

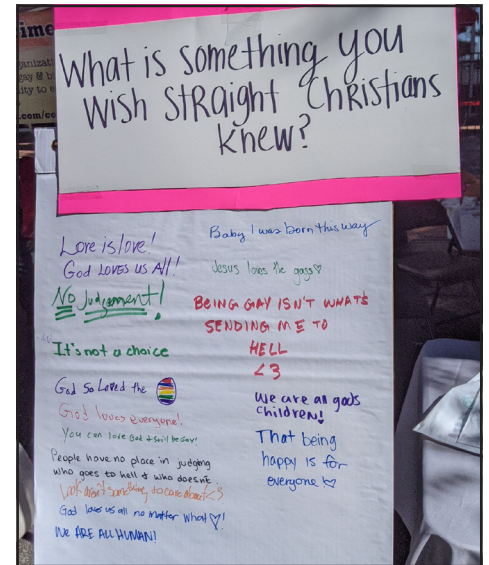
Responses to Festival-Goers Questions Asked During Pride Festival Revealed

In collaboration with Alexandra Kaufman, a Health Sciences major at the University of SC, festival-goers were encouraged to respond to two questions. These responses will be used in an upcoming listening session at WSUMC to help us continue to plan our work as a reconciling congregation.

QUESTIONS/RESPONSES

What is something you wish straight Christians knew?

- Love is equality
- Homosexuality was not in the Bible until like the 1900, so if the word of God is 2000 years old, somebody is a liar, and it is not Jesus. BE FREE.
- Love is Love! God loves us all!
- No judgment
- It's not a choice
- God so loved the world...
- God loves everyone
- You can love God and still be gay
- People have no place in judging who goes to hell and who doesn't
- Look(s) aren't something to care about.
- God loves us no matter what.
- WE ARE ALL HUMAN!
- We just want to be treated EQUALLY
- Love is love
- That being happy is for everyone
- We are all God's children
- Being gay isn't what's sending me to hell
- Jesus loves the gays
- Baby, I was born this way.
- LOVE period!!!
- Love conquers all!
- The word homosexual wasn't in the Bible until 1946. It was added due to hate.
- God loves ALL his children.
- I am a child of God.
- Let them live; let them love.
- That Jesus did not have hate in his heart, and unconditional love is not conditional
- We were created in His image.
- I promise the Bible isn't saying what you think it is.
- That we matter too.
- What if feels like to have a community that preaches love and tolerance shut you out immediately
- That the original translation said nothing about homosexuality
- How much pain and hurt they caused – people/kids lose their lives over it – Christian's misguidance.
- God loves all! No exceptions. No exclusions.
- When God said, "Love thy neighbor," he meant everyone.
- God transcends GENDER
- GOD LOVES everyone no matter what!!
- You can love who you want and still make the good list for (last word unreadable)
- There isn't anything in the Bible that says God hates gay people.



- God loves everyone.
- I am human too.
- The Bible says to LOVE
- I am who I am, not who you want me to be.
- Street preachers are the epitome of arrogance
- Love is equality!!
- All people are worthy of a conversation
- Don't assume we're all like "fabulous" etc.; like, we're regular people too.
- We can't change this (no matter whether you or even we, want to.)

2. How did the Christians in your life respond to you coming out?

- Parents = shock; grandmother = LOVE
- Family was very supportive and said, "God loves you and made no mistake."
- Dad said, "I love you no matter what status a person has in life."
- I was shunned by everyone in my "church family"
- Mom – "Jesus loves you, and I do too! I will still love you; you're still my kid"
- Parents = accepting; extended family = tolerant
- Lead with LOVE
- They said, "This is not God's plan for you."
- That I was possessed.
- I've always just been me; no need to explain.
- Thankfully supportive – XOXO
- "You don't love me."
- "I love you"
- Love everyone
- "You're going to hell"
- "I love you for you."
- LOVE is LOVE
- Judgment and counseling
- "OK"
- Hate

- Judgment without LOVE
- Loving and accepting; lots of questions, but open-minded
- I was kicked out and lost everything. Today I choose my family and I love myself and that is enough. God's Peace.
- I got blocked on Facebook
- Prayed the Gay Away
- "You haven't found the right man."

- BCM (Baptist College Ministry) – USC accepted me
- They weren't happy
- I was sent away for the summer to family who stripped me of all electronics, privacy, and all my friends
- "That's not real."
- I have not formally come out, but WSUMC welcomes everyone with open arms.

- "It's not how God intended."
- Changed their expectations of what dating looked like and how it made them shameful
- My dad CRIED that I was actively/consciously choosing to sin
- Said, "No, you're not."
- "You are not my kid."
- "I lost my daughter."



New Wednesday Night Small Group

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes by Matt Rawle

A new Wednesday Night Small Group begins next week that will offer an advent study — *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes* by Matt Rawle.

From Amazon.com

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think

we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

The study will be led by Susan Caskey and Ann Jessup. Four one-hour sessions will be offered Wednesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm via zoom: **November 17, December 1, 8, and 15.** All are welcome to join. For questions, or to receive the zoom link, email Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

ATTENDANCE:

October 3: 91
October 10: 94
October 17: 98
October 24: 86
October 31: 94
November 7: 89

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 11-11-21):

Church:

Budget: \$471,497.25

Actual: \$615,907

Soup Cellar: \$69,327

Foundation Gifts: \$36,250

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More Fall Festival Fun! See more on Facebook.com/washingtonstreetumc

