

PFLAG SPIRIT

June 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 5

Newsletter of Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fort Worth Chapter, P.O. Box 8279, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Published monthly except January.

MISSION: *Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.*

PFLAG Fort Worth Meetings

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, and with your health and safety in mind, PFLAG Fort Worth has suspended all of its in person meetings/ events, until health experts determine it is safe to resume. **We are holding virtual Zoom meetings; please email info@pflagfortworth.org if you would like to receive an invitation to attend.** As always, please stay safe, and keep in touch with us through our website, email, phone, Facebook, and Twitter.

June Dates to Remember

06/03	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
06/10	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
06/28	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
06/27	Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL

For Virtual events, please EMAIL for invitation/ instructions info@pflagfortworth.org

***For PFLAG Dallas events, please register on website - pflagdallas.org or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pflagdallas).**

PFLAG FORT WORTH INFORMATION

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

Virtual Meetings until further notice (see above)

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church

1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

PFLAG/FW is not directly affiliated with any religious group.

Website: <http://pflagfortworth.org>

National Website: <http://www.pflag.org>

Newsletter: Carrie Hinze, Editor For change of address, advertising, or news to share, **contact txtomx@yahoo.com with PFLAG in the subject line, please.**

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Equality Texas' list of resources for the LGBTQ community continues to evolve. Please check this out if you are in need of assistance.

Read more: [COVID-19 Resources](#)

For specific restrictions, regulations, and assistance relating to COVID-19 in North Texas try these links -

State of Texas: <https://texas.gov/#covid19>

Dallas County: <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/>

Tarrant County: <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/county/tarrant-county-covid-19-information.html>

City of Dallas: <https://dallascityhall.com/Pages/Corona-Virus.aspx>

City of Arlington: <https://www.arlingtontx.gov/coronavirus>

City of Fort Worth: <https://fortworthtexas.gov/COVID-19/>

**PFLAG Fort Worth
Zoom Meeting
Thursday, June 3
7:00pm
ALL are welcome!**

Please EMAIL Nancy for instructions and Invitation at info@pflagfortworth.org

Join Progress Texas Virtual Post-Lege Briefing

Sign up to join Progress Texas for virtual Legislative Briefing on **Friday, June 4, 2021 at 1PM CST via Zoom**. Throughout the 2021 Texas Legislative Session, Progress Texas kept up with the action and will discuss what happened. Join for a discussion on the biggest bills of the session and an insider look at what it all means for you! [Read more here](#)

Strong Family Alliance

"If you only read one section on this website, make it this one...The pages that follow include essential information that most parents do not have when their child comes out — simply because it's not an area most people look into until it touches their lives. Knowing the facts can make an enormous difference for you and your child. [Read more here](#)

Strong Family Alliance is a non-profit organization focused on supporting parents of children in the LGBTQ+ community. Strong Family Alliance gives parents accurate information, insights, ways to keep their child safe and healthy, and encouragement to lead with love and solve problems over time. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Justice and Inclusion - RMN and PRN

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to... transform hearts, churches, and communities. We do that through grassroots organizing, resourcing and educating, denomination-level change-making, pastoral care, and working with you: faithful people hopeful for a reconciled Church. [Read more here](#)

Parents Reconciling Network (PRN) believes that God calls us to support fellow parents and other family members of persons who are LGBTQ. PRN began in 1999 when Bruce and Virginia (Ginny) Hilton, both United Methodist pastors and parents of a gay child, brought parents together. [Read more here](#)



First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings.
Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m.

1959 Sandy Lane,
Fort Worth, Texas 76112
817 - 451 - 1505
www.firstjefferson.org



AEI Polling Report: June 2021

In this issue of the AEI Polling Report, we explore major pollsters' findings on LGBT identity, support for same-sex marriage, trans issues, COVID-19 vaccine attitudes and post-vaccine life, etc. [Read more here](#)

Pride Is Back in 2021

USA TODAY has gathered some of the biggest events and celebrations in major cities scheduled this month for Pride. Most 2021 celebrations will host a blend of virtual and in-person events. [Read more here](#)

Pride Month—June 2021

Pride Month is celebrated every June in tribute to those involved in the Stonewall Riots, and we're getting ready to dust off our rainbow flags, douse ourselves in glitter, and go join in the fun. With parades, festivals and concerts going on across the globe, there's always some way for you to get involved — as well as learn some important social history along the way. [Read more here](#)

Gay Pride Calendar

At this stage, the Gay Pride Calendar 2021 depends on global trends and governmental restrictions with regards to Covid-19. So stay tuned to our Gay Pride Calendar for updates on pride dates 2021, which prides will be shifting online, which prides will be canceled. [Read more here](#)

Dallas Pride 2021

Dallas Pride is Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5, and will be the best version of what is possible at this time, prioritizing public health while providing numerous opportunities for LGBTQ+ people and allies to experience visibility, solidarity and joy. In addition to the outside, in-person experiences, the event will also be streamed online for those who feel more comfortable watching from home. [Read more here](#)

Happy Pride! Books for Kids from APA

Magination Press, the children's books imprint of the American Psychological Association, is proud to offer our **Rainbow Collection**, books for kids and teens that celebrate LGBTQ+ voices and promote inclusive school and family values. [Read more here](#)

For Parents During Pride Month

"Pride Month has made me thoughtful about a parent's role in pride for their LGBTQ child. If pride is the opposite of shame, there are things we can do throughout the life of our child to show pride — regardless of their age or stage. Something we may fail to think about is the pride of the ordinary. Often parents still working to find their balance let everything focus on their child's identity and the problems the child may face or the parent's own fears for their future. Instead, when we talk about our child, we can focus on all the things we have known and loved for years." [Read more here](#)

Transgender Visibility

Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in 2021

At least 8 more deaths have been recorded in May. "As HRC continues to work toward justice and equality for transgender and gender non-conforming people, we mourn those lost in 2021." [Read more here](#)

Dismantling a Culture of Violence

"It's not enough to grieve the loss of victims of anti-transgender violence. We must honor their memories with action. In this resource, we hope to demonstrate how anti-transgender stigma, denial of opportunity and increased risk factors compound to create a culture of violence. But most importantly, we provide clear ways that each of us, no matter who we are, can directly make an impact to make our society a safer place for transgender people." [Read more here](#)

Why Public Support for Trans Rights Will Grow

Policies expanding rights for transgender people probably will become increasingly popular. And the reason is simple. Public understanding of transgender policies will increasingly be informed not by news reports or political rhetoric, but through personal interactions with the people immediately affected by them. Previous research has consistently shown that views about same-sex marriage and homosexuality are strongly influenced by personal connections to gay and lesbian people. The same process will likely transform public opinion on transgender rights. [Read more here](#)

Who Must Transition? By Adam Briggie

"Dr. Diane Ehrensaft [director of mental health of the Child and Adolescent Gender Center at UCSF and author of a 2017 [literature review](#) of gender-affirming practices for trans youth] noted that past research focused on what was wrong with transgender kids. 'It looks like the pathology lies in the culture, not inside the child.' The research has a simple message: when trans children receive support affirming their identities, their mental health improves."

"Amber and I [parents of Max, trans 13-year-old] put it this way: we were the ones to transition, not Max. He already knew who he was. We had love but lacked comprehension; we could not encompass or include his way of being, because we had never seen—or had never recognized—an example of it before..."

"We are all in transition...It can be disorienting. Like many, Perry [author of SB 1646, the bill that would classify parents as child abusers] is frightened and confused. Kierkegaard would tell him that he has a choice. We all have a choice...How to react? Do we close in, box out, and hold tight to our truths with righteous certainty? Or do we take a leap, open our hearts, listen to the people who are struggling to carry their existence, and help?" [Read more here](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



HHS Says Prohibition on Sex Discrimination Includes Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

"The Supreme Court has made clear that people have a right not to be discriminated against on the basis of sex and receive equal treatment under the law, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation. On May 10, HHS said it will act on related reports of discrimination," said HHS Secretary Becerra. [Read more here](#)

USA 6th Anniversary, Marriage Equality! ❤️

"If you had told me 20 years ago that today same-sex marriage would be a reality in 29 countries, I would not have believed you," said Jessica Stern, executive director of the global LGBTQ-rights group OutRight Action International. But she noted how polarized the world is regarding LGBTQ acceptance, with nearly 70 countries continuing to criminalize same-sex relations. "The progress has been great, no doubt. But we have a long road ahead," Stern said. [Read more here](#)

Evangelical Lutherans Elect First Trans Bishop

Megan Rohrer, who was raised Lutheran in South Dakota, talked about one way we might see more openly queer people involved in faith and faith positions. For example, Rohrer said their grandmother, who still lives in South Dakota, talked about how proud she was to have an openly trans pastor as a grandchild while at women's church gatherings. From there, Rohrer told the outlet, "people there would then feel like they could talk out loud about the queerness of their own children and kids." Rohrer said they think as "more friends and families are able to speak out loud about the trans people that they love, our world will begin to be a place that is more welcoming." [Read more here](#)



[Translifeline](#)
[877.565.8860](tel:877.565.8860)



COVID-19 Vaccines and LGBTQ+ Community

From a Harvard PhD: "I have a confession: in late 2020, when the first COVID19 vaccines were approved by the FDA, I was hesitant to get one myself. Despite working in public health and believing strongly in vaccines to keep our community healthy, I was anxious about putting something in my body that seemed so new. I thought: 'What if the vaccine is dangerous? What about side effects?' I am part of the LGBTQ+ community. Our history may explain why I hesitated." [Read more here](#)

Gay Doctor Convincing Doubters to Get Vaccine

Out ABC News medical contributor Dr. Darien Sutton provides some insight about the future of the vaccine. He said, "I'm wondering if many of us have friends, relatives or even partners who are hesitant to get the vaccine, and when confronted with that uncertainty, are we left trying to figure out how to provide the right response?" [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Fear Invisibility in Covid19 Vaccine Data

Studies show that even though some people are hesitant to reveal such data, clinicians overestimate how many patients refuse to report themselves. A [2017 study](#) Approximately 80% of clinicians believed that patients hesitated to provide this data, but revealed that only 10% of patients reported refusing to do so. [Read more here](#)

Hesitant to Get COVID19 Vaccine?

Overcoming vaccine hesitancy is a long, arduous task. It starts with not belittling people's reasons for holding off on getting the shot...The biggest benefit from the vaccine is that your odds of getting really sick, let alone dying, from the virus plummet. Also, "getting a vaccine would get you out of some really questionable company. Among the biggest group of vaccine resisters are conservative white evangelicals. Many of the same leaders in that same group are attacking LGBTQ rights, and are also funding anti-vax efforts." [Read more here](#)

LGBT Foundation (in UK) and Coronavirus

The Brits take their "mission of being here if you need us very seriously," and say they "will continue to be there to support every single LGBT person who needs us during the pandemic. For the safety of our communities, we have temporarily shifted to become a remote service delivery charity." (British website) [Read more here](#) On May 29, they published a new research report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on LGBT communities in the UK. [Read more here](#)

PFLAG FORT WORTH ON PAYPAL

There are now two ways to interact with PFLAG Fort Worth through PayPal!

To make a one time donation:

paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2047249

If you have Questions or trouble with the link, please contact Nancy at info@pflagfortworth.org.

To set up a recurring membership,

go to our website, pflagfortworth.org. Click on the Membership tab on the top, then choose the level of membership you want. Complete the process through PayPal (if you don't have a PayPal account, it's free and easy to set up), and voila you're all set! The advantage to doing it online is you won't have to remember to renew every year! Questions? Email Nancy at farmsrock54@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Share the LOVE
Share the SMILES**

Did you know that you can shop online and support PFLAG Fort Worth at the same time? Simply log in to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2472648>, confirm that you want to make PFLAG Fort Worth your preferred charity, and SHOP!

There's no cost to you, and it's anonymous - we do not see any purchase information. Bookmark your smile.amazon.com link on every device and you are good to go. Not sure how to get this set up? Email Nancy at info@pflagfortworth.org for specific steps.

Thank You!

Looking for a Way to Help?
WHO: PFLAG Fort Worth's Samaritan House Supper Club
WHAT: Serve Dinner to Samaritan House residents
You can also make a dish to contribute if you can't make it
WHEN: Fourth Mondays, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
WHERE: Samaritan House, 929 Hemphill St, Fort Worth, 76104
WHY: Because it makes a Difference
Interested? Please contact Lisa at 817-382.7353

Sign up for email distribution of the newsletter!
Get more than just the newsletter — a select number of action alerts and important bulletins from PFLAG and other equal rights advocacy organizations.
We are All Digital now! Go Green!
Contact Nancy at info@pflagfortworth.org

PFLAG FORT WORTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/pflagfortworth/>
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @pflagftworth

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

We are a Welcoming Congregation!

Reverend Frieda Gillespie

901 Page Avenue
Fort Worth, TX
76110




817-924-MYUU(6988)
www.westsideuu.org

Want more PFLAG time?
Join us at our
Food & Fun Confab Social Meeting
Monthly on the second Tuesday 6:30 pm
Shaw's Patio Bar & Grill,
1051 W Magnolia Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76104


**Next event TBD
Due to COVID-19
Stay Tuned!!!**



(Continued from page 4)



To our PFLAG Fort Worth Members and Friends



The PFLAG mission of support, education, and advocacy is as vital as ever. We are asking you to continue your support by renewing your membership, joining us, and/or donating to PFLAG Fort Worth so we can fulfill our mission. Despite a growing acceptance of diversity in our society we are all too aware of hostility and worse toward LGBTQ persons. **Please help PFLAG to keep working toward the society we want;** where people are informed, rights are protected, and families find care and understanding.

Among the ways we served our mission in the 2019-2020 year:

- Speaking to Fort Worth Public Schools teachers/counselors and administrators to advance equality
- Offering a speaker meeting and having a support group on the 1st Thursday of every month at First Jefferson UU Church in Fort Worth.
- Providing dinner for up to 50 residents at our monthly Supper Club at the Samaritan House in Fort Worth.
- Making Christmas stockings for the children living in Samaritan House family apartments, donating money Toward Halloween costumes, and tutoring residents.
- Proudly marching in the Fort Worth and Dallas Pride parades. Staffed a Booth at the Fort Worth Festival and Picnic.

- Briefing employees at several businesses, universities, and federal agencies on our mission of advocacy, support and education.
- Partnering with the TCU Education Department and TCC to share PFLAG's mission.
- Offering a Trans Support Group in partnership with St. Stephens's Episcopal Church in Hurst TX.


GOALS for 2020-2021:

- Offer a scholarship to graduating seniors of LGBTQ SAVES
- Develop ways to become more visible to those who need us and don't know we're here.
- Send an officer to the PFLAG National Conference .
- Continue advocating for the LGBTQ community with businesses, educators, and families.

Everything we undertake has a financial outlay for materials, space, publicity, fees, insurance, printing, etc., and, proudly, the goal for scholarship awards. **We are making a difference and need you with us.** Help PFLAG Fort Worth move equality forward during our October 2020-September 2021 year.

Please support PFLAG Fort Worth with your generosity and commitment to our mission of support, education, and advocacy. **Join us! Renew! Donate!**

If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!!



Membership Application



<p>▽ Individual \$ 25 Date</p> <p>▽ Family \$ 45 Name</p> <p>▽ Sustaining Member \$ 100 Address</p> <p>▽ Benefactor/Life \$ 500 City</p>	<p>State</p> <p>Zip</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Make checks payable to: PFLAG/Fort Worth</p> <p>Mail to: P.O. Box 8279 Fort Worth TX 76124</p> <p>RENEWAL ____ NEW ____</p>	<p>State</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

You can also set up a recurring membership on our website!!