



LBUMC Family & Friends -

Happy Pride month! With our values of inclusion and affirmation of our LGBTQ community, I am sharing with you the article Rex wrote on the subject. Included are some additional resources. Rex is also hosting [two webinars](#) which may be of interest to you, your friends, and/or family. I hope you find Rex's article below as meaningful as I did. Let me know if I can be of any help or support around LGBTQ care and inclusion for you or your family.

--

Happy LGBTQ+ Pride Month!

[Since 1970](#), June has been celebrated as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. A month to honor the [LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Movement](#) and to celebrate the triumphs, joy, and existence of our diverse and vibrant community.

One of my joys as an LGBTQ+ person exists in the sharing of Queer experience. This morning, when I was walking my dog, Chomper, I ran into my 60-year-old neighbor on their morning walk. They told me about a book they are writing about a queer artist from the 70s. They talked about how for the first time in their life they are having to study queer theory for certain aspects of the book: "I live queer theory, I've never had to study it".

It's interesting because so many of us in the LGBTQ+ community come from lived experiences that those outside the community seek to understand. As I talked with my neighbor, they shared with me about microaggressions they experience at work as someone who is perceived as a "queer woman". How when they have a difference in approach to a project from their colleagues, they are often not taken seriously, rather than being seen as having a perspective that could be valuable in reaching a creative solution. And how this makes their spidey senses tingle and they have to ask themselves "Is this because of my perceived gender? Is this because I am queer?"

I found such value in hearing a queer elder talk about this experience. Something I often experience myself. It made me feel seen and understood. And what a great joy there is in being acknowledged and validated, especially with experiences that are often internalized.

The work of LGBTQ+ trailblazers like [Marsha P Johnson and Silvia Rivera](#) truly paved the way for moments like this to occur. For me to be able to walk to the park by my house as an out queer and trans person talking openly to my queer elder about our lives as LGBTQ+ people. How mundane it may seem, but entirely revolutionary to those fighting for equity in 1969 — entirely revolutionary still in 2022 as we know that [being out as LGBTQ+ does not guarantee safety](#).

As we seek to create safety and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, we must acknowledge and understand the nuances of LGBTQ+ experiences. One of the things I love most about the LGBTQ+ community is how truly diverse it is; spanning identities of race, class, religion, ability, size, gender, etc. Though, it's only been in [recent history](#) that we've started to see mainstream stories that reflect this diversity.

Over the years, we have seen efforts from folks in the LGBTQ+ community to put a more focused lens on people of color, trans folks, nonbinary folks, and intersex folks. Which has been reflected in the [evolution of the Pride flag](#). The Pride flag pictured above is the newest iteration, with black and brown stripes drawing attention to the intersectional experience of LGBTQ+ people of color (added in 2017), transgender flag colors to ensure visibility of TGX+ communities (added in 2018), and the intersex flag (yellow with a purple

circle) to acknowledge those of intersex experience (added in 2021). With the right-facing arrow representing forward movement.

The changing Pride flag is an ongoing acknowledgment and celebration of the strength and diversity of the greater LGBTQ+ community. A symbol that allows us to honor our history, celebrate our present, and look forward to the future.

This Pride season, I look forward to appreciating the revolutionary moments that come with queer and transness. Whether that be celebrating at events with queer family, contributing to articles and podcasts about my lived experience (stay tuned for more), facilitating inclusion trainings, or finding joy in early morning conversations with the queer elders in my neighborhood.

Wishing everyone a joyous Pride season this June! Happy Pride!

--

Earlier this week, we sent a [church-wide email](#) regarding Church of the Resurrection's efforts to encourage United Methodist Church members around the country to take action in wake of the shooting in Uvalde, Texas. It is my hope that you will consider encouraging our representatives to do all they can to reduce these incidences of violence. Thank you for your consideration.

Love & Blessings,
Pastor Lynn