

## Ashland Is United



Creating a Culture of Inclusivity and Acceptance

## June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month!

### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### **Why use the term queer? Isn't that a slur?**

While originally used as a derogatory term for gay men, it was claimed by this community to take the power away from those who used it to harm. The term has now become a word of pride and is used by many who identify as falling under the “umbrella” diverse sexualities and genders.

[https://www.cjr.org/language\\_corner/queer.php](https://www.cjr.org/language_corner/queer.php)

#### **What is the difference between gender and sexuality?**

Many people confuse sex and gender. Many wrongly assume that sex defines gender. *Sexual Orientation* describes who you are attracted to. *Gender Identity* is a person's internal sense of being masculine, feminine, or somewhere along the gender spectrum. There is growing awareness that gender identity is a personal identity that can change over time.

#### **Why have I been seeing/hearing people identifying their pronouns? Why are some people using they/them rather than he/him or she/her?**

There have always been people who experience their gender identity and/or gender expression as outside of the male-female gender binary. In some cultures, the presence of such nonbinary individuals is well known and well accepted. In our western culture this has not been so known and accepted. There is a growing movement to provide space in our world for such individuals. Many refer to themselves as nonbinary or gender fluid and some chose to use non-gendered pronouns. They/them (as a singular) is becoming the most common version of a non-gendered pronoun. Honoring a person's name and pronouns shows respect and acknowledgement of their gender and identity.

You don't have to fully understand to call someone what they prefer for themselves.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/trevor-support-center/a-guide-to-being-an-ally-to-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth/>

[https://www.learningforjustice.org/topics/gender-sexual-identity?gclid=CjwKCAjw\\_JuGBhBkEiwA1xmbRRQHlK7uPvJQ-I9Jh9CA9ZSm7Xq1HvgFh2FP6\\_V8Pf7s8FUPRfTpJxoCyc8QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.learningforjustice.org/topics/gender-sexual-identity?gclid=CjwKCAjw_JuGBhBkEiwA1xmbRRQHlK7uPvJQ-I9Jh9CA9ZSm7Xq1HvgFh2FP6_V8Pf7s8FUPRfTpJxoCyc8QAvD_BwE)

<https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/>

<https://pridefoundation.org/>