



Soul Matters

14 Days of Welcoming



Issue 1

Introduction

To support [Welcoming Congregation](#) efforts, our UUA recently named 14 "[Welcoming Days of Observance](#)." This Soul Matters specialty packet is designed to help you more deeply celebrate, reflect on and observe these 14 important LGBTQ+ days and seasons.

Here's how our [UUA describes](#) the importance of this work:

"The third Practice of Welcome Renewal is an annual recognition and celebration of the Welcoming Days of Observance. These days and seasons are important to LGBTQ+/TGQNB communities because they bring visibility and affirmation after generations of invisibility and erasure. These days remind all that 'All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.'"

With this in mind, we've compiled and curated history, inspiration, liturgy and social media material for each of the 14 Welcoming Days of Observance. Our hope is that this will make it easier for you to weave these observances into your newsletters, social media, worship liturgy and other efforts.

As our UUA stresses, the work of welcoming is never done. It's also work that none of us can do alone. In that spirit, we encourage you to view this packet as a doorway into partners who are beside you in the work.

With gratitude for the many ways we travel together and help make this world more welcoming to us all!

Rev. Michelle Collins, on behalf of The Soul Matters Team

p.s. Help us grow and improve this packet!

This packet is a living document. So in addition to offering us your feedback, please send us additional material and/or corrections throughout the year. We will use your suggestions to update it annually. Everyone who purchases this packet will receive the updated versions for free.

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- VI. World AIDS Day - December 1
- VII. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day - February 7
- VIII. International Transgender Day of Visibility - March 31
- IX. Day of Silence - April 11 (usually 2nd Friday in April)
- X. Lesbian Visibility Day - April 26
- XI. International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17
- XII. Pulse Night of Remembrance (2015) - June 12
- XIII. Stonewall Uprising Anniversary (1969) - June 28
- XIV. LGBT Pride Month - June

Appendix: Social Media Meme Index and Posting Suggestions for all observances

I. Celebrate Bisexuality Day

September 23rd (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- What is Bi Visibility Day and why is it important?
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/09/22/what-is-bi-visibility-day-and-why-is-it-important/>
- Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celebrate_Bisexuality_Day
- History
<https://www.glaad.org/blog/us-bisexual-movement-biweek-history-lesson>
- Bisexuality Pride Flag
<https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/g32867826/lgbt-pride-flags-guide/?slide=6>

Articles & Inspiration

- Celebrate Bisexuality Day, by Jade Sylvan (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/celebrate-bisexuality-day>
- The Cloaking Device, by Kimberly Debus (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/uua/cloaking-device>
- 5 Bisexual People Explain What "Bisexual" Means To Them
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmjVWFh5uRA>
- This is what it's like to be bisexual in America
<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/09/like-bisexual-america/>
- Why bisexuals stay in the closet
<https://www.latimes.com/local/la-xpm-2013-jul-14-la-me-bisexuality-20130715-story.html>
- Revealing Research on Why Many Bisexual Men Don't Come Out
<https://bi.org/en/articles/revealing-research-on-why-many-bisexual-men-dont-come-out>
- Celebrating Public Figures Who Shared Their Truths This Year
<https://www.hrc.org/blog/biweek-celebrating-public-figures-who-shared-their-truths-this-year>
- Here's What No One Ever Tells you About Bisexuality
<https://www.mic.com/articles/129785/here-s-what-no-one-ever-tells-you-about-bisexuality#.YSgFhaMe5>
- Why I Claim Bisexuality
<https://www.advocate.com/commentary/2015/10/08/heres-why-i-claim-bisexuality>
- Saying Bi, Bi, Bi to a Decade of Increased Bi+ Visibility
<https://www.hrc.org/blog/saying-bi-bi-bi-to-a-decade-of-increased-bi-visibility>

- Quotes
 - "The one thing that is sort of sneered at and not really believed is bisexuality. Any bisexual man is just seen as a closeted gay man. That shows how narrow-minded people are. The other thing that's totally neglected and which nobody approves of is celibacy. People again assume that you're just repressing something." - Edmund White, The Guardian
 - "Amazing how eye and skin color come in many shades yet many think sexuality is just gay or straight." - DaShanne Stokes
 - "I don't check any particular box. I've never caught feelings for anyone because they were a male or a female. I feel for people because of who they are. Not what they are." - Tammy Ferebee, Outsiders
 - "There's even less acceptance of bisexuality than homosexuality. Binary thinking still holds strong sway with the general population, and the exclusive homosexual is more understandable to the average person than is an individual who wanders the Kinsey scale with apparent—and alarming—abandon." - Martin Duberman, Has the Gay Movement Failed?
- Movies
 - [Frida](#) (more [here](#))
 - [Appropriate Behavior](#)
 - [Margarita with a Straw](#)

Liturgy

- **Responsive Reading, Marie Alford-Harkey & Debra Haffner**
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/weseeyou-celebrating-bi-visibility-day-reflection-sunday-september-23-2018>
- **Prayer, by Marie Alford-Harkey & Debra Haffner**
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/weseeyou-celebrating-bi-visibility-day-reflection-sunday-september-23-2018>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote:

"i am the line. on both sides there are songs in my name. -bi" -Nayyirah Waheed

II. LGBTQ+ History Month

October

Introduction & History

- Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_History_Month
- History of the Observance
<https://www.glaad.org/blog/celebrate-lgbt-history-month>
- Official Site
<http://lgbthistorymonth.com>

Articles & Inspiration

- A Living History of the LGBT Movement Since The 1800s
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1D65SxzojI>
- Wanda Sykes Takes Us Through the History of LGBTQ+ — Now You Know
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkzwDOCEDCo>
- Top 10 Important LGBTQ Moments In US History
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbK9roswGRw>
- Billy Porter Gives A Brief History of Queer Political Action
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoXH-Yqwyb0>
- Quotes
 - “What does love mean if we would deny it to others?” - DaShanne Stokes
 - “If I wait for someone else to validate my existence, it will mean that I’m shortchanging myself.” - Zanele Muholi
 - “If you help elect more gay people, that gives a green light to all who feel disenfranchised a green light to move forward.” - Harvey Milk
- Movies
 - [Carol](#)
 - [Paris is Burning](#)
 - [Milk](#)

Liturgy

- Our Common Life Is Enriched - responsive reading (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/responsive-reading/our-common-life-enriched>
- Opening Words: Wholeness, by Sharon Wylie (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/wholeness>
- Blessed Are the Queer, By Helen Rose (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/blessing/blessed-are-queer>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

III. National Coming Out Day

October 11th (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Coming_Out_Day
- History
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-history-of-coming-out>

Articles & Inspiration

- Be Bright. Be Bold. Be Yourself, Jade Sylvan (UUA)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/national-coming-out-day-2019>
- Dare to Come Out to Ourselves on National Coming Out Day! Sara Green (UUA)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/dare-come-out-ourselves-national-coming-out-day>
- Joyfully Surprised, By Adrian L. H. Graham (UUA)
<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/joyfully-surprised>
- Answering the Call (UUA)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/answering-call>
- FIFTEEN - Award Winning LGBTQ+ Short Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS1p-27dfKs>
- TYLER (2020)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3knga2u6o8>
- BUBBLE | LGBTQ short film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tifu13jzQyc>
- iO Tillett Wright: Fifty shades of gay
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAJ-5J21Rd0>
- Darling Days: in conversation with author iO Tillett Wright
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FslB0jp2HdA>

- National Coming Out Day Stories (video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDz72BL-DsY>
- How Using Gender-Neutral Language Can Break the Silence of LGBTQ Students, By Ashley Bidinger
<https://www.glsen.org/blog/how-using-gender-neutral-language-can-break-silence-lgbtq-students>
- In a Heartbeat - Animated Short Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2REkk9SCRn0>
- It's time to end National Coming Out Day
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/its-time-to-end-national-coming-out-day/2017/10/10/a9db94ec-ad2b-11e7-9e58-e6288544af98_story.html
- Coming Out Resource Guides
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/coming-out-resource-guides>
- LGBT glossary of terms as of 6/2019
<https://www.thetaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Task-Force-LGBTQ-RJ-Glossary-of-Terms.pdf>
- Out - Movie
<https://www.vulture.com/2020/05/disney-short-film-out-features-first-gay-main-character.html>
- In a Heartbeat - Animated Short Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2REkk9SCRn0>
- LGBT 101: An introduction to the Queer community
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DE7bKmOXY3w>
- Pride Flags and What They All Mean
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjEk6lyow4M>
- Quotes
 - “Please remember, especially in these times of group-think and the right-on chorus, that no person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended.” - Alice Walker, from *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*
 - "I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act." - Janet Mock, a transgender rights activist, author, and TV host
 - “Love should never mean having to live in fear.” - DaShanne Stokes
 - “Love him and let him love you. Do you think anything else under heaven really matters?” – James Baldwin
 - “If I wait for someone else to validate my existence, it will mean that I’m shortchanging myself.” – Zanele Muholi

- “We have to dare to be ourselves, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be.” - May Sarton
- “The world is so obsessed with defining sexuality for everyone and attaching labels to it. Any time any person openly leaves the sexual norm, their sexuality becomes, more often than not, the absolute defining characteristic of that person. It becomes the first thing people think about and often the first thing they mention. Every other part of that person all but disappears.” - Dan Pearce, *Single Dad Laughing*
- Movies
 - [Brokeback Mountain](#)
 - [L Word Mississippi: Hate The Sin](#)

Liturgy

- Thank you prayer for National Coming Out Day
<https://enfleshed.com/blogs/news/thank-you-prayer-for-national-coming-out-day>
- Opening Words: Wholeness, by Sharon Wylie (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/wholeness>
- Blessed Are the Queer, By Helen Rose (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/blessing/blessed-are-queer>
- Chalice Lighting: Living with Pride, By Lori Gorgas Hlaban (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/living-pride>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quotes:

- “No person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended.” - Alice Walker
- "I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act." - Janet Mock, a transgender rights activist, author, and TV host

IV. Intersex Awareness Day

October 26th (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intersex_Awareness_Day
- What is Intersex Awareness Day?
<https://interactadvocates.org/intersex-awareness-day/>
- How to Support Intersex People on Intersex Awareness Day — And Every Day
<https://www.them.us/story/intersex-awareness-day-2018>
- Official Website: <https://intersexday.org/en/>
- Intersex Flag: <https://morgancarpenter.com/intersex-flag/>

Articles & Inspiration

- What Does Intersex Mean? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_5l2fwWGco
- What It's Like To Be Intersex: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAUDKEI4QKI&feature=emb_logo
- Its Intersex Awareness Day - here are 5 myths we need to shatter
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/10/its-intersex-awareness-day-here-are-5-myths-we-need-to-shatter/>
- Why we need to keep the "i" a part of the lgbtqia conversation in politics
<https://www.glaad.org/amp/lgbtq-town-hall-and-inclusion-intersex-awareness-day>
- Love, Complexity, and Intersectionality, by Sean Safia Wall
<https://intersexday.org/en/love-complexity-intersectionality/>

Liturgy

- An Intersex Awareness Day Blessing, by Jade Sylvan (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/intersex-awareness-day-october-26th>
- A Transgender & Intersex & Gender-Diverse Prayer, by Theresa I. Soto (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/prayer-we-are-holy-we-are-sacred-we-are-divine>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote: “In this here place, we flesh; flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare feet in grass. Love it. Love it hard. Yonder they do not love your flesh. They despise it. You got to love it, you!” -Tony Morrison, *Beloved*

V. Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20th (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- What is the Transgender Day of Remembrance? <https://www.glaad.org/tdor>
- The Transgender Day of Remembrance Story
http://www.transfaithonline.org/tdor/display/article/the-transgender-day-of-remembrance-story/?no_cache=1
- Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_Day_of_Remembrance
- Transgender Pride Flag
<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/trans-flag-colors-meaning-transgender-pride>
<https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/g32867826/lgbt-pride-flags-guide/?slide=12>

Articles & Inspiration

- Transgender 101: Identity, Inclusion, And Resources (from our UUA)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/identity/transgender>
- Cautious Optimism on Transgender Day of Remembrance, by Terry Cummings
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/transgender-remembrance-day-november-20-2017-0>
- On Transgender Day of Remembrance, an Invitation, by Rev. Mr. Barb Greve
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/transgender-remembrance-day-november-20-2017>
- Interview with young people
<https://www.glsen.org/blog/conversation-about-transgender-day-remembrance>
- Claiming Our Mourning, Claiming Our Resistance
http://www.transfaithonline.org/tdor/claiming_our_mourning/
- Movie - [The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson](#)

Liturgy

- Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance, by Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe (& Kenneth Sutton?)
<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/2015-transgender-day-remembrance>
- Meditation by Paul Langston-Daley
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/transgender-remembrance-day-november-20-2017-2>
- A Prayer for the Lost Ones, The Rev. Mr. Barb Greve
<https://transuu.org/2018/11/20/prayers-for-tdor-2018/>

- Remembrance and Roll Call: We Bear Witness, by Amy Brooks
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/responsive-reading/we-bear-witness>
Names & Numbers for the roll call may be found at: <https://tdor.info>
- Reading/Poem: Still Queer in America, by Becky Brooks
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/still-queer-america>
- Transgender Day of Remembrance in 4 Voices
<https://revwho.com/2011/11/06/transgender-day-of-remembrance-in-4-voices/>
- Remembrance: A Litany
http://www.transfaithonline.org/tdor/resources/prayers/remembrance_a_litany/

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote:

“Be tender, with those who are mourning.
Be attentive, to those who feel unsafe.
Be encouraging, to those who are revealing their truth.
Be prepared, to be led into the possibilities for tomorrow by those who tomorrow wasn’t built for.
Amen”

- B. Herbert is a Black GenderFluid Unitarian Universalist from Meadville, Pennsylvania. They are a member of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Ministerial network and a member of TRUUsT.

Read the reflection from which this quote was taken: <https://transuu.org/2017/11/20/a-reflection-on-the-18th-tdor/>

VI. World AIDS Day

December 1st (fixed calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Why World AIDS Day Is Still Important
<https://www.verywellhealth.com/the-history-of-world-aids-day-48717>
- December 1st is World AIDS Day
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/december-1st-world-aids-day-0>

Articles & Inspiration

- Interactive version of AIDS quilt
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/custom-templates/interactive-aids-quilt>
- A Call to Recommit to Ending AIDS
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/december-1st-world-aids-day-call-recommit-ending-aids>
- Keeping the Welcome in our Congregations, by Chris Long
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/keeping-welcome-our-congregations-world-hiv/aids-day-prayer-2017>
- Movies
 - [We Were Here](#)
 - [And the Band Played On](#)
 - [How to Survive a Plague](#)

Liturgy

- Poems about HIV/AIDS written by South African children & young people
<https://sexedukation.wordpress.com/2011/12/01/poems-about-hivaids-written-by-south-african-children-young-people>
- Poems for World AIDS Day
<https://poets.org/poems-world-aids-day>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote:

“This disease will be the end of many of us, but not nearly all. And the dead will be commemorated, and will struggle on with the living and we are not going away. We won't die secret deaths anymore. The world only spins forward, we will be citizens. Bye now, you are fabulous each and every one and I bless you. More life, the great work begins.” - Tony Kushner

VII. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

February 7th (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Websites
 - <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/black>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/library/awareness/nbhaad.html>

Articles & Inspiration

- Readings for National Black HIV AIDS Awareness Day
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/2019-world-aids-day-excerpts>
- Thoughts on How to Include Spirituality in Exhibitions about HIV and AIDS, by Michael Crumpler;
<https://www.on-curating.org/issue-42-reader/thoughts-on-how-to-include-spirituality-in-exhibitions-about-hiv-and-aids.html#.XxPFWi05Rn4>
- What to Remember on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
<https://www.colorlines.com/articles/what-remember-national-black-hivaids-awareness-day>
- Stats & graphics: <https://www.apa.org/pi/aids/resources/black-awareness>
- Infographics: <https://aidsvu.org/national-black-hiv-aids-awareness-day-2020/>
- Addressing Stigma on National Black HIV AIDS Awareness Day
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/addressing-stigma-national-black-hiv-aids-awareness-day>
- On This World AIDS Day, Where Do We Go From Here?
<https://www.theroot.com/on-this-world-aids-day-where-do-we-go-from-here-1820910947>

Liturgy

- Poems about HIV/AIDS written by South African children & young people
<https://sexedukation.wordpress.com/2011/12/01/poems-about-hivaids-written-by-south-african-children-young-people>
- Poems for World AIDS Day
<https://poets.org/poems-world-aids-day>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview: Instead of a picture/quote meme, we recommend you create a text post that names the importance of the day and points people to one of these articles written by Rev. Michael J. Crumpler, LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director at the UUA: <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/2019-world-aids-day-excerpts>

VIII. International Transgender Day of Visibility

March 31 (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- PFLAG history and overview
<https://pflag.org/blog/transgender-day-visibility>
- GLAAD Timeline: A Look Back at the History of Transgender Visibility
<https://www.glaad.org/blog/timeline-look-back-history-transgender-visibility>
- Transgender Pride Flag
<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/trans-flag-colors-meaning-transgender-pride>
<https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/g32867826/lgbt-pride-flags-guide/?slide=12>

Articles & Inspiration

- On Trans Day of Visibility, Alex Kapitan (UU)
<https://rootsgrowthetree.com/2018/03/31/on-trans-day-of-visibility/>
- Living Trans* Theology, By Jaelynn Pema-la Scott (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/living-trans-theology>
- TRUUST Releases Report on the Experiences of Trans Unitarian Universalists
<https://transuu.org/2019/01/21/truust-releases-report/>
- Trans 101 - The Basics
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3ZzpTxjgRw>
- Transforming Hearts Collective
<https://www.transformingheartscollective.org>
- Toolkit for Trans Allies
<https://www.aclu-mo.org/en/toolkit-allies>
- How to talk (and listen) to transgender people
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbQZ7jAvgol>
- My Ten Year High School Reunion
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeRgZpDbiqQ>
- Dads for Transgender Equality
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLstyCKmnMAyZle7NCaUfEVRwFO4u5AT8s&v=rI7RLbt_OOE&feature=emb_logo
- Moms for Transgender Equality
https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLstyCKmnMAyZesPypSX5qZ54f8NnYFPqc&v=oysepu0LWEk&feature=emb_logo

- Black Trans Women Seek More Space in the Movement They Helped Start
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/27/us/politics/black-trans-lives-matter.html?action=click&module=pride%20footer%20recirc%20module&pgtype=Article>
- #BlackTransMagick Prayer Book
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/blacktransmagick-prayer-book-be-black-trans-magickal>
- Movies
 - Call Me Malcolm - UCC documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh4Pv10IFyc>
 - [Beautiful Boxer](#)
 - [Transamerica](#)
 - Happy Birthday Marsha: <http://www.happybirthdaymarsha.com>
- Books
 - [Becoming a Visible Man](#) by Jamison Green
 - [She's Not There](#) by Jennifer Finely Boylan
 - [Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation](#) by Kate Bornstein and S. Bear Bergman
- [Support TRUUsT](#)

Liturgy

- A Blessing from Enfleshed
<https://enfleshed.com/pages/trans-day-of-visibility>
- You Are Holy, Rev. KC Slack (UU)
<https://transuu.org/2018/11/20/prayers-for-tdor-2018/>
- Poem by Rev. Theresa I. Soto (UU)
<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/poem-trans-day-visibility-2019>
- A Transgender & Intersex & Gender-Diverse Prayer, by Rev. Theresa I. Soto (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/prayer-we-are-holy-we-are-sacred-we-are-divine>
- I Am Transgender - reading
<http://www.transfaithonline.org/tdor/resources/readings/iamt/>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote: "Being transgender is not just a medical transition. ... [It's about] discovering who you are, living your life authentically, loving yourself, and spreading that love towards other people and accepting one another." - Jazz Jennings

IX. Day of Silence

April 23, 2021 (usually 4th Friday in April)

Introduction & History

- GLSEN's Days of Action: Day of Silence: <https://www.glsen.org/day-of-silence>
- Brief Overview and History: <http://www.holidayscalendar.com/event/the-day-of-silence/>
- Video Overview
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=25&v=w1Q74UPT2IE&feature=emb_logo
- National Day of Silence: The Freedom to Speak (Or Not) - Lambda Legal
https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/2019_day_of_silence_faq.pdf

Articles & Inspiration

- Open Letter To Schools About Day Of Silence - ACLU
<https://www.aclu.org/other/day-silence-student-rights>
- How Using Gender-Neutral Language Can Break the Silence of LGBTQ Students, By Ashley Bidinger
<https://www.glsen.org/blog/how-using-gender-neutral-language-can-break-silence-lgbtq-students>
- Educators ensure LGBTQ-inclusion is taught in their classrooms
<https://www.glsen.org/blog/these-teachers-are-breaking-silence-teaching-lgbtq-inclusion>
- How Using Gender-Neutral Language Can Break the Silence of LGBTQ Students, By Ashley Bidinger
<https://www.glsen.org/blog/how-using-gender-neutral-language-can-break-silence-lgbtq-students>
- Day of Silence Crucial for LGBT Youth of Color
<https://www.glaad.org/blog/day-silence-crucial-lgbt-youth-color>

Liturgy

- Chalice Lighting: Living with Pride, By Lori Gorgas Hlaban
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/living-pride>
- Reading/Poem: Still Queer in America, by Becky Brooks
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/still-queer-america>
- Responsive Reading: We Answer the Call of Love, By Julia Corbett-Hemeyer
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/responsive-reading/we-answer-call-love>
- First They Came, by Martin Niemöller: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_they_came_...

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others. (**Preview - meme quote:** Distance doesn't separate people, silence does.)

X. Lesbian Visibility Day

April 26th (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Brief history and overview
<https://www.thelily.com/on-lesbian-visibility-day-commemorate-the-successes-and-recognize-the-work-that-remains/>

Articles & Inspiration

- What Lesbian Visibility Day means to...
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/04/26/lesbian-visibility-day-campaigners-what-it-means-to-them/>
- The Dangerous Territory of Lesbian Visibility Day, by Cindy Rizzo
<https://medium.com/@ctrizzo/the-dangerous-territory-of-lesbian-visibility-day-4eaa9c0f1de1>
- This is the First Lesbian Visibility Day That I'm Proud to Call Myself a Lesbian, by Jill Gutowitz
<https://www.them.us/story/lesbian-visibility-day>
- Lesbian Pride Flag: <https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/g32867826/lgbt-pride-flags-guide/?slide=15>
- Movies
 - [Carol](#)
 - [Show Me Love](#)
 - [Blue Is The Warmest Color](#)

Liturgy

- Blessed Are the Queer, By Helen Rose (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/blessing/blessed-are-queer>
- Chalice Lighting: The Pride Flame, By Linda lee Franson (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/pride-flame>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote:

“No one has imagined us. We want to live like trees,
sycamores blazing through the sulfuric air,
dappled with scars, still exuberantly budding...”

— Adrienne Rich, *The Dream of a Common Language*

XI. International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

May 17th (fixed to calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Official website
<https://may17.org>
- Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_Against_Homophobia,_Transphobia_and_Biphobia

Articles & Inspiration

- What the gay rights movement learned from the civil rights movement
https://www.ted.com/talks/yoruba_richen_what_the_gay_rights_movement_learned_from_the_civil_rights_movement#t-139463
- Homophobia in our blood (blood donor restrictions), by Mike Albo
<https://ideas.ted.com/homophobia-in-our-blood>
- 10 Steps Towards Ending Homophobia in Your Congregation, based on work by Kevin Jennings of the Gay and Lesbian School Teachers Network
<http://uuandover.org/about-summer/welcoming-congregation/10-steps/>

Liturgy

- Responsive Reading: We Answer the Call of Love, By Julia Corbett-Hemeyer (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/responsive-reading/we-answer-call-love>
- Reading/Poem: Still Queer in America, by Becky Brooks (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/poetry/still-queer-america>
- Reading: Mattering, adapted by Mark Hicks (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/mattering>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote: “In the face of hate, We answer the call of love. In the face of exclusion, We answer the call of inclusion... In the face of bigotry, We answer the call of open-mindedness. In the face of despair, We answer the call of hope.” - Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer

XII. Pulse Night of Remembrance (2015)

June 12th (fixed calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orlando_nightclub_shooting
- NPR Overview
<https://www.npr.org/2016/06/16/482322488/orlando-shooting-what-happened-update>

Articles & Inspiration

- Remembering Pulse Nightclub: Heroes Among the Fallen, by Michael Crumpler (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/remember-pulse-nightclub-heroes-among-the-fallen>
- Remembering Pulse: We Go On, by Cody Blattner (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/remembering-pulse-we-go>
- Victims' Lives Remembered
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/cp/us/orlando-shooting-victims/christopher-andrew-leinonen>
- On the Pulse Memorial: <https://onepulsefoundation.org>
- Where Do We Go From Here, by Kathy Schmitz in [Spirit That Moves](#), pages 148-151 (UU)
- Seven Poems for Pulse: <https://www.wunc.org/post/episode-7-seven-poems-pulse>

Liturgy

- One Pulse—One Poem, Richard Blanco
<https://www.beaconbroadside.com/broadside/2018/06/one-pulseone-poem.html>
- Everything is still on fire, by Teresa I. Soto in [Spilling the Light](#), pages 20-21 (UU)
- There are many great readings regarding traumatic events in [Spirit That Moves](#), including For Broken Times by Karen Johnston (pg. 172-177), We Have Heard the Words of the People by Anthony Johnson (pg. 180-181), and Peace and Healing by Marta Valentin (pg. 182)
- Music Video: Melissa Etheridge - Pulse
<https://www.soulforcepolitics.org/028-the-pulse-legacy-love-always-wins-part-1/>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote: Poem- [One Pulse—One Poem](#), by Richard Blanco

XIII. Stonewall Uprising Anniversary (1969)

June 28th (fixed calendar date)

Introduction & History

- Two Comprehensive Overviews:
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-48643756>
 - <https://www.history.com/topics/gay-rights/the-stonewall-riots>
- Stonewall Forever - A Documentary about the Past, Present and Future of Pride
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjRv7dJTync>
- Short Video Overview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9wdMJmuBIA>

Articles & Inspiration

- Unitarian Universalist Reflections on Stonewall 50th (UU)
 - The Call: <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/stonewall50>
 - Final version can be found here: <https://youtu.be/3qaLLe3aZbU>
- The Stonewall You Know Is a Myth. And That's O.K. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7jnzOMxb14>
- Virtual monument: <https://stonewallforever.org>
- Movie: Stonewall Uprising - <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1562450>
- Movie: Happy Birthday Marsha: <http://www.happybirthdaymarsha.com>
- Video: [Pay It No Mind - The Life and Times of Marsha P. Johnson](#)
- Movie: [The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson](#)
- Black Trans Women Seek More Space in the Movement They Helped Start
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/27/us/politics/black-trans-lives-matter.html?action=click&module=pride%20footer%20recirc%20module&pgtype=Article>

Liturgy

- Meditation - On a Holy Night in 1969, By Otto O'Connor (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/on-a-holy-night-in-1969>
- Chalice Lighting: Living with Pride, By Lori Gorgas Hlaban (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/chalice-lighting/living-pride>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others. (**Preview - meme quote:** "I'm not missing a minute of this. It's the revolution!" – Sylvia Rivera)

LGBT Pride Month

June

Introduction & History

- Origins Of Pride
<https://www.bustle.com/articles/166925-the-origins-of-pride-month-what-you-should-know-about-its-history>
- LGBTQ Pride Month, explained
<https://www.vox.com/2014/6/8/5786368/lgbt-gay-pride-month-2019>
- How The Pride March Made History
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/us/gay-lgbt-pride-march-history.html>
- The History And Meaning Of The Rainbow Pride Flag
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/rainbow-pride-flag-history_n_5b193aafe4b0599bc6e124a0
- The NEW Philly Flag Reminds Us that #ALLPrideMatters!
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/new-philly-flag-reminds-us-allpridematters>

Articles & Inspiration

- Choice, by Alex Kapitan (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/affirmation/choice>
- Claiming Our Names, by Otto O'Connor (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/claiming-our-names>
- In the Moonlight, Black Boys Look Blue, by Braxton Simmons (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/moonlight-black-boys-look-blue>
- Resistance is not leaving ourselves behind, by Jaidyn Bryant (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/resistance-not-leaving-yourself-behind>
- Any Other Questions, by Victoria Safford <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/any-other-questions>
- Deciding to Build, by Chris Rothbauer
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/deciding-build>
- This Is What LGBT Life Is Like Around the World
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivfJh9y1UI>
- iO Tillett Wright: Fifty shades of gay
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAJ-5J21Rd0>
- Inclusive Language Guidance (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/200008.shtml>

- A guide to how gender-neutral language is developing around the world, by Miriam Berger
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/12/15/guide-how-gender-neutral-language-is-developing-around-world/>
- What the Struggle for Gay Rights Teaches Us about Bridging Differences, by Zaid Jilani -
https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what_the_struggle_for_gay_rights_teaches_us_about_bridging_differences
- Quote - Love him and let him love you. Do you think anything else under heaven really matters?" – James Baldwin
- Quote - "The next time someone asks you why LGBT Pride marches exist or why Gay Pride Month is June tell them 'A bisexual woman named Brenda Howard thought it should be.'" – Brenda Howard
 - Brenda Howard is known as the "Mother of Pride." She was instrumental in organizing the first ever Pride marches: events that have become a vital part of the fight for acceptance. Howard was also one of the few activists to focus on rights for those who identified as bisexual or polyamorous: two groups that are often underrepresented in LGBTQ activism. - [source](#)
- LGBT glossary of terms as of 6/2019
<https://www.thetaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Task-Force-LGBTQ-RJ-Glossary-of-Terms.pdf>

Liturgy

- Opening Words: Wholeness, by Sharon Wylie (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/wholeness>
- Opening or Reading: A Protest and a Party, by Hannah Roberts Villnave (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/protest-and-party>
- Prayer/Meditation: Everybody's In, By Lori Walke (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/everybodys>
- Responsive Reading: Proud, By Amanda Udis-Kessler (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/responsive-reading/proud>
- For Pride, by Lois Van Leer (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/pride>
- A Love Poem to Queers
<https://enfleshed.com/blogs/news/a-love-poem-to-queers>
- Scandalous God
<https://m.facebook.com/enfleshedword/posts/2367986596764377>

- Poems - <https://poets.org/lgbtq-poetry>
Soul Matters has secured permission from poets.org for Soul Matters congregations to use their poems in online worship.
- “Queer Poetry” - A worship service from the UU Church of Muncie Indiana
<http://www.uuchurchmuncie.org/podcast/iris-chalk-guest-speaker-queer-poetry-may-26-2019/>
- Rainbow Flag Dedication, by Alex Swift (UU)
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/blessing/rainbow-flag-dedication>
- Hymn and Song: #1053 - How Could Anyone
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m0FY88-wnQ>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6glTHQxluE4>

Social Media

See the appendix for the social media meme index that contains the meme for this observance as well as all the others.

Preview - meme quote: “No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us.” —Marsha P. Johnson

Social Media Meme Index and Posting Suggestions

The chart below provides you with a list of all the ready-to-go memes we've created for each day of observance. You can find all of those meme images at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10Zx7UPNIBW9hp6S6aDzF1gYjdgz1H-he?usp=sharing>.

The chart also contains suggested wording and additional links for you to post along with the memes.

<u>Day/Month of Observance</u>	<u>Quote in Meme</u>	<u>Suggested Words for Above Meme</u>	<u>Facebook Meme File Name</u>
Celebrate Bisexuality Day (also "Bi Visibility Day") - September 23	"i am the line. on both sides there are songs in my name. -bi" -Nayyirah Waheed	It's Celebrate Bisexuality Day! Learn more at https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/09/22/what-is-bi-visibility-day-and-why-is-it-important/	LGBTQIA-01 the line
LGBT History Month - October	Welcome to LGBTQ+ History Month!		LGBTQIA-02 Welcome
National Coming Out Day - October 11	"No person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended." Alice Walker	It's National Coming Out Day! May the stories of full blossoming guide us on our way!	LGBTQIA-03 Self Love
National Coming Out Day - October 11	"I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act." - Janet Mock	Happy National Coming Out Day!	LGBTQIA-04 Smile
Intersex Awareness Day - October 26	<i>No words on the image. Just post the Intersex flag image and then place the words to the left in the text box.</i>	It's Intersex Awareness Day. Make some time to learn more and be inspired: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAUDKEI4QKI&feature=emb_logo	LGBTQIA-05 intersex flag
Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20	Be tender, with those who are mourning. Be attentive, to those who feel unsafe.	It's the Transgender Day of Remembrance. May B. Herbert's blessing guide us	LGBTQIA-06 Tenderness

	<p>Be encouraging, to those who are revealing their truth.</p> <p>Be prepared, to be led into the possibilities for tomorrow by those who tomorrow wasn't built for.</p> <p>Amen</p> <p>-B. Herbert</p>	<p>on our way... B. Herbert is a Black GenderFluid Unitarian Universalist from Meadville, Pennsylvania. They are a member of the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Ministerial network and a member of TRUUST.</p> <p>Read the reflection from which this quote was taken: https://transuu.org/2017/11/20/a-reflection-on-the-18th-tdor/</p>	
World AIDS Day - December 1	<p>The dead will be commemorated, and will struggle on with the living and we are not going away. We won't die secret deaths anymore. The world only spins forward, we will be citizens. Bye now, you are fabulous each and every one and I bless you. More life, the great work begins. - Tony Kushner</p>	<p>It's World AIDS Day. May we all make space to honor the losses and recommit to the work that still needs done.</p> <p>Learn more at https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/december-1st-world-aids-day-0</p>	LGBTQIA-07 World Aids Day
National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day - February 7	<p>Welcome to National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.</p>	<p>We recommend you create a text post that names the importance of the day and points people to one of these articles written by Rev. Michael J. Crumpler, LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director at the UUA: https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog/2019-world-aids-day-excerpts</p>	LGBTQIA-08 Black HIV-AIDS 01

<p>International Transgender Day of Visibility - March 31</p>	<p>"Being transgender is not just a medical transition. ... [It's about] discovering who you are, living your life authentically, loving yourself, and spreading that love towards other people and accepting one another." Jazz Jennings</p>	<p>It's the Transgender Day of Visibility! Learn more and be inspired by watching and sharing this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_U40SXS1HFE</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-09 running the rainbow</p>
<p>Day of Silence - April 11</p>	<p>Distance doesn't separate people, silence does.</p>	<p>It's the Day of Silence. Learn more at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=25&v=w1Q74UPT2IE&feature=emb_logo</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-10 Silence</p>
<p>Lesbian Visibility Day - April 26</p>	<p>"No one has imagined us. We want to live like trees, sycamores blazing through the sulfuric air, dappled with scars, still exuberantly budding..." — Adrienne Rich, The Dream of a Common Language</p>	<p>It's Lesbian Visibility Day. Learn more here: https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/04/26/lesbian-visibility-day-campaigners-what-it-means-to-them/</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-11 Purple Kiss</p>
<p>International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17</p>	<p>"In the face of hate, We answer the call of love. In the face of exclusion, We answer the call of inclusion... In the face of bigotry, We answer the call of open-mindedness. In the face of despair, We answer the call of hope." - Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer</p>	<p>It's the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia. May we all answer to call to end fear and hate.</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-12 In the Face of</p>

<p>Pulse Night of Remembrance (2015) - June 12</p>	<p>Set the page ablaze with the anger in the hollow ache of our bones— anger for the new hate, same as the old kind of hate... Anger for the voice of politics armed with lies... But let's not end here. Turn the poem, find details for the love of the lives lost, still alive in photos... Let's place each memory like a star, the light of their past reaching us now... - Richard Blanco, One Pulse—One Poem</p>	<p>Today is the Pulse Night of Remembrance honoring all those who were killed and injured on 2015. May Richard Blanco's poem help us hold the pain and loss that still echoes from that terrible day. May it also help recommit us to ensuring it never happens again. Richard Blanco's complete poem (One Pulse—One Poem) is found here: https://www.beaconbroadside.com/broadside/2018/06/one-pulseone-poem.html</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-13 Pulse Night</p>
<p>Stonewall Uprising Anniversary (1969) - June 28</p>	<p>"I'm not missing a minute of this. It's the revolution!" – Sylvia Rivera</p>	<p>Today is the Stonewall Uprising Anniversary. Take some time to honor its impact and learn more with these two videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9wdMJmuBIA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7jnzOMxb14</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-14 Revolution</p>
<p>LGBT Pride Month - June</p>	<p>"No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us." —Marsha P. Johnson</p>	<p>Happy LGBT Pride Month! Learn more about Marsha P. Johnson at http://www.happybirthdaymarsha.com</p>	<p>LGBTQIA-15 Pride for All</p>



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