

Join us!
Sunday, March 9th

Ben Greene

Speaker, Author, Advocate

When I first came out 10 years ago, while living in a small town in Connecticut, I struggled with my identity, a lot. I did not know who I was or who I wanted to be, and I did not know if people around me would be able to love who I was becoming. I spent a year in the closet grappling with the notion of masculinity and where I fit in; I was dealing with intense anxiety and depression as I was preparing to lead an inauthentic, secretive, and short life. I had seen no positive representation of trans people, so I did not know living a happy life was an option.

When I finally came out, I was embraced with so much more love than I had imagined I deserved. With time, I learned to understand, accept, and love who I am, and I started to find my groove in education others in my school.

In college, I had an opportunity to deliver a TEDx talk about trans inclusion and allyship, I decided to take a leap of faith and try my hand at public speaking and advocacy work. I started to deliver presentations for more organizations and eventually was able to make a full-time career as a transgender person and LGBTQIA+ inclusion public speaker and a diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant. Using relevant statistics and data, personal stories, and more than a little bit of humor, I've been able to reach tens of thousands of hearts around the globe at hospitals, companies, government agencies, congregations, parent support groups, and community centers.

In 2020, I moved from Boston to St Louis, Missouri with my wife when she began medical school. I wasn't sure what to expect and was surprised and grateful to find a vibrant community of co-conspirators and champions in the fight for trans and queer equality. I stepped up as the first advocacy chair of PFLAG St Louis in 2023 and regularly visit the state capitol to testify against anti-trans legislation that targets my community. The community of advocates and activists in Missouri have taught me so much about how to build the world you want to live in.

In 2024, after six years of work, I published my first book: *My Child is Trans, Now What?* Which focuses on building joyful, supportive environments and futures for our transgender and nonbinary loved ones. I have joined over 100 parent support groups and have spent countless hours one-on-one with parents and families discussing how to support their family members. My work extends to several different fields, but it all points back to the same thing in everything I do. I'm just trying to maximize my good. Whoever you are, if you're reading this wondering if this means there could be love and hope for you too, the answer is yes. There is hope, there is opportunity, and it will get better. I fight every day to make sure that's true.

PFLAG is the extended family of LGBTQ+ and ally community. We are made up of LGBTQ+ individuals, family members and allies. Because together we are stronger.

Where We Meet ...

Lutheran Church of the Master
3333 Coolidge Hwy,
Troy, MI 48084

(Behind Somerset Mall)

Second Sunday of each month
(excluding Mother's Day, Easter, PRIDE- and Christmas)

Mailing Address:

PFLAG Detroit
PO Box 1169
Royal Oak MI
48068-1169

board@pflagdetroit.org

OUR MEETINGS...

As always, we welcome everyone, whether members or non-member and all GLBTQ+ folks, family, friends, and allies.

Our meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. with introductions, speakers, and followed by support groups. (Support Groups: New Parents, Parents of Transgender, Transgender, and General Support)

Due to the importance of the stories being told by persons in the group discussion, interruptions can be very distracting. We ask that you arrive on time to be able to enter these groups. Any person arriving late, after 2:15 p.m., may be asked to form their own group with a PFLAG greeter or Board Member. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Our speaker will present at 2:00 p.m. after brief announcements.



As we celebrate our 37th year, est. April 1987, we invite you to join us once again with a renewal of your membership. Those of you who are current members, we thank you for your contribution and support.

Your contribution, at whatever level, will help us continue to offer support, education, and advocacy to LGBTQ+ persons, their families, and friends. What does joining the chapter or renewing your membership do for you? It makes you a vital part of PFLAG's continuing effort to provide support to, education about, and advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, and friends.

What does your dues payment do for the chapter? It helps us maintain a stable financial base so that the board of directors can focus on responding to community needs; it pays the bills for maintaining our website, publications, program costs, and much more. The larger our membership, the more credibility PFLAG has in the community and the more able the chapter is to take on additional projects.

Does all your membership payment stay with this chapter? Most of it does, however, \$15 of your donation will be sent annually to PFLAG National to support their organizing and educational efforts on a nationwide scale. (If you asked us NOT to send annual dues to PFLAG National previously, WE WILL NOT) As a national member, you receive their quarterly publication, The PFLAGpole. You can also sign up to receive e-News and get more frequent updates about matters of importance to PFLAG and the LGBTQ+ community.

Is your membership donation tax-deductible? Yes! Once you donate, we will provide you documentation necessary for your IRS returns. Make checks payable to **PFLAG Detroit** and mail your membership to PFLAG Detroit, PO Box 1169, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1169

Support can take many forms. In addition to financial support, we have volunteer opportunities that you could consider. For more information on our volunteer needs, please contact me by e-mail at larry@pflagdetroit.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Larry Jack

PFLAG Board Member

	\$35.00 Individual
	\$45.00 Household
	\$55.00 Supporting
	\$105.00 Contributing
	\$1000.00 Lifetime
	Donation of Support