

## **Christianity and Transgender Inclusion with Transgender Theologian Austen Hartke**

*We invite you to join us! This event is free and open to the public. Childcare is available with a reservation. Information regarding childcare is listed below.*

### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. He is also the creator of the YouTube series *Transgender and Christian*, which seeks to understand, interpret, and share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. He has spoken at conferences all over the country, including events for The Reformation Project, Gender Spectrum, Evolving Faith, Q Christian Fellowship, the Philadelphia Transgender Health Conference, and the Why Christian Conference.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **Friday, February 21**

6:30 pm LGBTQ+ Pride Worship

7:15-8:30 pm *Transgender and Christian: A Coming Out and Coming Home Story*

Too often the world tells LGBTQ+ people that they must either choose their identity or their faith. But what if there was a third option? Austen Hartke will share his experience of coming out as a bisexual and transgender Christian, from his childhood in non-affirming churches, to the Bible stories that gave him strength as an adult in seminary.

#### **Saturday, February 22**

10:00-11:30 am *The Bible and Transgender Christians Seminar*

Have you heard Bible verses used against transgender people, and you're wondering if there might be more to the story? Ever wondered whether there were people who didn't fit the gender boxes in ancient times?

In this session we'll look at the "lobber passages" the biblical texts historically used to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community and dig into stories of biblical characters who didn't fit the mold when it came to gender expression. Let's get together and read scripture with open eyes and open hearts and see where the Spirit leads!

### **JUST FOR THE TRANS COMMUNITY**

Austen will be holding a conversation space from 11:45 am to 1 pm for anyone who identifies as transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer, or gender-expansive. Come spend time in community, bring your questions, and share your experiences!

## **RESERVATIONS FOR CHILDCARE**

Childcare is available for children birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, at First Baptist, during the event but you need to make a reservation by February 14. Reserve your spot for childcare by emailing First Baptist at [churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org). Please indicate in the email how many children you are requesting care for and their ages.

## **EVENT SPONSORS**

The Christianity and Transgender Inclusion Event is sponsored by: First Baptist Church, The Center Project, Rock Bridge Christian, Broadway Christian, St. Andrew's Lutheran, Columbia United Church of Christ, Unity, Unitarian Universalist, and Heartspace Clinic