

# PFLAG LINK



## JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### JANUARY 2026 MEETING



In spite of the cold weather, about twenty-five folks came out on January 18 for the first meeting of the new year. We gathered with delicious refreshments, organized by our new Event Team.

Our guest speaker was Terricina Jackson, from FACT (Families and Children Together). Her presentation described the negative impact funding cuts to programs like SNAP and Medicaid is having on many families in our area, including those in the LGBTQ+ community. Like a series of dominoes falling, loss of any support impacts the family and especially the children in many ways. But the staff at FACT seeks to advocate for our families when systems fail and stand with them as they navigate an often confusing system. The staff provides an amazing array of services and opportunities for families, including laundry days, a help hotline, and rooms available for supervised visits (and much more). Check out the FACT flyer at the bottom of this newsletter and click on it to find their website.

The afternoon concluded with our time for support groups. One sign of the growth and vitality of the chapter is that we now have to divide into three different groups!

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## FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING

Our guest speaker for the February 15 meeting was Sean Schutt from The Underground Railroad, which provides support and services for survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and human slavery. Sean, who has worked for ten years, began the presentation outlining the many services and resources they provide. These include a shelter (which even has a kennel if a dog or cat is taken along, assistance with finding housing, obtaining Personal Protection orders and safe space for visitations, etc. Shifting into education mode, he especially focused on how members of the LGBTQ+ community can be victimized by those who assert power and control over them. It was good to be able to connect a human face to an agency that offers valuable support. Visit them at <https://undergroundrailroadinc.org/>




## LIBRARY NEWS

The Richard S. PFLAG Resource Library will open on Thursday, February 26, from 3 – 5 p.m. Watch our Facebook page and our website for future library hours. Stop by and peruse our titles, feel free to grab a soft seat in our office and read for a bit, or have a chat with our staff. We're here for you! Our library is also open before and after our monthly meetings and our Book Soiree, held on the third Monday of the month at 6pm in First United Methodist Church's parlor.





New in the library this week are two titles: "The In-between Bookstore" by Edward Underhill and "The Widening of God's Mercy: Sexuality Within the Biblical Story" by Christopher B. Hays and Richard B. Hays. Underhill's book is "a poignant and enchanting novel about a magical bookstore that transports a trans man through time and brings him face-to-face with his teenage self." The nonfiction title by Christopher and his father, Richard, is "a learned and beautifully written account of God's expanding grace, tracing how the bible's narrative points to the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in Christian communities."

March 31 is the International Transgender Day of Visibility. As a nod to that, our Book Soiree pick is “Paper Doll: Notes from a Late Bloomer” by Dylan Mulvaney. When Dylan Mulvaney came out as a woman online, she was a viral sensation almost overnight, emerging as a trailblazing voice on social media. Dylan’s personal coming-out story blossomed into a platform for advocacy and empowerment for trans people all over the world. In her new memoir, Dylan pulls back the curtain of her “It Girl” lifestyle with a witty and intimate reflection of her life pre- and post-transition. It’s both laugh-out-loud funny and powerfully honest—and is a love letter to everyone who stands up for queer joy. - Abrams Books

Please feel free to join our monthly Book Soiree. You don’t need to have read the book to attend. It’s a great time to get together and have a conversation about the themes surrounding LGBTQIA+ people in literature – how we’re presented, the issues that touch us, and how they move and inspire us to make things better.

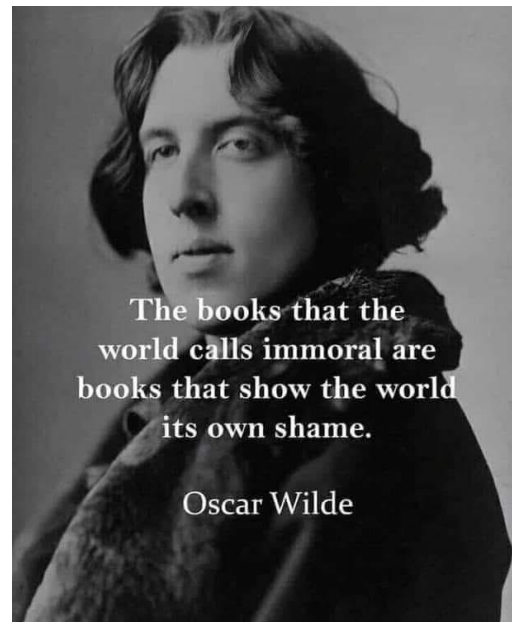


**Book Club Soirées**  
A monthly time of conversation and book discussion.

	<b>January 19, 2026, 6PM</b> <i>The House in the Cerulean Sea</i> T.J. Kline, Fantasy
	<b>February 16, 2026, 6PM</b> <i>Razorblade Tears</i> S.A. Cosby, Mystery Thriller
	<b>March 16, 2026, 6PM</b> <i>Paper Doll: Notes From a Late Bloomer</i> Dylan Mulvaney, Memoir
	<b>April 20, 2026, 6PM</b> <i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous</i> Ocean Vuong, Fiction

Soirées are held third Mondays in the parlor at First United Methodist Church of Saginaw, 4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw Township, 48638, a welcoming and affirming faith community.

For more information, please email us at [pflagglb@gmail.com](mailto:pflagglb@gmail.com).



## PFLAG GLB “OUT” IN THE COMMUNITY



On January 28th, PFLAG Great Lakes Bay Region was honored to present to the Whole Child Network at Bay-Arenac ISD. This network focuses on the well-being of students—mental health, safety, and belonging. Presenters were Chapter President Tom Brubaker and Board Director Debra Huntley. We discussed the importance of safe places at schools for LGBTQ youth, especially transgender youth. We also had a resource table at the event. We send a special thank you to Stacey Meininger, Brooke Cunningham, and Barry Schmidt, who are part of the Whole Child Network.



PFLAG emphasizes that connecting our chapter with schools is key to reaching parents and guardians, so we can provide support, education, and services benefiting children.”

PFLAG also took part in Merrill Schools’ Wellness Fair on February 12th. We thank mental health therapist Stacey Nagel for inviting us to connect with parents and guardians of LGBTQ youth, offering PFLAG’s support services. A special thank you to PFLAG Advocacy Team volunteers Judy Lincoln, Kitty Packard, and Pastor Amy Terhune, who participated along with PFLAG Chapter President Tom Brubaker.



On February 2, Tom Brubaker, Kitty Packard and John Soyster attended a “coffee hour” with State Rep. Amos O’Neal at Delta Downtown. Rep. O’Neal spoke about some of his vision for our area and legislation he is sponsoring or supporting. He then opened the floor to questions and discussion. President tom took advantage of the opportunity to explain PFLAG’s purpose and highlight the need to protect the LGBTQ+ community in these times, drawing special attention to the number of anti-trans bills appearing before state legislatures all over the country.





## HOW I GOT TO PFLAG

The narrative of a coming out story can be extremely important. It can give hope, serve as catharsis and is hopefully, often, a time of celebration.

When my son came out I was not surprised. I was taken aback in the moment but knew I wanted to get it right so my response was so Leisha, "Let me read a book on parenting a gay child and I will get back to you."

After I read my book/books, and had many conversations with my son, I knew I wanted to get involved in the LGBTQ+ community but I felt I did not have much to offer. What I wanted for my son did not have anything to do with being gay. I want him to be reasonably happy, self-sufficient, and to give something back to the world we live in. Exactly what I wanted for my daughters, who are straight.

In the fall of 2016, I visited my son at college and met some of his new friends. There was one young man that was quiet, did not talk much, but always seemed to be in my space and watching my son and I when we were interacting.

When it was time for me to leave, he asked if he could walk me to my car. On the way to the car, he asked if I was mentally ill. I did not know how to respond so I made a little joke and asked why he wondered that about me. He said that his parents told him if he ever meet an adult who thought it was "okay" to be gay, he needed to stay away from them because they were "crazy". That is when I knew my son's boring coming out story, and my family, had something to offer.

I found PFLAG and have been on the board for ten years.

—Leisha Dougherty

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**PFLAG & ZOOM** PFLAG is excited to expand accessibility. We're working to offer our monthly meetings and book club in a hybrid format—both in person and via Zoom. We're targeting April to begin. Our coverage area spans hundreds of miles of rural roads across nine to ten counties, often making transportation a challenge. 'We want to remove that barrier,' says Tom Brubaker, PFLAG Chapter President. 'We aim to reach parents of LGBTQ youth and LGBTQ individuals themselves, reducing and eliminating feelings of loneliness or isolation.'"



### COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

“In our Community Partner Spotlight, we honor Underground Railroad of Saginaw County, founded in 1977. They provide a 24-hour crisis helpline, emergency shelter with space for pets, advocacy, and legal support to survivors of domestic violence. LGBTQ individuals face intimate partner violence at similar or higher rates. Through our partnership, we ensure these survivors feel safe and connected to PFLAG resources, reducing isolation and fostering support. For anyone in need, Underground Railroad can be reached 24/7 at their crisis helpline: 989-755-0411 or toll-free at 888-399-8385. More information is available at their business office, 5647 State Street, Suite A, Saginaw, MI.”



**NEW BOARD MEMBER.** The PFLAG Board of Directors appointed Deborah Huntley of Saginaw Township during its December 21st board meeting. She will serve a two-year term. Deborah Huntley has a distinguished career in education, culminating as provost at Saginaw Valley State University, retiring in January 2025. Since then, she has been a strong leader on our advocacy team, creating the Advocacy Alert newsletter. Deb has given presentations, such as to Bay-Arenac ISD counselors, and will serve at community events. We are so pleased to have her join the board.

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**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT.** Our checking account balance as of December 31, 2025 is \$4,573.49. PFLAG Great Lakes Bay Region is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, ensuring full transparency in all financial dealings. Submitted by Treasurer, The Rev. Amy Terhune. If you have any questions about the financial report, please contact The Rev. Amy Terhune or Marc Cesere.

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**2026 Meeting & Events Schedule - February to July**  
All meets are 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church,  
4790 Gratiot Rd. in Saginaw unless otherwise noted.

**Thursday, February 26** - Library open, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 12** - Saginaw Choral Society presents *Considering Mathew Shepard*. See below.

**Sunday, March 15** – Monthly Meeting: Transgender Day of Visibility. Guest speaker will be Carmine Ludington from the Transgender Michigan Speaker's Bureau.

**Monday, March 16** - Book Club Soiree, 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 17** - Last day to submit items for the March-April newsletter

**Sunday, April 19** - Monthly Meeting: Topic to be announced

**Monday, April 20** - Book Club Soiree, 6:00 p.m.

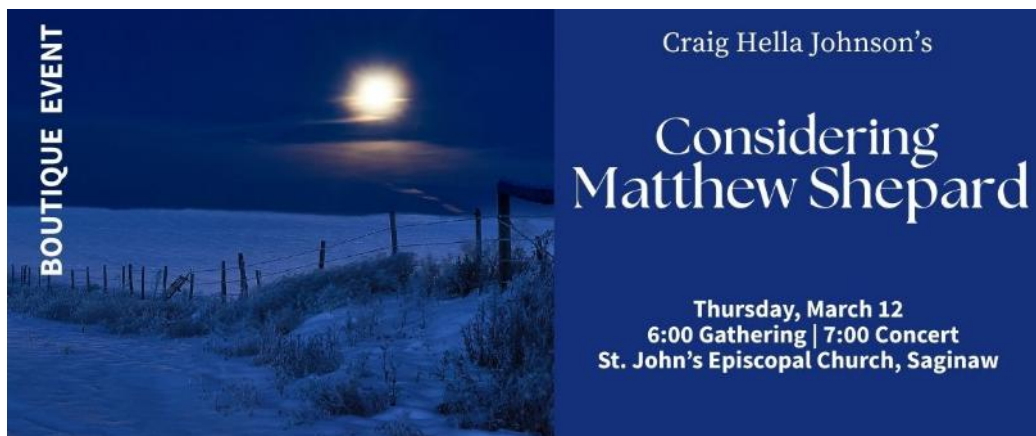
**Sunday, May 17** - Monthly Meeting: Topic to be announced

**Monday, May 18** - Book Club Soiree, 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 17** - Annual Chocolate Party at the Andersen Enrichment Center Rose Garden. Time: tba.

**Sunday, July 19** - Annual Summer Picnic at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Saginaw. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, [visit our website](#). You can follow us on our social media platforms [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you have any questions, email us at [pflagglb@gmail.com](mailto:pflagglb@gmail.com).



Saginaw Choral Society presents *Considering Matthew Shepard*. Together, we will experience this deeply emotional work reflecting on the life, death, and enduring legacy of Matthew Shepard, the young man whose tragic murder in 1998 became a national turning point in the conversation on hate crimes and LGBTQ+ rights. Hospitality Gathering at 6:00 PM with concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25 and available at [saginawchoralsociety.ludus.com](http://saginawchoralsociety.ludus.com) or call 989.753.1812

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**Saginaw's Outhouse Race.** On Saturday, February 14, Positive Results Downtown Saginaw held the annual Outhouse Race. The entry from PFLAG GLB's host, First United Methodist Church, was one of 16 entries. They lost their first race, won the second, lost the third. But they did win the People's Choice Award! Here's the completed outhouse before race day. And below the powerhouse team that pushed the outhouse across snow and grass to the finish line. If you'd like to watch an outhouse race video, [click here](#).





# FACT Community Service Hub *Saginaw*

Let our Saginaw Community Service Hub support your organization!

## Ready for your Needs!

Our Hub offers a comfortable, accessible, and functional setting for community-building activities. With a focus on collaboration and support, we aim to make your work seamless. Television monitors, Wi-Fi, video conferencing and more are available.

Whether you are hosting a parent group or parenting time, planning a meeting, conducting a training, or holding an outreach event, our space is designed to provide a welcoming environment for up to 25-30 guests.

**YOUR MISSION MATTERS!**



*989 READS – An innovative environment for new learning experiences*



*CURIOSITY CORNER – A dynamic space for family time, therapy and imaginative play*



*ZEN DEN – Ideal for hosting meetings, family time & gatherings*



*COLLABORATION STATION – Open concept workstations*



*THINK TANK – Open-concept workstations for professionals*



*LITTLELAND – A private and cozy space for child exploration and family time*



*UNITY ROOM – Multi-use room for small conferences and meeting*

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**3605 DAVENPORT AVENUE  
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# PFLAG NATIONAL GLOSSARY

The power of language to shape our perceptions of other people is immense. Precise use of terms in regards to gender and sexual orientation can have a significant impact on demystifying many of the misperceptions associated with these concepts. However, the vocabulary of both continues to evolve, and there is not universal agreement about the definitions of many terms. Here are some working definitions and examples of frequently used (and misused) terms as a starting point for dialogue and understanding. <https://pflag.org/glossary/>

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Our mailing address is:  
1st United Methodist Church of Saginaw  
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