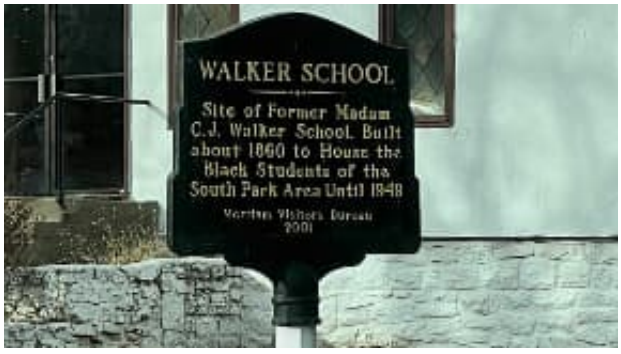
Connect
Unite
Act

ARJ
ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

November 2026





Most of us are familiar with the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case that led to desegregation of schools nationwide. But there's also a little-known story that happened in our own backyard (South Park, KS - now part of Merriam, KS). It was a precursor in the fight against school segregation and inequality.

The Madam C. J. Walker School was built in 1888 after Johnson County organized School District 90 to serve both Black and white children in the area. It had two classrooms, poor lighting, inadequate heating and no indoor plumbing. In 1900 the district began separating students by race. In 1947, a new white-only South Park Grade School was built just two blocks away from Walker, using $90,000 in taxpayer funds. African American children were denied admittance, solely based on race and color. The Black students were left in the run-down, 90-year-old Walker building.

When their children were turned away from the new South Park School, parents, led by Alfonso and Mary Webb, organized a boycott, hired teachers Corinthian Nutter and Hazel McCray-Weddington, and opened a home school where their children were taught for over a year. Meanwhile, appeals were made to the school board and Johnson County Court. All requests were denied. Esther Brown, a local activist, took up the cause to assist the parents. She urged attorney Elijah Scott to take the lead in bringing about the Webb v. School District 90 Case. The case went all the way to the Kansas Supreme Court. And they won!

A Kansas law made it illegal to have segregated schools in communities with populations under 15,000. In upholding the law, the court ruled in favor of the Black students to attend South Park School. Merriam became the first community in Kansas with desegregated public schools. Six years later, in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

The former Walker schoolhouse still stands, now home to the Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church. In 2026 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Community Leader Tony Adams is leading a restoration project to replicate the two-room schoolhouse and convert the building to a museum. Researchers at MidAmerica Nazarene University are capturing stories and documenting the history.

CONNECT

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

Let's start a conversation.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

TROOST UNITED FEST 2026



Saturday, Nov. 7 11 AM - 3 PM
3101 Troost Ave. KCMO 64109

Everyone is invited to celebrate the power of community and make connections during this free, vibrant, family-friendly festival that supports the amazing work of Reconciliation Services.

Round up your family, friends, and small groups and share the fun. Enjoy live music, delicious food from Thelma's Kitchens, games and activities for all ages, interactive community partner booths, giveaways, and so much more. Along the way, explore the 200-year history of the Troost corridor through engaging historical displays that chronicle the past and present stories and people who have shaped the neighborhood.
Serving all of KC, Reconciliation Services focus is on the Troost corridor and Eastside KC, areas that face high poverty and limited resources. Through daily advocacy and community connections, they strive for racial and economic reconciliation across our city.
For more information, visit **Troost United Fest | Reconciliation Services**

UNITE

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

programs.

Let's learn from each other.

THE NELSON ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS

Día de los Muertos Festival

Sunday, Nov. 1 – 10 AM - 4 PM
4525 Oak Street KCMO 64111

While National Hispanic Heritage Month 2026 officially ran from September 15 to October 15, the Nelson Atkins Museum continues to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of those tracing their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Latin American holiday that honors the spirits of loved ones who have passed on. At this year's Nelson Atkin's festival, you can learn through folkloric dance performances, live music, artist demonstrations, artmaking activities, and traditional cuisine.

This is another entertaining and educational Fall get-together activity for ARJ friends and families! General admission to the museum and all festival activities and performances are FREE. Advance registration is encouraged. For details and pre-registration, click the button below.

Click Here

CONFRONTING RACIAL INEQUITIES

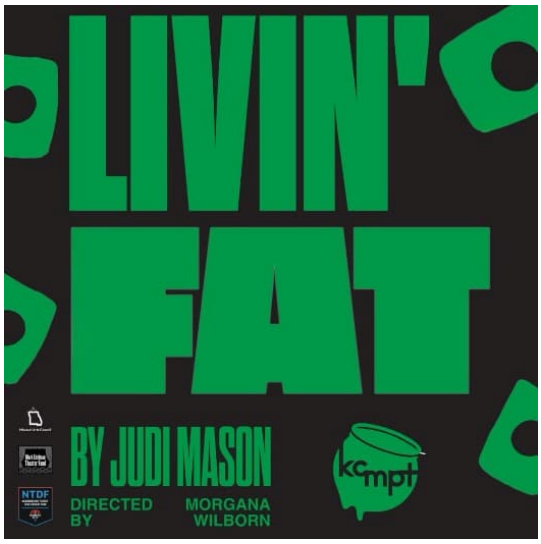


Saturday, Nov. 7 – Noon - 5:30 PM
606 Gladstone Ave, KCMO 64124

The 2026 Annual KC Racial Justice Summit gathers neighbors, organizers, and partners to confront the realities of racial inequity in Kansas City. The event includes speakers, workshops, and resource tables. Ideas and tools will be provided to help you engage in the work of building communal power and dignified relationships.

Hosted by **Intersect KC** and led by **The KC Disciples' Becoming Beloved Community Team**, the KC Racial Summit provides an opportunity to put faith/values in action to leverage long-delayed justice. This is an opportunity to find others who care about the same issues and build power and movement together. For more questions on volunteering send email to **kylie@kcdisciples.org.** To register for the event, **click here.**

THE MELTING POT THEATRE



December 3 – 12
3051 Penn Valley Drive KCMO 64108

After Performance Talk Back on Dec 3, 6, and 10

When two working-class friends suddenly acquire unexpected wealth, their world shifts overnight. Navigating love, ambition, and social perception, they discover that "leveling up" comes with complications no one prepared them for. Both hilarious and insightful, ***Livin' Fat*** explores Black aspiration, status, and whether success transforms who we are, or simply reveals who we are.

This play has a rich history, originating in the 1970s Black collegiate theater scene. Judi Ann Mason wrote it when she was an undergraduate student at Grambling State University, a Historically Black College/University founded in 1901 in Louisiana. She went on to become a recognized television and film writer, producer, playwright, and academic. Her list of credits includes *Good Times, Sanford and Son, Beverly Hills 90210, I'll Fly Away, American Gothic, Generations, Sister Act 2, Sophie and the Moonhanger, The Cornbread Man, Indigo Blues* and more.

To learn more and get tickets, click here.

ACT

Bringing people together to ***ACT*** by supporting racial justice activities

throughout our churches and communities.

Let's act together.



Small Business Saturday
Black Business Market 2026

Saturday, Nov. 28 – 11 AM – 4 PM 5008 Prospect Ave. KCMO 64130

Join Kansas City G.I.F.T. for the Small Business Saturday Black Business Market and shop an amazing lineup of local Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. This is a day dedicated to supporting Black entrepreneurs and strengthening our community. Discover clothing, food, jewelry, beauty products, art, gifts, home goods, and more while supporting local businesses. Bring family and friends—and your shopping list! Every purchase is an opportunity to support a local entrepreneur, strengthen a Black-owned business, and keep more dollars circulating within our community.

KC G.I.F.T. (Generating Income for Tomorrow) exists to reverse the effects of systemic racism by empowering Black entrepreneurs and strengthening Black-owned businesses throughout Kansas City. Founded in 2020, KC G.I.F.T. provides business grants, business education, professional services, and strategic resources that help business owners grow and thrive.



Johnson County Museum

Friday, Dec. 4 8 AM – Noon
8788 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS 66212

The Legacies of Redlining Summit is the next evolution of the REDLINED: Cities, Suburbs, and Segregation exhibit—an opportunity to move from learning to action.

This half-day event will explore how the federal policy of redlining continues to shape our communities today. This year's theme, *Home, Opportunity & Community: The Housing Legacy of Redlining*, looks at the impacts of redlining on our region's housing affordability, homeownership, and community opportunity. Tickets are $25.00.

For event details, sponsorships and tickets go to **https://jcprd.com/2185/Legacies-of-Redlining-2026-Summit**

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, Dec 12 – KC G.I.F.T. Holiday Retail Market with Black Santa, 11 AM - 4 PM
5008 Prospect Ave, Kansas City, MO – Seasonal market highlighting Black-owned businesses, free pictures with Santa. Bring your holiday shopping list—and get ready to discover amazing local businesses!

Thursday-Sunday -- December 10-13 – Resurrection Leawood
Christmas at Resurrection marks its 20th year! This year's theme, "Anticipation, Awaiting the Coming of Christ," brings together the 120-voice Resurrection Choir, a full orchestra, the Kansas City Dance Collective, and a cast of actors and soloists for a night unlike anything else on the calendar this season. Get tickets here: **Christmas at Resurrection - Resurrection Church**

March 15-20, 2027 – A Civil Rights Learning Opportunity



Led by Resurrection Lee's Summit Location Pastor Robert Johnson, this six-day pilgrimage departs March 15, 2027, and traces the sacred and sobering events that shaped the American Civil Rights Movement through the lens of faith, courage, and costly discipleship. Traveling together, participants will stand where ordinary people made extraordinary choices for justice, visiting Little Rock Central High School, the Mississippi Delta, and sites connected to the stories of Daisy Bates, Emmett Till, and Medgar Evers, as well as Freedom Summer and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. The journey also includes time in New Orleans and historic Beale Street, where the Delta blues and the lasting impact of Hurricane Katrina together tell a story of resilience, creativity, and hope. Each day is shaped by guided reflection, teaching, prayer, and honest conversation as participants wrestle with the past and discern how God is calling us to live more faithfully today. Scheduled during Spring Break, this trip is open to adults and high schoolers alike. The cost is $2,078. Space is limited to 45 travelers, and early registration is encouraged.

Learn More & Register 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

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