



CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah

MARCH and Early APRIL 2026

UUFSSU Programs



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CONNECTIONS is a periodic publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah (UUFSSU)
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Mar 1st INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING (1:00 pm): "The Stories Between Us: Community Through Conversation." What helps a group of people become a community? This all-ages service explores the idea that being truly seen—and taking the time to listen to one another's stories—is at the heart of belonging. Through story, song, and shared reflection, we'll consider how small moments of attention can quietly shape a more connected, compassionate community.

Mar 8th SERVICE (1:00 pm): "Getting to Know You." A video of Reverend Monica Dobbins, Assistant Minister of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City, sermon entitled "Getting to Know You" will be featured. Monica pivots from discussing the Minnesota Unitarians heartfelt engagement in protesting ICE's activities to her reflections on the value of community and how deeply it is embedded in the Unitarian culture. A segment of the service will also be devoted to members sharing their joys and sorrows. *Child care is offered during this service (see Page 7 for details).*

Mar 15th SERVICE (1:00 pm): "Social Responsibility – The Complexity of Contributing to the Common Good" Sobering societal dynamics have many of us seeking ways to make a difference. This presentation by Pam Gardiol will explore how we can contribute individually and collectively to the common good. Pam has been active in the public sector for many years in consulting, teaching, and public service.

Special Child/Youth Programs - For kids 3-9, this Spring Break service explores how working together—listening, helping, and sharing—helps us do things we couldn't do alone. Youth 10+ will explore the creation of a youth community within UUFSSU.

Mar 22nd SERVICE (1:00 pm): "Warmth of Community" video by Rev. Beth Dana, Dallas First Unitarian Church. This is also to be followed by UUFSSU Annual Meeting. *Child care is offered during this service (see Page 7 for details).*

Mar 29th SERVICE PROJECT: "Virgin River Cleanup." Join us for a hands-on service project as we care for the Virgin River and the life it sustains. Spend time outside, build community, and make a visible difference by cleaning up the riverbank. All ages welcome. **We'll meet at Grace Church at 1pm and carpool.** Wear comfortable clothes/shoes; we'll provide the cleanup tools.

COMMUNITY



"Community is a place where the connections felt in our hearts make themselves known in the bonds between people, and where the tuggings and pullings of those bonds keep opening our hearts."

(Parker J. Palmer is a renowned American writer, speaker, activist, and Quaker elder known for his work on education, community, leadership, spirituality, and social change.)

ACTIVITIES - UPCOMING

Sunday, Mar 1st (2:45 – 4:45 pm): NEW MEMBER INFORMATION & ORIENTATION will be held at Grace Church following the service, healthy snacks and child care will be provided. Please register early as information materials will be assembled. Contact Ann Foster, shdwker@gmail.com to register. NOTE: Current UUFSU members and friends, who would like a “refresher” on UU history and UUFSU, are also welcome to attend. Please contact or email Ann.

Sunday, Mar 8th: The Program Committee meets on the second Sunday following the service.

GAME DAY!!



Friday, Mar 20th (2-4 pm): Fun for All Ages Game Day! 🎲

Meet at Grace Episcopal & UUFSU Fellowship Hall and join us for an afternoon of laughter, fellowship, and friendly competition! We'll have a variety of board games and card games available for everyone to enjoy. All ages are welcome—bring your family and come ready for fun! Feel free to bring your favorite board game or card game, along with a light snack to share (see Page 9).

Saturday, Mar 21st (9 am to 1 pm): THE DIGNITY INDEX will be presented at Utah Tech in the General Classroom Building (GCB), room 220. People enrolled for the spring semester at ICL (Institute for Continued Learning) need to register on line; there is no charge. Others who are not registered for ICL classes this spring need to call [435-652-7670](tel:435-652-7670) to register for this session only.



DISCUSSION GROUPS on Zoom



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

The Open Minds Book club has selected ***Abundance*** by Ezra Klein and Dereck Thompson for discussion in March. To learn more about the group (which is open to all interested readers) and to receive the Zoom link, contact Susan Mullins at susan141@gmail.com.



MOVIE CLUB GROUP (Zoom on March 8th at 4pm): ***Clickbait*** explores the dark side of social media. In one thread of the story, a father goes missing, only to appear in a viral video holding a sign saying that he will die if the video receives five million views. It's an eight part series of what can go wrong, terribly wrong, when online dating sites are used inappropriately. Click [HERE](#) for the official trailer. To receive the Zoom link, contact Barb Gillespie at nanabarb6472@gmail.com.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next Board Meeting will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on **March 22nd after the service in lieu of the discussion**. The meeting is open to all members. To place anything on the agenda, contact president@uufsu.org at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

Officers:

President, Linda Mihalik
Vice President, Bill Bohling
Treasurer, Brinton Bohling
Secretary, Cameron Ferguson



Members-at-Large:

Teri Koenig
Kay Ross

SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Meeting is just a few weeks away! We will be voting on new board members, the 2026-27 budget, and a few changes to the by-laws **after the service on March 22nd**. This is an important meeting for voting members (signed membership book and made a current pledge).

LOCATION

UUFSSU meets at [Grace Episcopal Church, 1072 E 900 S, St. George](#) and the Sunday program time is **1:00 p.m.** followed by beverages 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.



Please arrive early to be seated and enjoy the prelude music so that the service can begin promptly at 1:00 pm.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT/SOCIAL JUSTICE



TOGETHERWORKS SOUTHERN UTAH is a non-partisan 502c (4) non-profit corporation; a coalition of Independents, Democrats and disillusioned Republicans – and newly awakened citizens – bound not by labels but by shared purpose. See www.togetherworks.net for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE AWARENESS & ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

2025: A Year of Fire and Floods... What will 2026 Bring? By Jean Lown

Last year was Earth's third hottest globally, but temperature is just one measure of climate change's influence. Last year began with [history-making fires in Los Angeles](#) and closed with catastrophic floods in the northwest. During the LA fires I just happened to be reading *Fire Weather: A true story from a hotter world* by John Vaillant about the fire that devastated Fort McMurray, Alberta. On May 3, 2016, typically a very wet time of year but in severe drought, a [wildfire](#) swept through the community, fanned by high winds, forcing the largest wildfire evacuation in [Alberta's history](#), with 88,000 people forced from their homes. It destroyed 2,400 homes and buildings. At the height of the blaze the only way firefighters could save homes in the path of the fierce winds was to bulldoze five houses in order to save the 6th in line. Another 2,000 residents in three communities were displaced after their homes were declared unsafe due to toxic contamination, a problem that currently plagues LA residents whose homes survived. The fire continued to spread across [northern Alberta](#) and into Saskatchewan. With estimated damages of US\$7.61 billion, it was the costliest disaster in [Canadian history](#). Altogether 1,500,000 acres burned before it was declared under control on July 5, 2016. It continued to smolder and was finally extinguished on August 2, 2017. Yes, more than a year later!

I highly recommend Vaillant's gripping book which is available from the Washington County Library. The main "take away" for me: Washington County suffers from the same weather conditions that burned LA and Fort McMurray: prolonged drought, record high temperatures, strong winds, and highly flammable landscaping. Our climate is changing with daily high temperatures 15-18 degrees above average daily highs. The Forsyth Fire in Pine Valley destroyed 17 homes and took more than a month to fully contain despite considerable "fire power."

Our politicians may deny or dismiss climate change, but the insurance industry is a true believer! What to do? Many Utah homeowners are being forced to modify their landscaping or search for a different insurance company which are only short-term solutions. Weather professionals and news articles may refer to a "new normal" but that would assume no further changes in our climate, which is highly unlikely. The Citizens' Climate Lobby - citizensclimatelobby.org - focuses on federal legislation to address our changing climate.



Red Mountain Land Protectors



Red Mountain Land Protectors (RMLP) is a group of Shivwits who are standing up to protect their sacred land from a developer's plans to build golf courses, a hotel, and a stadium. This land is not only culturally significant but may also contain burial sites and irreplaceable natural resources. As a supporter of RMLP, we are helping to raise funds so they can continue their fight to preserve what matters most to their community and to all of us who care about justice and the environment.

The urgency is real: the developer has already started placing survey markers and refuses to disclose the contract or timeline. We fear that bulldozers could arrive at any moment, threatening to destroy sacred sites and disrupt the lives of countless desert animals. The community is facing a terrible injustice as big business corporations seek to exploit Red Mountain, using more water than our city can provide and pushing out local businesses. Promises of economic development often come at the cost of higher taxes, lost habitats, and a diminished quality of life for everyone except the wealthy few.

To stop the developer, RMLP needs funds to hire a lawyer, bring in an archaeologist, and cover all expenses related to fighting this battle. Your support will help us stand up for the land, the people, and the future of our community. Please join us in this fight—every donation, share, and show of solidarity makes a difference. Together, we can protect Red Mountain and ensure it remains a place of beauty, history, and life for generations to come.

The Shivwits need legislative help which can be found [HERE](#) and [FUNDS](#) for legal help to defeat HR 3073 and S 1508. ***Please help if you can!***

MEMBER NEWS

“As my term as President comes to an end, I want to share with everyone how proud I am of our growth and development in the past year. We moved to our new space in January of 2025 with great enthusiasm and quickly settled in. Everyone came together to make our space comfortable, welcome new members, develop our intergenerational and children's offerings, and take our Sunday services to a new level. Behind the scenes the Board of Trustees instituted new procedures, especially with our Information Technology and record keeping, supported the interest in the Dignity Index, improved our financial management, and proposed changes to our by-laws that improve our governance. In October we met 100% of our fundraising goal through pledges for this budget year.

So many of you have had a pivotal role in our church year that I can't name all of you. Thank you with gratitude! I am heartened when I walk in on Sunday and see so many busy hands and smiling faces!



I humbly ask that you continue your commitment to UUFSU no matter what your interest and availability. We are a small, totally volunteer organization so it takes every one of us to contribute as we can; it doesn't have to be weekly, or monthly, or even consistently. There's always something you can do!"

Thank you for a great year.

Yours in Fellowship,
Linda

Photo Privacy – photos are often taken at UUFSU programs and events, these candid photos are sometimes used for UUFSU fellowship publications and on social media outlets. If you do not wish to have your image or your child's image shared, please send an email to the UUFSU via administrator@uufsu.org.

INFORMATION /INSPIRATION

Michael Schaugaard is an active member of UUFSU who recently retired from the St. George Vet Center where he provided confidential psychological counseling services to veterans, service members and their families. Michael served in the United States Air Force for 14 years and earned his PhD from the University of South Florida, in Tampa. Michael has worked in some form of mental health services since 1988 and has found it to be a very satisfying career. He contributes to our fellowship in many ways including keeping our Facebook page up to date each week. On Feb. 8, 2026 he spoke about **Honoring Our Connections**, which was well received and a copy of his talk was requested by several attendees. Michael provided the text for contemplation and inspiration. his speech about **Honoring Our Connections** can be found [HERE](#) for your reading pleasure.

WANTED: Chorister (song leader)!! The Program Committee is looking for someone who can carry a tune and is willing to be our chorister. This year's programming will include both hymns and popular music. We are seeking someone willing to stand up in front of us and help us sing. Contact Bill Bohling for details at williambbohling@gmail.com.

Fellowship Volunteers Needed!

You are needed! We are an entirely volunteer-run (lay-led) 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 our UUFSU community!*

IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARE:

- **GREETERS** — Welcoming members and guests at the door on Sundays is an important part of creating our warm, supportive community. We need two or more folks to organize and maintain this important function. It does not require that you be at service every week. To find out more about how you can participate, please contact UUFSUWeCare@gmail.com
- **Assist with CHILDREN or YOUTH** — [Click here](#) for the online sign-up sheet.
- **MARKETING COMMITTEE** – Outreach for new members and planning public events.
- **WE CARE/WE SHARE** – Coordinator needed.



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 March, our Religious Education (RE) program will focus on **Community**.*

- **Mar 1:** This service invites children and adults to think about how listening and sharing stories help people feel like they belong. Together, we'll explore what it means to notice one another, to feel seen, and to be part of a community where everyone matters.
- **Mar 15:** Kids ages 3–9 will explore what it means to work together through cooperative games, movement activities, and playful challenges designed for small groups. Through stories, videos, and hands-on fun, we'll discover why we really *are* better together. Youth 10+ will share thoughts on building a community for youth.
- **Mar 29:** Join us as we get our hands dirty and clean up a section of the riverbank along the Virgin River to give back to our community!

We also offer child care on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month. On these days, parents are welcome to drop their child(ren) off 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

Needed: Volunteers to offer rides to/from our UUFSU Fellowship for Tom Erdmann, a lifelong UU from AZ, now living at the Beehive Homes at 1542 W 1170 N. If you can offer Tom a ride on Sundays, **please contact Bill Bohling, Vice President** at williambohling@gmail.com.

Shaunna Goldberg Upcoming Surgery: Shaunna will be having surgery in the near future. When we have more details we will ask congregants to pitch in for her recovery. Please hold Shaunna in your thoughts and prayers while she works through this difficult conundrum.



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).

FROM THE UU-VERSE



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 14 – 21, 2026
MEET THE MOMENT! TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

For General Assembly in 2026, UUA is creating a virtual “everywhere GA” with both online and distributed in-person options that will allow Unitarian Universalists to participate in whichever way works best for them. This new format will reduce travel costs and environmental impacts, offer optional in-person connections, streamline production costs, and provide a more flexible schedule for participants.

We know there is a deep need in this moment to build and sustain community as Unitarian Universalists. Given the strain that our congregations and individual UUs face in the current political climate, when travel brings increased risks and person-to-person connection remains important to our continued thriving, we are leaning into this creative approach.

To maintain safety, accessibility, and equity, the UUA is offering several ways to engage with the content and connections offered at this virtual GA, including fully virtual participation streaming live across many time zones.

By experimenting with smaller, more localized gatherings we can uphold the value of equity for GA participants around the country and production quality that supports the experience of online attendees. Truly, we can be together everywhere as we build the courage and capacity to Meet the Moment.

Our budget includes the cost of registration for one person, so if you are interested in registering and want to access our funding, please contact a board member. You can get all of the GA information at www.uua.org/ga.



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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 McCloskey, suemccloskey@gmail.com.

