



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

RESOURCE GUIDE

If you are in crisis and/or need help immediately, contact emergency services by dialing **911**.

Below is a list of helplines you can reach out to for consultation. All helplines are free.



CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE OR SELF-HARM?

Suicide & Crisis Hotline: Dial 988

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: Text "HOME" to 741741

Mental Health Hotline: 1-866-903-3787 *24/7 assistance for anxiety/depression, PTSD, & other mental health issues*

SUBSTANCE USE/ADDICTION RESOURCES

Arkansas Central Hotline (alcoholism-related):
1-501-664-7303

Arkansas Poison Hotline (for poison exposures, drug interactions): 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-376-4766

PARTNER VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT

Love is Respect: 1-800-331-9474 or Text **loveis** to 22522 *Peer advocates 24/7 support teens through concerns about dating violence. www.loveisrespect.org*

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

RISE: 1-866-358-2254 *local assistance for domestic violence*

DISORDERED EATING

National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA) Hotline:
Text "NEDA" to 741741

ANAD (Nat'l Assoc. of Anorexia Nervosa/Assoc. Disorders) Hotline: 1-888-375-7767

LGBTQIA+ RESOURCES

The Trevor Project: *(for LGBTQ youth who are in crisis):*
1-866-488-7386 or text "START" to 678678

LGBT National Youth Talkline: 1-800-246-7743 or chat online at www.lgbthotline.org/chat

OTHER RESOURCES

National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)
Call: 800-950-NAMI (6264)
Text: "Friend" to 62640
Webchat: nami.org/help

NAMI Helpline
for people living with mental illness
1-800-844-0381
or text "NAMI" to 741741

National Runaway Safeline
1-800-RUNAWAY
Crisis line for youth thinking about running away, for youth already on the run and for adults worried about a runaway.

Planned Parenthood
www.plannedparenthood.org
For questions and education regarding sexual and reproductive health.

Little Rock Planned Parenthood Clinic:
501-666-7526

Conway Ministry Center
www.conwayministrycenter.org
For immediate help

We love you, God loves you, and that will never change!

LGBTQ+ Resources

Special note: The resources included in this list are recommended by members of the FUMC Church & Society Committee. They have been helpful to us on our own journey, and we hope they will be helpful for you.

Documentaries:

1946-The Mistanslation that Shifted a Culture (Sharon "Rocky" Roggio 2022)

The 1946 documentary explores the claim that a mistranslation of the Bible in 1946 led to a shift in attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals within Christianity.

Pray Away(Kristine Stolakis, 2021)

Ex-leaders and a survivor of the so-called conversion therapy movement speak out about its harm to the LGBTQ+ community and its devastating persistence.

How to Survive a Plague (David France, 2012)

This documentary has nothing to do with the church, but it is an eye opening view of how the gay community had to CREATE the community because they couldn't get anyone to help them in the worst part of the AIDS crisis.

Will and Harper(Josh Greenbaum, 2024)

When Will Ferrell finds out his close friend of 30 years is coming out as a trans woman, the two decide to embark on a cross-country road trip to process this new stage of their relationship in an intimate portrait of friendship and transition.

Books:

Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez

The book explores how secular influences, including militaristic masculinity and Christian nationalism, have shaped evangelical views on gender, race, and politics, ultimately leading to a distorted understanding of Jesus and a fracturing of the nation.

Us versus Us: The Untold Story of Religion and the LGBTQ Community by Andrew Martin

86% of LGBTQ+ people spent their childhood in church. More than half of them left those religious communities and three out of four wish they could return. Andrew Marin brings the startling findings of his largest-ever scientific survey of the religious history, practices, and beliefs of the LGBT community.

The Exvangelicals: Loving, living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church by Sarah McCambron

This is a book exploring the experiences of those who have left, or are in the process of leaving, the white evangelical church. It delves into the reasons behind this "exvangelical" movement, including disillusionment with Trumpism, anti-LGBT+ sentiment, racism, religious abuse, and skepticism of science within the evangelical community.

Heavy Burdens: Seven Ways LGBTQ Christians Experience Harm in the Church by Bridgette Eileen Rivera

This book provides an honest account of seven ways LGBTQ people experience discrimination in the church, helping Christians grapple with hard realities and empowering churches across the theological spectrum to navigate better paths forward.

Fieldnotes for the Wilderness by Sarah Bessey

This book has nothing to do with the LGBTQ+ world, but deals with all kinds of church hurt. It would be an EXCELLENT book for anyone with church hurt to read and understand you are not in the wilderness alone.

When Religion Hurts You by Dr. Laura E. Anderson

This one doesn't really deal with the LGBTQ+ community, but explores the negative impacts of high-control religious groups on individuals, leading to religious trauma. The book delves into how these groups can be harmful, how they can cause emotional and spiritual abuse, and how individuals can begin to heal from these experiences.

Love Matters More How Fighting to be Right Keeps us from Loving like Jesus by Jared Byas

Jared and Pete Enns have a good podcast called The Bible for Normal People. This book was born out of that podcast. It argues that love should be the central focus of Christian faith and practice, often taking precedence over rigid adherence to doctrine or perceived "truth." The last chapter, Love Matters More, is pure gold, but the whole book is GREAT!

The Making of Biblical Womanhood:How the Subjugation of Women Became the Gospel Truth by Beth Allison Barr

This book is a good timeline of womanhood and how the church has changed what womanhood means. The author argues that love should be the central focus of Christian faith and practice, often taking precedence over rigid adherence to doctrine or perceived "truth."

Unclobber by Colby Martin

Martin addresses the so-called "clobber passages" used to condemn homosexuality, offering fresh interpretations that promote inclusivity.

One Coin Found:How God's Love Stretches to the Margins by Emmy Kegler

Written by a queer woman who grew up in the evangelical church. A very good honest book.

Changing Our Mind(Third Edition) by David Gushee

A good comprehensive book on changing your mind about including LGBTQ+ in churches.

Untamed by Glennon Doyle

A very good look at deciding to be fully yourself.

Inspired by Rachel Held Evans

Rachel examines how various biblical stories and passages can be interpreted through different lenses, embracing both their historical context and their potential for modern-day relevance. Evans also grapples with the contradictions and difficult questions raised by the Bible, inviting readers to engage with these complexities in a thoughtful and nuanced way. Ultimately, she aims to help readers reclaim their love for the Bible and discover its enduring power to shape their lives.

Our Strangely Warmed Hearts by Rev. Karen Oliveto

This was a United Women in Faith Reading list recommendation a few years ago by the first openly queer bishop in the UMC.

Queering Wesley, Queering the Church by Keagan Osinski

This is a book on recognizing the queer themes in Wesley's sermons.

Called Out: 100 Devotions for Queer Christians by E. Carrington Heath

A daily devotional on authenticity, coming out, relationships, chosen family, religious trauma, and more.

Queers the Word by Brian G. Murphey and Fr. Shannon TL Kearns
Deepen your relationship with God by diving into Scripture through a queer lens.

Walking the Bridgeless Canyon by Kathy Baldock
Baldock guides the reader on a fascinating journey of how the church has responded to the LGBT community--and how we all can and should do better.

I have Something to Tell You by Chasten Buttigieg
A moving, hopeful, and refreshingly candid memoir by the husband of former Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg about growing up gay in his small Midwestern town, his relationship with Pete, and his hope for America's future.

God's Widening Mercy by Richard and Christopher Hays
This book argues that God's grace and mercy are continually expanding, encompassing individuals of all sexualities and identities. The book examines how the Bible's narrative reveals a God who adjusts his perspective and expands his love, suggesting that Christians should also be open to reinterpreting traditional beliefs. It highlights the biblical precedent for God's mercy extending to those previously considered outside of his love.

Books for Kids and Tweens

Pride and Joy by Frank Sileo
With her best friend, Elliott, Joy takes action, baking 'Pride and Joy' cookies to raise money for the local LGBTQIA+ center. But when the bully tries to put an end to the bake sale, Joy learns that being an ally means using your words, too.

Pride by Eric Huang and Amy Phelps
It's Pride Month and Brian is preparing for his local Pride parade with his family and friends. Luckily for you, they're inviting you along to learn more!

Queer & Fearless by Rob Sanders
A picture book that uses poetry to introduce young readers to prominent LGBTQ+ figures from the past and present.

Queer History A to Z: 100 Years of LGBTQ+ Activism by Robin Stevenson
A book exploring the history of LGBTQ+ rights and activism, presented in an A to Z format.

The ABCs of Queer History by Seema Yasmin
In a beautiful picture book brimming with P for Pride, writer and poet Seema Yasmin and illustrator Lucy Kirk celebrate all the joys and challenges of queer history in the United States through lively, rhyming verse and bright, colorful illustrations.

Rainbow Allies by Nancy Churnin
Based on a true story, this touching picture book demonstrates that hate can always be overcome by love and community—and suggests some age-appropriate methods for being part of the solution.

Papa's Coming Home by Chasten Buttigieg
The author offers an affectionate portrait of the everyday domestic life of a same-sex family unit . . . many kids and adults will be pleased to see their experiences reflected on the page.

Websites/Important Posts and courses:

A word from Rachel Held Evans on her stance on LGBTQ+

<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/lgbtq>

A word from Jen Hatmaker on her stance on LGBTQ+. She changed her stance after years in the evangelical church.

<https://jenhatmaker.com/happy-pride-beloveds-wherever-you-are-look-for-the-lights/>

Jen Hatmaker and Sydney, her gay daughter, in an interview.

<https://jenhatmaker.com/podcasts/special-edition-series/a-moment-of-pride-jen-and-sydney-hatmaker-on-being-gay-christian-and-loved/>

Sarah Bessey is a great guide for loving first. She's so wise and kind. Read her words...

<https://www.sarabytheseason.com/2019/06/24/my-journey-to-becoming-affirming/>

The Reformation Project is a website dedicated to reforming church teaching on sexual orientation and gender identity through scholarship, education, and advocacy.

<https://www.reformationproject.org/>

Beloved Arise is the first national organization dedicated specifically to supporting LGBTQIA+ youth of faith. The organization provides resources, community, and advocacy to ensure that queer youth feel seen, valued, and loved—especially in faith spaces where they might otherwise feel excluded.

<https://www.belovedarise.org/>

Q Christian Fellowship is a diverse, ecumenical organization fostering safe spaces and theological dialogue for LGBTQIA+ Christians.

<https://www.qchristian.org/>

CenterPeace is a fully affirming, Christ-centered ministry that cultivates spiritual community for LGBTQIA+ individuals. They offer both in-person and virtual events, providing support for LGBTQIA+ people, parents, and ministry leaders.

<https://www.centerpeace.net/>

Reconciling Ministries is a movement advocating for LGBTQIA+ inclusion within the United Methodist Church.

<https://rmnetwork.org/>

Free Mom Hugs was founded by Sara Cunningham, Free Mom Hugs is a national organization that empowers the world to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community through visibility, education, and conversation.

<https://freemomhugs.org/>

Jen Hatmaker has several online courses called Me Courses. This particular course is full of information and resources on how to best support LGBTQ+ kids.course on parenting LGBTQ+ kids

<https://shop.jenhatmaker.com/products/parenting-lgbtqia-teens-tweens>

Q Spirit promotes LGBTQ spirituality with saints, history, art and books. You can also sign up for the informative monthly newsletter.

<https://qspirit.net/>