

FFWPU USA: 51+ Retreat Connects Single Older Unificationists

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Photo courtesy of Sdf Rahbar

A new kind of singles gathering is here - the upcoming [51+ Matching Connect](#) retreat is bringing together older Unificationists looking for love. The virtual meeting is a unique opportunity for first generation singles who are at least 46 years old to connect with their peers with the hope of finding their eternal spouse.

Hosted by the BFM Department, organizers said they are focusing on a sometimes overlooked demographic of the Unificationist community. "We will be taking care of the older folks," said Christian Nseka, a BFM matching advisor, during a presentation shared at an FFWPU-USA leaders meeting on Sept. 26. He said the retreat, which is free for participants in the U.S. and abroad, is open to any Unification members or affiliates who are legally single.

The meetup is being held on October 7 through Zoom from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT. A tentative schedule includes introductions as well as six breakout sessions over the course of the program. Individual reflection time is also a component of the retreat. Organizers noted that one-on-one talks with someone online in a breakout session might bring about "a mix of emotions," however, the program offers much more than just meeting new people. "[The retreat offers] practice asking good questions and really listening to people," organizers said, while advising participants to "be open."

Unificationist leaders are also encouraging older singles in their communities to register for the upcoming retreat. "I think [this program] would be a good experience for them, to put themselves out there," shared Rev. Miilhan Stephens, pastor of Manhattan Family Church. "[This opportunity] helps people with their deepest need," he said, referring to partnership and marriage as the "most joyful experience" in life.

While the retreat allows each participant to connect more personally with one another, organizers said it also helps them discover whether they are compatible through meaningful conversations. Since 2011, the Unification community has seen tremendous success connecting young couples with annual retreats held in person through the grassroots 24+ Connect program, and more recently hosted online. Similar 21+ and 30+ programs have also flourished.

True Parents have long emphasized the central role marriage plays in relation to God as individuals and as a couple, establishing the Marriage Blessing as the gateway.

"By the Blessing, we can receive God's substantiality and God's substance," True Father shared in his text, Blessing and Ideal Family. "That is why marriage means to inherit everything," he said. "The most valuable part of God's love is being bequeathed; God Himself is being bequeathed, and everything is being bequeathed. In these contexts we use the word 'Blessing' ... [which] means receiving good fortune."

You can learn more about the upcoming retreat [here](#), and register for free [here](#). Please contact Christian Nseka at cnseka@unification.org or Anne-Marie Mylar at amie2013@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.



About the Second 51+ Matching Connect

We're excited to have you join us for our second 51+ Matching Connect.

Thank you for registering to join us on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

Please note that the meeting will start at 3:00 PM (Eastern Time), which is:

- 2:00 PM (Central Standard Time)
- 1:00 PM (Mountain Standard Time)
- 12:00 PM (Pacific Standard Time)

Click [here](#) for a time zone reference.

Since we'll be meeting on Zoom, it will be best that you:

1. Look your best. This does not necessarily mean to wear a suit or nice dress, but simply look good. Nice lighting, hair well put together, etc. There might be someone who will see you for the first time.
2. Have reliable internet connection
3. Use a computer or laptop rather than a phone
4. Keep your video on at all times
5. Mute when not speaking
6. Be respectful of others whether in the main room or breakout rooms
7. Very important: Do not share the meeting link with anyone.
8. Login to Zoom at least 10 minutes before the meeting starts to make sure that your camera, speakers, and microphone are working properly.

Below is the tentative schedule.



Schedule

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Note: All times are Eastern Time (New York—USA). Click [here](#) for a time zone reference.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 3:00 PM | Letting participants into the meeting |
| 3:05 PM | Welcome and Opening Prayer |
| 3:10 PM | Introduction of the program (going over the schedule) —
<i>Christian Nseka and Anne-Marie Mylar</i> |
| 3:25 PM | Open the floor for any questions in case clarification is needed |
| 3:35 PM | First breakout session |
| 3:45 PM | Individual Reflection (or any question) |
| 3:50 PM | Second breakout session |
| 4:00 PM | Individual Reflection (or any question) |
| 4:05 PM | Third breakout session |
| 4:15 PM | Individual Reflection (or any question) |
| 4:20 PM | Fourth breakout session |
| 4:30 PM | Individual Reflection (or any question) |
| 4:35 PM | Fifth breakout session |
| 4:45 PM | Individual Reflection (or any question) |
| 4:50 PM | Sixth breakout session |
| 5:00 PM | Individual Reflection (or any question) |
| #: # PM | <i>(There will be as many breakout sessions as needed)</i> |
| #: # PM | <i>(The program's length will depend on number of participants)</i> |
| #: # PM | Open floor & requests to meet with a specific single once more |
| 8:00 PM | End of the program (<i>Tentative ending time</i>) |



A bit more on...

One-on-One Conversations

We acknowledge that the thought of a one-on-one with someone in a Zoom breakout might bring out a mix of emotions. Maybe that's exciting for you, maybe it generates some nervousness, or both.

What it looks like:

- Your discussion group will be divided into pairs (for 10 minutes) providing an opportunity for a short discussion of approximately 5 minutes per person.

The purpose:

- We encourage you to see this not just as a way to find out if someone is "right for you" or not, but to also practice asking good questions and really listening to people.
- This gives you an opportunity to connect more personally to each of the participants.
- It will also help you to find out whether you are right for the person you are having a conversation with.

Tips:

- Be open to meeting new people!
- Ask questions that bring out the best in others.
- Avoid asking questions that put others in an uncomfortable position.
- Ask questions of what you're really curious to know about.



51+ MATCHING CONNECT

Second 51+ Matching Connect - Registration is closed for ladies - Gentlemen should keep registering.

Saturday, October 7, 2023. From 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM (Eastern US & Canada Time).
Click [here](#) for a time zone reference.

Not shared

* Indicates required question

The **51+ Matching Connect** is a virtual meeting (on Zoom) to create an opportunity for First Gen Singles who are at least 46 years old to connect with their peers with the hope of finding their eternal spouse.
It's not necessary to be a matching candidate to attend. But, you must be willing to become a matching candidate by completing the Matching Application once a possibility of a matching presents itself.

Full Name: *

Your answer

Email Address: *

Your answer

Age: *

Your answer

Gender: *

- ☐ Gentleman
- ☐ Lady

Are you legally single? (You must be legally single to join) *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you listed on a Matching platform? *

- ☐ OMS
- ☐ Blessing4U
- ☐ I am still working on it
- ☐ No, I am not listed on any platform

Local Church or Church Affiliation: *

Your answer

Country of Residence: *

Your answer

Citizenship: *

Your answer

Matching Supporter's Full Name: *

Your answer

Matching Supporter's Email Address: *

Your answer



Only one submission per person.
You will not be able to edit your responses once they are submitted.

Submit

Clear form

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was created inside of FFWPU. [Report Abuse](#)

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