

LGBTQ+ Affirming Spirituality-based Organizations/Groups

Many Journeys MCC

Many Journeys Metropolitan Community Church is a gathering of primarily LGBTQ+ people. We don't all believe the same things we just agree to travel together.

- **Website:** <http://manyjourneismcc.org/>
- **Address:** 1150 W. Hillsdale, San Mateo, CA
- **Phone Number:** 650-515-0900
- **Email:** revterri@manyjourneismcc.org

Congregational Church of San Mateo

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome here at CCSM – and we mean it! We are an open-minded, progressive spiritual community characterized by a delight in diversity, a passion for justice, a love of music and a genuine care we have for each other. Rooted in the Christian faith, we nurture thoughtful approaches to spirituality and growth in children, youth, and adults. We believe that there is a way to be an authentic Christian, while also deeply honoring the truth in other religions and embracing the insights of science and contemporary knowledge. Since our founding over 150 years ago, we have engaged in the issues of our time and have embraced the change that we want to see in the world, together.

- **Website:** <http://www.ccsm-ucc.org/>
- **Address:** 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401
- **Phone Number:** (650) 343-3694
- **Email:** info@ccsm-ucc.org

Bethany Presbyterian

At Bethany we find a nurturing community of faith, centered in the belief that God in Christ calls us to be family. Through worship, prayer, study and fellowship, we discover God's presence and love for us in our lives. With grateful hearts, we also seek ways to embody and live out God's love towards the larger community through hands-on outreach and mission. We humbly invite you to come, be with us, and see for yourself how God uses Bethany to carry out these things.

Everyone, of any age, social status, ability, and wherever you are in your faith journey, is welcome to come and worship the Living God with us. We are proud to be a welcoming and affirming, More Light congregation welcoming LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning) Christians in the life and ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

- **Website:** <http://bethanypcusa.org/>
- **Address:** 2400 Rosewood Drive, San Bruno California 94066
- **Phone Number:** (650) 589-3711
- **Email:** bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org

Universalist Unitarian San Mateo

The Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo (UUSM) is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Like all UU congregations, UUSM is filled with caring, open-minded people. Our faith encourages us to seek our own spiritual paths. Our congregation is a place where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our community – and the world – a better place. We are committed to spiritual growth and transformation; we accept you the way you are, but we do not expect you to remain the way you are. We are people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

- **Website:** <https://uusanmateo.org/>
- **Address:** 300 E Santa Inez, San Mateo, CA 94401
- **Phone Number:** (650) 342-5946
- **Email:** office@uusanmateo.org

Transfiguration Episcopal Church

Episcopal - We are in the Diocese of California, part of The Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion. Our identity is shaped by the wonderful traditions of the Church of England as received in the USA.

Progressive - Our theological perspectives are progressive. We are committed to a close and thoughtful reading of the Bible, but we hope to apply it to our contemporary lives with humor and open-mindedness.

Inclusive - All are welcome to both participate and lead at Transfiguration, whatever your gender, ethnic background, or sexual orientation.

Active - We work for peace and justice in our congregation, our community, and in our world. Together we can make the world a more just place for all.

- **Website:** <https://uusanmateo.org/>
- **Address:** 3900 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403
- **Phone Number:** (650) 341-8206
- **Email:** office@transfig-sm.org

Insight Meditation Center: Monthly LGBTQ Sangha

The Insight Meditation Center is a community-based, urban refuge for the teachings and practice of insight (mindfulness, vipassana) meditation. We offer Buddhist teachings in clear, accessible and open-handed ways. The IMC LGBTQ Sangha is open to all to all lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex, questioning and queer dharma practitioners. **Meeting every 4th Sunday Evening at IMC, 5 – 6:30pm in Main Meditation Hall.**

- **Website:** <https://www.insightmeditationcenter.org/programs/lgbtqueer-sangha/>
- **Address:** 108 Birch Street, Redwood City, California 94062
- **Phone Number:** (650) 599-3456
- **Email:** imcqueersangha@gmail.com; IMC LGBTQ Sangha is co-facilitated by Sue Bachman & Joe Hayes with guiding teachers John Martin and bruni dávila.

Peninsula Temple Sholom

PTS is an inclusive Jewish community where everyone can find peace, inspiration, and their own connection to Judaism. We are an extended family, rich in the diversity of our heritage, history, households, and practice. Knowing that every one of us is created in God's image, we actively and wholeheartedly encourage all who wish to be part of our community to join us in friendship.

- **Website:** <https://sholom.org/>
- **Address:** 1655 Sebastian Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010
- **Phone Number:** (650) 697-2266
- **Email:** info@sholom.org

Coastside Jewish Community (CJC)

Based on the San Mateo Coast, Coastside Jewish Community (CJC) creates a warm and inspiring environment for Jews and their loved ones who seek to share spiritual and cultural expression in community. Our ritual practice and cultural programs draw deeply from Judaism's rich heritage, infusing tradition with new meaning. We are inclusive and welcoming, embracing people from a wide range of Jewish and other backgrounds, including sexual and gender identities and expressions. Our mission and values include a strong commitment to social justice.

- **Website:** <https://www.coastsidejewishcommunity.org/>
- **Address:** Events happen around Coastside; see website for upcoming events!
- **Phone Number:** (650) 479-5252
- **Email:** coastsidejewishcommunity@yahoo.com

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto

We are a welcoming, activist Christian community, supporting each other as we work for peace, justice and the protection of God's good creation. Within our denomination, we are recognized as a sanctuary church, a peace church, a More Light church (LGBTQ+ affirming), and an Earth Care Congregation. Our deepest hope is that you will uncover within our inclusive community a place to nourish your own spirit and an opportunity to engage with other committed people in working for greater peace and justice in the world.

- **Website:** <https://www.fprespa.org/>
- **Address:** 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto, CA 94301
- **Phone Number:** (650) 325-5659
- **Email:** info@fprespa.org

Trinity Church

We are a community of seeking souls, rooted in our shared tradition and open to wherever the Spirit may be leading us. We come together with different questions and varying needs, to explore, to serve and to celebrate together. At Trinity, our invitation is to join us in community

(Continued-Trinity Church)

and spiritual practice. We strive to create a space that welcomes all who worship with us. We invite all people to be a part of our community: children and families, single adults, couples, and people of all backgrounds and racial and ethnic groups. Trinity is an Oasis congregation in the Episcopal Church's Diocese of California, which means we are intentionally welcoming of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. Wherever you come from and whoever you are, you are welcome here.

- **Website:** <http://www.trinitymenlopark.org>
- **Address:** 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, California 94025
- **Phone Number:** (650) 326-2083
- **Email:** office@trinitymenlopark.org

If you belong to a spirituality-based organization or group and would like to be added to this list, please send an email to Annette Pakhchian (LGBTQ+ Community Outreach Worker, SMC Health) at APakhchian@smcgov.org to verify the following:

- LGBTQ+ people in your community are eligible for all rites (including marriage ceremonies, membership, and ordination) or exceptions and the reason for them.
- Include a link to your website where your inclusion of LGBTQ+ people is explicitly mentioned, and a link to any larger body website that lists celebrating communities (Keshet, Integrity, Dignity, More Light, O&A, Alliance).



**Behavioral Health
& Recovery Services**

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Office of Diversity and Equity