

From the Corner – *Understanding*

St. John United Church of Christ in Bellevue celebrates 19 years of being an “Open and Affirming” congregation. Open and Affirming is a designation used in the United Church of Christ denomination for congregations who have engaged in Biblical study, prayer for guidance, dialogue with others, discerning God’s call, and building relationships that offer compassion and thoughtfulness for people on the margins in the life of the church and society. Particularly people who are LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Identity, Allies plus others).

There is a lot of rejection toward people in the LGBTQIA+ community; most of which is not positive or even close to an expression of Christ’s love. This community continues to face violence, hate, political legislation, and alienation. The bottom-line need is understanding for God’s rainbow people.

Last night I went out for a brief walk, and I saw a yard sign in my neighbor’s lawn that said, “If you can’t identify with your Biological Birth, you are in need of Mental Help.” These words reek of no desire to understand.

I’m not suggesting that understanding is easy. But I am suggesting that understanding is the very thing that all of us deserve. Listening and learning about people’s identity and who they are inside and out is the answer to end the violence. Understanding and leaving judgement and hate behind is the only way to love our neighbor as ourselves, no matter who our neighbor is.

We want to be a good neighbor to anyone who is struggling with their identity or the identity of a loved one or friend. You are invited and welcome to come and journey with us as we seek to follow Christ and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Journey well!

Pastor Keith



Pastor@StJohnChurch.net

St. John United Church of Christ
520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073
In-persons Sunday worship at 10:30a
and on YouTube and Facebook
www.StJohnChurch.net