church & Society creates many tools to help us along our faith and justice journeys. The Faith & Fact cards provide clear, concise information to guide our thinking through the troubling issues we face in current times. Issues such as Immigration. Print out this card to help you inform and start a meaningful conversation

with your small group, family, and friends.

[FIND PDF HERE](#)



WHO INVENTED THAT?

When you think about inventors who transformed modern life, who comes to mind? Maybe it's Thomas Edison, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Graham Bell, Eli Whitney, or the Wright brothers. Those guys we read about in our textbooks, right?

What about the “unsung innovators” we didn't hear about? Despite barriers like slavery, segregation, and limited access to education, Black men and women inventors also changed the way we live, work, and communicate. We should learn about them and share their stories with family, friends and especially any children in your life. Here's an article to get you started.

- [Top 10 Contributions of Black Inventors You Didn't Learn in School](#)



**DIALOGUE:
STASI BOBO-LIGON &
JOSEPH A. NEWTON**



**Now Through January 3, 2026
KC Central Library – Guldner Gallery
14 W. 10th Street KCMO 64105**

The African American Artists Collective, based in Kansas City, MO, advocates for artists, fosters networks, offers mentorship, and curates exhibitions and performances.

Dialogue, the current exhibit at the Kansas City Central Library, is one such program. It brings together the mixed media works of Stasi Bobo-Ligon and Joseph A. Newton in a celebration of Black identity.

Bobo-Ligon combines painting with collage and assemblage to create emotionally rich textures. Her creations, she says, are often an “emotional reaction or response to a moment,” reflecting her own experience as an African American woman in contemporary life.

Newton fuses acrylic painting with digital techniques, layering mixed media to portray Black icons from both past and present. These figures interact visually, drawing viewers into stories that span generations.

Lots to see and discuss. The exhibit is free for all to view during regular library hours, Monday through Sunday.

**MIDWEST TRUST CENTER PRESENTS
MULTI-CULTURE
HOLIDAY SING ALONG**



Saturday, December 13
Activities 10 AM Concert 11 AM
Johnson County Community College - Polsky Theatre
12345 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS 66210

Here's some holiday fun for small groups, families and folks of all ages. A quartet that embodies the festive far-reaching spirit of the season and the legacy of intergenerational communal music making.

You'll enjoy seasonal numbers from a variety of traditions, languages, and locations. Songs from Puerto Rico, Korea, Wales, Tunisia, Haiti, and Washington, D.C., are represented alongside reimagined versions of the ones we all know and love, such as "Let it Snow," "Silent Night," and "Deck the Halls." Hannukah, Korean New Year, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice are also celebrated. A Holiday Sing Along songbook will be provided to audience members.

Smithsonian Folkways recording artists **Dan + Claudia Zane** have taken their electric folk sound to a fresh place with jazz vocalist and recent Howard University graduate **Tyree Austin**, alongside multi-instrumentalist and children's music star **Elena Moon Park**. The result is an inviting blend of four voices with guitar, violin, trumpet, harmonica, flute, spoons, percussion, and mandolin.

The fun begins in the MTC lobby at 10 am, with art activities, followed by an hour-long concert. Sensory-friendly, free admission; reservations recommended.

[INDIVIDUAL TICKETS](#)



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

Let's act together

LAND RETURNED TO TRIBAL NATION



*(Photo courtesy of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration)
Sister Sue Ernster and Tribal President John D. Johnson Sr.*

A history-making moment took place on October 31, 2025, when the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration completed the first known land transfer nationwide from an Order of Catholic Sisters to a tribal nation in the name of reparations.

The move acknowledges and seeks to begin repairing the painful legacy of colonialism and federal Indian boarding schools, where many Native American children were forcibly removed from their homes and compelled to assimilate. Nearly 1,000 tribal youth died at those schools, including children from Lac du Flambeau and other tribes in Wisconsin.

“This return represents more than the restoration of land — it is the restoration of balance, dignity, and our sacred connection to the places our ancestors once walked,” Lac du Flambeau Tribal Leader John D. Johnson, Sr. said in a statement.

Bishop James P. Powers of the Catholic Diocese of Superior said in a statement that the transfer is a “tangible act of justice and reconciliation.” He continued, “Following in

the spirit of Pope Francis's own commitment toward repentance, we pray this action will help build on a future of mutual respect and trusted relationships with the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, acknowledging their connection to this land."

Sister Ernster noted that the parties have been working in recent years to return the property to its original caretakers. "We do see this as the beginning of deepening the relationship and really helping to heal our part of the trauma," she said. Read the full story below.

[READ HERE](#)

KCK'S FIRST BLACK WOMAN MAYOR



Christal Watson, Kansas City, KS newly elected mayor/CEO
Photo by Carlos Moreno/KCUR

Kim Davis, CEO & President of the Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, hosts the weekly podcast, "Straight from the Heart." In a recent episode, she interviewed Christal Watson, the newly elected mayor of Kansas City, KS, and CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County.

Ms. Watson is the second woman in 20 years, and the first Black woman, to hold this office. In this interview she shares her journey from running without political endorsements or big money to winning a historic grassroots victory. This is a conversation about courage, community, leadership, and grassroots action...a blueprint for anyone who's ever been underestimated.

Nov 17, 2025 [Straight From The Heart Podcast](#)

Now streaming on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and YouTube

 [Listen Now: 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 stumckc.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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