

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY

Note: We are striving to incorporate all essential elements while allowing time for our guests to share their message

- ◆ Call to Worship, Candles of Community, and Giving

will be done all at once

- ◆ A Reading

Wholeness by Sharon Wylie

- ◆ Chalice Lighting

- ◆ Spoken Affirmation

*Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.
This is our great covenant to dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in freedom and to help one another.*

EXPANDING OUR UNDERSTANDING

- ◆ Stewardship Moment –

- ◆ Reading

from *Living with Pride* by Lori Gorgas Hlaban

DECLARING OUR POSSIBILITIES

- ◆ Discourse

Transgender Day of Visibility

by The Biasi Family

CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

- ◆ With Music

Special Musical Guest – Jo

By Cricket Hall

- ◆ Extinguishing the Chalice

*We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
The warmth of community or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.*

WHO'S DOING WHAT TODAY

- ◆ Board rep: *Carole Harner*
- ◆ Greeting us at the door: *Sherilyn Bolerjack*
- ◆ Leading today: *Members of the LGBTQIA+ team*
- ◆ AV crew: *Carole Harner, Don Rogers, Jim Holmes, Marla Loturco*
- ◆ Sunday school leader: *Jack Bolerjack*
- ◆ Joining our Easter Sunday Dinner: *EVERYONE* ❤️

TODAY, on every social media platform, you will see the courageous faces of people of every age, generation, race, and ethnicity who share who they are. You will see coming out stories recalled from the past or happening in real-time, as many use the date to announce their authenticity. You will see posts of solidarity and advocates flying trans and nonbinary flags. And for every visible trans and nonbinary person you see, there is an untold number who remain unseen. Perhaps it's not time yet. Perhaps their gender is still gestating. Perhaps there are too many risks.

Social camouflage is sometimes necessary, as so many of us traverse hostile environments. Yet herein lies the importance of TDOV. Whether you're out and visible or biding your time, it's heartwarming to know there are so many gender-diverse people who understand and empathize with the trans experience. More than that, it's socially empowering and psychologically invaluable.

Feelings of isolation and alienation are rampant because trans and nonbinary people aren't born into a trans and nonbinary family with a trans and nonbinary culture. We're scattered around the world, so it's important for us to find each other, see each other, and validate each other. In the U.S., the Williams Institute estimates there are 1.6 million transgender people. 1.6 million is approximately the population of Phoenix, San Antonio, Philadelphia. or San Diego.

No, we are not all the same. Our many differences account for our beautiful diversity. But think about that number. Our population is comparable to some of the larger cities in the country, and our numbers are growing.

We're building community because we see each other. We're building resilience because we look out for each other. And we're building hope because we support each other. We were always here, but there's a big difference between knowing that in a broad historical sense and seeing it. Events like TDOV are powerful because the mundane act of witnessing each other's existence is as affirming as it is inspiring.

We live in a time so inundated by anti-trans legislation that every newscast is depressing. When politicians dehumanize and scapegoat the trans community to whip up conflict. When the violence against trans and nonbinary people has skyrocketed so high the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) declared a national state of emergency for LGBTQ+ Americans for the first time in 40 years. For all these reasons, International Day of Transgender Visibility is needed now more than ever to connect us, build solidarity, and humanize who we are.



So, here's my picture. I'm a trans nonbinary, genderfluid, mental health counselor with a rainbow necklace and a goofy smile. Like many people who struggle with gender dysphoria and beam with gender euphoria, I have a complicated relationship with photographs. Yet I chose this one for TDOV because I'm genuinely smiling. On TDOV, I smile a lot. I smile when you post about yourself, whether a simple selfie or a cheerful meme from behind your avatar. I smile to know you exist & are brave enough to be.

Alex Stitt, LMHC, is a genderqueer author, mental health counselor, fire dancer, queer theorist living on Hawaii's Big Island.

Program Notes are on back panel.

PROGRAM NOTES

Our morning assembly today was created by our LGBTQIA+ welcoming team.

Easter Sunday Dinner at Church for those who would like to tarry and break bread together. Do stay.

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WELCOME VISITORS

We are Unitarian Universalists. We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are people from many backgrounds who have different beliefs, but shared values.

Grounded in more than two hundred years of thoughtful, spiritual communities, we are people of many generations, ethnicities, genders and sexualities, and spiritual backgrounds. People engaged in making the world a better place. People focusing on what really matters – love, justice, integrity, and hope.

We are a lay-led congregation. Lay-led congregations have no minister which means members of the congregation manage the various aspects of our church life. Unitarian Universalism has a proud tradition of lay-led churches.

We Unitarian Universalists have different beliefs, but shared values. We are Unitarian Universalists, and at the same time we may also be agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, humanist, Jewish, Muslim, pagan, atheist, believers in God, and those who just let the great mystery be. The diversity of beliefs you'll find in our church community is one of our strengths – we're always learning how to see the world from a different perspective.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

10 am - Adult Forum

Field Guide to North American Wildlife
through June 2

11:15 am – The Morning Assembly
TBA

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

The Worship Team had scheduled Water Communion for April 7, but Mark needed to swap his scheduled Sundays with us so he will be speaking.

THE MORNING PROGRAM

Sunday, March 24, 2024

5 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TRANS PEOPLE

- 1** NOT ALL TRANS PEOPLE IDENTIFY AS MALE OR FEMALE. TRANS PEOPLE HAVE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT IDENTITIES OUTSIDE THE GENDER BINARY. 
- 2** TRANS FOLKS ACTUALLY HAVE MANY DIFFERENT SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS. GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION ARE SEPARATE SPECTRA. LEARN MORE AT: WWW.TRANSSTUDENT.ORG/GENDER 
- 3** TRANS PEOPLE LED THE STONEWALL RIOTS. SYLVIA RIVERA AND MARSHA P. JOHNSON WERE TWO AMONG MANY TRANS WOMEN OF COLOR WHO WERE ON THE FRONT LINES. 
- 4** NOT ALL TRANS PEOPLE WANT SURGERY AND EVEN FEWER GET SURGERY. 
- 5** THE WORD TRANSGENDER WAS POPULARIZED BY ACTIVIST VIRGINIA PRINCE IN 1969. SHE FIRST PUBLISHED THE WORD IN THE DECEMBER 1969 ISSUE OF "TRANSESTIA". 

SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
JOYFULLY INCLUSIVE
JUSTICE CENTERED

