

PFLAG Madison

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Website: <http://www.pflag-madison.org>

Meeting Place:

Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, Madison, WI

Meeting: 2:00 to 4:00 PM, 3rd Sunday of the month, Sept. to May

National PFLAG Website: <http://www.pflag.org>



**Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ
People to move equality forward**

Support

Education

Advocacy

President: Lora Schmid-Dolan

President-Elect: Susie Murray

Past President: Jeanne Williams

Treasurer: Susie Murray

Board Members: Joanne Lee, Sandy Feria, Paul Wertsch, Nancy Jones, Ken Jones and Joann Elder

NEXT MEETING January 21

We will watch a portion of the TRANSforming Faith conference held in June of 2017 and featuring PFLAG's Joanne Lee.

December Meeting Summary - Lora Schmid-Dolan

We did not have a guest speaker during our December monthly meeting but instead offered an extended sharing circle. We had a couple of new visitors to our meeting so the extra time for sharing provided the opportunity for them to see how our supportive sharing time works. We also had our annual holiday party with lots of good treats to share.

German bishop urges church debate on blessing same-sex unions - National Catholic Reporter

The vice president of the German bishops' conference has urged a debate on whether Catholic clergy should bless same-sex unions.

"I'm concerned with fundamental questions of how we deal with each other; although 'marriage for all' differs clearly from the church's concept of marriage, it's now a political reality," said Bishop Franz-Josef Bode of Osnabruck.

See the entire National Catholic Reporter article [here](#).

GSAFE - Transgender Student Victory - GSAFE Email 10 Jan 2018

Last night the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD) board of education voted to settle the lawsuit brought against them by Ashton Whitaker, a former Tremper High School student who had sued the district

in 2016 after the district banned him from using the boys' bathroom, subjecting him to daily surveillance, and threatening disciplinary action for using the boys' bathroom.

The district had sought to appeal an earlier decision by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals that favored Ash's challenge against the district and upheld a lower court's decision allowing him to use the boys' bathroom.

As part of the settlement, KUSD agreed to withdraw its US Supreme Court appeal, which means that the previous Seventh Circuit Court ruling in favor of Ash not only stands but also becomes controlling on every school district in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana when it comes to supporting and including transgender students.

GSAFE is forever grateful to Ash and his mom for standing up for themselves and for transgender students across the state. Thank you, Ash, for demonstrating the power of respecting, accepting, and loving yourself!

SCOTUS declines to review a June Texas Supreme Court decision that ruled the legalization of same-sex marriage does not fully address the right to marriage benefits. - PFLAG Policy Matters: December 15, 2017

On December 4th, The Supreme Court of the U.S. declined to overturn a Texas high court ruling that raised questions about the rights of couples in same-sex marriages. The case arose in June when the Texas Supreme Court revived a lawsuit that sought to eliminate benefits offered to the same-sex spouses of City of Houston employees, ruling in Texas that the right to a marriage license did not automatically entitle same-sex couples to spousal insurance benefits.

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PLEASE NOTE: If you are viewing the printed version of this newsletter, check the on-line version at <http://www.pflag-madison.org/newsletters/2018/Jan18NL.pdf> to easily follow the links that are mentioned in the news items.

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Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that.
You cannot hold onto the old, all the while declaring that you want something new.

The old will defy the new;
The old will deny the new;
The old will decry the new.

There is only one way to bring in the new. You must make room for it.

—*Neale Donald Walsch*