

UUCA Shows Up at Blue Ridge Pride Festival
Submitted by Margaret McAlister

Early Saturday morning, Pack Square was gray, misty, and oh so quiet....not for long! Riotous colors and joyous noise filled Pack Square all day Saturday with the annual Blue Ridge Pride participants and spectators. A predominant color seemed to be bright yellow...yes, it was the UUCA Yellow-Shirt Brigade!



We were about 30 strong marching down Patton Avenue with Rev. Claudia & Rev. Mark leading us. We also had a table staffed by the Universal Rainbow Unity (URU- get it?!) Committee all day at the Festival. We spoke to many Festival attendees- young and not so young, long time UUs and many who had not heard of UUs, but mainly, to people who thanked us for being there. We did see a few of them at our service Sunday!

UUCA continued the PRIDE celebration into worship on Sunday morning. Man Treble, an ensemble group from the Asheville Gay Men's Chorus, graced us with several beautiful and moving songs. Rev. Mark led the services, with

plenty of help from members of the congregation, including YRUU teens, celebrating our congregation's history of supporting LGBTQ+ rights, as well as current LGBTQ+ issues we are facing, and our hopes for the future.

The URU sends heartfelt thanks to all who showed up, and all who did the work to make sure we were well-represented at our first time fully participating in Blue Ridge Pride. We will definitely do it again next year!

