

Welcoming and Affirming Spiritual Care



This list is the result of direct contact with leaders from these places. They have joined in collaboration with TCP to be safe spaces for spiritual care. Click on the name of the place and the link will move to see more details that may be available. Return to the top as necessary.

This is an ongoing process so we will continue to follow up with folks. Also feel free to let us know if you have feedback to help us improve during this venture!
spiritualcare@thecenterproject.org

<u>Places of Worship</u> (in alphabetical order)	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Address</u>
<u>Broadway Christian Church</u>	John DeLaporte Dir. of Youth Ministries and Faith Formation	573-445-5312	2601 W Broadway Columbia
<u>Calvary Episcopal Church</u>	Rev. Josh Huber Associate Rector	573-449-3194	123 South 9th St. Columbia
<u>Columbia United Church of Christ</u>	Rev. Rick Oberle Pastor	573-445-7931	3201 Interstate 70 Dr NW Columbia
<u>Fairview United Methodist Church</u>	Nancy Martin Pastor	573-445-5391	3200 Chapel Hill Rd. Columbia
<u>First Baptist Church</u>	Brittany McDonald Null Pastor	573-442-1149	1112 E Broadway Columbia
<u>First Christian Church</u>	Paula Slusher Diversity Lead	573-449-7265	101 N 10th St. Columbia
<u>Hillel</u>	Jeanne Snodgrass Director	573-443-7460	1107 University Ave. Columbia
<u>Missouri United Methodist Church (MUMC)</u>	Rebes Bennett, Dir. of College Ministry	573-443-3111	204 S 9th St. Columbia
<u>Rock Bridge Christian Church</u>	Sarah Klaassen Pastor	573-442-9592	301 W. Green Meadows Rd. Columbia

<u>St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA)</u>	David Frerichs Pastor	573) 449-5674	914 West Blvd. S. Columbia
<u>Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia</u>	Molly Housh Gordan Pastor	573-442-5764	2615 Shepard Blvd. Columbia

[^back to top](#)

Broadway Christian Church	John DeLaporte Dir. of Youth Ministries and Faith Formation	573-445-5312	2601 W Broadway, Columbia
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<https://www.broadwaychristian.net/>

Broadway Christian Church is an open and affirming church in the Disciples of Christ tradition. As an O and A church we welcome persons from the Queer community without exception. We strive to be a place where the unique gifts and contributions of our LGBTQIA+ members can find inclusion, acceptance, and welcome. From participation in worship, ministry, and leadership ours is a church that reflects the radically inclusive love of God in all we share and do. We hope you'll find welcome among us!

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom – Yes. Gender specific and all gender restrooms provided in our facility.
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship – Gender neutral/inclusive pronouns used in scripture translation and in sermons.
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership – Audra Sergel. Director of Music
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome – Rainbow chalice pendants in parking lot, and rainbow flags throughout the building
- General Hospitality – Any person can expect to be greeted at the door and in the sanctuary. We have a welcome desk and opportunities for people to leave their contact info to learn more.
- Style of Worship – Early morning folk service. Mid-morning service with contemplative and traditional music and style. Later-morning service with contemporary music and ensemble.

Welcoming & Inclusive Certification Process – We are "rainbow chalice" certified through Alliance Q, the official ministry to the LGBTQIA+ community of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Hosted a TCP BRITE Training– Yes

Member Testimonial – TBD!

[^back to top](#)



Calvary Episcopal Church	Rev. Josh Huber Associate Rector	573-449-3194	123 South 9th St., Columbia
https://www.calvaryonninth.org/			

We believe in the way of Jesus all are welcome and all belong. Together, as we do our best to follow Jesus' radical way of love, we benefit from unique perspectives, experiences, and fully-lived identities. We would be thrilled to have you join us!

Extended Review Chart-

All Gender Restroom –	Yes: on the main floor in the nursery (which is not in use) and on the bottom floor near the elevator. (Additionally, working on another set on the second floor.)
Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –	We primarily worship from the Bible a Prayer Book and traditional Hymnal that favor masculine language for God. However, we have been and continue to shift toward more gender neutral and inclusive language.
LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –	Our choir director, at least two of our Vestry (church board members), and at least two of our ushers are LGBTQ+.
Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –	At various times we have had yard signs supporting Pride or asking apologies from those the church has hurt through bigotry. Our main directional sign inside includes an Episcopal LGBTQ+ affirming logo. Our front office has a Catalyst award from the University of Missouri LGBTQ+ Resource Center on display. Campus ministry-associated name tags include pronouns and a Queer-affirming Trinitarian symbol.

Our website includes a Pride page as well as LGBTQ+ symbols.

General Hospitality – We "pass the peace" during the service. So new folks would be a part of that.

A new individual is also likely to be greeted by several of our members before or after the service. Many of our members tend to be quite friendly and eager to welcome new folks. If the person chooses to come through the receiving line after the service they will be greeted and likely introduced to one or more of the clergy. If the individual comes to our 8:00 am service, they are likely to be invited to join for coffee hour.

Style of Worship – Our worship--made up almost entirely of words from Scripture, our Prayer Book, and our hymnal--will likely seem quite traditionally-styled to most folks. Our primary services are Eucharists/Masses with the worship focused on sharing in communion. Our 8:00 am service is spoken and uses the old (Elizabethan-style) language from our Prayer Book. Our 10:30 service includes hymns and chanting, generally accompanied by a pipe organ. We also have a mid-week healing eucharist, which is much smaller and tends to use more contemporary language.

Welcoming & Inclusive Certification Process – [We are listed on GayChurch.org \(https://www.gaychurch.org/find_a_church/\)](https://www.gaychurch.org/find_a_church/)

Hosted a TCP BRITE Training– No

Member Testimonial – [Here's a video testimonial on our Pride Page from Rose and Meichele.](#)

[^back to top](#)



Columbia United Church
of Christ

Rev. Rick Oberle, Pastor 573-445-7931

3201 Interstate
70 Dr NW,
Columbia

<https://www.columbiaucc.com/>

Columbia United Church of Christ is a Progressive Christian community in Northwest Columbia that actively works to express Jesus' extravagant welcome to all of God's children. We work to include and affirm all people regardless of racial or ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other factor. We strive to be inclusive in all levels of church life and leadership and live into the motto of the United Church of Christ: "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom – Our all-gender restrooms have signage that includes all people
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship – We use "expansive language" in our worship and congregational life; that includes pronouns that do not limit folks to one understanding of God and faith. We use plural pronouns for God (They/them) and try not to use language that is restrictive (Father, etc.). Several members of the congregation are gender fluid, and we honor everyone's true pronouns unwaveringly.
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership – Our Council Vice-Moderator (Jerry Kiesling) and Administrative Assistant (Alexandra Roper) both identify as queer. Our Council Vice-Moderator will become Moderator next year.
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome – We have three paintings we have commissioned to express our welcome of the queer community; they feature rainbow designs and multi-colored hands holding hands. One has the pride flag integrated into the design. Our "Last Supper" painting also reflect the true ethnic diversity of Jesus and his disciples; they are not white people.
- General Hospitality – Congregation members are very welcoming. You should expect to be greeted at the door, shown to our refreshment area, and several people will greet you before and after (and maybe during) worship. We also have "guest" bags and swag we give out to our guests, introducing them to our church and welcoming them.
- Style of Worship – Our liturgy is framed around traditional liturgical practice, but adapted to suit a

modern context. We use plural pronouns to refer to God (They/them) and strive to use expansive language in worship. The typical worship service has 2-3 hymns, 1-2 scripture readings, a sermon and at least one choral anthem. We also have a bell choir that performs about once/month, children's choirs and soloists. We are a sponsor and host church for Quorus, Columbia's Queer Community Chorus, and they sing in worship occasionally. Our services are about an hour long, and folks dress casual. Children are welcome and encouraged to come.

Welcoming & Inclusive Certification Process –

We have received certification (six years ago) with the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. We are ONA Congregation #1575. We have a certificate displayed in our Worship Space that proclaims that designation. This designation was a long journey; we did not arrive at it without study and an educational process.

Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
Member Testimonial –

Yes, we would love to!

I come from a very religious childhood. I was raised in the First Assemblies of God and have an enormous amount of religious trauma from my upbringing. I hadn't darkened the doorstep of a church building for years until I moved to Columbia in 2021. I was searching for something, for some place that felt like community but a community that believes in the things I believe in. I wanted to find a church that teaches what Jesus taught: to love one another, to help the poor, to serve. The Columbia United Church of Christ is a place of first aid for souls like mine. It's a sanctuary for people who want to serve our local and far communities, by serving at food banks, attending PRIDE (not to hurt others, but to let them know they are beloved children of God just as they are), building wells and mobility cars for folks in other countries, helping to resettle refugees through our giving funds, and so

many other outreaches. This is a safe place full of people who deeply believe in social justice and climate change. Our church family immediately got vaccinated when they became available. Please check us out. -TG, member

[^back to top](#)

Fairview United
Methodist Church

Nancy Martin
Pastor

573-445-5391

3200 Chapel Hill
Rd., Columbia

<https://www.frontyardchurch.org/>

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom –
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –
- General Hospitality –
- Style of Worship –
- Welcoming & Inclusive Certification
Process –
- Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
- Member Testimonial –

[^back to top](#)

First Baptist Church

Brittany McDonald Null
Pastor

573-442-1149

1112 E
Broadway,
Columbia

<https://fbc-columbia.org/>

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom –
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –

- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –
- General Hospitality –
- Style of Worship –
- Welcoming & Inclusive Certification
Process –
- Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
- Member Testimonial –

[^back to top](#)



First Christian Church	Paula Slusher Diversity Lead	573-449-7265	101 N 10th St., Columbia
https://www.firstchristian.org/			

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom –
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –
- General Hospitality –
- Style of Worship –
- Welcoming & Inclusive Certification
Process –
- Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
- Member Testimonial –

[^back to top](#)



Hillel	Jeanne Snodgrass Director	573-443-7460	1107 University Ave., Columbia
https://mizzouhillel.com/			

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom –
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –
- General Hospitality –
- Style of Worship –
- Welcoming & Inclusive Certification Process –
- Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
- Member Testimonial –

[^back to top](#)



Missouri United
Methodist Church
(MUMC)
<https://moumc.org/>

Rebes Bennett,
Dir. of College Ministry

573-443-3111

204 S 9th St.,
Columbia

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom –
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –
- General Hospitality –
- Style of Worship –
- Welcoming & Inclusive Certification Process –
- Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
- Member Testimonial –

[^back to top](#)



Rock Bridge Christian
Church

Sarah Klaassen
Pastor

573-442-9592

301 W. Green
Meadows Rd.,
Columbia

<https://rockbridgecc.org/>

Our Statement of Calling:

Rock Bridge Christian Church joyfully welcomes persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual and gender identity, economic status, ability and educational level into an intentionally inclusive faith community. We experience the liberating, reconciling love of Christ through creative opportunities to worship God, pursue peace and justice, and serve in Columbia and throughout the world.

Extended Review Chart-

All Gender Restroom –	Yes
Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –	We use gender inclusive and expansive language for humans and for God.
LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –	Pastor Sarah Klaassen + people in roles of Elder, Deacon, Church Board and integrated into all ministry teams
Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –	We read our Statement of Calling (see above) at the beginning of every worship service. LGBTQIA+ people are fully integrated into the life of our church.
General Hospitality –	We do our best to greet people as they arrive and orient new visitors to the building and sanctuary. Expect a friendly conversation (or several) if you come early or stay for our weekly time of refreshments and fellowship immediately following worship. There is also the opportunity to quietly depart for those who would rather not socialize.
Style of Worship –	Our building design is fully accessible, and our sanctuary is a flexible space filled with natural light. We follow a structured liturgy each week concluding with communion, but within the structure we include much theological creativity and many diverse voices and abilities. We sing hymns both old and new and weekly messages are often based on themes like peace, justice, inclusion and love.
Welcoming & Inclusive Certification Process –	We have officially been an "Open and Affirming" congregation since 2001.
Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–	No

Member Testimonial – During a time when it sometimes feels we're clouded with fear and darkness, Rock Bridge Christian Church (RBCC) has been a guiding light. I was looking for a sense of community where I didn't have to hide who I am; I didn't know "open and affirming" churches even existed until I was referred by a friend. As our Statement of Calling suggests, it truly is a place where everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, will feel welcomed without risk of shame in expressing who they are. I love the emphasis RBCC places on helping others, above all. If you're a member of the queer community and looking for a group of people who will accept and respect you, while challenging you to look at faith differently, RBCC may be the place for you!
-David R., Elder

[^back to top](#)

St. Andrew's Lutheran
Church (ELCA)

David Frerichs
Pastor

573) 449-5674

914 West Blvd.
S., Columbia

<https://saintandrewslutheran.org/>

Congregation voted to adopt the following welcome statement

At St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA), we hold space for you—the full you—including your race, age, ethnic background, personality, experiences, gender identity, sexual orientations, gender expressions, and mental, spiritual, and physical needs. Here, you are invited to worship, pray, play, be baptized, get married, and celebrate Holy Communion.

Together, we strive to eliminate human-caused barriers to a holy relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another. We hear the call to love our neighbor as a commitment to antiracism and welcome for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We pledge to work intentionally to further justice and inclusion. We strive to glorify God in the ways we care for each other, our communities, and our planet. Recognizing that we are all siblings in Christ, we celebrate, affirm, and welcome individuals and families in all their beautiful and varied compositions. As a church that holds space just for you, we are better for having you and your unique voice here! Come just as you are!

Extended Review Chart-

- All Gender Restroom – No. Saint Andrew’s continues to reflect on the facilities to develop an All Gender Restroom.
- Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship – Gender neutral pronouns for plural references to humanity (brothers and sisters>>siblings)
Gender neutral pronouns for God in preaching, though Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church uses the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible in worship, which mostly retains masculine pronouns for God even as it uses gender neutral language for humanity, especially in the plural.
- LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership – Minister for Music: Clara Smith
- Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome – At each entrance Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church displays the Reconciling in Christ icon; Saint Andrew’s has an educational display with Pride flag stickers members may wish to affix to their name tags; Pride Flag hung in the welcome space; Welcome statement prominent on the Website; Commitment to celebrate same sex marriages incorporated into Wedding Policy material.
- General Hospitality – Greeters and Worship Hosts (Ushers) seek to respond with sensitivity to newcomers’ needs, at minimum offering a word of welcome, more so providing information about worship, the building and the like. The congregation understands that newcomers have differing desire for interaction for a variety of reasons. Most regular attenders will extend words of welcome to those they do not recognize. Newcomers have the option of attending via Zoom at the 11:00 am Sunday worship service and the more contemplative 6:15 pm Wednesday worship service. For more information check out SaintAndrewsLutheran.org.
- Style of Worship – Our worship services follow historic patterns of liturgy: Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending. We sing, pray, read scripture, and share in Holy Communion together at most every worship service. The table for Holy

Welcoming & Inclusive Certification
Process –

Communion is open to all. Our gatherings
last about an hour.

Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church is a
Reconciling in Christ congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Reconciling works
(www.reconcilingworks.org) supported and
recognizes Saint Andrew’s Lutheran
Church through the “Building an Inclusive
Church” process of becoming Reconciling
in Christ.

Hosted a TCP BRITE Training– Yes
Member Testimonial – TBD

[^back to top](#)

Unitarian Universalist
Church of Columbia
<https://uucomo.org/>

Molly Housh Gordan
Pastor

573-442-5764

2615 Shepard
Blvd., Columbia

Extended Review Chart-

All Gender Restroom –
Pronouns Used in Corporate Worship –
LGBTQIA+ people in Leadership –
Signs of LGBTQIA+ Welcome –
General Hospitality –
Style of Worship –
Welcoming & Inclusive Certification
Process –
Hosted a TCP BRITE Training–
Member Testimonial –

[^back to top](#)