

How to submit corrections or additions to the Faith Guide?

If you have any corrections or additions to future additions of the Faith Guide please email this information to lgleysteen@fight.org.

Organization Name: _____

Full address: _____

Phone number: _____

Website: _____

Email address: _____

Description of services (*What type of faith organization? When are meeting times? Are other services offered?*)

Contact person's name: _____

Credits

Updates maintained by the AIDS Library. This edition exists thanks to the work of the following contributors: Nikki Bromberg, Eddie Davis, Kyle Chvasta, Calenthia Dowdy, Lucy Gleysteen, Amber McNear, Chantelle Moore, Alyssa Richman, Jane Shull, Jen Wright, and Juliet Fink Yates.

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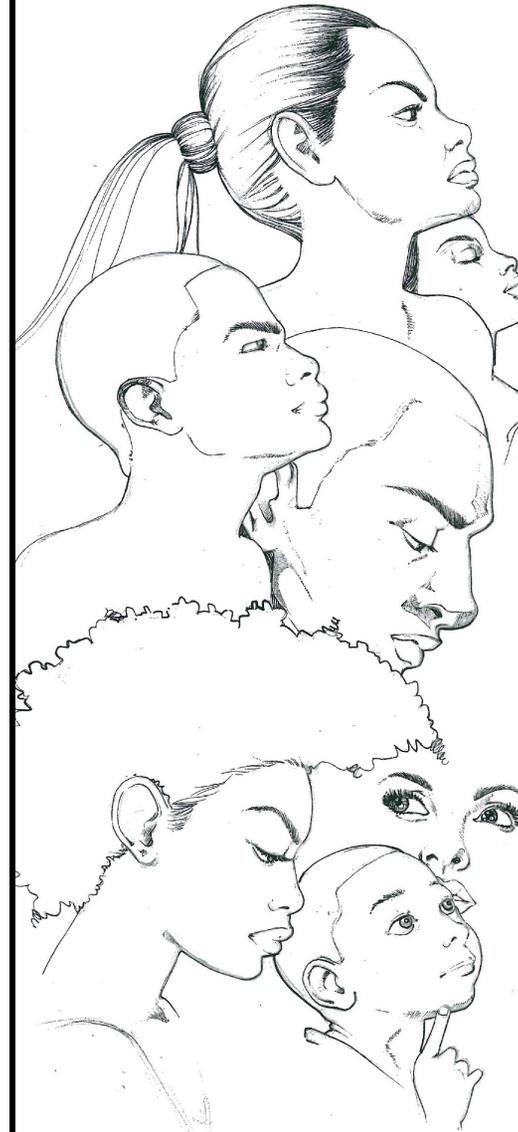
Philadelphia

Faith

Resource

Guide

A project of Philadelphia
FIGHT Community
Health Centers.



Family First by Eddie Davis

BY: E. DAVIS
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Introduction

Welcome to the Faith Resource Guide, a publication of the Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers! We are excited to provide this resource for those who are looking for support and resources in their faith journey. We hope this guide is useful. In the Faith Guide you will find some tips on how to find the right faith community for *you* and a list of faith communities in the Philadelphia area. We also use the terms “Houses of Worship” and “Faith Communities” or “Communities of Faith” interchangeably. If you have any changes, corrections or suggestions for additions for future Faith Guides please see the last page of the guide to submit edits or corrections

Blessings to you!

Rev. Dr. Calenthia Dowdy, Director
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For the first year, Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers’ AIDS Library and Office of Faith Initiatives collaborated to produce a standalone version of the Faith Resource Guide. The Faith Resource Guide is a supplement to the Greater Philadelphia Resource Guide, a directory of over 700 organizations in Philadelphia. The full Philadelphia Resource Guide can be picked up at the AIDS Library at 1233 Locust Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Updated editions of the Faith Guide are published every June as part of AIDS Education Month. We welcome additions to the Faith Guide, particularly faith communities that welcome individuals regardless of race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, HIV status, and economic background. This guide is not an endorsement for any specific religion, and we seek to include a diversity of spiritual resources. See the back cover for how to submit a new organization.

Lucy Gleysteen, Editor

COMMON QUESTIONS WHEN VISITING A HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR THE FIRST TIME

What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction is the practice of working with others to deepen spiritual relationships and grow in your personal spirituality. A spiritual director is someone who provides spiritual direction and acts as a guide in your spiritual journey. Most often a spiritual director is practicing from a Christian perspective, but it may also include other faith traditions. A spiritual director can offer one-on-one or group sessions to work on spiritual healing and provide guidance. You should make sure that they can support you in your faith tradition and consider the list below to help you decide if the person is a good fit for you.

Things to look for in a spiritual director:*

- **Strong communication skills:** *When you talk about what you're experiencing, do they seem to be interested in learning about how you feel? Can they communicate to you in language that you understand?*
- **You feel like you can develop trust in them:** *What do your inner vibes/feelings tell you when you first meet this person? Is this someone who allows you to feel that you can have a good working relationship?*
- **Sensitivity and appreciation of your cultural background:** *An effective counselor should not make offensive comments about your gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or cultural background. While they might not be aware of specific prohibitions or traditions that are an important part of your life, they should be willing learn from you to gain this knowledge.*
- **Hope and belief in your opportunities for growth:** *Does this person allow you to feel optimistic about your spiritual journey? Do they recognize that journeys might also include setbacks and challenges?*

COMMON QUESTIONS WHEN VISITING A HOUSE OF WORSHIP FOR THE FIRST TIME

How do I know what to wear to the service?

Different faith communities/denominations have different expectations about what attire is appropriate to wear to a service. Asking someone you know who attends the house of worship can be a great way to learn what most people wear. If the house of worship has a website, they might list their “dress code”. Look for information about the services; dress code requirements can often be found there. Or you can look out for keywords for how they describe their faith community such as “casual”, “laid-back” or “Sunday best”. Sometimes there is no information listed online about a dress code, but if you are feeling particularly concerned about what to wear, you could always call the house of worship and ask if they have any particular dress code for the services. Most houses of worship are just happy you came and will encourage newcomers to “come as you are”.

Do I have to give money to attend a house of worship?

Most houses of worship are maintained through offerings, donations, or dues paid by regular attendees. Most places do not expect visitors to give but would encourage you to demonstrate your support of the faith community by contributing financially. If you aren’t able to give money, you could explore other ways of contributing your time, talent, etc, if and when you desire. No house of worship is allowed to make you give money in order to attend.

How do I get connected to resources at a house of worship?

Some houses of worship/faith communities have a designated leader who is responsible to connect attendees/members to community or church resources. Some have benevolent funds that are set aside to aid those in need, either in the house of worship or from the community. There is usually some type of approval process to receive those resources. Other houses of worship may have a soup kitchen, food pantry, or clothing bank ministry. The best first step is to reach out to a faith leader within the community and share what resources you need. They should be able to point you in the right direction.

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HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT FAITH COMMUNITY FOR YOU

Finding the right faith community can be a uniquely individual process. Each person is attracted to different things in a worship service or community.

Key things to check your feelings for are:

1. Did someone greet me when I arrived at the house of worship?
2. Do the people feel warm and open to me?
3. Did the leader’s talk or sermon speak to me in some way?
4. Is this house of worship open to all people? Are they inclusive of racial, class, gender, LGBTQ people?
5. Are there weekly group meetings or small groups that appeal to me?
6. Am I permitted to express and share my gifts and talents here?

Houses of faith are simply groups of people who want to share faith traditions in community together. They are not perfect people. They will make mistakes.

A-Z LISTING OF FAITH RESOURCES

Arch Street United Methodist Church

Address: 55 N Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-568-6250

Website: www.archstreetumc.org

Email: secretary@archstreetumc.org

Description: The Arch Street Methodist Church is open from 10a-3p for meditation and prayer. Sunday worship times are 8:30a Prayer & Praise Service, 9:30a youth & adult Sunday school and children's Sunday school, traditional service at 11:00a, and 5:30p prayer service and Grace Café, which includes a free dinner. Other meeting times are Tea Talk on M at 1p, Hour of Power on Tu 12p-1p, and AA meetings are hosted on M, W, Th at 5:30p.

Bright Hope Baptist Church

Address: 1601 N 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Phone: 215-232-6004

Website: www.brighthopebaptist.org

Description: Bright Hope Baptist has a program called Arc of Safe Haven that provides support for people living with HIV. Their daily worship is at 10:45a.

Broad Street Ministry

Address: 315 S Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-735-4847

Website: www.broadstreethospitality.org

Email: info@broadstreetministry.org

Description: Services include meals, personal care, mail service, on-site nurse, clothing closet, veteran's assistance, and more. Clothing closet lottery during every meal. Nurses and psychiatric evaluations available W and Th during meals. Quarterly homeless advocacy projects with pro bono lawyers.

Calvary United Methodist Church

Address: 801 S 48th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Phone: 215-724-1702

Website: www.allmeansall.org

Email: office@allmeansall.org

Description: Calvary is a progressive, urban congregation located in Southwest Philadelphia. Meeting time: Su 11a-12:30p. Office hours M-F 1:30p-5:30p.

Church of the Advocate

Address: 1801 W Diamond Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Phone: 215-978-8000

Website: www.churchoftheadvocate.org

Email: office@churchoftheadvocate.org

Description: Church of the Advocate offers social services including: a drop in family center, food vouchers, computer access, a clothing closet, and after-school programs. Sunday services are at 10a-12p.

A-Z LISTING OF FAITH RESOURCES

Unity Fellowship Church Philadelphia

Address: 55 N Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-240-6106

Website: www.ufccphiladelphia.org/mainsite

Description: An open and affirming ministry serving all people regardless of race, gender, and sexual orientation. They have a support group for people living with HIV/AIDS. Sunday services are held at 1:45p at Arch Street United Methodist Church (55 N Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107).

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

Address: 4740 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Phone: 215-729-2050

Website: www.wpmf.org

Email: wpmf@wpmf.org

Description: People are welcome regardless of their background. Meetings are on Sunday at 9a.

University Lutheran Church

Address: 3637 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: 215-387-2885

Website:

Email: www.uniluphila.org

Description: Their worship service is at 10:30a Sundays and 6:15p Tuesdays.

Whosoever Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia

Address: c/o University Lutheran Church, 3637 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: 215-873-5719

Website: www.mccphiladelphia.com

Description: Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia is an LGBT Christian congregation. Their meeting time is Sunday at 11a. They offer a homeless ministry and a soup kitchen.

A-Z LISTING OF FAITH RESOURCES

St. Luke's Church and Hospitality Center for People with HIV/AIDS

Address: 330 S 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-732-9346

Website: www.slatechurch.org

Email: slatechurch@gmail.com

Description: St. Luke's is open to anyone regardless of their background. Worship is on Su from 9a-11a.

St. Mary of Grace Parish

Address: 145 W Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

Phone: 610-876-4067

Website: www.inclusivecatholics.org

Description: An inclusive Catholic congregation. Mass is on Sundays at 4p.

St. Paul's Baptist Church

Address: 1000 Wallace Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Phone: 215-763-1502

Website: www.1000wallace.org

Email: Churchoffice@1000wallace.org

Description: Their worship time is Sundays at 11a.

St. Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church

Address: 109 E Price Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone: 215-438-2925

Website: www.saint-vincent-church.org

Email: secretary@saint-vincent-church.org

Description: St. Vincent Church has a prison ministry, homeless ministry, food pantry, and soup kitchen. Their food pantry is open M, T, F 9a-12p.

True Gospel Tabernacle Church

Address: 1606 Mifflin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Phone: 215-334-3343

Website: www.truegospeltabernacle.org

Description: True Gospel Tabernacle Church hosts the Kingdom Care Reentry Network, the Freedom From AIDS Campaign, a learning center, day care, and programs for youth. They host a prison/reentry ministry, HIV ministry, and more. Sunday worship is at 11a, Sunday School 9:30a.

A-Z LISTING OF FAITH RESOURCES

Cookman Beloved Community Baptist Church

Address: 1901 W Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Phone: 267-886-3139

Website: www.cookmanbelovedcommunity.org

Description: Worship is on Sundays at 3p. Their Emerging Ministries Corporation develops, implements, and promotes community-empowered processes that assist communities to initiate and sustain the support systems for a neighborhood-based matrix that assists youth, their families, and their communities to improve positive life-sustaining outcomes. This includes academic and economic achievement, civic engagement, pro-social participation.

Dignity Philadelphia

Address: PO Box 53348, Philadelphia, PA 19105

Phone: 215-546-2093

Website: www.dignityphila.org

Description: Dignity is organized to unite LGBT Catholics and their families. Their Sunday liturgy is every week at 7p.

Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church

Address: 2800 W Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150

Phone: 215-276-7200

Website: www.enontab.org

Email: enon@enontab.org

Description: Their HIV/AIDS Ministry program provides monthly support groups for individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS; monthly testing and counseling by AIDS service organizations; and ongoing education, training, and outreach. Enon Tabernacle is one church in two locations. First location is at 2800 W Cheltenham Avenue and meeting times are: Sa 5p, Su 10a (simulcast at 230 W location at 10:45 a); Bible Study, Tu 7p. The second location is 230 W Coulter Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144. Meeting times: Su 6:45a; Bible Study, W 12-1p.

Empowering Word Ministries

Address: 4958 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Phone: 215-878-7000

Email: empoweringwordministries@hotmail.com

Description: A growing ministry that is inclusive of all persons regardless of race, color, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation and those who have disabilities. Sunday service is at 11:30a.

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

Address: 2125 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: 215-563-3980

Description: The First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia is an intentionally diverse community that affirms and promotes Unitarian and universalist principles. Their Sunday service is at 11a.

A-Z LISTING OF FAITH RESOURCES

First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG)

Address: 6001 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone: 215-438-3677

Website: www.fumcog.org

Email: office@fumcog.org

Description: Sunday Worship is at 11a except for during the summer (starting the second week of June) when meetings are at 10a. AA meets M, W, F, and Sa. They have a prison ministry and a homeless outreach ministry.

Germantown Mennonite Church

Address: 21 W Washington Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone: 215-843-5599

Website: www.germantownmennonite.org

Email: office@germantownmennonite.org

Description: September-May Sunday worship is at 11a and during June-August, worship is at Su 10a. Adult Sunday school at 10a.

Grace Baptist Church of Germantown

Address: 25 W Johnson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone: 215-438-3215

Website: www.gracebaptistgtn.org

Description: Grace Baptist Church has an HIV/AIDS ministry. Prayer meeting sessions held on Wednesdays at 12p and 8p. Sunday worship occurs at 10:15a.

Living Water United Church of Christ

Address: 6250 Loretto Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111

Phone: 267-388-6081

Website: www.lwucc.org

Email: info@lwucc.org

Description: Living Water United Church has many ministries include a social justice ministry and a youth ministry. They have Sunday morning worship at 11a.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion

Address: 2110 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: 215-567-3668

Website: www.lc-hc.org

Description: Lutheran Church meets Sunday at 9a and 11a. They offer a food pantry the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Nehemiah Tabernacle, Inc.

Address: 4551 Morris Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone: 215-844-8389

Website: www.nehemiahtabernacle.org

Email: churchcommunity@gmail.com

Description: Their meeting time is at 11a. They welcome everyone regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation. They have a food bank ministry and HIV ministry.

A-Z LISTING OF FAITH RESOURCES

Out and Faithful Congregational Crawl Group at the William Way Center

Address: 1315 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Email: info@waygay.org

Description: A space for conversations and questions around spirituality and faith in the LGBT community.

Rainbow Buddhist Meditation at The William Way Center

Address: 1315 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-732-2220

Email: info@waygay.org

Description: This group exists to make Buddhist meditation practice available to the LGBT community, to support meditation practice, to learn about and discuss Buddhist teachings and writing from different schools, and to build friendship and community. Provides recreational and social programs for Philadelphia's LGBT community. Meets Sundays from 3p to 4:30p.

Recovery Christian Center

Address: 2418 Kensington Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125

Phone: 267-582-5013

Website: www.recoverychristiancenter.org

Email: contactus@recoverychristiancenter.org

Description: The Recovery Christian Center is a house of worship for all those in or seeking recovery from addiction in all manifestations, sexual abuse, mental health issues, low self-esteem, domestic violence, and all those in pain. Services at Mt. Zion Holy Church Sa at 5p and Bible Study Tu at 7p.

Siloam

Address: 1133 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Phone: 215-765-6633

Website: www.siloamwellness.org

Email: dwesley@siloamwellness.org

Description: Siloam is a nonprofit whose mission is to enrich the lives of people impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing a broad range of integrative mind, body, and spirit services and programs. Siloam provides the following: bodywork sessions (massage and Reiki), spiritual direction, individual counseling and support groups, yoga, chair yoga, and chi kung. Siloam also offers retreats for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.

St. Francis Inn Ministries Mission

Address: 2441 Kensington Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125

Phone: 215-423-5845

Website: www.stfrancisinn.org

Email: sfministries@gmail.com

Description: The St. Francis Mission offers a soup kitchen 7 days a week; M-Th from 4:30p-6p; F-Su from 11:30a-1p. On Tu, W, Th from 10a-11a, social services, the thrift store and the clinic are available as well as coffee, tea, and snacks.