



CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah

SEPTEMBER & early OCTOBER 2025

UUFSU Programs



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CONNECTIONS is a periodic publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah (UUFSU).

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Sep 7th INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING: "Good News, Bad News." This service for **ALL AGES** will examine the UU shared value of "pluralism," and in particular the importance of considering the limits of our own perspective while recognizing the value of others'. Together we'll watch a short video, read an interactive story, and play a visual perception game. Adults and youth will then listen to and discuss an excerpt from David Foster Wallace's "This is Water" while younger children complete an art project.

Sep 14th SERVICE: "The Bubble." This service will center on a video presentation of a sermon by Rev. J of First Church "The Bubble." The title refers to the insulating bubbles that we all live in which isolate us from people who are different and/or undesirable to us. Rev. J will tell of some of the bubbles she has lived in and how they affected her. There will be a chalice lighting, music, readings, and a discussion to follow.
Child care is offered during this service (see Page 6 for details).

Sep 21st FORUM: "Founders of Dixie Cooperative." Sharon Shores and Keith Kelch will present their innovative solution to our community's affordable housing crisis. Dixie Cooperative is a member managed organization of businesses and community volunteers with a commitment to provide affordable housing in St. George and surrounding communities. It's an exciting and completely unique, groundbreaking project that merits your attention. We will also host separate/concurrent programs for children (ages 3-9). Kids (10+) will meet in their separate class on developing spirituality.

Sep 28th SERVICE: "Philosophical Ethics." Hosted by Emma Prendergast (Assistant Professor of Philosophy and the Humanities Center Director at Utah Tech University). Together, we'll explore a range of ethical perspectives, from the ethics of justice to the ethics of care and reflect on how they shape our choices in a complex world. There will be a chalice lighting, music, readings, and a discussion to follow.
Child care is offered during this service (see Page 6 for details).

1st PRINCIPLE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

"The inherent worth and dignity of every person."

WAYS WE ACT ON OUR PRINCIPLES

The first of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Seven Principles is the affirmation and promotion of *"the inherent worth and dignity of every person."* This principle emphasizes the belief that every individual possesses intrinsic value and deserves respect, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances.



Here's a breakdown of the concept:

- Inherent Worth: This refers to the idea that each person's value is not earned or granted but is inherent to their being.
- Dignity: This means that each person deserves to be treated with respect and honor.
- Every Person: This highlights the principle's inclusivity, extending this worth and dignity to all individuals.

The UUA's first principle is rooted in the belief that there is potential for good in all dimensions of being, and it encourages celebrating human gifts and cherishing both body and soul. It also emphasizes self-respect and respect for others.

ACTIVITIES - UPCOMING

CIRCLE GROUPS will restart meeting. If you signed up for a group, your coordinator will contact you. However, if you did not sign up or if you would like to join or form a group, sheets will be available at Sept. 7th and 14th programs.

PRIDE IN THE PARK will be held 11 to 5 on Saturday, Sept. 27th at JC SNOW PARK (275 E 900 S); there will be live performances, food trucks, local vendors and more. Volunteers are needed for the UUFSU information booth! Contact David Salisbury, dbsalisb@gmail.com to volunteer for a shift.

DIGNITY INDEX study group will be forming following the Leadership Summit (see page 4).

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION/ORIENTATION will be held in October; details will be provided in the October Connection.

DISCUSSION GROUPS on Zoom



OPEN MINDS (OM) GROUP (Zoom)

The OM (Open Minds) discussion group shares ideas and thoughts on significant nonfiction books over a several week period. Participants read and discuss 50 – 70 pages a week. All interested readers are encouraged to learn more about the group and proposed books to be discussed. The start date, times and book selection will be set soon. Contact Susan Mullins at susan141@gmail.com.





MOVIE CLUB (Zoom at 4pm – September 7th)

The Movie Group has chosen [The Annihilation of Fish](#), for a discussion worthy romantic film exploring the themes of companionship and mental health in the elderly. In Charles Burnett's charming film, Lynn Redgrave plays a former housewife with an imagined lover, opera composer Puccini. She moves into a L.A. boarding house where she meets a Jamaican widower, Fish (James Earl Jones), recently released from a mental institution despite his continued battles against unseen demons. In the face of personal challenges and differences, the couple grows together. This movie can be rented or purchased online through various platforms. Options include Kanopy, Amazon Video, Apple TV, and others (see [trailer here](#)). If interested in watching the film on your own and then joining us for this Zoom discussion, contact **Barb Gillespie** for the Zoom link.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The **September Board meeting** will be held on Friday, September 26 at 1pm at Grace Episcopal Church. The meeting is open to all members.



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

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. 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 Long Game in Affordable Housing

The Dixie Cooperative (www.dixiecooperative.com) is a community cooperative serving members who live in Washington County, UT. They bring services to their members that otherwise could not be achieved through existing institutions. A cooperative is a pooling of collective strengths, a perfectly conserved social human ecology. They don't need tax dollars, they need each other.

"In the Dixie Cooperative we create affordable housing, fuel innovative startups, and increase value for every member, year after year. We're building a community that works together. It's time we see what we can do together again." **To donate**, place your donation in the labeled acrylic box on the welcome table or donate at their [website here](http://www.dixiecooperative.com).

The Sharing Place (www.thesharingplace.org) offers support for children, teens, and other family members during times of grief following loss. TSP is offering services to grieving families in Washington County beginning this fall in their new facility! Their grand opening weekend is on September 12 (ribbon cutting 11am - light lunch provided) and September 13 (community open house 10am-noon) at their new Santa Clara facility, 2711 Santa Clara Drive.



ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE AWARENESS & ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE



Citizens Climate Lobby Meeting

Thursday, September 11th, 5-6 pm. This nonpartisan group is open to anyone who is serious about solving climate change.

Location: Utah Tech Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) building room 418. Bring a friend. Or join us on Zoom: [Citizens Climate Lobby Zoom Meeting](#)

Free parking is available after 4:30 in the lot north of the building accessed from 100 South (between 700 and 1000 East), St. George. SET is east of the Eccles Fine Arts Building. Campus map is found here: [Utah Tech Map](#).

Contact Jean Lown, jean.lown@usu.edu, for more information on the action items to be covered at the meeting,



MEMBER NEWS

MIKE STEPHENS, UUFSU member/snowbird, passed away in his beloved Michigan home on July 28th after several months on hospice care. His wife, Karan Chapman has returned to St. George. There will be a future gathering in his honor. (photo unavailable).



WARREN WRIGHT, UUFSU Founder, passed peacefully of natural causes at his home on August 18th. There will be no separate memorial service for him at his wife's request; a tribute will be given at one of the September services.



INFORMATION /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.

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



KIDS CORNER



At UUFSU, we joyfully embrace children and families as an essential part of our beloved community. Our children's 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 September, our Religious Education (RE) program will focus on the shared value of ***Pluralism***.

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 the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

We're excited to welcome everyone back from summer break and look forward to a great year of expanded programming for children and youth!

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 or call (435) 414-1230 (#12).



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

PLEDGES and DONATIONS are necessary to fund our fellowship's activities. The 2025-2026 Fiscal year began on July 1, 2025. Please consider making a pledge! Pledges are required along with signing the UUFSU membership book to qualify for "membership" to vote on UUFSU matters. Pledges are different than general donations. Pledges are a promise to pay the pledged amount at some future time and allow us to manage our fellowship needs with that future money in mind. Pledges provide funding for outside speakers (including visiting ministers), to develop weekly programs for children/youth, to extend growth of the Fellowship community in southwest Utah, and for facility needs.

Contact Treasurer@uufsu.org for a pledge form (required). If you prefer to donate but not pledge, you may mail your donation to UUFSU, P.O. Box 3142, St. George, Utah 84771, or you can also donate on the website by PayPal, credit, or debit card by clicking on the **DONATE** button at uufsu.org.

Donating is appreciated but does not make one a voting member - pledging is required. Thank you!

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 Ann Foster, shdwker@gmail.com and Sue McCloskey, suemccloskey@gmail.com.



**Autumn Equinox
(Sep 22, 2025, 12:19 PM)**

