



Connect
Unite
Act

ARJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

April 2026



WHITE WITH FEAR

A Documentary

If you've ever wondered how our country derailed on the way to "liberty, equality, and justice for all", this documentary film provides insight into how racial fault lines are used to gain power. The film examines decades of fear-driven politics using race and media messaging as political tools. Told through firsthand accounts from the people in the rooms where these strategies were built, it traces a line from Nixon's "law and order" era to present day politics, highlighting how tactics rooted in anti-Black narrative expanded into a broader playbook to target immigrants, Muslim communities and anyone else considered "other than white."

The documentary is currently streaming on PBS stations nationwide. Consider pulling your family and small groups together to watch and discuss.



Bringing people together to **CONNECT** through engaging educational events.

Let's start a conversation



**Kansas City
Public Library**

Signature Event

**CIVIL WAR ARITHMETIC:
RE-COUNTING THE CASUALTIES OF WAR**

Presented By Thavolia Glymph

In Person & Online, Wednesday, April 8, 6 - 7 PM

**Reception 5:30 PM Helzberg Auditorium
14 W. 10th Street, KCMO 64105**

Many writers and artists have focused on the overwhelming total loss of life during the Civil War — an estimated 1.5 million casualties of all ages, ethnicities, and genders. Less visible and documented is the conflict's specific impact on Black women and children.

Historian Thavolia Glymph draws on her research, centered on slavery, emancipation, Reconstruction, labor, and women in the U.S. South, to discuss what's been overlooked in contemporary and historical accounts.

A professor of history and law at Duke University, Glymph is the author of two books, including *The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation*. She's published numerous articles and essays and served as co-editor of two volumes of *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*. Glymph is also the past president of the American Historical Association and the Southern Historical Association, and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

This event is co-sponsored by: Kansas City Monuments Coalition. A partnership of preservation and commemorative organizations across the city, KCMC is supported by the Center for Digital and Public Humanities at UMKC and funded by the Mellon Foundation.

RSVP NOW

FAITH & IMMIGRATION

An Evening with Angelica Acosta Garnett

**Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 PM
Resurrection Downtown
1601 Grand Blvd. KCMO 64108**

Scripture has a lot to say about welcoming the stranger, but for many of us, the gap between what we read and how we engage the real-world conversation around immigration can feel wide. This gathering is designed to help close that gap.

Speaker Angelica "Lica" Acosta Garnett, brings both personal experience as an immigrant from Colombia and professional expertise as Director of the Asylum Narrative Translation Project at Abara, which fosters connection, healing, and action at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Angelica will lead a theological reflection on migration, helping us understand how Scripture speaks to the immigration questions and how faith communities can respond

with both wisdom and compassion. Local organizations serving immigrants and refugees in greater Kansas City will be available as well. This event is free and open to everyone, regardless of where you are in your understanding of immigration issues. Registration is required using the button below!

[Register Here](#)

For more information on Abara, go to <https://abara.org/>



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

Let's learn from each other.

JOIN ARJ AT THE THEATRE



THE AFRICAN COMPANY PRESENTS *RICHARD III*

Sunday, APRIL 26 at 3 PM

Unicorn Theatre, 3828 Main St., KCMO 64111

This is not your typical Shakespeare! It is an inventive retelling of a little known, yet pivotal event in the history of our country's first Black theatrical group – The African Company of New York, circa 1821.

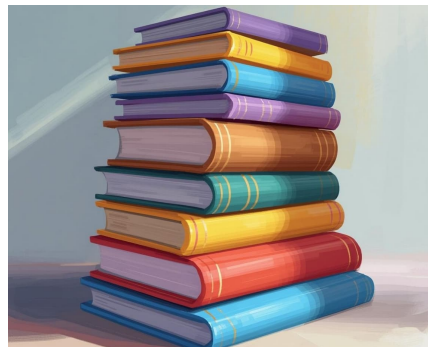
Forty years before Lincoln ended slavery (and fifty years before African Americans earned the right to vote) a Black thespian group was putting on plays in downtown Manhattan to which both Black and white audiences flocked. The drama reached further than the stage.

ARJ has purchased a block of \$20 discount tickets. Get your tickets now by clicking here so we can learn more about this story together. There will be a Talk Back with the director and actors following the play.

[The African Company presents Richard III, by The Black Repertory Theater of Kansas City | Resurrection Website](#)

This play is a collaboration of Black Repertory Theatre of KC with Heart of America Shakespeare Festival and the Unicorn Theatre.

ARJ CLASSIC BLACK LITERATURE BOOK STUDIES



Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 – 8 PM
Resurrection Leawood – 13720 Roe Ave
Bldg. B - Foundry Rm B152

This month we are reading ***Go Tell it on The Mountain***, a semi-autobiographical novel by James Baldwin. First published in 1953, it his first major work and has established itself as an American classic. In its 70+ years, the book has been praised, banned or challenged due to its content (i.e., sexuality, profanity, family violence, religious criticism) and public mood of the times.

Set in the 1930s, it focuses on a pivotal day in the life of a fourteen-year-old boy who discovers the difficult terms of his identity. The book carries themes of religion and salvation, family relationships, race, and society.

All book studies are held at 6:30 PM on the last Wednesday of each month. Each monthly book title is announced 4-8 weeks in advance of the meeting to allow enough time to read. Check this monthly ARJ newsletter and the ARJ and Resurrection Leawood websites. Childcare available.

[Click here](#) to register for the April event and bring a friend. If you cannot attend in person,

consider reading the book for your own enjoyment and to develop a deeper love and understanding of all people in our shared world.

Upcoming Book Selections:

- May 27 – *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- June 24 – *Native Son* by Richard Wright

ARJ TICKETS ON SALE!



ARJ NIGHT AT THE KC MONARCHS GAME Saturday, June 6 - Gates Open at 6 PM

ARJ is getting ready for our fun summer evening of baseball at Legends Field. Get it on your calendar now!

The event is set for Saturday, June 6. The KC Monarchs vs Gary Southshore RailCats game starts at 6:35 PM. We will socialize and share an all-you-can-eat buffet on the patio and party deck, enjoy the game, and even collect player autographs after the game! The all-inclusive special ticket price is just \$39 per person. Parking is free. Tickets are available now by [clicking here](#).

SAVE THE DATE 5th ANNUAL JUNETEENTH EVENT Saturday, June 20, 4 - 6:30 PM Resurrection Lee's Summit, MO

ARJ hosts this annual St. James Church and Resurrection Juneteenth celebration. This year we will be at Lee's Summit. Our teams are hard at work preparing an amazing program that will include a keynote speaker, an interesting exhibit on Black history, and music by Isaac Cates and the One Accord Choir and other performers. The event is free and all are welcome. Mark the date on your calendar now and watch this newsletter for more information.



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

Let's act together

REDLINING TO REDEMPTION BUS TOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 9:30-11:30 AM

**Departs from Salem Baptist Church
1824 N 11th St. Kansas City, KS**

Good Faith Network and Churches United for Justice present an interactive history lesson so you can see the enduring legacy of redlining across Wyandotte and Johnson Counties. Sign up here and join them on the bus.

RSVP HERE

For more information on Good Faith Network upcoming events, go to:

info@thegoodfaithnetwork.org



BREAKING THE I.C.E. ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT & FEDERAL POWER

**Wednesday, April 15, 6 PM
UMKC Student Union
5100 Cherry St., #401 KCMO 64110**

H. R. 1, the “Big Beautiful Bill” Act dedicated over \$170 billion to immigration and border enforcement. As immigration enforcement expands, questions grow around the balance between national security and human rights. Join American Public Square and the 2026 Student Ambassadors for a conversation about detention centers, ICE operations, and the growth of federal power. Featuring experts and those most affected by current policy, this Civics Education Initiative student-designed discussion will examine where to draw the line between immigration enforcement and liberty.

Doors open at 5:30 pm for a member’s social, and the public program begins at 6 pm; a post-event discussion and reception will follow. For information and registration, either in person or online, [click here.](#)

SIN, HOLINESS, JUSTICE & WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW: A PERSONAL STORY ABOUT BLACK & WHITE HISTORY

DR. ANDREW JOHNSON



Saturday, April 25 | 1:30 - 3:30 PM
Central Church of the Nazarene
12600 W 87TH Street Pkwy, Lenexa, KS 66215

Join Dr. Andy Johnson, Professor and Chair in Biblical Theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary, as he shares his personal story of growing up in Mississippi in the 1960s and 70s. Framed by scripture, Dr. Johnson will explore how history and sin shape us all and broaden our understanding of what holiness and justice truly require of us.

RSVP HERE

SUPPORT BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANTS

Aside from enjoying a meal or coffee break in new surroundings, there are other reasons to support Black-owned restaurants. These businesses help empower their communities and promote economic growth and equality. They are often the heart of neighborhoods where people forge connections and friendships that overcome any perceived cultural barriers.

We all spend money eating out. Just imagine what directing some of that spending power to Black-owned businesses can do. Join ARJ in bridging the economic gap by supporting Black-owned restaurants and businesses. Here are two more that we have visited recently.

Equal Minded Café KC

A community-focused coffee shop known for its welcoming atmosphere, quality coffee, and mission to foster connection and collaboration among diverse groups. The surroundings are totally casual. Great sandwiches, small bites, and bakery items.

4327 Troost Avenue, KCMO

816-933-9626

www.equalmindedcafe.com

Tannin Wine Bar & Kitchen

Located in the Crossroads Art District and offering exceptional food and wine experiences. Handmade seasonal cuisine professionally served in elegant surroundings. Dinner, Late Night and Happy Hour service.

1526 Walnut Street, KCMO 64108

816-842-2660

www.tanninwinebar.com

Check out the growing list of Black-owned restaurants frequented and recommended by ARJ participants

Click Here For List

**ALLIES FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
WISHES YOU A BLESSED EASTER**



A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

O God, who created all peoples in your image, I thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world.

Enrich my life by ever-widening circles of fellowship and show me your presence in those who differ most from me, until my knowledge of your love is made perfect in my love for all your children.

Strengthen efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, to abolish poverty, injustice, and favoritism of one race over another. Hasten the day when all people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy name. Amen

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

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:

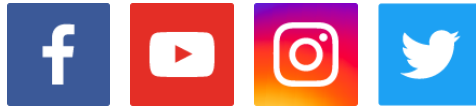
<https://resurrection.church/arj>

or join the conversation on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlliesForRacialJustice>

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Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS 66224