

Celebrating the Gift

A Series on Sexuality

How can we celebrate our sexuality as a gift from God? This is the core question we'll consider in a series of 6 Sunday mornings in January and February 2014.



Planning Committee

The planning committee includes Hannah Canaviri, Karina Kreider, John Mast, Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Peter Shetler, Dan Schrock, Lisa Showalter, Margaret Stoltzfus and Lois Stoltzfus Mast.

A Resource for Your Own Study

Many resources on sexuality and spirituality are available. If you're interested in reading, one resource to consider is Anne Krabill Hershberger, ed., *Sexuality: God's Gift*, 2nd ed. (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2010).

Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship
2509 Berkey Avenue
Goshen, IN 46526
(574) 534-2398
office@berkeyavenue.org

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Tango Dancers by Boris Litvinov

Purpose of the Series

Our purpose in this series is to offer the congregation a chance to talk about a range of topics in human sexuality in conversation with scripture, Anabaptist-Mennonite theology and practice, cultural patterns, and our own experience as humans created in God's image. Key concepts include sexuality, sex, desire, intimacy, and covenant. We hope as many people as possible, from junior youth on up, will be able to talk with each other about sexuality issues in a safe and non-anxious environment.

Our purpose is not to develop any congregational vision, statement, or policy on human sexuality. On some topics, people in the congregation might find themselves mostly agreeing. On other topics, people might find themselves mostly disagreeing.

In this series asking thoughtful questions will be more important than coming up with "right" answers. In the worship service, the sermons, and the Christian education conversations, we want to keep questions at the forefront of our minds. Each week's topics will help us think about the overarching question for the series: How can we celebrate our sexuality as a gift from God?

Each Sunday, the worship service offers an introduction to the topic while the Christian Education hour offers a chance to talk about the topic in intergenerational groups.

Topics

January 19: *Desire and Covenant*



Core questions: How are our deepest desires for intimacy gifts from God? How do they draw us into whole relationships with God and others?

January 26: *Body Image*



Core questions: In what ways do we all carry the image of God? How can we see ourselves and each other as Christ sees us?

February 2: *Marriage*



Core questions: How is marital sexuality a gift for the community? How is sexuality expressed in covenanted relationships?

February 9: *Gay and Lesbian Relationships*



Core question: In a contested environment over LGBT relationships, how can we be Christ's loving, caring, healing presence for each other?

February 16: *Singleness*



Core questions: How is single sexuality a gift for the community? How is sexuality expressed in the life of a single person?

February 23: *Intimacy and Friendships*



Core question: How can we express intimacy in friendship?