

For Immediate Release

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### **May 24 Equality Project Focuses on LGBTQ+ Affirming Religions**

FOND DU LAC—The Equality Project’s May 24 meeting will examine religions that affirm LGBTQ+ people, led by Open Circle’s Minister Rev. Jim Coakley, from 6-8 p.m. at Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 19 3rd St., in downtown Fond du Lac. The Equality Project is a monthly gathering to educate, support, and take action to achieve equality for LGBTQ+ persons. The evening begins with a 6 p.m. snack and light potluck, and will continue with programming from 6:30-8 p.m. All Fond du Lac residents who stand on the side of love are invited to attend the May 24 Humanity Project event.

“Rev. Jim will focus on religions that take a loving, accepting, whole-person view of LGBTQ+ people,” said Christopher Szymczak, OCUUF Equality Project founder and coordinator. “Jesus did not address homosexuality in any words of his quoted in the Bible. He focused on caring for the marginalized, which is an accurate description of LGBTQ people today. There are religions today that adhere to this New Testament view of children of God.”

Like Open Circle’s Humanity Project, with its goal of getting past race as a barrier, The Equality Project aims to remove gender and sexuality as barriers in understanding each other, and to improve relationships across the community. The final Equality Project event for this year will take place June 21.

“We have embraced radical hospitality,” said Open Circle President Lisette Aldrich. “Open Circle is a welcoming and safe place for all folks, a sanctuary. This supports the core idea that first grabbed me in my religious education in my childhood: Love One Another.”

Unitarian Universalists strongly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the spiritual practice of welcome is a very important part of UU faith communities. For 25 years, congregations have worked hard to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are full members of UU faith communities. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of individuals’ identities, backgrounds, and experiences. The Equality Project is in its second year of programming and support by Open Circle UU Fellowship.

Open Circle Sunday services are at 10 a.m.

Follow Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Open-Circle-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship-115997188421362/> and on the web at <http://www.ocuuf.org/> . Also follow The Equality Project on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/equalityprojectfdl/>.

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