

For Immediate Release

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## **Pride Month Event Scheduled for June 8 at Open Circle UU Fellowship**

FOND DU LAC--Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will host a final Equality Project event on Thursday, June 8, before taking a summer break from programming. The Pride Potluck and Drag Show will begin with a 6 p.m. social at the fellowship, 19 3rd St., in downtown Fond du Lac.

“To celebrate our first season of programs, we wanted do something really special during June Pride Month,” said OCUUF Equality Project Coordinator Christopher Szymczak. “Everyone, come happy and hungry! Please feel free to bring a dish to this potluck event. Be creative and think outside the box -- there are many festive LGBT/rainbow themed recipes to create.”

The Equality Project is created and supported by the Open Circle Social Justice Now Committee and features a monthly gathering, September-June, to educate, support, and take action to achieve equality for LGBTQ+ persons. All Fond du Lac residents who stand on the side of love are invited to attend.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (LGBT Pride Month) is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in Manhattan, which were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. Pride events are social opportunities for LGBTQ+ people to promote self-affirmation and dignity, equality rights, increased visibility as a social group, community building, and to celebrate sexual diversity and gender variance. Cities through the United States and around the world celebrate with parades and gatherings.

The Pride event at Open Circle will feature performances by three professional drag queens, Kayos Mirage, Vanilla Diamond, and Cynthia Moosenuckle, who have performed throughout the state. This will be their first performance in Fond du Lac. In addition to the performance and potluck, the evening will feature a discussion of local pride and information about Pridefest 2017 in Milwaukee.

Like the local 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.

“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.

Open Circle Sunday services are at 10 a.m. Follow Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Facebook and on the web at <http://www.ocuuf.org/> . Also follow The Equality Project on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/equalityprojectfdl/> .

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