

Being Welcoming

Rev. Ann Kadlecek and the Inclusivity Team
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
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Reflection

Sorrel Harrow

As a trans person, I'm pleased to say I'm generally treated rather well here. Not everyone addresses me in the way I'd like to be addressed, but more often than not they at least know to ask. I think anyone who comes here regularly at least has some awareness of the concept of transgenderism, and while I perfectly understand not wanting to make assumptions, I think it should be pretty obvious to most that I'm some form of non-cisgender person. The courteous response would be to ask me how I'd like to be addressed, and I think most people know that. And yet, I'm still misgendered at times without hesitation, which admittedly comes as a surprise. Here, of all places, I would hope people would at least think to seek clarification. So, while minor, it's injurious when people pay it no mind and don't even bother checking with me. A cisgender person can't really understand how painful the accumulation of these minor injuries from being misgendered really is. It does contribute to a sense that you're not a safe person to talk to here. And when enough people seem unsafe or unwelcoming, it makes people like me not want to come back.