

KING WEEK JANUARY 2026

January 14th-19th

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE PURPOSE, ONE DREAM:
A CALL TO ACTION



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

P.O. Box 155, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901-0155
www.MLKKnxville.com



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HIS LIFE AND TIME

January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He was educated at Morehouse College and Crozer Theological Seminary. He received his Ph.D. from Boston University in 1955 and later received numerous honorary doctoral degrees from institutions around the world.

As pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. King assumed leadership of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in December 1955.

Building on the boycott's success, Dr. King, along with a group of Atlanta ministers, organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to stage demonstrations and carry the struggle for equality to other areas of the nation. Birmingham, with its snarling police dogs and fire hoses, became the second major battleground for civil rights. Jailed as the leader of the demonstration, Dr. King wrote his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

The use of nonviolence brought Dr. King national attention. He was named Time magazine's "Man of the Year" in 1963. That same year, the March on Washington, organized by a coalition of civil rights groups, culminated in Dr. King's powerful "I Have a Dream" speech and helped lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On December 10, 1964, Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the third Black person and the youngest individual to be so honored.

In the historic Selma-to-Montgomery march of 1965, Dr. King exposed to the nation the injustice and violence faced by African Americans, not only in Alabama but throughout the Deep South. Yet he did not stop there.

In 1966, Dr. King turned his attention to the slums of Chicago and economic injustice nationwide. While planning the Poor People's Campaign, he traveled to Memphis to support striking sanitation workers. On April 4, 1968, he was assassinated.



The Greater Knoxville Community
Celebrates The 97th Birthday
And The
44th Annual King Week For
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“One Community, One Purpose, One Dream:
A Call To Action”

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION
Friday, January 2	5:00-9:00 PM	GALLERY OF ARTS TRIBUTE Emporium Center/Arts and Culture Alliance
Saturday, January 10	1:30 PM	MLK BASKETBALL CLASSIC Austin-East vs Fulton@ Fulton High School
Wednesday, January 14	12:00 NOON	INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE Mount Olive Baptist Church (Dandridge Avenue)
Thursday, January 15	8:30 AM 12:00 NOON	LEADERSHIP EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM Thomas “Tank” Strickland Leadership Awards Luncheon University of Tennessee Student Union Complex
Friday, January 16	7:00 PM	COMMUNITY FORUM – OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE ALLIANCE The Beck Cultural Center
Saturday, January 17	8:30 AM	MLK YOUTH SUMMIT & YOUTH TALENT SHOW Austin-East High School
Sunday, January 18	6:00 PM	NIGHT WITH THE ARTS TRIBUTE Community Evangelistic Church (Boyds Bridge Pike)
Monday, January 19	12:00 NOON	MEMORIAL TRIBUTE SERVICE Overcoming Believer's Church (Harriet Tubman St)
Saturday, March 21	8:30 AM	TEACHER IN-SERVICE TRAINING The Sarah Simpson Training Facility (KCS)
Thursday, June 19	10:00 AM	MLK PARADE AND JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION Chilhowee Park to Dr Walter Hardy Park



Letter from the Chairwoman



On behalf of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission, thank you for joining us for King Week 2026.

This year's theme, **“One Community, One Purpose, One Dream: A Call to Action,”** reminds us that Dr. King's vision was never meant to live only in speeches or history books. It was a living call that requires courage, collaboration, and commitment. One community means recognizing that our progress is tied together. One purpose challenges us to move beyond words toward meaningful work. One dream calls us to keep pressing forward for justice, dignity, and opportunity for all.

This moment did not happen overnight. It stands on the dedication, sacrifice, and faithful service of the MLK Commissioners who came before us, as well as those who serve today. Because of your leadership, vision, and perseverance, this commission continues to grow in impact, relevance, and reach. You have preserved the legacy while inviting each generation to carry it forward in new ways.

To our partners, artists, educators, volunteers, sponsors, and community members, thank you for answering the call. Your presence affirms that Dr. King's dream still matters, and that together we are willing to do the work required to move it closer to reality.

May this week inspire reflection, connection, and action long after the events conclude.

With gratitude and resolve,

Deborah Porter
Chairwoman
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

2026 MLK AWARD RECIPIENTS

Presented by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission

CHAIR'S AWARD	Valentino Jefferson
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE	The Beck Cultural Exchange Center
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Dr. Rev. Vivian Williams The East Side Sunday Market
ADVOCACY	The League of Women Voters of Knoxville-Knox County
EDUCATIONAL	Dr. Javiette Samuel
BUSINESS	Cassandra Denton SanSational Creations and Events
ARTS	Artece Slay
DIVERSITY CHAMPION	Dr. Craig Steven Pickett Jr.
GRAND MARSHAL	Mr. George and Dr. Olga Welch
YOUTH AWARD	Aniyah Murphy



2026 Sponsoring Organizations

Platinum

University of Tennessee – Division of Access and Engagement
City of Knoxville – Community Safety and Empowerment
Lawson Family Foundation

Gold

Emerald Youth Foundation
Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee
Lowery Family Foundation
Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
Old National Bank
Pellissippi State Community College
University of Tennessee – Medical Center
University of Tennessee – System

Silver

Canaan Baptist Church – Rev. Dr. Harold Middlebrook
Church Street United Methodist Church
Battlefield Farm and Gardens
First Bank
Home Federal Bank
Knoxville’s Community Development Corporation - KCDC
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce
Knoxville Utilities Board
McNabb Center
MoxCar Marketing & Communications
ORNL Federal Credit Union
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Renaasant Bank
Truist Bank
Turning Knox Rental – Landis Family
United Way of Greater Knoxville



2026 Sponsoring Organizations

Bronze

Boys and Girls Club of TN Valley
Central Baptist Bearden
City of Knoxville – Parks and Recreation
East TN Mechanical Contractors
First Horizon Bank
Foster Chapel Baptist Church
Freedom Fellowship Baptist Church
Knox County Commissioner, Damon Rawls
Knox County Commissioner, Shane Jackson
Knox County District Attorney General
Knoxville Area Urban League
Knoxville Botanical Gardens & Arboretum
Knoxville Interdenominational Christian Ministerial Alliance
Knoxville Leadership Foundation
Knoxville Police Department
League of Women Voters of Knoxville
River Valley Health
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
State Representative Sam McKenzie
TN Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
Upsilon Chi Chapter – Chi Eta Phi Sorority
Wesley House Community Center



OPENING RECEPTION AND GALLERY OF ART EXHIBIT

Friday, January 2, 2026
5:00PM - 9:00PM



Featuring:

Jeanine Fuller & Friends
The Emporium Center
100 South Gay Street

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission is partnering with the Arts & Alliance of Greater Knoxville to provide this annual occasion. The Galley of Arts is a juried exhibition developed to recognize local artists and most importantly honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Works will reflect the themes of Unity, Community, Love, Racial Reconciliation, Social Justice, and Civil Rights.



Austin East vs Fulton

Saturday, January 10, 2026



Girls Game 1:30pm
Boys Game 3:30pm



For decades, Austin East and Fulton have delivered one of Knoxville's most electric high school basketball rivalries. This year, we're elevating the tradition by introducing the MLK Basketball Classic, a new way to honor an iconic matchup while highlighting Dr. King's legacy of unity, leadership, and service.

During the Boys game, the MLK Commission will present the Outstanding Youth Service Award & Scholarship, celebrating a student who reflects Dr. King's commitment to service and community impact.

Fulton High School
2509 N Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE



“One Community, One Purpose, One Dream: A Call to Action”

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Mount Olive Baptist Church

1601 Dandridge Ave, Knoxville, TN 37915

Reverend Jesse Williams, Sr. – Presiding

Pamela B. Deathridge – Chair of Community Engagement Ministry

Welcome Reverend Jesse Williams, Sr.
Mount Olive Baptist Church

Invocation Reverend Dr. Angela Hardy Cross
Holston Conference: United Methodist Church

Introductions Robin Dehart & Donna Hardy
MLK Commissioners

Congregational Hymn LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
Musician Rochelle Carr – Tabernacle Baptist Church

Dance Expression Ta'liah McKnight
Rogers Memorial Baptist Church

Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn Bragg – Mount Olive Baptist Church
Reverend Dr. Sean White – Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Patricia Alston – Bahai' Faith Community
Pastor JC Neely – Central Baptist Bearden

Offertory Prayer Reverend Jesse Williams, Sr.

Telicia Mims – Foster Chapel Baptist Church
Reverend Dr. Bradley Hyde – Bearden United Methodist Church
Pastor Walter Cross – Macedonia United Methodist Church

Musical Expression Neff Lankford
Faith Promise Church

Remarks Deborah Porter
MLK Commission Chair

Blessing for the Reception and Benediction – Reverend Jesse Williams, Sr.

Closing Song WE SHALL OVERCOME
Reverend Dr. Harold Middlebrook – MLK Commissioner Emeritus



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Educational Symposium

“One Community, One Purpose, One Dream: A Call to Action”

Thursday, January 15, 2026

8:30am – 11:20am

University of Tennessee Student Union, Room 362

Knoxville, Tennessee

8:30am – 9:00am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00am – 9:15am

Invocation – Rev. John Mark Wiggers, Rector, St. James Episcopal Church

Welcome and Introduction of Program - Loretta Fowlkes, MLK

Commission, and Dr. Maxine T. Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life Emeritus, University of Tennessee, MLK Commission

“A Call to Action that Brings About Equality and Justice Advancing the Beloved Community”

9:15am – 10:40am

Moderator and Introduction of Panelists, Denise Dean, Founder of East Tennessee Freedom Schools

Panelists: Rev. Renee Kesler, President, Beck Cultural Exchange Center; Pastor Chris Battle, Fern Street Baptist Church, and Founder of BattleField Farm; Dr. P. Lynn Nichols, Medical Director, Interfaith Health Center; Lisa Plawchan, President, League of Women Voters of Knoxville-Knox County; Domonica Bryan, Executive Director of Policy Implementation, Department of Children Services, and Knox County Democratic Party Chair; Tanisha Fitzgerald-Baker, Chair, African American Equity Restoration Task Force; and Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, American academic, author, activist, and television personality

10:40am – 11:10am

Questions and Answers – Panelists

11:10am – 11:20am

Remarks/Closing – Deborah Porter, Chair, MLK Commission



Keynote Speaker

Leadership Awards Luncheon

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill



Dr. Marc Lamont Hill is one of the leading intellectual voices in the country. He is currently the host of BET News and a former political contributor for CNN. An award-winning journalist, Dr. Hill has received numerous prestigious awards from the National Association of Black Journalists, GLAAD, and the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Hill is the Steve Charles Professor of Media, Cities, and Solutions at Temple University. Prior to that, he held positions at Columbia University and Morehouse College. Since his days as a youth in Philadelphia, Dr. Hill has been a social justice activist and organizer. He is a founding board member of My5th, a non-profit organization devoted to educating youth about their legal rights and responsibilities. He is also a board member and organizer of the Philadelphia Student Union. Dr. Hill also works closely with the ACLU Drug Reform Project, focusing on drug informant policy. Over the past few years, he has actively worked on campaigns to end the death penalty and to release numerous political prisoners.

Ebony Magazine has named him one of America's 100 most influential Black leaders. Dr. Hill is the author or co-author of four books: the award-winning Beats, Rhymes, and Classroom Life: Hip-Hop Pedagogy and the Politics of Identity; The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America; the New York Times bestseller Nobody: Casualties of America's War on The Vulnerable from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond; and Gentrifier. He has also published two edited books: Media, Learning, and Sites of Possibility; and Schooling Hip-Hop: New Directions in Hip-Hop Based Education. Trained as an anthropologist of education, Dr. Hill holds a Ph.D. (with distinction) from the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on the intersections between culture, politics, and education in the United States and the Middle East.



THIRD ANNUAL

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION

THOMAS "TANK" STRICKLAND LEADERSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

"ONE COMMUNITY, ONE PURPOSE, ONE DREAM: A CALL TO ACTION"

*University of Tennessee, Student Union
Knoxville, Tennessee
Thursday, January 15, 2026
Twelve O'clock Noon*

Presiding.....	Mrs. Tearsa Smith WATE TV Morning News Anchor
Invocation	Rev. Renee Kesler President, Beck Cultural Exchange Center
Welcome / Occasion.....	Dr. Donde Plowman Chancellor, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Remarks:	County Commissioner, Damon Rawls, District 1 Knoxville City Mayor, Indya Kincannon Johnny C. Talyor, Jr. President and CEO of SHRM

~ Lunch ~

Presentation of Awards.....	Ms. Kim Kearney Secretary, MLK Commemorative Commission
Award Recipients:	Advocacy.....League of Women Voters of Knoxville-Knox County Business.....SanSational Creations and Events Chair's Award.....Mr. Valentino Jefferson Diversity Champion.....Dr. Craig Pickett, Jr. Education.....Dr. Javiette Samuel
Music Selection.....	Mr. Brian Clay Founder and Creator of Jazzspirations and WJZF Radio
Introduction of Speaker.....	Mr. Clarence Swearengen Talent Acquisition Specialist, Knox County Schools and Founder of Real Talk Mentoring Inc.
Speaker.....	Dr. Marc Lamont Hill Academic, Author, Activist, and Television Personality
Closing Remarks.....	Mrs. Deborah Porter Chair, MLK Commemorative Commission
Closing Hymn / Benediction.....	"We Shall Overcome" Reverend Dr. Harold Middlebrook Chair Emeritus, MLK Commemorative Commission



ADVOCACY AWARD



The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County (LWVKKC) is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. With almost 200 members, the League focuses on empowering voters and defending democracy.

LWVKKC partners with other civic organizations in Knoxville to register voters and educate voters through candidate forums and issue-based discussions. Through the reestablished Observer Corps, members provide timely updates on local government meetings. A new initiative, Coffee, Donuts, and Democracy, facilitates discussion with local officials and members regarding current activities.

LWVKKC is part of the League of Women Voters of the US, which was established in 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. The League researches issues from many points of view and takes action on issues affecting our families and communities. Our members are men and women who want to make a difference.



BUSINESS AWARD

Cassandra Denton SanSational Creations and Events



Cassandra Denton is an accomplished entrepreneur and community leader originally from Greenville, SC, with a deep commitment to creativity, education, and service. She is a proud graduate of Knoxville College.

Cassandra is the founder and owner of SanSational Creations and Events, where she brings elegant visions to life through stunning décor for weddings, corporate gatherings, and special events. Her refined design expertise and dedication to excellence have earned her a reputation for creating unforgettable experiences.

For 29 years, Cassandra has owned and operated Smart Kids Early Learning Center, a trusted pillar in early childhood education. Through her leadership, the center has provided a safe, nurturing, and high-quality learning environment for countless children and families in the community.

Beyond her entrepreneurial work, Cassandra is a devoted mother of three and a proud grandmother. She is also an active member of the Illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where service, sisterhood, and scholarship have guided and inspired her mission for over 40 years.

Driven, disciplined, and deeply grateful for her journey, Cassandra remains committed to building businesses and initiatives that uplift, empower, and leave a lasting impact.

She is also a dedicated member of Community Evangelistic Church, where she serves faithfully on the praise team.



CHAIR'S AWARD

Valentino M. Jefferson



Valentino M. Jefferson is an accomplished professional with over 30 years of career experience providing leadership, management, training, and quality assurance support across multiple industries. The majority of his career has been in the Oak Ridge area, and as a resident of Knoxville, Tennessee, he has actively engaged in serving and supporting the local community for three decades.

His community involvement includes participation in Big Brothers Big Sisters, coaching youth sports, feeding the homeless, and serving in multiple church ministries. He serves as the Executive Director of his nonprofit organization, the Crain/Jefferson Enrichment Foundation (C/JEF), which focuses on educating, encouraging, and equipping disadvantaged youth to help them be successful in life. Through this organization, he has had a positive impact on youth across the United States and abroad.

Jefferson has received several awards for his community service, including the 1993 Lockheed Martin Company Award for Community Service, the 1995 Boys & Girls Club Youth Mentor Award, the Inaugural Beta Theta Boule Tribute to Fathers Award in 2016, and the 2024 UT-Battelle Company Award for Community Engagement. He also maintains an entrepreneurial spirit and is a husband, father, and follower of Christ.



DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD

Dr. Craig Steven Pickett, Jr.



Dr. Craig Steven Pickett, Jr. is a respected workplace culture leader, educator, and community advocate whose career has been defined by championing inclusion, expanding equitable access, and empowering individuals from all backgrounds to thrive. He currently serves as the Director of Talent and Culture Development at The University of Tennessee Medical Center, where he strengthens talent pipelines, equips employees with tools for personal and professional growth, and expands experiential learning programs that open doors for the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Before joining UT Medical Center, Dr. Pickett built a transformative legacy in diversity, equity, and inclusion across the University of Tennessee system. As the Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, he provided statewide leadership on DEI engagement, cultural competence training, inclusive program development, and faculty, staff, and student success initiatives across all 95 counties. Prior to that role, he served as the Coordinator for Student Life and Diversity within the UTK Herbert College of Agriculture, where he coordinated multicultural leadership programs, developed inclusive learning communities, strengthened recruitment efforts for underrepresented students, and taught courses that helped students understand group dynamics, communication, and cultural awareness.

Dr. Pickett's commitment to diversity extends far beyond his professional roles. He serves on the African American Equity Restoration Task Force for the City of Knoxville, where he works to address historical inequities and expand economic opportunity for Black residents across Knoxville. As a Commissioner for the Knoxville Utilities Board, Dr. Pickett works to ensure equitable access to essential resources, ultimately promoting a long-term vision of stewardship, sustainability, and community-focused service. He serves on the Wisdom Council for the Apex Leadership Initiative, guiding efforts to cultivate the next generation of African American leaders. His service also includes leadership roles within the Knoxville Area Urban League, where he served as Vice President of the Young Professionals, as well as the Advisory Council Vice Chair for the National Achievers Society. As a proud member of the Alpha Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., he continues the fraternity's legacy of scholarly excellence, community service, and social justice. Dr. Pickett also serves as a Deacon at Overcoming Believers Church, where he supports ministries centered on spiritual growth, outreach, and service.

He is a former Board Member for Girl Talk Inc., where he helped support programs that empowered hundreds of elementary, middle, and high school girls to achieve academic and personal success through mentorship, career development, and leadership training. Furthermore, Dr. Pickett lent his expertise as a former DEI Consultant to the United Way of Greater Knoxville, where he helped nonprofit leaders build inclusive environments, strengthen cultural competence, and create equitable pathways for community members to access essential resources across Knoxville and East Tennessee.

His body of work consistently reflects a commitment to lifting marginalized voices, shaping inclusive systems, and ensuring that individuals across Knoxville—regardless of background—can flourish. A distinguished scholar and speaker, Dr. Pickett holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Tennessee, an M.A. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in Political Science from Davidson College. Across every sector—education, healthcare, nonprofit leadership, and community engagement—he remains steadfast in his mission to create culturally competent environments, expand opportunity, and help every person realize their full potential.



EDUCATION AWARD

DR. JAVIETTE SAMUEL



A higher education leader and relationship builder, Dr. Javiette Samuel serves as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and External Relations in the Division of Access and Engagement and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Counseling, Human Development and Family Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Dr. Samuel provides strategic leadership for academic and external facing units including the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, Advancement, and Communications; implements high-priority initiatives that advance access, education, and opportunities for all; provides leadership for community-engaged scholarship, advances UT's Research 1 and land-grant mission; establishes and cultivates partnerships in mutually beneficial ways; and serves as a catalyst for addressing grand challenges.

Javiette is an experienced community-engaged scholar-practitioner with a unique combination of educational, interpersonal, and creative skills. She has worked with hundreds of students, faculty, staff, families, and communities for nearly 30 years focusing on community-engaged teaching and learning, engagement, outreach, and evidence-based programs.

Samuel is on a mission to help increase educational attainment and quality of life for students, faculty, staff, and communities. Her mentoring, sponsorship, guidance, and direction for students and faculty have helped change the trajectory of individuals, families, and their communities.

A compassionate and energetic thought leader who has built significant relationships and trust with various campus stakeholder groups, community leaders, and partners on initiatives that require broad commitment and sustained cooperation, Javiette's pragmatic approach to decision making resonates with students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community leaders alike.

The three-time University of Tennessee alumna earned her Bachelor of Science in 1996, Master of Science in 1999, and Doctor of Philosophy in 2002. Dr. Samuel serves on various boards including the United Way of Greater Knoxville, Leadership Knoxville, Girl Talk, The Restoration House, and YOKE. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Alpha Pi Omega Foundation.

SHOWING UP, SPEAKING UP, ACTING UP:

LIVING OUR SHARED DREAM

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

BECK CULTURAL EXCHANGE CENTER,
1927 DANDRIDGE AVENUE. KNOXVILLE, TN

6:30 PM
REFRESHMENTS

7:00 PM
PROGRAM START



BRITTANY
BONNER



EMMA
COSIGUA



HASAN
ATATRAH

SPONSORS



MLK
COMMEMORATIVE
COMMISSION

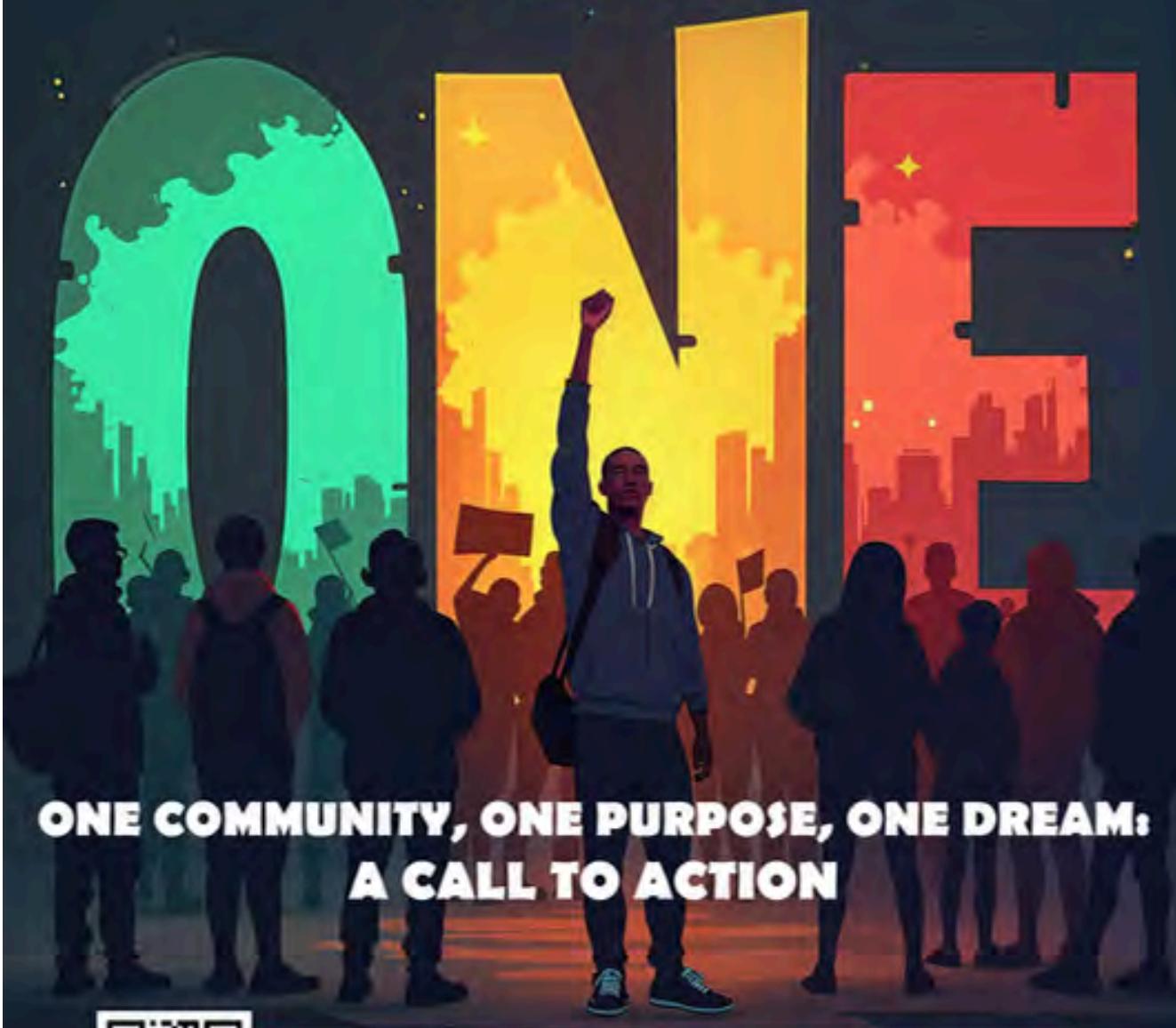


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PRESBYTERY OF EAST TN PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE
TN VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
WEST KNOX FRIENDS MEETING

MLK JR. YOUTH SUMMIT

1st - 12th Grade



**ONE COMMUNITY, ONE PURPOSE, ONE DREAM:
A CALL TO ACTION**



PRE-REGISTER NOW!

WHEN

January 17, 2026 at 8:30a - 1:30p

WHERE

AUSTIN-EAST HIGH SCHOOL
2800 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue
Knoxville, Tn 37914



YOUTH WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

FINANCE, LEADERSHIP, HEALTH & FITNESS!
PLUS TEEN TALK SESSIONS!



FOR MORE INFO VISIT MLKKNOX.ORG/YOUTH,
CALL 865-369-6377 OR EMAIL MLKYOUTHQ@GMAIL.COM

A night with *The Arts*

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 18, 2026

6:00pm

Community Evangelistic Church

2650 Boyds Bridge Pike, Knoxville, TN 37914

Featuring the



MLK ARTS AWARD: MS. ARTECE SLAY





ARTS AWARD

Artece Slay



Artece Slay is a Knoxville, Tennessee native and Fulton High School graduate whose lifelong connection to the stage and the arts began early. Her first performance came as a flute solo under the direction of Elias Askins, Sr., who was the band director at Beardsley Middle and Rule High School. The second time she performed was when she lip-synced and danced to "Candy Girl" in a talent show with a group of her friends. They didn't win, but there was something magical about her being on stage.

Her first introduction to radio began in high school when she participated in a segment produced by on-air personality Stacy Powers on WBMK-1430 AM. The segment gave her and her friends on-air experience and exposure to the radio industry. This set the stage for Artece to work in various capacities at Knoxville's WAHI-1580 AM, WKGN-1340 AM, and WJBE-99.7 FM radio stations.

After high school, Artece attended Tennessee State University in Nashville. While studying Radio and Television Production, she developed a strong interest in film after meeting Los

Angeles-based set decorator Leon King. This led to internships with Third Eye Films and the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission. During her senior year, she was hand selected by Spike Lee to serve as a student intern on the feature film "Get on the Bus!" To be on stage, she competed in several pageants, but it wasn't until she auditioned for the Thomas Edward Poag Players Guild that she realized the stage was calling her. Her early theatrical roles include Aunt Kezie / West African Dancer in *Aminata!* and Artie Seale in *Servant of the People: The Rise and Fall of Huey P. Newton*.

Upon earning her Bachelor of Science in Speech Communications and Theatre, Artece began building a diverse freelance career across film, video, theatre, radio, and television. Her work has included roles as Production Assistant, Key PA, Production Coordinator, Producer, Assistant Stage Manager, Stage Manager, Actress, Voice-Over Talent, Assistant Director, Director, Writer, and Educator.

Her professional acting career launched in 2003 with the WordPlayers' touring production of God's Trombones. Artece served on their Board of Directors and was a company member for several years. She has also performed with Carpetbag Theatre, Bijou Theatre, Clarence Brown Theatre, Cumberland County Playhouse, Theatre Knoxville Downtown, KnoxCAM, and Kids on the Block of Knoxville. More recently, she has collaborated with the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, bringing to life historical figures such as Mamie Till, Shirley Chisholm, Delia Delaney, Miss Maggie Lattimore, and Rosa Parks.

As a writer and educator, Artece has written and performed several stories highlighting the achievements of African Americans. Her favorite script is her one-woman show entitled *Marching On!*, which was created for the MLK Commemorative Commission's Youth Symposium in 2009. At last year's MLK celebration, she portrayed Coretta Scott King at the Prayer Breakfast and the Night with the Arts Tribute.

For nearly four decades, Artece has been successful as a performer on the stage and as a production member behind the stage in theatre, film, video, radio, and television. She will continue to use her gifts in the arts to minister, educate, inspire, and uplift.



Keynote Speaker

Memorial Tribute Service

BISHOP JOSEPH WARREN WALKER, III



Bishop Joseph Warren Walker, III is the senior Pastor of the historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, and Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. In 1992, Bishop Walker began his pastorate at Mt. Zion with 175 members. Presently, the ministry has grown to over 30,000 with 4 physical locations and virtual campuses around the world.

Bishop Walker's educational journey includes earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University, a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Beyond his role in the pulpit, he eagerly serves the community, investing in colleges and college students, busing students from over 9 universities.

A multi-faceted individual, Bishop Walker's impact extends beyond the church walls. He is a revered teacher, humanitarian, businessman, and community leader whose inspirational messages have made him a sought-after orator in diverse leadership spaces. As a prolific author, his bestselling books, including "Leadership and Loneliness" and "Restored At The Root," showcase his depth of wisdom.

In collaboration with his wife, Dr. Stephaine Hale Walker, a neonatologist, they co-authored the inspiring book, "Becoming A Couple of Destiny." As global leaders and professionals, they skillfully navigate the delicate balance of ministry and careers while placing a high priority on family life. Their engaging journey is shared with a global audience through the popular YouTube channel, "Couple of Destiny: Our Life Our Journey Our Truth." Bishop Walker and Dr. Walker are proud parents of two beautiful children, Jovanni and Joseph IV.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Tribute Service

"One Community, One Purpose, One Dream: A Call to Action"

Monday, January 19, 2026

Overcoming Believers Church

Presiding.....	Rev. Daryl Arnold, Pastor, Overcoming Believers Church
Congregational Hymn.....	"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Invocation.....	Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
"Make Them Hear You".....	Mr. Maurice Hendricks Mr. Brian Salesky, Artistic Director, Amadeus Concert Ensemble
Jack and Jill of America, Inc.	Royal Teens Presentation
Musical Selections.....	MLK Holiday Celebration Choir Mr. Nick Wyatt, Director
Parade Grand Marshal Award.....	Dr. Mabrey Duff, MLK Commission Mr. George Welch and Dr. Olga Welch
Presentation of Awards.....	Ms. Kim Kearney, MLK Commission
	Distinguished Service Award – The Beck Cultural Exchange Center
	Community Service Award – Dr. Rev. Vivian Williams, Sunday Garden Market
	Youth Award – Ms. Aniyah Murphy, West High School
Offertory Appeal.....	Bishop Farris Long, MLK Commission
Introduction of Speaker and Video.....	Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Chandler, Rogers Memorial Baptist Church Knoxville
Musical Selection.....	MLK Holiday Celebration Choir
Keynote Speaker.....	Bishop Joseph W. Walker III, Senior Pastor of Mt. Zion Nashville, International Presiding Bishop, Full Gospel Baptist Church
Remarks and Recognition.....	Mrs. Deborah Porter, Chair, MLK Commission
Closing Song.....	"We Shall Overcome"
Benediction.....	Rev. Dr. Jason Moseley, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Knoxville Baptist District Ushers

Nursing Assistance Provided by Upsilon Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.



GRAND MARSHALL

George and Dr. Olga Welch



With faith and love at the center of their lives, George and Olga Welch have built a legacy rooted in integrity, service, and community. They have lived out the principle that one's words and actions must align, and they instilled in their daughters, Dr. Taja Michele Welch and Mrs. Stephan Amber Welch-Harris, the belief that serving others is life's highest calling.

George's commitment to justice began early. He participated in the 1963 March on Washington, an experience that shaped his worldview and lifelong dedication to equality and service. Born and raised in Knoxville, he completed Austin High School, served in the U.S. Army as a Heavy Equipment Operator, and later built a 35-year career with the Tennessee Valley Authority, where he especially cherished leading TVA's Angel Tree Ministry. His community service has continued through leadership roles at the Cansler YMCA, Justice Knox, and as President of Knoxville Community Step Up. A lifelong member of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, George has served as Sunday School Superintendent, Boy Scout Master, Deacon, and Chair of the church's pastoral search committee. His passion for photography has also led him to document significant moments in Knoxville's African American history and culture.

Olga's roots in service and courage were shaped in Washington, D.C., where she was raised by her father, Dr. S. E. Barnes, one of the Navy's Golden Thirteen, and her mother, Mrs. Olga Lash Barnes, a leader in desegregating interstate train travel. An honors graduate of Howard University, Olga earned master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Tennessee. She taught at Gallaudet University and the Tennessee School for the Deaf, where she became the first African American principal of the Middle and High School. At the University of Tennessee, she became a tenured professor and the first African American woman to lead two academic departments. She later served twelve years as Dean of the School of Education at Duquesne University, becoming the university's first African American female dean. Olga continues to publish scholarly work and recently served as an Inaugural Fellow for Vanderbilt University's Initiative on Race, Research, and Justice. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she remains active in community service and the Justice Knox Network Welch Biographical Information.

Married since 1973, George and Olga share a life shaped by faith, integrity, and a deep commitment to uplifting their community. They affirm that all they have accomplished is guided by the truth found in Micah 6:8: "...what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Beck Cultural Exchange Center



Beck Cultural Exchange Center is Knoxville's primary repository for African American history and culture, dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and sharing the stories that have shaped the city and East Tennessee. Established in 1975 in response to Urban Renewal projects that displaced Black families, churches, and businesses, Beck was born from a grassroots effort known as "The People's Project," rooted in the belief that community history must be protected and passed forward.

Named in honor of James G. and Ethel B. Beck, a prominent Knoxville couple, the Center is housed in the historic Beck Mansion at 1927 Dandridge Avenue. Inside, visitors encounter history at their fingertips through archival newspapers, rare books, photographs, artifacts, and oral histories that document everyday life, achievement, struggle, and resilience in Knoxville's Black community.

Beck highlights the lives of local history makers often missing from traditional narratives, including entrepreneur Cal Johnson, whose racetrack became Speedway Circle, and Judge William Hastie, the nation's first African American federal magistrate. The Center also preserves firsthand accounts of pivotal moments such as the 1919 Knoxville Race Riot, offering space to reflect, learn, and grow from difficult chapters of the past.

More than a museum, Beck is a free, community-centered space committed to education, dialogue, and connection. Guided by its mission to preserve, nurture, teach, and continue Black history and culture, Beck is also advancing the Beck Cultural Corridor, reclaiming historic sites across the city and restoring the ancestral home of renowned artist Beauford Delaney as a future museum.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Rev. Vivian Williams



Dr. Rev. Vivian Williams was born and raised on a farm in Cuba, Alabama and received all her public school education in Cuba. Her family members, with her help and advice, currently raise organic vegetables on their family farm. She moved to Knoxville, Tennessee in 1965 and attended Knoxville College briefly before earning her BS and Master's degrees from Tusculum College, she received her Doctor of Divinity degree from Covington Seminary and currently is an associate pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dr. Williams has always been an advocate for inspiring the welfare of children. She worked for Project GRAD, which was a program in the Knox County School system, until her retirement in May 2013. Since her retirement, she has become a Master Gardener. Dr. Williams is chairperson of the Tennessee Chapter of National Women in Agriculture Association (NWIAA). She has also served on the Tennessee Advisory Council, and the Knoxville Food Policy Council.

Dr. Williams' training and farm experiences have prepared her for her current endeavors. She serves as Cub Scout Master at two Knox County elementary schools. With the help of NWIAA, she directs The Eastside Sunday Market, which features home grown vegetables and other products. The objective of the market is to expose and offer wholesome foods to inner city children, who live in what has been called, the "food desert". The market is open from July through October,

Dr. Williams' objectives include sponsoring outreach workshops, canning classes from produce, and teaching the boy scouts ("Agri Scouts") and other children how to grow vegetables in above ground containers, Dr. Williams is an accomplished organizer, community leader, and advocate for children and for Jesus Christ.



YOUTH AWARD

Anaiah Murphy



Anaiah Murphy is an accomplished scholar, leader, and artist who will graduate with honors from West High School in May 2026. Her achievements have captured the attention of every Black Ivy League institution she pursued, securing over \$1 million in academic merit awards. As an academic, she ranks in the top 5% of test takers in the U.S. and the top 6% globally, demonstrating exceptional content mastery and scholarly aptitude.

With a 3.96 GPA (4.4 weighted), she is recognized as a national AP Scholar with a rigorous concentration of International Baccalaureate coursework. She has pursued five years of advanced French, achieving intermediate fluency, and is an inducted member of both the National Honor Society and the National French Honor Society. Her greatest near- and long-term aspiration is to experience complete French language immersion as part of her global academic and professional journey.

Beyond academics, she is a multidimensional performer and an artist at heart. She shines as a dedicated theatre and visual artist, and vocal ensemble singer who brings creativity and emotional depth to the stage. Athletically, she has competed in JV/Varsity lacrosse for three years, including one year as team manager, demonstrating her ability to blend creativity with leadership and service.

Anaiah mentored younger students through the Emerald Youth Foundation's JustLead Program, is a member of the Knoxville Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, and is a member of the Women's Advocacy Club at West. She has plans to major in Pharmaceutical Science with an industrial research focus, and she hopes to combine her analytical strengths with her empathetic, big-picture mindset. She is known for being observant, intuitive, and strategically minded; able to lead from the balcony while never hesitating to step onto the dance floor and do the hard work.

As a testament to her academic preparedness, she has earned the highest academic merit awards available at Fisk University, Dillard University, Tuskegee University, Hampton University, and Loyola University of Chicago, reflecting her standard of excellence and her intrinsic motivation to succeed.

She is proudly committed to Hampton University, which will become her "Home by the Sea", as a legacy on a full academic merit scholarship. She is ready and well-prepared to continue her journey of scholarship, service, leadership, and global vision.

One Community, One Purpose, One Dream: A Call to Action

ANNUAL MLK TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY

MARCH
21
2026

8:30A
2:00P

\$25

REGISTRATION

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- Networking Opportunities
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www.mlkknoxville.com/teacher

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**JUNE 19TH
10 AM - 4 PM**

Join us for the annual MLK Jr. Parade & Juneteenth Celebration on Friday, June 19, from Chilhowee Park to Dr. Walter Hardy Park. The parade kicks off at 10 AM with a vibrant lineup featuring live entertainment, music performances, drumlines, and precision drill teams. The Juneteenth celebration follows at 11 AM, offering a day filled with food, retail vendors, and crafts. Last year's events drew another record attendance, and we aim to outdo ourselves again!

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— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*



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for others?’”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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persists, and together,
we can do our part to
honor Dr. King's legacy
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Martin Luther King, Jr.

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A CALL TO ACTION

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE PURPOSE, ONE DREAM



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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION



JANUARY 19, 2026

44TH ANNUAL KING WEEK ACTIVITIES

**“ONE COMMUNITY, ONE PURPOSE, ONE DREAM:
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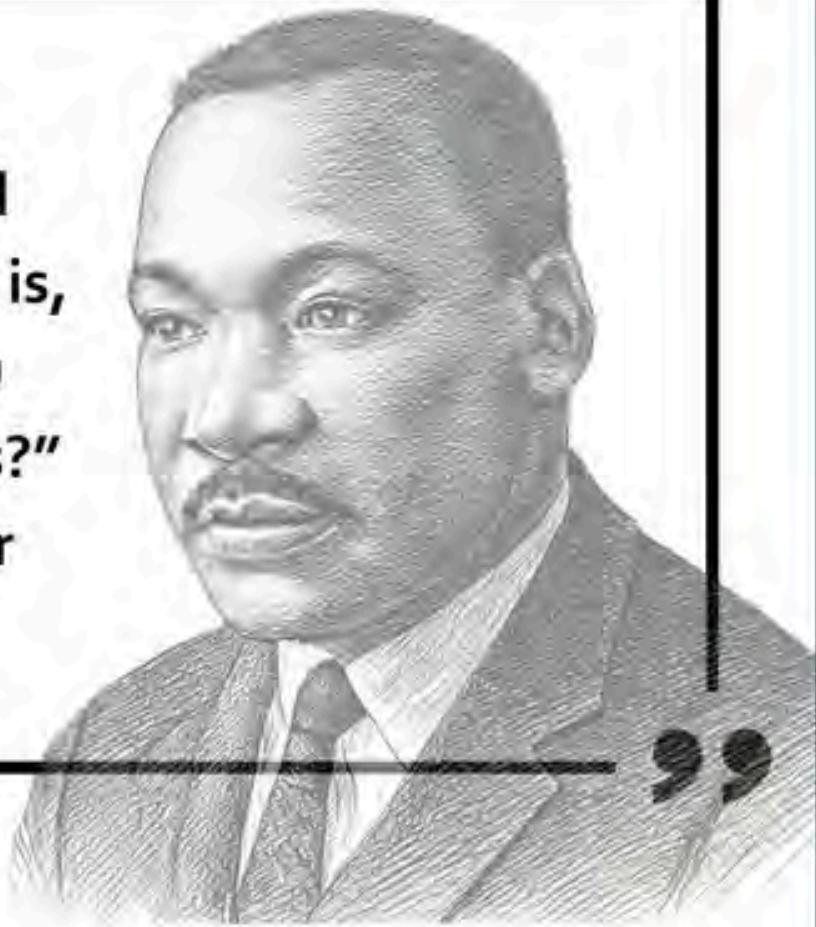
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-Martin Luther

King Jr.



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— Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

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8:15 am - 8:45 am

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Worship Service: 10:00 am

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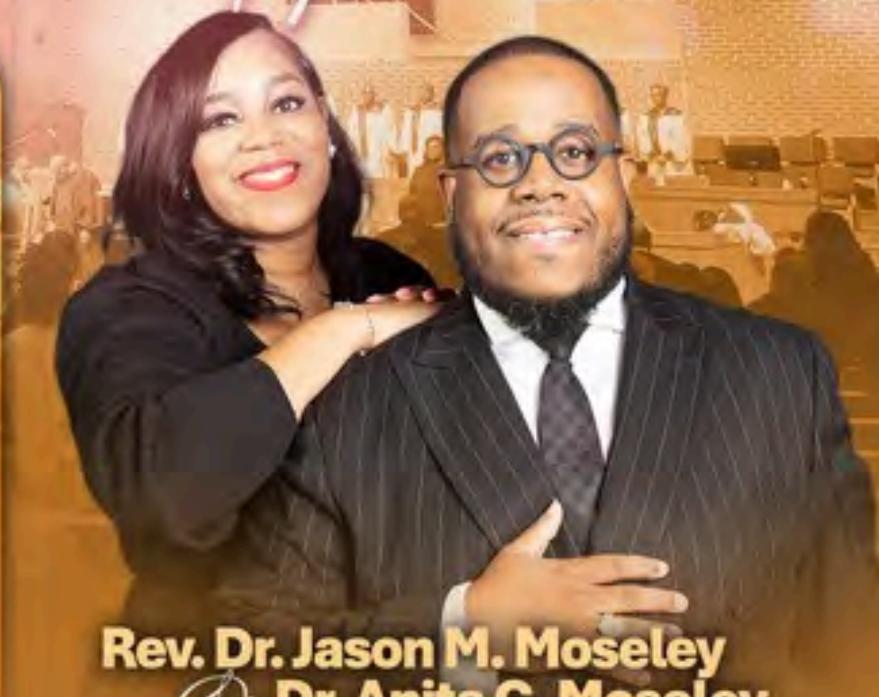
Every Sunday (Except 4th Sundays)

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Bible Study: 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm



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Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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2nd Corinthians 9:15



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Zachariah 4:6



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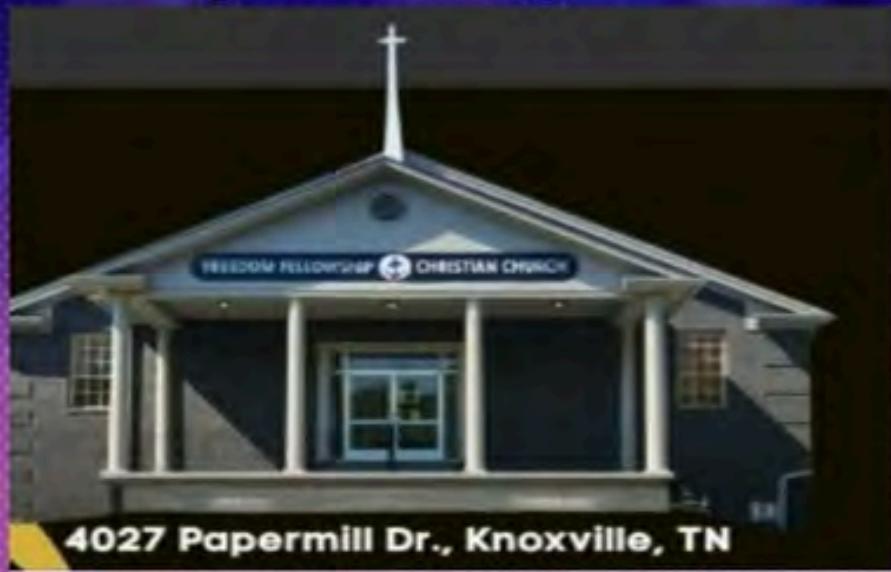
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Since 1994, Knoxville Leadership Foundation has connected communities of resource with communities of need to help our city flourish through Christ-centered service, housing, workforce, and mentoring initiatives.

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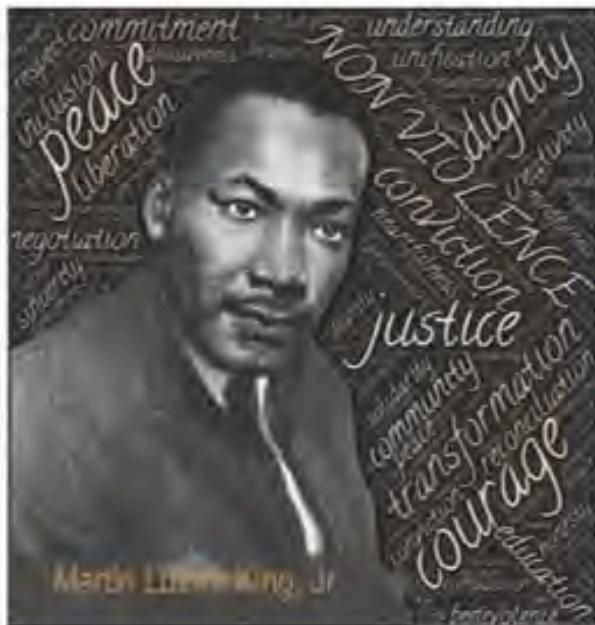


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Congratulations to the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission
on the
2026 King Week Celebration



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is not merely
the absence of
tension;
it is the
presence of
justice.

Stride Toward Freedom, 1958

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Seated: Theresa Taylor, Monica Reed, Phyllis Moore;
Standing: Debra Leon, Gussie Cherry,
Vernestine Bush, You'Landa Kincaid-Gallaher;



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Members of the Alpha Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® honor Dr. King's legacy of justice, equality and nonviolence through reflection, action and service to our communities. Join us in honoring his legacy.



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Black History & Culture

"A Great Time To Be Alive"

Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking at the 1960 Knoxville College commencement and Dr. James A. Colston, President Knoxville College. Photo from the Beck collection

The future



Delaney Museum

The Delaney Museum at Beck is devoted to telling the story of one of the greatest modern painters of the twentieth century, Beauford Delaney. The only remaining ancestral home of the Delaney family will be dedicated to sharing the history of our native son Beauford, his younger brother and fellow renowned artist Joseph, and the Delaney family.

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Martin Luther King, Jr.



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To identify strategic solutions to improve
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the time is always ripe to do right."*
-Dr. King



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Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, Inc.

Salutes

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
In celebration of

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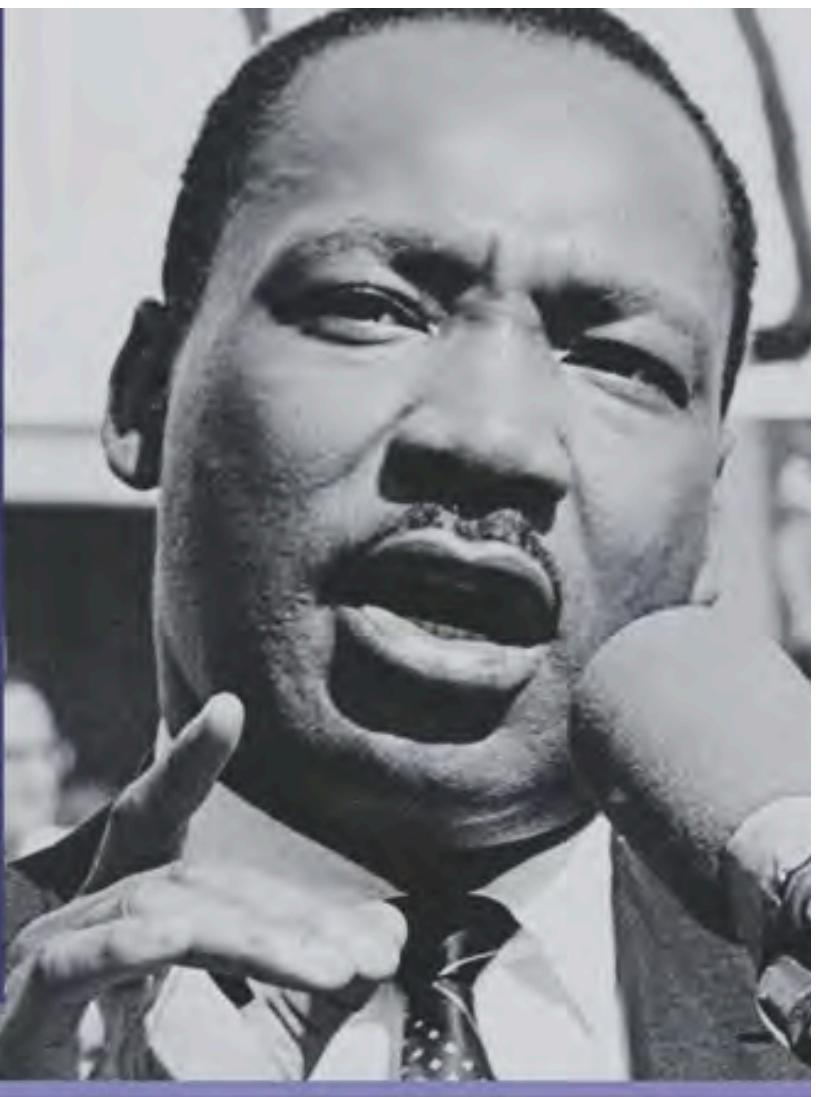


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- **Caregiver Education**
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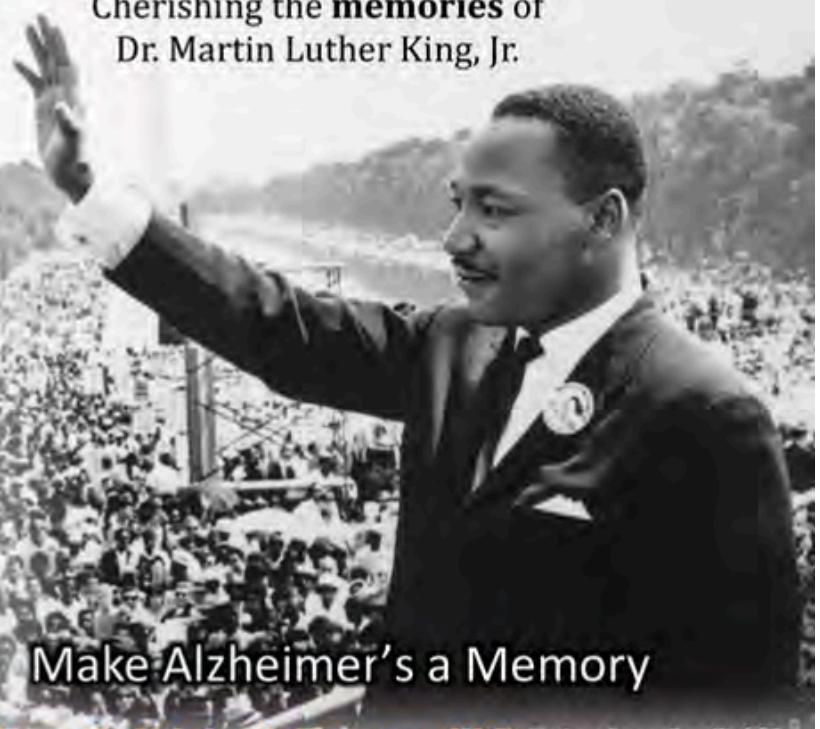
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Cherishing the **memories** of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Make Alzheimer's a Memory

Team up for the **Knoxville Alzheimer's Tennessee Walk** Saturday, April 11th
Register or start a team at www.alzTennessee.org/KnoxWalk



WELL MIND, WELL BEING



**MENTAL HEALTH CARE
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ONE FIVE



The One-Five Mobile Market: Turning a Food Desert into a Food Oasis

The 37915 ZIP Code is a USDA-designated food desert, with no full-service grocery store. Many residents—especially seniors and those without transportation—struggle to access fresh food.

Battlefield Farm created The One-Five Mobile Market to meet that need.

This mobile grocery store delivers fresh produce and daily essentials directly to neighborhoods, bringing healthy food access where it's needed most.



SCAN HERE TO
LEARN MORE



Everything sold on The One-Five is affordable and fairly priced: just a nickel (1/5) over cost. That means fresh, nutritious food delivered with dignity—at a price people can afford.







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OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY**



COMMUNITY

is our middle name!



Our Vision: A vibrant & inclusive Knoxville
where people can thrive!

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SHANE JACKSON

COUNTY COMMISSION

**KUB is proud to sponsor the
MLK Commemorative Commission's
Thomas "Tank" Strickland
Leadership Awards Luncheon.**

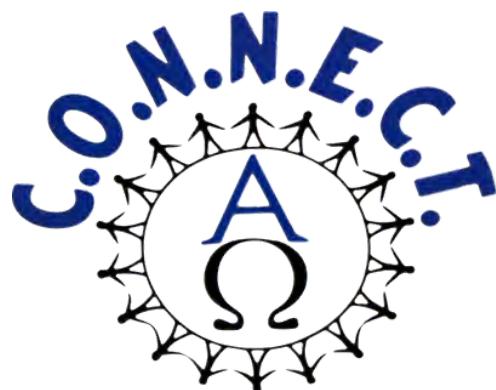
Congratulations to today's award winners, and thank you for your commitment to serving our community. Your leadership reflects the spirit of this year's theme, **"OneCommunity, One Purpose, OneDream: A Call to Action."**



KUB is proud to serve the community with industry-leading energy, water, and high-speed internet services.



*We Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr,
With the Commission in their Observance of this Day!*

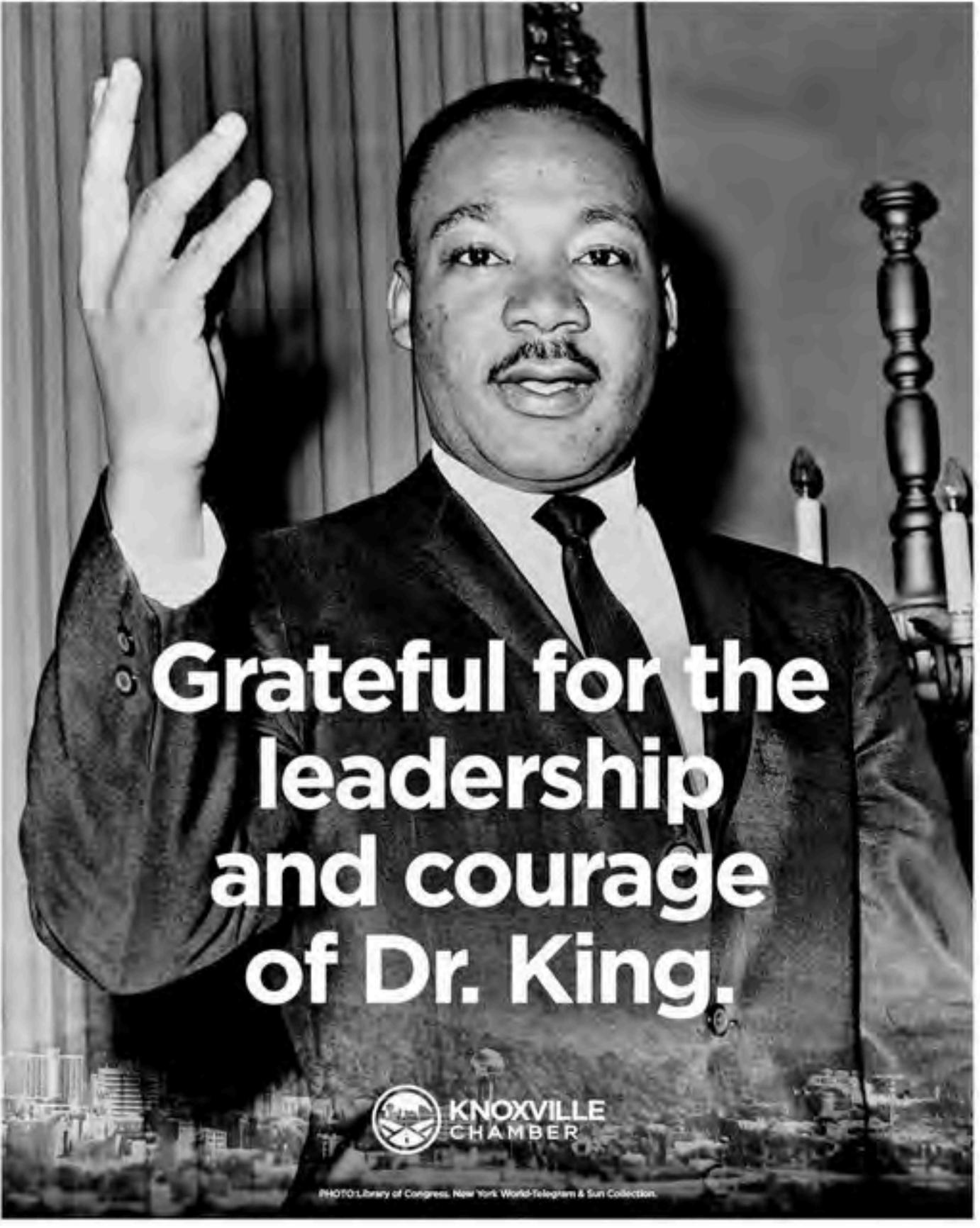


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**“Our mission is to serve God by
serving others,
offering Help, Hope and Healing.”**



**Grateful for the
leadership
and courage
of Dr. King.**



**KNOXVILLE
CHAMBER**

PHOTO: Library of Congress, New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection.



Dr. King had a vision of the future with us walking side by side as brothers and sisters. Let us continue to strive together in faith towards realizing the fulfillment of this dream.



Lennon-Seney United Methodist Church
2084 Dandridge Avenue Knoxville, TN 37914
Rev. Dr. Samuel Dzobo, Pastor
(865) 381-2830
Sunday School @ 10:00am





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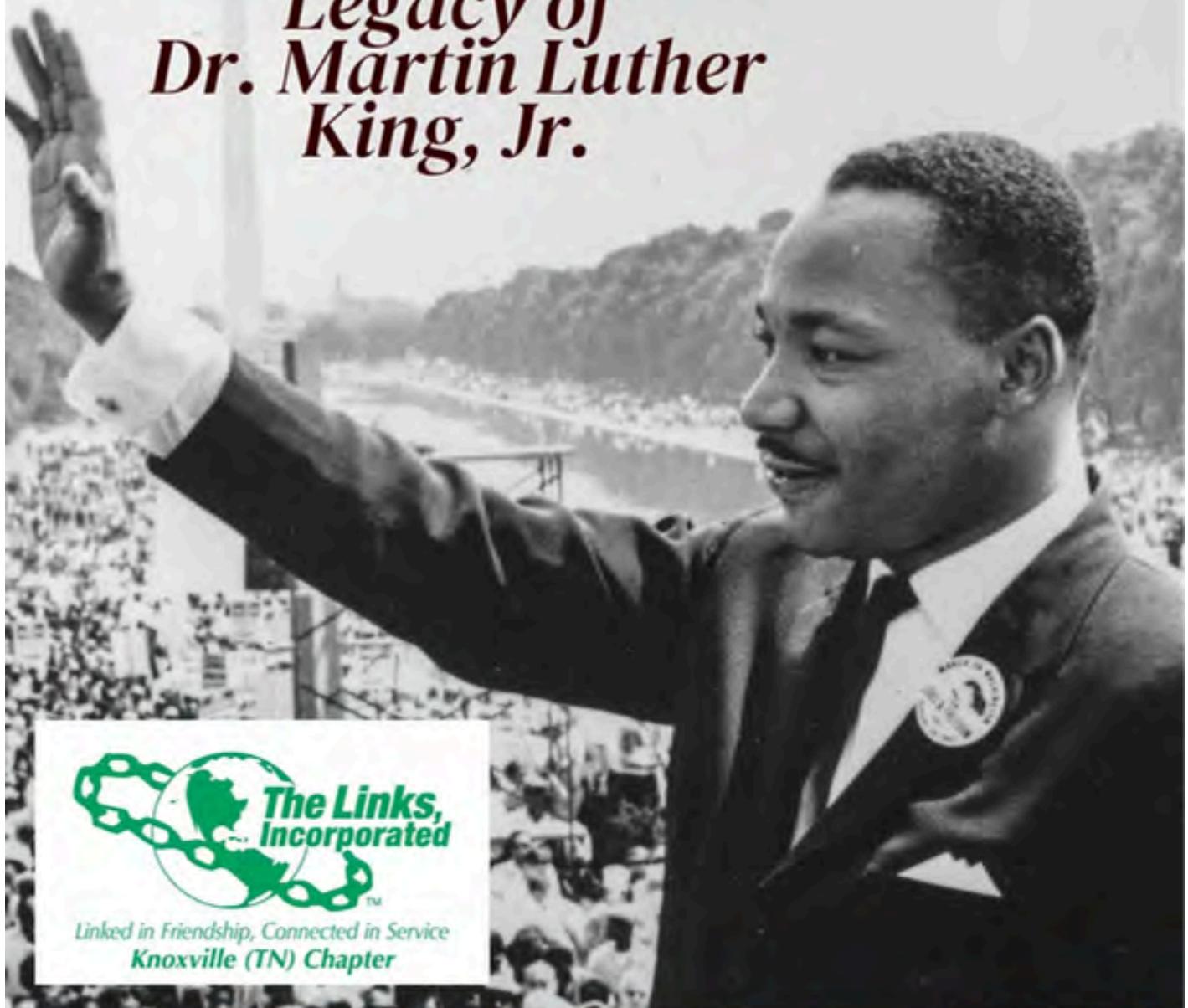
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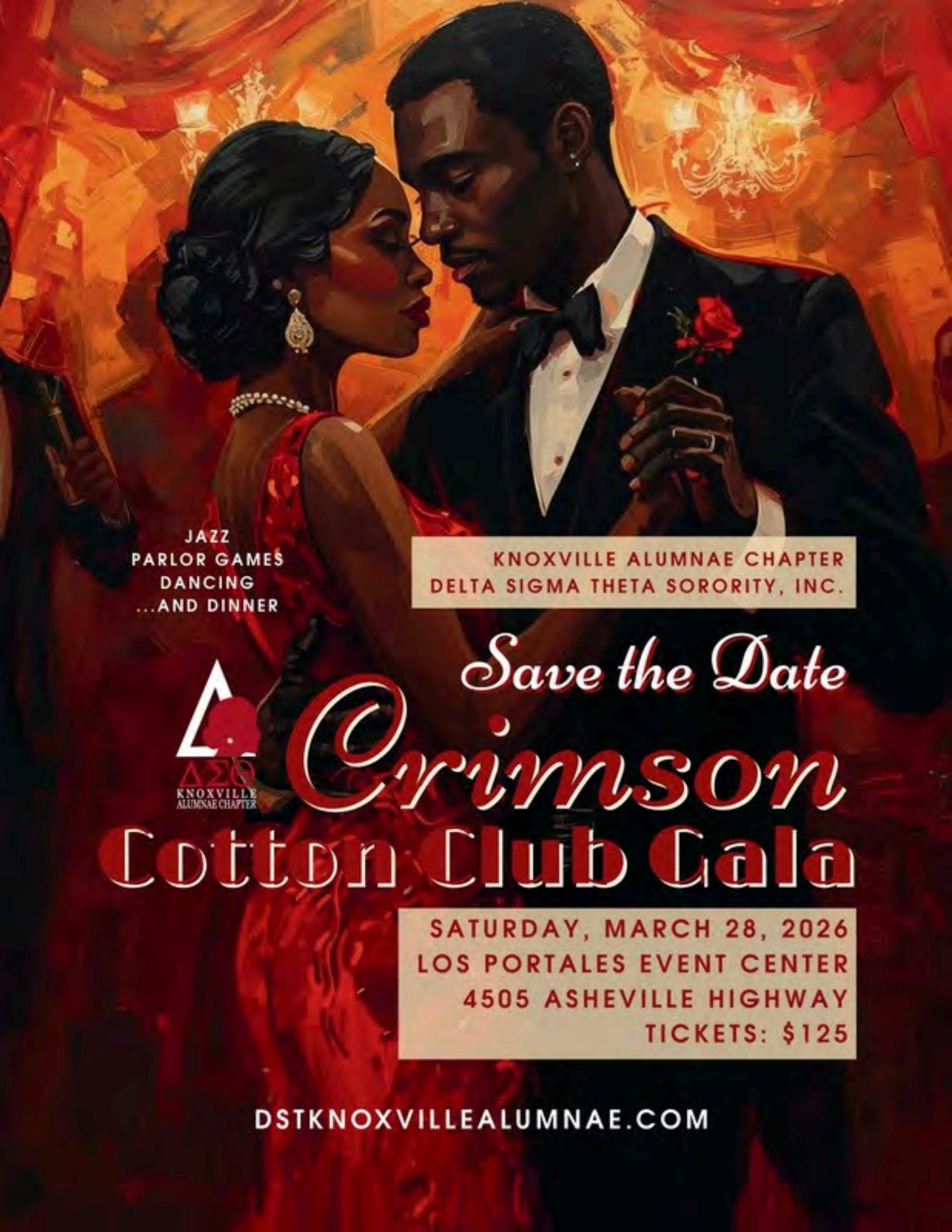


Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Knoxville (TN) Chapter





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...AND DINNER

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Cotton Club Gala

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
LOS PORTALES EVENT CENTER
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TICKETS: \$125

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Bethel Blessings to ...

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Commemorative Commission of Knoxville

Thank You for still dreaming of a better
KNOXVILLE!!!

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Still Dreams



Bethel
A.M.E. Church
KNOXVILLE

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Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Legacy



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MLK DAY

**WE SHALL
OVERCOME**



Worship With Us

Sunday's @ 11AM

Pastor Vincent M. Jones Jr.

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ONE COMMUNITY. ONE PURPOSE. ONE DREAM.

A CALL TO ACTION

At WJZF 91.5fm, we believe leadership begins with listening, unity begins with understanding, and progress begins when a community moves forward together.

As we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and celebrate the work and vision of today's leaders through the Tank Strickland Leadership Awards, lets recommit ourselves to amplifying voices that inspire, connect and call us to action.

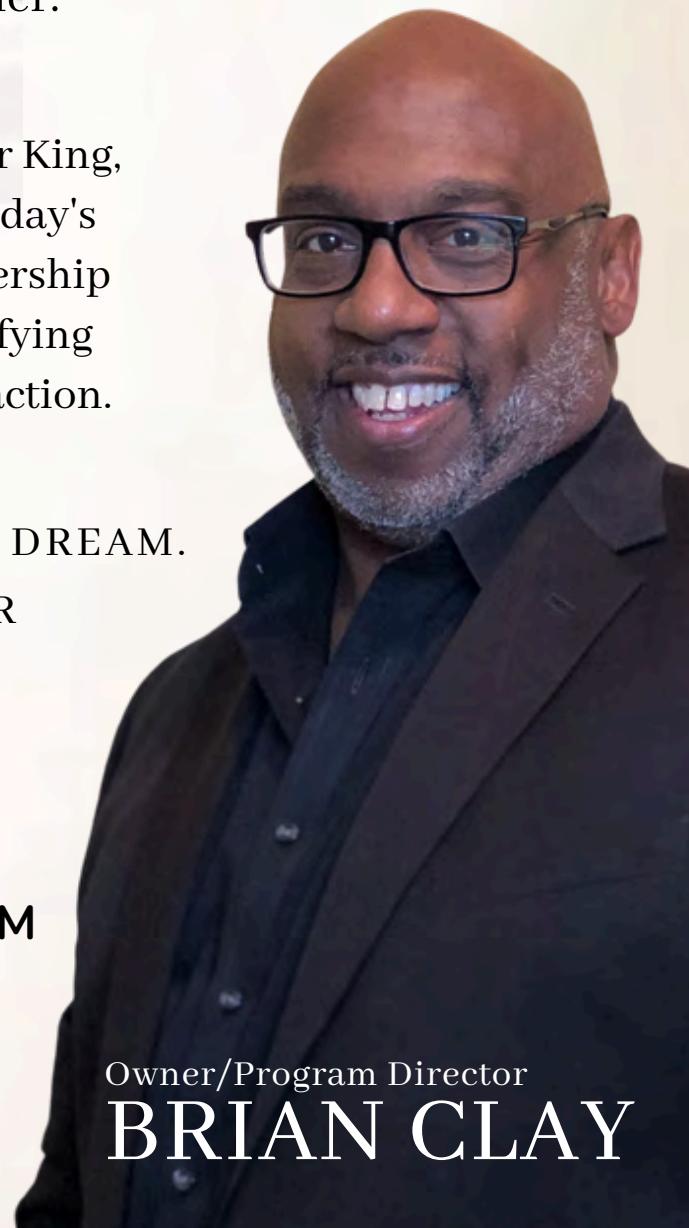
ONE COMMUNITY. ONE PURPOSE. ONE DREAM.
WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER



SMOOTH JAZZ 91.5FM

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Bella Breast Cancer Foundation

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BRIAN CLAY





Congratulations

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission

44th Annual King Week Celebration 2026

**One Community, One Purpose, One Dream:
A Call To Action**



Shiloh Presbyterian Church (USA)

904 Biddle St. Knoxville, Tennessee 37914

(865) 525-3701

1865 - 2026

The Spiritual Lighthouse On The Hill

Founded in 1865 by 12 Slaves who moved from the Balcony of First and Second Presbyterian Churches to organize Knoxville's First Colored Presbyterian Church.

"God Light and Bless the Way of Our Journey, The Way in Which We Must Travel."

Nehemiah 9:1

Join us for 11:00 AM Worship Service

In the spirit of this year's theme, One Community, One Purpose, One Dream: A Call to Action, Knoxville College honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose leadership and vision continue to inspire education, service, and the pursuit of justice.



Did You Know?

On May 18, 1960, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a powerful and inspiring speech at Knoxville College. His visit marked a historic moment for the college, reinforcing its role as a hub for social change and activism during the Civil Rights Movement.



Congratulations to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission on another year of honoring legacy, leadership, and the ongoing work of justice.



Rooted Here. Built to Reach Further.

Eternal Marketing is proud to support the leaders, organizations, and movements shaping our community today and tomorrow.

We believe meaningful impact begins at home and grows outward through purpose, connection, and clear vision.

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"WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN"



More Events Happening at The King Center in Atlanta

In addition to local observances, the Atlanta area will host a full slate of national King Holiday programs at The King Center in January 2026.

Organized Civic Engagement & the Vote as Strategic Direct Action (Atlanta, GA)

Monday, January 12, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST

A timely discussion exploring voting and civic participation as tools for nonviolent change.

Andscape “Hoops, Hopes and Dreams” Screening Premiere and Black Carpet Experience (Atlanta, GA)

Monday, January 12, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST

A special film premiere and cultural experience highlighting sports, storytelling, and community impact.

2026 King Holiday Observance (KHO) Kick-Off (Atlanta, GA)

Monday, January 12, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST

The official launch of King Holiday programming at The King Center.

Be Love: Building Community Through Truth, Power, and the People (Atlanta, GA)

Monday, January 12, 2026 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

A community-centered conversation grounded in Dr. King's philosophy of love and collective action.

2026 Beloved Community Youth Book Reading (Atlanta, GA)

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 | 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM EST

A youth-focused literary event encouraging reflection, imagination, and leadership.

2026 Beloved Community Global Summit (Atlanta, GA)

Thursday–Friday, January 15–16, 2026 | 9:45 AM EST

A multi-day global convening centered on justice, equity, and nonviolent social change.

2026 MLK, Jr. Beloved Community Awards (Atlanta, GA)

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Pre-Reception: 5:00 PM EST | Awards Program: 7:00 PM EST

An evening honoring leaders and organizations advancing Dr. King's vision.

Beloved Community Commemorative Service (Atlanta, GA)

Monday, January 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM EST

A reflective worship service honoring the life, legacy, and spiritual foundation of Dr. King.

MLK Day Service Project (Atlanta, GA)

Monday, January 19, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ET

A hands-on service opportunity inviting participants to put faith and justice into action.



THE KING CENTER

www.thekingcenter.org



The Knoxville
Interdenominational
Christian Ministers Alliance
proudly salutes

JANUARY

26

The Dr. MLK, Jr. Commemorative Committee



Dr. King, the Preacher

Dr. King, the Humanitarian

Dr. King, the Dreamer

The Rev. Dr. John A. Butler, KICMA President

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Smith, Vice President
The Rev. Paul McCloud, Secretary
The Rev. Leah Burns, Financial Secretary
The Rev. Dr. Vivian Williams, Treasurer
The Rev. Gayle Browne, Chaplain
The Rev. Reginald E. Robinson, Asst. Chaplain



Knoxville Interdenominational Christian Ministers Alliance



In Memory Of Our Fellow Martin Luther King Commissioners

Mr. Aaron Booker

Ms. Doris Scott-Crawford

Ms. Gloria Garner

Ms. Margaret Gaiter

Ms. Shirley Liston

Ms. Daisy Mynatt

Mr. Aaron Staples

Ms. Laura Turk

Ms. Karen White

Mr. Raleigh Wynn

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

Where Dreams
Take Wing

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the lis-ting skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.



MLK COMMISSION MEMBERS



First Row left to right - **Deborah Porter, Loretta Fowlkes, Donna Hardy, Kim Kearney, Dr. Maxine Davis, Laschinski Emerson, Mary Henderson, Cynthia Daniels**

Second Row - left to right - **Rev. Gordon Gibson, Clarence Vaughn, Brian Brooks, Bishop Farris Long**

Not Pictured: Eric Lattimore, Linda Parris-Bailey, Preston Johnson, Mabrey Duff, Robin DeHart, Ann Dingus and Dean Rice,

Chair – Mrs. Deborah Porter

Treasurer – Mrs. Mary Henderson

Secretary – Ms. Kim Kearney

Chairman – Emeritus

Mr. Clarence L. Vaughn III

Reverend Dr. Harold A. Middlebrook

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Souvenir Booklet Mr. Brian Brooks Mrs. Deborah Porter	MLK Gallery of Arts Tribute Mr. Dean Rice Mrs. Deborah Porter	Interfaith Prayer Service Ms. Donna Hardy Ms. Ann Dingus Rev. Gordon Gibson Mrs. Robin Dehart	Leadership Symposium Dr. Maxine Thompson – Davis Mrs. Loretta Fowlkes Mr. Clarence Vaughn Mrs. Robin Dehart
Leadership Luncheon Mr. Clarence Vaughn Mr. Brian Brooks Mr. Eric Lattimore	Night with the Arts Mrs. Cynthia Daniels Mrs. Linda Parris-Bailey Mr. Preston Johnson	Community Forum Mr. Ralph Hutchison Ms. Tanvi Kardile	MLK Basketball Classic & Youth Summit Bishop Farris Long Mr. Calvin Sandidge
Keynote Committee Mr. Clarence Vaughn Mrs. Deborah Porter	Teacher In Service Ms. Donna Hardy Mrs. Laschinski Emerson	Parade & Juneteenth Mr. Mabrey Duff Ms. Kim Kearney Mr. Brian Brooks Mr. Elijah Drake	Memorial Service Dr. Maxine Thompson – Davis Mrs. Deborah Porter

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