

# Living Into Our Welcome

Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship  
Sunday School Series Fall 2023

This Sunday School series is an opportunity to reflect on and learn more about how we can live into Berkey's welcome statement and God's welcome for all. We will have opportunities to learn through teaching sessions and through the stories and experiences of others. We will also have time to ask questions and have discussions with one another. This series cannot possibly cover everything but we hope will be a fruitful step in our journey of welcome!

On October 28, 2018 at our Congregational Meeting, we voted to approve the following **welcome statement**:

As followers of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:14-20) we are committed to living in community, practicing peacemaking that transcends socioeconomic barriers, acknowledges a diversity of perspectives, and welcomes all.

We celebrate the image of God (Genesis 1:26) manifested in persons of every age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, education, intellectual or emotional or physical ability, and economic or immigration status (Galatians 3:28). We strive to find common ground on which to build relationships with our neighbors near and far. As an inclusive faith community, we affirm that all persons, including LGBTQ+ persons, are welcome to fully participate in the life of our congregation, including membership, baptism, marriage, leadership, and pastoral ministry.

OCTOBER 8- Introduction to Series

Topic: Square-peg people in a round-peg world: When your family doesn't fit the mold

Speakers: Cindy and Doug Baker

OCTOBER 15

Topic: Socio-economic Inclusion

Speakers: Anna Sawatzky and Heidi McHugh

OCTOBER 22

Topic: Aging

Panel: Sherm Kauffman, Laverne Nafziger, Enid Schloneger, Margaret Stoltzfus

OCTOBER 29

Topic: LGBTQ+ - Safe-Zone Training

Speakers: Aiden Schloneger

NOVEMBER 5

Topic: Intercultural Competence and Undoing Racism

Speaker: Ben Bowman

NOVEMBER 12 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Retreat)

NOVEMBER 19

Topic: Welcome of Immigrants

Speaker: Madeline Moltenado

NOVEMBER 26 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

DECEMBER 3

Topic: LGBTQ+ - Biology and the Human Spectrum

Speaker: Carl Weaver

DECEMBER 10

Topic: Accessibility

Speaker: Jeanne Davies

DECEMBER 17 – Wrap-up and Reflections

Speaker: To be determined

We encourage everyone to consider the following questions for reflection during this series, and invite you to bring your own curiosity and questions each week.

- What grabbed you (surprised you, moved you) in what you heard?
- In what ways are we doing well?
- In what ways might we learn more and/or improve?
- What more would you like to learn about this topic?
- What questions do you have?

You might also consider:

- How have you felt included or excluded at Berkeley?
- In what ways have you felt noticed and valued?
- In what ways would you LIKE to feel noticed and valued?