



WELCOME TO OUR

October Newsletter

"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

Advocacy panel Oct. 27

As the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance comes to the end of its programming year, the October meeting will focus on equipping faith communities to become effective advocates. On Monday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. (note the different start time), we will gather at Kirkwood United Methodist Church (201 W. Adams) for an educational panel, "For Such a Time as This."



We are currently working to complete the panel, but so far, our panelists will include:

- Jeanette Mott Oxford, former Missouri House Representative for District 59, who has made a career advocating for a more equitable Missouri through her work with Empower Missouri, Metropolitan Congregations United, and Paraquadd. She remains an active advocate in her retirement. In July, she organized attendees of the United Church of Christ Open & Affirming Coalition's convention in Kansas City in a public witness march, joining others for a teach-in addressing the urgent issues facing LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities in Missouri and across the nation.
- Rev. Meagan McLaughlin, pastor at Christ Lutheran (ELCA) Church, traveled to Jefferson City this year to testify against anti-trans bills before a House committee. She is an active member of Proclaim, a ministry of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, an organization connected with the ELCA that supports, encourages, and advocates for LGBTQIA+ seminarians and clergy in the ELCA.

Panelists will share stories from their advocacy experiences in Jefferson City, offer tips for organizing peaceful protests or vigils, effective communication practices, and more. If you've ever asked, "what can I do?" we will have the answers at this educational event, as well as helpful handouts and easy actionable items to do on site. We'll also be collecting food to help Metro Trans Umbrella Group restock its pantry. Pop-top canned goods are preferred and may include fruit, tuna, chicken, soup, and microwavable meals. Shelf-stable milk (including plant-based milks) and snacks (chips, granola bars, etc) also are needed.

To help our friends at Kirkwood UMC plan, your RSVP is requested by Oct. 24; please email the Faith Alliance (lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com).

LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH RESOURCE

Religious Archives

"History is written from the perspective of those who preserve their records."

This quote has a prominent place at a unique virtual library based in Chicago, Illinois, the **LGBTQ Religious Archives Network**. And as congregations prepare to observe LGBTQ+ History Month, this could be a useful resource to clergy or justice teams.

The website, <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org>, has oral histories a profile gallery of leaders who helped shape LGBTQ+ religious movements, and a collection of documents. Search the collection by faith, people, subjects, organizations or geography. As an example, click on the



preserving history tab/profiles/ geography and select Missouri to find profiles of people such Rev. Carol Cureton, founder of the MCC of Greater St. Louis, as well as Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of St. Louis.

But the network also presents current events and will hold an online gala, "Holy Troublemakers," on Oct. 19. See the website for details.



Our next meeting

Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m. (note the time change) on **Monday, Oct. 27** at Kirkwood UMC, 201 W. Adams. An education panel, "For Such a Time as This," will focus on effective advocacy for faith communities. It is open to Faith Alliance congregation members, so please share with your community. This is our final meeting for 2025.



Open mic canceled

At the Sept. 22 meeting, it was decided to postpone the Oct. 12 coffeehouse open mic event due to lack of interest at this time. Despite circulating news about the event and requests for performers, there were no responses. It may be revisited in 2026.

October events

- **The Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion and Metro Trans Umbrella Group** will hold a event for National Coming Out Day. "Trans 101" will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Oct. 11 and will talk about what gender is, why it matters, and how to support gender-diverse people. The church is located at 7401 Delmar Blvd. in University City. Attendees are encouraged to bring toiletries to support MTUG's community center and outreach programs.

- **Queer Professional Alliance STL** hosts a bowling party and costume contest from 2–4 p.m. on Oct. 12 at Crestwood Bowl on Watson Road. Registration required. Contact QueerProfessionalAllianceSTL@gmail.com for more information. Queer Professional Alliance STL is a networking group for queer career professionals and business owners.

- **St. Cletus Catholic Church LGBTQ+ Support Ministry** will meet in St. Charles at 7 p.m. on Oct. 14 in the parish center's Callahan Room (2705 Zumbuhl Rd, lower level). The group gathers the second Tuesday of each month.

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Did you know the founder of LGBTQ+ History Month is **Rodney Wilson**, former Mehlville High School teacher? In 1994, he became the first openly gay K–12 teacher in Missouri. LGBTQ+ History Month is now observed in more than 20 countries. [Read an NPR profile about Rodney.](#)



Our Alliance grows

We welcome **Wendy Tyree**, member at Eliot Unitarian Universalist Chapel; **Rev. Carol Trissell**, interim pastor at Ivy Chapel UCC in Chesterfield; and **Patrick Cousins**, director of pastoral formation, Saint Louis University. It's a blessing to be in service with you!

Who We Are

The LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance is an inclusive coalition of straight allies and LGBTQIA2S+ people from various faith communities in the greater St. Louis area. We believe everyone should feel welcome, safe, and affirmed in God's beloved communities. Contact us at lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com.



EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- **Project Sanctuary** will hold a sound healing at 7 p.m. on Oct. 14 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3600 Hampton Ave. For more info or to RSVP, contact Dr. Aria Thome, church music director, at (314) 352-8050 or gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com.

- **TransParent Trivia Night** will be October 16 at Tropical Liquers, 4104 Manchester Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person. Dress in your best beach gear for the costume contest. To register, (guests 21 and older) visit <https://transparentusa.org/trivia-2025>.

- **Parkway UCC** (2841 N. Ballas Road) will hold a potluck supper at 5 p.m. on October 19 followed by a showing at 6 p.m. of the documentary "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture." A discussion and dessert will follow the film. RSVP by Oct. 17 to lgbtfaithalliance@aol.com with the number of people attending and a dish or dessert you plan to bring.

- **Drag Bingo** to benefit Episcopal Church of the Advent building repairs, Fourth City Sisters, and St. Louis Metro Rainbow of the Deaf will be October 24 at Tropical Liquers, 41104 Manchester Ave. Tickets are \$30 (dinner included) and doors open at 6 p.m. with bingo starting at 7 p.m. Tickets (21 and older) available [here](#).

- **Gateway ONA** (Open & Affirming) hosts its annual drag bingo at on Oct. 25 (time to be announced) at Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 N. Ballas Road. Tickets are \$25 per person and includes soft drinks and pizza. Participants can bring their own snacks and drinks (no alcohol, please). Proceeds to benefit Gateway ONA scholarship and Alliance Q, the open and affirming ministry of the Disciples of Christ. A signup link will be available soon at www.gatewayona.com.

- **WashU's weekly series at Missouri History Museum** continues on October 30 with "Pageantry and Pride," a look at St. Louis drag pageants. Food will be available to purchase starting at 5 p.m. with the main presentation in the Lee Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. For details visit <https://mohistory.org/events/pageantry-pride>.



Moving abroad?

TransParent is partnering with Trans World Express and Expatsi to offer two webinars for families thinking about moving outside the U.S.

The first will be with Trans World Express on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. (CST). [Register here](#). The second with Expatsi will be at 7 p.m. on Oct. 6. [Register here](#). The calls will offer an overview of which countries are affirming of transgender residents, how to decide which options are best for your family, and how to begin preparing for a move abroad.