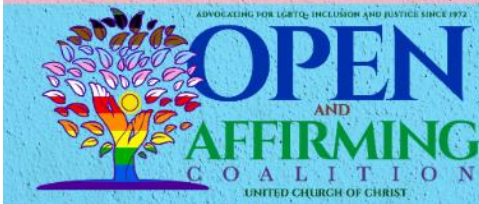


Transgender Day of Visibility March 31

All Transgender individuals are deserving of safety, belonging, and autonomy. We stand in solidarity with all our Trans siblings today and everyday. And we will continue to work to make it safer to be visible.



This year Easter Sunday falls on Transgender Day of Visibility. How are you queering your Easter service?

Spring/Summer Webinar Series - Coming up next: ONA 201 on March 19th!

Group pricing (based on church size) and individually priced tickets available.

[Check out our Events page](#) and scroll through all the options! We hope to see you at a webinar soon.



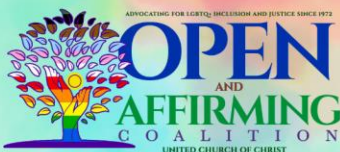
SPRING '24 Webinars

7PM-8:30PM EACH NIGHT

- 2/27/24. ONA 101 — Starting the Open and Affirming Journey.
- 3/19/24. ONA 201- We're ONA, What's next?
- 4/23/24. ONA and the Bible.
- 5/28/24. Beyond The Binary Panel: The spectrum of gender.
- 6/25/24. Unpacking Attraction with the Bible — A Deep Dive into Bisexuality, Pansexuality, and Asexuality.
- 7/30/24. Navigating Ethical Non-Monogamy & the Bible: Open Relationships, Polyamory and More.

The Open and Affirming Coalition is now accepting applications for:

- Leadership Team (the Coalition's Board)
- General Volunteers



Want to be part of the volunteer leaders that make the Coalition great? Want to be on our list when volunteer tasks come up? Apply today! Applications are due by March 11th! Descriptions of the positions and application:

<https://openandaffirming.org/coalition-leadership-team-applications-now-open/>

Deadline extended for Coalition Leadership Team and General Volunteer positions! Apply by Friday, March 15th.

[Position Descriptions and Application](#)

March Greetings from Dr. Katrina

I've been on a social media disconnect for Lent, so I hadn't heard of nor seen the conversations around our sibling, our child, Nex Benedict. I learned of Nex in a staff meeting and my heart broke into a million pieces. One, this was hitting home because of a young relative of mine in Tennessee who is being bullied because her best friend identifies as someone in the LGBTQIAN2S+ community. After a bullying incident my relative was asked by the school's Principal, "So, are YOU gay?". My breath stopped in hearing this because here was an adult that was clearly not going to be on the side of right and good for these children, the victims. So when I heard about Nex my breath stopped again and my stomach reached the floor.

I became enraged inside because I wondered again where in the world are the adults that will do right and good by these children?! School systems have implemented policies that hold parents accountable for a child's absence from school. There is a mechanism within the legal system by which a parent may be held liable for their child's actions when their child breaks a law. I question how the situation would change if we advocated for parents of bullies to be held accountable. The child has to get it from somewhere. Either a parent is in support of the bullying or through ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences - various forms of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction) they have pushed the child to bully others. As I was holding these things, the wind was knocked out of me again in learning of the bill to law imprisonment of our LGBTQ+ Ghanian siblings that mimics Uganda's law; then hearing of the murder of a transman, Righteous Torrence "TK" Hill (Chevy), a barber in Atlanta, GA, and the shooting of a Gay identified man, John Walter Lay, in a dog park in Tampa, FL, where the evidence in both shows that the violence was motivated by hate. And then there's the new wave of bills targeting libraries that is yet another threat coming for our democracy, atop the over 500+ threats that are already in existence.

I really wanted to write something that gave full celebration to Women's HerStory month, but I'm stuck asking where the adults are; where are the people who truly care about humanity regardless of how one identifies themselves. I am stuck in a non-titled, non-position-holding space where I am fully human first, and I am overwhelmed. I thank you for letting me share my humanness, because at the same time I am holding on to hope. I am hopeful because I know we have committed individuals like you who help us be present; help us be able to stand firmly in justice's and equity's footprints as we guide in creating safe spaces for the LGBTQIAN2S+ community and its family members.

Thinking of you and your commitment to this movement gives me tangible hope during such a time we are facing. I personally thank you for your financial support! It is the only way we can be active advocates in this justice work we do and seek to expand. Romans 12:21 reminds us, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". So, in honor of Women's HerStory month, I am asking you to donate to The Coalition so that I may yet guide the vision of this great organization. Yes, our priority is being an example to the world by building a 100% open and affirming safe space, but it's also being frontline advocates for

our LGBTQIAN2S+ siblings and their rights as God's creation in God's image, beautiful and gifted human beings.

Transgender Day of Visibility Resources

Welcoming Trans Children
to Church

Trans Justice is Racial
Justice Toolkit

Anti-Trans Legislation Brief

Looking for a daily spiritual practice that will accompany you through the season of Lent? **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ offers a beautiful, contemplative weekday service of Morning Prayer with Taizé chant, psalms, brief scripture reading, litany, and silence.** It's based on the ancient morning service of Lauds ("Praise"). Our community gathers at 9 am EST Monday through Friday. Another community on the West Coast prays at 11 am EST, or 8 am PST. Optional conversation follows. The Coalition has been offering these services since 2020. Registration is free and will get you links to both services. The translation of the psalms and prayers are inclusive.

Morning Prayer Registration

Churches for Middle East Peace offer several weekly events including a prayer gathering and a news briefing. [Event calendar can be found here.](#)

The Brighton Allston Congregational Church in Brighton, MA is currently accepting applications for their Trans BIPOC Pastoral Residency. Please share this opportunity widely with your networks and communities! Applications are due March 31st. [More information and how to apply.](#)

The Nu Foundation is hosting an [Affirming Sunday](#) in June. They are an organization striving to connect Queer Christians to affirming churches. This could be a great resource for folks in your life that do not live close to an ONA church!

The 2024 training schedule is up from Our Whole Lives (OWL). [In-person and virtual trainings available.](#)

LGBTQ Religious Archives Network
Presents
**Gay & Quaker:
The Shaping of
Activist Bayard Rustin**

Reverend
Quincy James Roseheart
Moderator/Historian

Mandy Carter
National Black
Justice Coalition

Walter Naegle
Rustin's Life Partner

Thursday, April 4, 2024
5:00pm PT - 7:00pm CT - 8:00pm ET
Register @ bit.ly/rustinapril4

Bayard Rustin Event

ONA Announcements

**Invest
WITH PRIDE**

Earn more on your investment* while
uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community!

[LEARN MORE](#)

 **Cornerstone**
FUND

*The offering is made solely by the Offering Circular.

LGBTQIA+ Giving Bonus



NATIONAL GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2024

THE SUMMIT HOTEL
CINCINNATI, OHIO

REGISTRATION IS COMING SOON

