

Sunday Service Notes



Service Date: October 27, 2019

Speaker: Gray Cohen

Speaker Notes

My story of truth and meaning starts when I was a child I was raised going to a Methodist church. I never really thought anything of it I would go to church on Sundays. I would do Sunday school. I would go to Children's Bible study and Children's Choir. It wasn't until 6th grade that I really started to think about what I believed it was also then that I started thinking more about sexuality and where I fell on that spectrum. I believed more in the feeling of comfort than the idea of a singular person in charge of the world. In High School, I wasn't super comfortable in the church that I grew up in which was a hard thing to come to terms with because it was such a big part of my life but I felt like I couldn't be my true self in that setting. But I kept going to church and then I got a job there so I was still there every Sunday it became more of a routine than any sort of religious experience. During my senior year of high school when lots more talk was coming up in the United Methodist conference about where they stand on LGBT+ clergy and marriages, the verdict wasn't looking good. Talk kept happening and there were special

conferences and all sorts of meetings that happened. The January that I started here at App was big for me I wasn't going to church anymore. I think that might be one of the longest periods of my life where I haven't gone to church, I did it because I needed to take a break. I needed to not just go to church because that's what you do on Sunday and it wasn't that anybody was telling me that that's what you do on Sunday that's just how it started and I liked my routine. But I took a break and spent that time thinking about my own religious truth and where I find meaning in life and then the United Methodist conference came out and was like nope don't support LGBT + clergy people or anything like that and that was really hard because even though most of the people in my home church did not agree with it, the fact that the Methodist Church said that who I was as a person was not fully a person in their eyes hurt. One thing that really sent me back looking for some sort of community, Church, Fellowship whatever you want to call it was something that my aunt wrote she wrote a story called Shades of Gray-A Story of Hope. A story where I was a superhero and I was trying to unite the Methodist conference and I did it. That struck something in me I didn't even know was there. I don't know if I'll go back to Methodist Church I couldn't bring myself to do it when I was home for Easter last year I don't know if I'll be able to do it for Christmas Eve. I do know that finding this community where I can be my true self in a religious-esque environment has helped me really think about what I believe and what my personal truth is.