



# Welcoming Congregation

Birmingham Unitarian Church, Bloomfield Hills MI

In 2019/2020 BUC fulfilled the requirements to be officially renewed as a “Welcoming Congregation.” In the UU world, a Welcoming Congregation is one that is intentionally more inclusive to bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people.

Having first earned the designation in 1995, BUC felt compelled to make our commitment anew. Let’s look back at how we lifted up and learned about the lives of the LGBTQ community in 2019 and 2020:

## June 2019

Stonewall Anniversary Service  
Plate donation to Ruth Ellis Center

## September 2019

Bisexuality Day poem  
Pronouns education

## October 2019

National Coming Out Day song  
LGBTQ Resources handout  
Queer History Month reading

## November 2019

Screening and discussion of the film “Treasure: From Tragedy to Transjustice, Mapping a Detroit Story.”

## December 2019

World AIDS Day remembrance

## January 2020

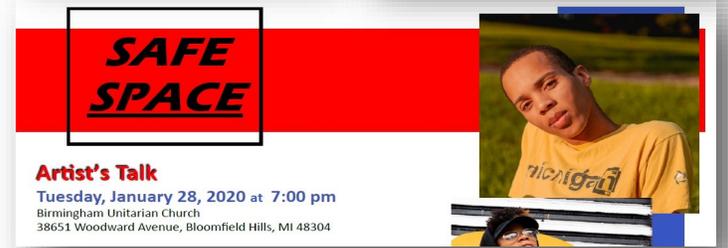
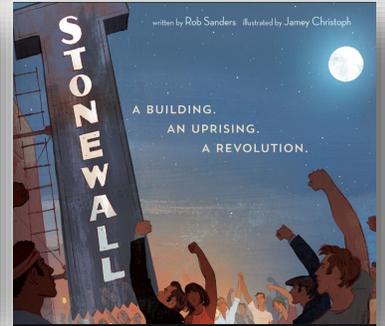
Safe Spaces Art Exhibit, with artist’s talk by Christopher Guest

## March 2020

Transgender Day of Visibility

Many thanks to the Welcoming Renewal Team for all their work in achieving this goal:

Judy Amir, Jesse Beal, Donna Larkin-Mohr, Cindy McLeod, Jen Norber, Jane O’Neil, Julia Pulver, Amy Smalley, Brianna Zamborsky



### From the UUA Website:

We know that religious spaces haven’t always been welcoming places for all people, especially when it comes to gender and sexuality. We are out to change that.

For 25 years we have worked hard to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are full members of our faith communities. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences.

In the 1980s and 90s, when the word “welcoming” became a code word for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, the Unitarian Universalist Association launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help us learn how to undo homophobia—and later, transphobia (prejudice against transgender people)—in our hearts and minds, our congregations, and our communities.

Today, most Unitarian Universalist congregations are recognized Welcoming Congregations. The spiritual practice of welcome is a very important one to our faith community.