



# CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah

OCTOBER and early November, 2025

## UUFSU Programs



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#### BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup> INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING: "Water Communion"** - Join us for one of our most beloved Unitarian Universalist traditions! This month (theme: **Equity**) we'll explore how access to something as simple and vital as clean water differs around the world. **Please bring a small container of water (12 oz or less) from a special place in your life**—whether it is a favorite lake, the ocean, or even your kitchen tap. Together we'll pour our waters and our stories into one community.

**Oct 12<sup>th</sup> CHALICE SERVICE: "General Assembly 25: Meet the Moment"** - with Linda Mihalik, President of the Board of Directors, UUFSU. Child care is offered during this service (see Page 7 for details)

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup> FORUM: "The Sharing Place"** with Heather Lungren, director. The Sharing Place, newly opened in Washington County has its mission to "provide a safe and caring environment for grieving children, teens, and their families to share their feelings while healing themselves."

Separate/concurrent children/youth programming: Kids 3-9 will explore the theme of **equity** with stories, creativity, and LEGO fun—building a world where everyone belongs! Youth 10+ will light their group's chalice, learn "Spirit of Life" song, and share thoughts on equity and equality.

**Oct 26<sup>th</sup> CHALICE SERVICE: "Dignity Index (what, when, why and HOW to use)"** Panel discussion by members who attended of the Salt Lake City Dignity Leadership Summit. Child care is offered during this service (see Page 7 for details).

### 7<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

*"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence  
of which we are part."*

CONNECTIONS is a periodic publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah (UUFSU).  
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## WAYS WE ACT ON OUR PRINCIPLES

The [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth](#) envisions a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people. Their purpose is to inspire, facilitate, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings. They affirm and promote the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, including: “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

### Key Aspects of the 7th Principle

- **Interconnectedness**: It emphasizes the fundamental idea that everything in the universe is connected and interdependent.
- **Environmental Stewardship**: The principle serves as a foundation for environmental ethics, encouraging the protection of the Earth and all its inhabitants.
- **Beyond Environmentalism**: It goes beyond a purely ecological concept to include the spiritual and philosophical understanding of the oneness of existence and the creative force that sustains life.
- **Moral Guide**: For UU ministers and congregations, it is a commitment to living in a way that honors this interdependence, protecting life, and recognizing our place within the larger system.
- **A Response to Oppression**: It is also framed as a counter to individualism, offering a vision of community and interdependence that can help resolve conflicts and move away from systems of exploitation.

## ACTIVITIES - UPCOMING

**CIRCLE GROUPS** are meeting. If you signed up for a group, a coordinator will contact you. However, if you did not sign up or if you would like to join or form a group, sign-up sheets available on back table.

**DIGNITY INDEX** study group will be forming following the October **Leadership Summit** (see Page 8).

**NEW MEMBER INFORMATION/ORIENTATION** will be held on **November 2<sup>nd</sup> (4 to 6:30 p.m.)** at the Bourke/Foster residence. A light supper and child care will be available. Please register early as information materials will be assembled. Contact Ann Foster, [shdwker@gmail.com](mailto:shdwker@gmail.com) to register and receive directions.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



## DISCUSSION GROUPS on Zoom



### **OPEN MINDS (OM) GROUP** (Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm)

The OM (Open Minds) discussion group will continue meeting on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The group is currently discussing "*Humankind, A Hopeful History*" by Rutger Bergman and will continue until the 5 parts are reviewed. For the Zoom link, contact Susan Mullins at [susan141@gmail.com](mailto:susan141@gmail.com). *New discussion participants are always welcome!*



**MOVIE CLUB GROUP** (Zoom at 4pm – October 5th<sup>h</sup>) The UUFSU Movie Group will be discussing "**PARASITE**" on Sunday, October 5th, 2025 at 4 pm MST by Zoom. This Korean film is described as "a masterful exploration of class disparity, blending dark comedy, thriller and commentary into a gripping narrative that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats." **PARASITE** won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2020. It can be streamed on Netflix and HBO Max among other services. The official trailer can be found [here](#). If interested in receiving the Zoom link to join this discussion, contact Barb Gillespie at [nanabarb6472@gmail.com](mailto:nanabarb6472@gmail.com).

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board meeting will be held **October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** at Grace Episcopal Church. The meeting is open to all members. To place anything on the agenda, contact [president@uufsu.org](mailto:president@uufsu.org) at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

**Officers:** **President**, Linda Mahlaik  
**Vice President**, Bill Bohling  
**Secretary**, Glenn Berg  
**Treasurer**, Brinton Bohling

**Members-at-Large:** Teri Koenig  
Kay Ross



## LOCATION

UUFSU meets at [Grace Episcopal Church, 1072 E 900 S, St. George](#) and the Sunday program time is **1:00 pm** followed by beverages, light refreshments, and discussion. The facility offers plenty of space for Fellowship growth including two rooms for child/youth programs, a large kitchen, safe parking and an outdoor area for activities.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT/SOCIAL JUSTICE



Since 1993, The Sharing Place has been fulfilling its mission to “provide a safe and caring environment for grieving children, teens, and their families to share their feelings while healing themselves.” This is achieved through a support group model that emphasizes acknowledging any and all feelings related to grief, connection with others experiencing grief, and channeling feelings through art, play, and discussion.

The Sharing Place was founded when a determined young mother, Chris Chytraus, sought help for her two children after their father died. She soon discovered there was a lack of resources in the Salt Lake City area for grieving children. With the help of her children’s therapist, Nancy Reiser, The Sharing Place grief support groups were created. The Sharing Place has provided a safe haven to grieving families since 1993, providing hope not only to Chris and her children but to thousands of others their journey has touched. The majority of funding for The Sharing Place comes from businesses, foundations, and individuals. Please make a donation in the acrylic box at our Welcome Table or donate online [here](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE AWARENESS & ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE



## MEMBER NEWS



**Dennis Jorgensen** died peacefully at home on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Dennis was a new member of UUFSU, joining last spring. He and his partner, Steve Thomas, were active for many years in the UU congregation in Idaho Falls before moving to Mesquite which is at a lower altitude and was better for Dennis’s pulmonary condition. Dennis will be remembered for his cheerful, brave manner and his culinary skill in creating delicious snacks which he shared at several fellowship events.



## INFORMATION /INSPIRATION

*For all that is our life  
we sing our thanks and praise;  
for all life is a gift  
which we are called to use  
to build the common good  
and make our own days glad.*

This verse is the poetry of why we are UU's. You /we build the common good and make MY days glad as we celebrate the gift of life together. That is why I give generously to our Fellowship through my annual pledge. I am asking you to do the same, to the best of your ability, during our Annual Pledge Drive.

We count heavily on your financial involvement - by far pledges are our main source of income. Income that not only pays the rent but will help us reach our big plans of expanding our children's programming, involvement in the Dignity Index, community outreach, community service, book and movie clubs, and additional resources for our services. Perhaps more exciting activities - what are your ideas?

Pledges allow us to anticipate our income so that we can spend wisely for now and our future. Now through October 26 at Sunday services we will have pledge cards, or you can have one mailed to you (contact [treasurer@uufsu.org](mailto:treasurer@uufsu.org)). You pay your pledge as your budget allows (weekly, monthly, annually, etc.) via check, cash (please put it in an envelope with your name on it so we can credit you), directly from your bank account, or money transfer service (we do not use PayPal or credit cards).

I'm happy to take your call at **440-829-5848** or email me at [president@uufsu.org](mailto:president@uufsu.org) if you need info about this or anything.

Thank you for making my days glad!

In Community,  
Linda Mihalik  
President

## Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide

The new, updated Unitarian Universalist Pocked Guide is now available. It's a basic yet passionate explanation of our central values and commitments. I've found it helpful in its incorporation of our newly adopted Values. Order at [uuabookstore.org](http://uuabookstore.org). You'll find many other inspiring books there, too.

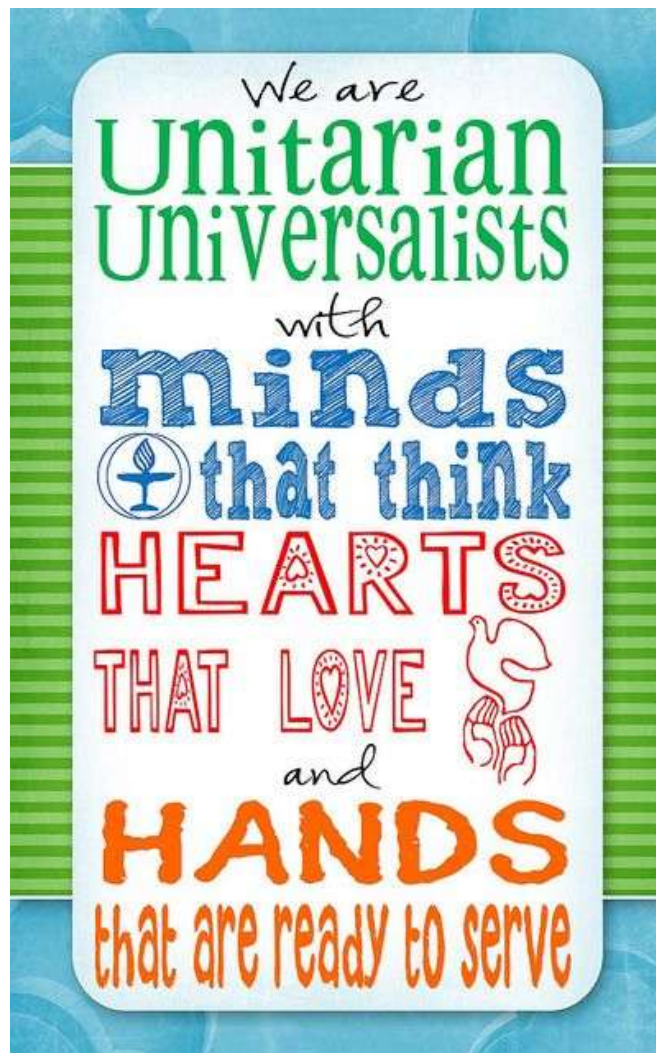




## Fellowship Volunteers Needed!

You are needed! We are an entirely volunteer-run organization, so it takes all of us to make it work. Please lend a hand to lighten the load by joining one of these committees (time commitments vary, ask the chair for more info). *It's a wonderful way to strengthen your community!!*

- **Membership:** *Linda Mihalik*
- **Programs/Worship:** *Joyce Spinelli*
- **Care/Welcome:** *Diane Richardson/Barbara Gillespie*
- **Audio/Visual:** *Glenn Berg*
- **Marketing:** *Clare Sowinski*
- **Finance:** *Brinton Bohling*
- **Children/Youth:** *Sara Bohling/Ann Foster*



## KIDS CORNER

***At UUFSU, we joyfully embrace children and families as an essential part of our beloved community.*** Our children's and youth programming is designed to be engaging, inclusive, and fun—a place where young minds can explore, grow, and connect while learning the values that define Unitarian Universalism, including the UUA's [Shared Values](#) and [Seven Principles](#).

Intergenerational gatherings are held the 1st Sunday of each month and incorporate stories, music, videos, and activities that are interesting and engaging for ALL ages. On the 3rd Sunday of every month, we offer separate programming for children (ages 3 to 9) and youth (ages 10+) concurrent with the adult programming.

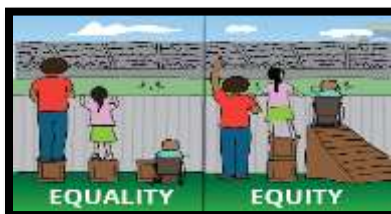
**In October, our Children/Youth programs will focus on the shared value of *Equity*.**



- **Oct 5<sup>th</sup>:** Join us for our all-ages Water Communion as we explore the theme of equity through the lens of clean water access around the world and celebrate the waters that sustain and connect us! Please bring a small container (12 oz or less) of water from a place that matters to you—whether it's from a faraway ocean or right from your kitchen sink.



- **Oct 19<sup>th</sup>:** Kids aged 3-9 get to explore equity with a story by beloved children's author Mo Willems and some LEGO inspiration on designing places for all people! Come ready to build, play, and dream up a more inclusive world. Youth 10+ will light their chalice, learn the popular UU song, "Spirit of Life" and discuss Equity and Equality.



We also offer **child care on the 2nd and 4th Sundays** of every month. On these days, parents are welcome to drop off their child(ren) in the kids' room starting at 12:45 pm, where they can engage in supervised free play for the length of the service. If using the child care room, we recommend that parents arrive early to get their children settled before the start of the service. Youth (10+) are encouraged to attend the adult programs on these days.



## UUFSU WeCare/WeShare Support

**WeCare Program:** Are you recovering from an illness, injury, or surgery? Or for another reason, do you need a temporary helping hand? WeCare will do its best to meet the needs of our UUFSU Community with things like:



- Homemade or catered meals
- Rides to doctors' and PT appointments
- Other requests? Let's talk about what is possible.



**WeShare Program:** Do you temporarily need tools? Medical or yard equipment? A stroller, highchair, crib? Something else? Contact us to see if anyone in our Fellowship Community may be able to loan you what you need.



For both WeCare and WeShare requests, email [UUFSUWeCare@gmail.com](mailto:UUFSUWeCare@gmail.com) or call (435) 414-1230 (#12).

## FROM THE UU-VERSE

*Information from other UU sources including the groups with similar values, the UUA and other UU congregations.*

**Support immigrants detained by ICE in Southern Utah.** Many UU congregations are acting to assist and support immigrants. A group is forming, for more information, contact Sarah Thomas at [puhauniverse@gmail.com](mailto:puhauniverse@gmail.com). See the **attached flyer**.

### **Dignity Leadership Summit Registration - October 19-20, 2025**

Several of our members have signed up to attend this event and we hope others will be able to attend too. There is a \$125 fee for the conference and arrangements for travel and lodging will depend on who wants to go. You can coordinate transportation and lodging with Joyce at [joyceronspinelli@gmail.com](mailto:joyceronspinelli@gmail.com). Please see Tim Shriver's invitation for [participation here](#) and you can [register here](#). Anyone wishing to attend the summit may apply for reimbursement up to \$200. *Ask any board member and provide proof of registration.*

THE DIGNITY INDEX

**Attend to be inspired.  
Then become the inspiration...**







Our Unitarian Universalist values have always pushed our people to show up, to risk, to struggle for justice and liberation and radically inclusive communities centered in Love. The heart of our faith transcends cultural shifts and political trends. At our best, Unitarian Universalists are both deeply grounded in our core values and shared commitments *and* nimble enough to respond to the challenges and opportunities that emerge in rapidly changing times.

*Meet the Moment* is a movement-wide framework helping Unitarian Universalists analyze, discern, and take values-based action in response to today's religious, cultural, generational, and political realities. The Unitarian Universalist Association has designed and is offering ways congregations can use Meet the Moment tools. Please take a moment to explore them at [www.uua.org/congregations/meet-the-moment](http://www.uua.org/congregations/meet-the-moment).

If you are drawn to participate in any of these activities and bring them to UUFSU I encourage you to enroll! Please let me know so that we can incorporate into our services and community work. **You can help us think about and take action on issues of concern to us!**

**In solidarity,**  
Linda Mihalik, President

## BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

**The UUFSU Fall pledge drive for the 2025-2026 budget year is off to a great start.** We have received more than half a dozen pledge cards and pledges totaling over 10K. We are roughly one-third of the way to our pledge goal of \$30,000. We will be handing out pledge cards next week again for those who did not receive one and accepting returned pledges from those who brought their cards home. If you would like to submit the pledge via email using an electronic form, see the **attached pledge invitation**. Please email it to [treasurer@uufsu.org](mailto:treasurer@uufsu.org).

**Newsletter submissions** are due by the 15th of the month for publication in the CONNECTION the following month. Please send your cartoons, nonpolitical items, and articles to Sue McClosky, [suemccloskey@gmail.com](mailto:suemccloskey@gmail.com).

