Connect
Unite
Act

ARJ

ALLIES for RACIAL JUSTICE

October 2026

THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY TALKED, THEY LEARNED!

ARJ's KC Black History Bus Tour



Last month, folks from St. James and Resurrection filled the bus and spent an engaging afternoon with Black historian, Erik Keith Stafford, time-travelling through Kansas City's history. The amazing stories and shared conversations gave new insights and inspired reflection, connection, and a deeper appreciation for the individuals, communities, and moments that have shaped Kansas City's rich Black history.

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn together and to celebrate the legacy, resilience, achievements, and impact of those who came before us. Events like this are made special by participants who bring curiosity, respect, and a willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue.

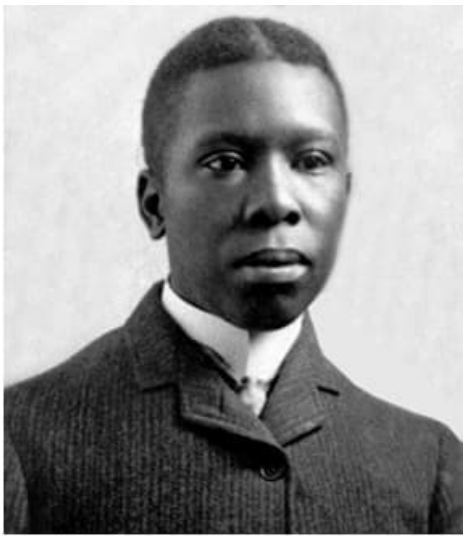
We look forward to seeing you at future ARJ events and opportunities to learn together.

CONNECT

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

Let's start a conversation.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT DUNBAR:
KANSAS CITY'S FIRST BLACK SUBURB



Paul Laurence Dunbar – circa 1890



Exhibit photography by E.G. Schempf

Keep learning about Kansas City's Black history with a visit to the Museum of Kansas City. The museum is now featuring a special free exhibit on Dunbar – the first KCMO suburban neighborhood where African American families could buy their own land and homes in a community built by Black entrepreneurs.

Founded in the early 1910s, the area had hundreds of homes by the late 1920s and centered around a private amusement space named Liberty Park. The suburb was named in honor of African American poet and novelist, Paul Laurence Dunbar; one of the first influential Black writers to achieve international acclaim. This exhibit celebrates more than 110 years of neighborhood history, achievement, and resilience.

Today, revitalization efforts are bringing renewed energy to the neighborhood through restoration of historic homes and buildings, support for Black-owned businesses, and affordability/environmental stewardship commitments.

Gather your small group and learn more at this free exhibit, 3218 Gladstone Blvd, KCMO 64123

Learn More

Wornall/Majors House Museum

CHANCE DISCOVERY REVEALS NAMES OF ENSLAVED PEOPLE

If you've ever watched "Finding Your Roots" on PBS, you know how difficult it is for African Americans to find their ancestors who were enslaved people. Fortunately, many new records are being unearthed to help in the search. One such discovery recently happened here in Kansas City.

The names of nine people who were enslaved in Jackson County surfaced in old property records from the estate of Pony Express tycoon Alexander Majors. Now, an online database is making hundreds of records referencing enslavement easier to search — and shedding new light on slavery's deep roots in Missouri.

Read more in this excellent story from KCUR reporter Julie Denesha, published August 7, 2026.

Read More

UNITE

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

Let's learn from each other.

DON'T MISS FINAL 2026 CLASSIC BLACK LITERATURE BOOK STUDY

Oct. 28 6:30–8 PM
Resurrection Leawood – 13720 Roe Ave
Bldg. B – Upstairs in Rm B256

We are having great discussions, learning more, and making new friends at ARJ's monthly book studies. A different book each month offers new understanding of the Black experience along with all the joys, sorrows and hopes of living in an upside-down world.

The final book of our 2026 season is **"The Bluest Eye"** by Toni Morrison. The book explores the destructive impact of racism, beauty standards, and self-perception. You don't want to miss this discussion. Everyone is welcome! **Register Here.**

Watch future newsletters for information on the 2027 ARJ Black Literature Studies

schedule.

GOOD FAITH NETWORK

AN INTERFAITH JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

COMMUNITY PROBLEMS ASSEMBLY

Sunday, Oct. 25
2 PM - Good Shepherd Catholic Church
12800 W. 75th St. Shawnee, KS 66216

The Good Faith Network is an interfaith organization building people power in nearly 30 congregations across Johnson County. The Good Faith Network builds a collective voice so large it can't be ignored. It organizes and uses that voice to advocate for changes that address the root cause of our community's most pressing problems.

Active campaigns include:
• Mental Health Crisis Care
• Ending Homelessness
• Affordable Housing
• Elder Care

At the network-wide gathering in October, you will hear stories from the Fall listening process, receive updates on ongoing campaigns, and vote to select the newest issue area for the Good Faith Network to address. All are welcome but in order to vote you must be a member. Sign up now and get involved:

Good Faith Network | Doing Justice in Johnson County, KS

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

Let's act together.

INTERFAITH ALLIANCE
"THE VOTE IS SACRED"
NATIONAL TOUR BUS & PUBLIC RALLY

Monday, Oct. 5 – St. James Church
10 AM - Noon



Interfaith Alliance is a network of people of diverse faiths and beliefs from across the country working together to build a resilient democracy and fulfill America's promise of religious freedom and civil rights not just for some, but for all.

The national nonpartisan bus tour is designed to mobilize faith voters, promote election protection and prepare faith communities for potential election crises ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE TO SUPPORT BLACK-OWNED RESTAURANTS

ARJ actively encourages supporting locally Black-owned restaurants and businesses. You get to explore new neighborhoods and share Black culture while supporting the families and businesses that shape the Kansas City metro area.

The Kansas City Defender has created an online directory of the best Black-owned restaurants in Kansas City. The site is continuously updated so check it often as you make plans to eat out. The Defender (and ARJ) encourage you to Eat well, tip generously, and tell somebody else about this great new resource.

Find Resource Here

DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER BIRTHPLACE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

5TH ANNUAL CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

Wednesday, Oct. 30 – 7 PM
Folly Theatre 300W. 12th Street – KCMO 64105

Established in 1943, the George Washington Carver Birthplace Association (CBA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and community enrichment. One of their key initiatives is awarding annual scholarships to high school seniors pursuing higher education in the fields of Agriculture, Art, Education, Music, or Science.

This concert is a fundraising event celebrating the mission to expand opportunities for students while honoring the enduring legacy of Black scientist and educator, Dr. George Washington Carver. **For more information and tickets click here.**

SAVE THE DATES

4th ANNUAL RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT
Intersect KC, 606 Gladstone Ave. KCMO Saturday, Nov. 7 12-5:30 PM

The 2026 Annual 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 concrete tools are shared to 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.

LEGACIES OF REDLINING 2026 SUMMIT
Johnson County Museum NEW DATE: Friday, Dec. 4 8:00 AM – Noon

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**

CHRISTMAS AT RESURRECTION
Resurrection Leawood Thursday-Sunday -- December 10-13

Christmas at Resurrection marks its 20th year this December, and 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. **Christmas at Resurrection - Resurrection Church**

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.

ST. JAMES CHURCH

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

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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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