

SPIRITUALITY

Metro: Spirituality

Ainsworth United Church of Christ is a multicultural, multiracial, open and affirming, just peace congregation. (2941 NE Ainsworth St. 503-284-8767.)

Anawim Community of gay men meets weekly for Christian meditation and prayer. (7:30 pm Thursday. 503-281-0722.)

Atkinson Memorial Church, a Unitarian Universalist church, provides a spiritual home for those looking for a liberal-minded, supportive and caring congregation in Oregon City. (10:30 am Sunday. 710 Sixth St. 503-656-7296.)

Bridgeport United Church of Christ is a joyful community working for justice, nurturing peace and exploring and celebrating our progressive Christian faith. We are queer and straight, multicultural and multiethnic, and our children are valued members. Good coffee, cool people, hot church! (11 am Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-258-0992. www.bridgeportucc.org.)

Community of Welcoming Congregations, an interfaith ministry of spiritual congregations in Oregon and Southwest Washington that welcome and affirm people of all sexual orientations, provides pastoral care, advocacy, education and consultation. (503-665-8741. 2025 NE 23rd St., Gresham. Mailing address: PO Box 14948, Portland, OR 97293. www.welcomingcongregations.org.)

Congregation P'nai Or (Faces of Light) is a vibrant, egalitarian, Jewish Renewal congregation in Portland. Meets several times a month at St. Mark Presbyterian Church. (9750 SW Terriviller Blvd. 503-248-4500. www.pnaiorpdx.org.)

Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist, a welcoming congregation, offers Sunday service and children's religious education. (10:30 am. 1133 NE 181st Ave., Gresham. 503-665-2628. office@eastrose.org. www.eastrose.org.)

Eckankar—Religion of the Light and Sound of God holds worship services and maintains a library of materials. Learn how you can work daily with the Divine Spirit in your own life. (10 am Sunday. 7904 SE Milwaukie Ave. 503-233-1595. www.eckankar.org.)

Elevation, a gay Christian rock band, invites you to join us for energetic, inspiring jams and powerful, spiritual messages at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland. (6 pm Sunday. 2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868.)

Enneagram Community of Portland offers mentoring, therapy, spiritual direction, classes, workshops and retreats. (enneagramportland.com. www.enneagramportland.com.)

Faith United Methodist Church is a welcoming congregation that values and affirms the sacredness of all people. We invite and encourage everyone to find a place in the family of God. (10:15 am Sunday. 27400 SE Stark St., Troutdale. 503-661-4520.)

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation in the liberal Christian tradition. Church school and nursery care. (10:25 am Sunday. 1126 SW Park Ave. 503-228-7219.)

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Hillsboro is an open and affirming congregation explicitly welcoming everyone into its Christian community, fellowship and worship. Bible and book study groups, Sunday school and nursery care. (10:30 am Sunday. 494 E Main St. 503-648-4341. www.hillsboro-ucc.org.)

First Unitarian Church of Portland is an open and affirming liberal religious community offering a wide range of programs to nurture spiritual growth, community and social justice. Sunday service 9 and 11 am. (1011 SW 12th Ave. 503-228-6389. www.firstunitarianportland.org.)

Gay and Lesbian Outreach (GALO) of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church celebrates an affirming Mass followed by a social. (7:30 pm Friday. Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th Ave. 503-231-4955.)

Integrity is a group of sexual minority Episcopalians and friends. Various locations throughout Oregon. (Steven Norcross or Bruce 503-286-9111. brucepdxor@comcast.net. www.integrityusa.org.)

Interfaith Spiritual Center houses spiritual directors from various world religious traditions, who are available for guidance, classes and retreats. (Second Floor, 3910 SE 11th Ave. 503-233-2026, ext. 3. www.interfaithspiritualcenter.com.)

Koinonia Catholic Community is a progressive, small faith community that gathers weekly to celebrate Eucharist at Bridgeport United Church of Christ. A welcoming congregation, Catholic in tradition and Ecumenical in membership. (6 pm Sunday. 621 NE 76th Ave. 503-699-0473. www.koinoniacommunity.org.)

Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church is a "house church" that brings gay and straight together. Daily morning prayer and Sunday evening worship. (503-281-3697. www.tearsoup.com/metanoia.)

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland holds ecumenical Sunday morning worship services at 9 and 11 am. Sunday school for children is held during the 11 am service. (2400 NE Broadway. 503-281-8868. info@mccportland.com. www.mccportland.com.)

Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland offers several weekly gatherings. Everyone welcome! (10 am Sunday, 7:30 am Tuesday and Thursday. 7:30 pm Wednesday meditation. 2025 SE Yamhill St. 503-232-8064. www.nichiren-shu.org/portland.)

Peace Church of the Brethren is a welcoming congregation. (11 am Sunday. 12727 SE Market St. 503-254-6380.)

Portland Center for Spiritual Growth is a center for worship, growth and leadership that adheres to an all-inclusive spiritual philosophy similar to 12-step, Unity and Religious Science. Impromptu wedding ceremonies available. (503-777-0727. www.portlandcenter.org.)

Portland Radical Faeries meet twice a month with potlucks and circles at the full moon and the new moon. Open to all men seeking alternative spiritual growth and community. Coffee hours start 9:30 am Saturdays at 3 Friends Coffeehouse, 201 SE 12th Ave. (503-235-0826. otter@pceez.com.)

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, a member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations and the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, is a vibrant, inclusive community of faith. All God's children are welcome to join in our life and worship. (10 am Sunday. 1907 NE 45th Ave. www.rosecityparkpres.org.)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship is a support organization for former and current Adventists who are queer as well as their family and friends. (PO Box 49375, Sarasota, FL 34230-6375. 866-732-5677. office@sdakinship.org. www.sdakinship.org.)

Soka Gakkai International, a huge world peace Buddhist organization, holds monthly Rainbow Group meetings to talk about Buddhism and where queers can become familiar with a philosophy that has always had a place for everyone. (1805 SE Ankeny St. 503-230-1038. sgi-usa-oregon.org.)

Southminster Presbyterian Church is an active member of the Community of Welcoming Congregations. Sunday school, nursery care, classes, community service activities and events for all ages and interests. (9 am Sunday chapel service, 10 am Sunday main worship service. 12250 SW Denney Road, Beaverton. 503-644-2073. staff@southmin.com. www.southmin.com.)

St. Andrew Catholic Church invites all to join a diverse faith community for prayer and fellowship. (9:30 am Sunday; Noon Spanish language service. 806 NE Alberta St. 503-281-4429.)

St. Brigid Celtic Anabaptist Community is a newly developing group connecting ancient traditions and future visions to manifest liberty, peace and justice. Now meeting for discussion, study and meditation. (Sarah 503-757-7545. www.stbrigidcac.com.nr.)

St. James Lutheran Church, a Reconciled in Christ congregation, welcomes all people for traditional, liturgical worship where we experience God's reconciling love that sets all people free. (9 and 11 am Sunday. 1315 SW Park Ave. 503-227-2439. www.stjameslutheranportland.org.)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has been welcoming all people since 1863. (12:10 pm Wednesday and 7:45 and 10 am Sunday. Sunday school and child care at 10 am. 1432 SW 13th Ave. 503-223-6424.)

SisterSpirit offers women's spirituality celebrations, discussion groups, a drumming circle, workshops and classes. Schedule of events available. All women are welcome. (Suite 102, 3430 SE Belmont St. Mailing address: PO Box 9246, Portland, OR 97207. 503-736-3297. sistersp@teleport.com.)

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County is an open and affirming liberal religious community offering a variety of enrichment programs in addition to community and social action opportunities. (9 and 11 am Sunday. 22785 NW Birch St., Hillsboro. 503-648-1720. www.uuccwc.org.)

University Park United Methodist Church is

a small, diverse, open and progressive community of faith that extends a warm welcome to all people. (10 am Sunday. 4775 N Lombard St. 503-289-7843. www.upumc.net.)

Waverly Heights United Church of Christ is open and affirming with worship, children's school and child care. (10 am summer, 11 am school year. 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-238-1337. pastor@waverlyucc.org. www.waverlyucc.org.)

Wy'east Unitarian Universalist Congregation is an open and liberal religious community offering intergenerational services and religious education for youth and adults. We welcome gay, lesbian, bi and trans members and nurture spiritual growth living by Unitarian Universalist principles. (5 pm Sunday. 3300 SE Woodward St. 503-777-3704. www.wyecast.pnwdu.aaa.org.)

Zion United Church of Christ, an open and affirming congregation, is open to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and heterosexual people who wish to worship in a Christ-centered, warm, caring, multiage/race/cultural faith community. (11 am Sunday (10:30 am summer). 2025 NE 23rd Ave., Gresham. 503-665-8741.)

Central Oregon: Spirituality

United Church of Christ Congregational is an open and affirming congregation in The Dalles. (9:20 am adult Sunday school, 10:30 am worship (9:30 am summer). 111 E Fifth St. 541-296-2909. ucccngl@netcnct.net. www.forministry.com/usorucofucccc.)

Washington: Spirituality

Abundant Life Center assists the community in spiritual growth. (10 am Sunday. 111 W 39th St., Vancouver. The Rev. Kathleen Verigin 360-573-2626. www.abundant-life-center.org.)

First Congregational United Church of Christ has been an open and affirming congregation since 1992, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. (1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver. 360-693-1476. www.vancouverucc.org.)

Longview United Methodist Church is welcoming and reconciling. (10 am Sunday. 2851 30th Ave., Longview. 360-425-4927.)

Metropolitan Church of the Gentle Shepherd welcomes you. Bible study follows morning worship. (10:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday. 2200 Broadway St., Vancouver. The Rev. Harriet Barshofsky 360-695-1480.)

Michael Servitus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a Welcoming Congregation, provides a home for the liberal religious spirit. (9:30 and 11:15 am Sunday. 4505 E 18th St., Vancouver. 360-695-1891.)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church has welcomed all people since 1853. Traditional but never stuffy. (English: 8 and 10:30 am Sunday. Spanish: 1 pm Sunday. Child care at 10:30 am. 426 E Fourth Plain Blvd., Vancouver. The Rev. John Allen 360-696-0181. www.stlukeschurch.info.)

Willamette Valley: Spirituality

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation offering worship and church school. Child care provided and wheelchair accessible. (9:30 am Sunday learning hour, 10:30 am worship. 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. 503-363-3660.)

Metropolitan Community Church Two Rivers is a Christian church with primary outreach in the sexual minorities community. (6:30 pm Sunday. 1166 Oak St., Eugene.)

(SMYRC) offers support, recreation, counseling and referral to gay, lesbian, bi and trans kids 23 and younger. Drop-in computer access, pool tables and an informal place to hang out. Weekly trans, leadership and art support group meetings. (4-9 pm Wednesday, 4-11 pm Friday. 2100 SE Belmont St. 503-872-9664. www.smyrc.org.)

Eastern Oregon: Youth

Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living offers support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Eastern Oregon. (1021 SW Fifth Ave., Ontario. 541-889-3119 or 866-248-8369. eocil@eocil.org. www.eocil.org.)

Washington: Youth

Triple Point offers education, support and advocacy to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth in Vancouver. Meets every Tuesday in the basement of Youth House. (6-8 pm. 1112 Columbia St. John 360-695-1325.)

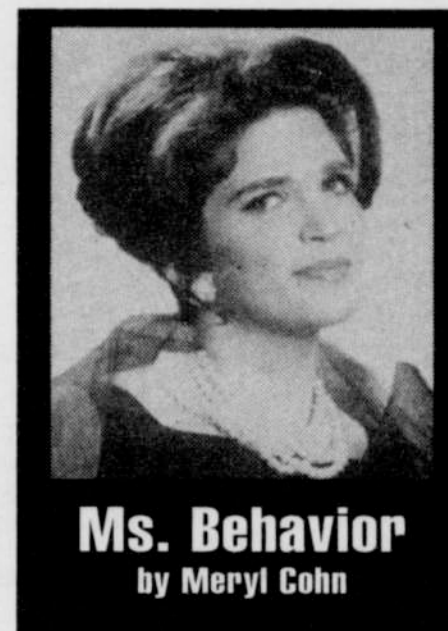
Willamette Valley: Youth

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Transgender and Questioning Youth Group for ages 13 to 18 offers support, information and fun in Eugene. Free, confidential, adult-facilitated. (Drop in 4-6 pm Friday. Amazon Community Center, 2700 Hilyard St. 541-684-3466.)

ADVICE

Fix it

Helpless homeowner hopes to hammer her handyperson



Ms. Behavior
by Meryl Cohn

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I am in the midst of a home renovation and finally found a fantastic handyperson. Jane has painted my kitchen, hung my shelves and fixed my broken toilet, but a lot more needs to be done. I can barely hammer a nail, so I'm impressed with Jane's can-do attitude and abilities. I also have a crush on her, and I'm pretty sure it's mutual.

I haven't dated in ages, so I'm excited and scared. I'm comfortable with Jane because she seems like a nice person, but if it didn't work out, I'd hate to lose her as a handyperson. I need some advice: Should I go for it and sleep with Jane? Or should I focus on my home renovations?

—My Porch Still Needs Help...

DEAR MY PORCH STILL NEEDS HELP...

Some people would advise you to protect your relationship with a good handyperson above all else, but Ms. Behavior is a romantic and values passion and hot sex even more than sexy home renovations. Besides, if your worst fears come true and Jane dumps you before finishing the porch, maybe you'll be inspired to buy a subscription to *Home Renovation Magazine* and learn how to fix things yourself. Or, if you're truly untrainable, you could always hire a big butch man to do it for you.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

My wonderful friends, Liz and Emily, date back to my college days. Every year they come for a visit, traveling miles and miles so we can spend a week together.

Five years ago, they had a child who has ruined their lives, almost their relationship. The kid is so nasty and demanding, and it doesn't seem to be their fault. They are reasonable, loving mothers. The kid is just rotten.

Now that he's older, and clearly not growing out of his horrible moods and tantrums, I've reached the point where I dread their visits. I've actually thought of calling and asking them not to come.

But what can I say? I love you, but your kid stinks? Or why don't you come for your annual visit when Junior is away at camp? Or should I just stuff a sock in it and assume this evil little monster is the bad luck of biology—and in my family forever? Any suggestions?

—Uncle Jack

DEAR UNCLE JACK:

Telling your friends not to bring their Devil Spawn to visit would undoubtedly strain your relationship with them. Even a perfectly charming child would have changed your relationship with Liz and Emily in all sorts of ways.

Since you clearly value your relationship with

them, you'll need to think hard about what you can tolerate. Could you buy the brat toys and games to occupy him? Might you arrange for a baby sitter for a few hours, so the adults have some time together? Maybe you can also shorten their visit to a length that feels manageable to you.

Try to think of the big picture: Eventually, most of your friends will end up caring for young kids or aging parents or both. It would be a mistake to alienate them. Eventually, this brat will grow up and be better behaved. Or at least he'll be in college (or reform school) and you can resume having fun with his mothers.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

Perhaps I'm old-fashioned, but "Li'l Miffed" and your answer to him bothered me just a touch [Aug. 19]. I've always understood that when one's friends held a party that the primary requirement was to appear, not supply them with party materials and pearls.

I have no problem with bringing a gift for the hostesses; I also love it when someone visits me with a surprise. However, the argument that EVERYONE should bring sweet nothings seems presumptuous. I only turned 40 this year, but perhaps I'm already out of touch with conventional wisdom.

—Jim

DEAR JIM:

Guests shouldn't be expected to cater the party, but they also shouldn't show up empty-handed. Anything will do: a bottle of seltzer or wine, a flower, doughnuts, a sea shell, a snow globe, whatever. This is hardly a new convention, so please, get with the program. 

MERYL COHN is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette*. Signed copies are available directly from the author. Send questions or correspondence to msbehavior@aol.com.

YOUTH

Metro: Youth

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) is the only international organization specifically supporting young people with sexual minority parents. (colage@lmfamily.org. www.colage.org.)

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. (12700 SW North Dakota St., Suite 180 #129, Tigard, OR 97223. 503-525-1177. glsen@glsenoregon.org. www.glsenoregon.org.)

Outside In operates a clinic for anyone who can't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan as well as needle exchange services that include those who inject hormones. Provide transitional housing for youth 20 and younger and for those HIV-positive and younger than 23. Need volunteers of all ages. (10 am-6 pm Monday-Friday. 1132 SW 13th Ave. 503-535-3800. www.outsidein.org.)

Pride Project brings together Washington County queer and questioning youth to plan and attend monthly social events. Also information, referral and advocacy services in Washington County. (Austin 503-260-5792. austin@prideproject.org.)

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center