



# PFLAG

## Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

provided by FortPride.org

### Next Meeting

**Date:** May 14, 7 PM Program, 8 PM Support  
**Program:** Panel: Building Affirming Faith Communities

We will host a panel discussion featuring four ministers from local open and affirming congregations. Learn more about their congregations' journey during our program on Monday night.

Rev. Sharon Benton has been the Associate Minister at Plymouth Congregational UCC since 2004. She and her partner of 12 years, Rev. Jamie Kepros, are continually re-discovering what it means to be "post-modern pastors' wives" in their respective roles. They and their 2 cats moved to Colorado from Connecticut from So. California from....you get the idea. Sharon writes poetry, appreciates good coffee, and can often be found enjoying a micro-brew at one of Fort Collins' many breweries.

Rev. Cheryl Jensen is the senior minister of Whole Life Center for Spiritual Living, a New Thought spiritual community, teaching the Science of Mind. She arrived in Colorado seven years ago to serve this ministry, and considers "revealing the Light and Love of Spirit in all" as her mission on earth. The Whole Life Center for Spiritual Living has been in Fort Collins for 27 years providing spiritual tools to transform lives and make the world a better place. Their vision affirms that they are a loving, open-minded spiritual community affirming Wholeness and Oneness of all. They enjoy saying, "People Grow Here!" She loves Colorado and Fort Collins is a great place to live. Life is Good here!

Rev. Bonnie Sarah Spencer has been serving at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for over 3 years. St. Paul's has had a long history and commitment to radical welcome and inclusivity. She's a nice Jewish Girl from New York who has been following Jesus since her college days. Bonnie served for 9 years in campus ministry and has been serving as an Episcopal priest for the last 13 years in the Diocese of Massachusetts and Colorado. She is the first openly gay and partnered clergy person to be called as a rector (senior pastor) in the Diocese of Colorado. Bonnie lives with Catherine, her much loved partner of 8 years, and her two pups Norah and Hildy. Running, reading, hiking, and trying to play golf take up much of her spare time.

We're missing a bio on our fourth faith leader. Come to the meeting and learn more.

### Events of Local/Regional Interest

#### May 14: Rally on the west steps of the capitol

One Colorado is organizing a rally on the west steps of the Capitol at 9:00AM. Brad Clark writes, " We've all been on a roller coaster ride as civil unions lived against all odds, then died in an unprecedented display of partisan politics, then lived again following a courageous call by our Governor." The rally is expected to last all day.

#### Jun 17: Denver PrideFest Parade

Save the date. Please plan to march with PFLAG Fort Collins in the annual PrideFest Parade.

### News of Local/Regional Interest

#### The ups and downs of civil unions in Colorado

My original newsletter had lots of content related to our great progress in the Senate and House. Then it all fizzled when Republican leadership in the House refused to call the legislation for floor debate. Since the legislative session closed, Governor Hickenlooper has called a special session to address civil unions and several other issues. [[Denver Post](#), May 10]

Your support is more important than ever. First, you can help by contacting your representative in the House and encouraging him/her to vote in support of the civil unions act. One Colorado has a web site that will help you send the email. [[One Colorado](#)]

It is also important to thank the people who have already shown their support. If your Senator supported the bill, please say thank you. And the Republicans who are facing such harsh criticism for their recent votes especially need your thanks—Senators Jean White, Ellen Roberts, and Nancy Spence and Representatives BJ Nikkel and Don Beezley. Their votes underscore an incredible evolution in the Republican Party. They have courageously shown us all that believing in equality is not red or blue. You can get contact information from the [Colorado Legislative Directory](#).

### News of National/Global Interest

#### President Obama supports same-sex marriage

In a week where Coloradans struggled with the failure of the Colorado House to pass civil unions, President Obama added a bright spot by announcing his support for same-sex marriage. LGBT advocates and allies were thrilled, but marriage equality opponents predicted that the move spells doom for his re-election bid. [[Huffington Post](#), May 9]

**North Carolina approved anti-gay amendment**

North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment that defines marriage solely as a union between a man and a woman. The amendment goes further by voiding other types of domestic unions from carrying legal status. About 61% of voters supported the amendment. [[Huffington Post](#), May 8]

**Reading/Viewing Corner**

- ❖ [“I’m Christian unless you’re gay”](#) was posted on Nov 14, 2011 by Dan Pearce, Single Loving Dad [[Audio version](#) posted Jan 23, 2012]
- ❖ [A teen’s brave response to “I’m Christian unless you’re gay”](#) was posted on Apr 2, 2012 by Dan Pearce, Single Loving Dad. Posts like this help us all remember why we are involved in PFLAG!
- ❖ The Gay Debate: The Bible and Homosexuality [Delivered by Matthew Vines at College Hill United

- Methodist Church in Wichita, Kansas on March 8, 2012, [video and written transcript](#)
- ❖ In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents—stories in support of same-sex marriage [[YouTube](#), Apr 14, 2011]

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If you would like to become a PFLAG sponsor, please contact Diane Kaufman at [RCKaufman01@comcast.net](mailto:RCKaufman01@comcast.net) or (970) 223-0041 for more information.

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**Support PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado—Become a Member**

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members, provides educational materials for families and the public, and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings. You can join at any time of the year. The membership year extends from October 1 to September 30.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____	_____ Local, Student	\$15
_____	_____ Individual Membership*	\$30
Address: _____	_____ Family Membership *	\$45
City: _____	_____ Gold Membership*	\$75
State: _____ Zip Code: _____	_____ Platinum Membership *	\$100
Home Phone: _____	_____ Other Donation _____	
Other Phone: _____	_____ Email list only (no membership)	
Email: _____	*National Dues of \$15 is included with membership	

Make checks payable to **PFLAG Fort Collins** and mail to 305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

**MEETINGS:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month, 6:45 pm  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
916 W. Prospect Rd.  
Fort Collins, Colorado

**CONTACTS:**

Local chapter: 970.407.0300  
Julie 970.667.5236  
Stewart 970.226.2444  
Diane 970.223.0041

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Web site: [www.pflagftc.org](http://www.pflagftc.org)  
Email: [info@pflagftc.org](mailto:info@pflagftc.org)  
Mail: 305 W Magnolia, PMB 117  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

In addition to parents, families, friends, and GLBT people, we welcome anyone involved in the coming-out process.

We welcome anyone who supports the PFLAG mission of **SUPPORT, EDUCATION and ADVOCACY** for GLBT people.