



CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah

FEBRUARY and EARLY MARCH 2026

UUFSU Programs



Feb 1st INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING (1:00 pm): "The Gift of Getting it Wrong."

We live in a world that tells us mistakes should be hidden, fixed quickly, or avoided altogether. But what if mistakes have something important to teach us about Love? In this all-ages service, we'll explore how missteps, cracks, and "not quite right" moments can become sources of growth, creativity, and connection.

Feb 8th SERVICE (1:00 pm): "Honoring our Connections." Rev. Randy Partain (video) and Michael Schaurgaard (psychologist) will present the essence of creating and maintaining our connections with each other. *Explaining Joys and Concerns* will follow and then people (so inclined) may light a candle as they share a personal significant experience in their recent lives. *Child care is offered during this service (see Page 7-8 for details).*

Feb 15th SERVICE (1:00 pm): "Friends Change the World." The fascinating story of the inspiration, cooperation and efforts of a group of animal loving friends in developing the "no-kill" concept thru creation of BEST FRIENDS SOCIETY in Kanab which has expanded to multiple locations around the US over the past 30 years. Several animal adopters in UUFSU will then tell of their joyous lives with their "best friend(s)".

Special Child/Youth Programs (Kids 3-9) will explore how listening is a way we show **Love** through a short *Inside Out* video clip, a story time reading of *The Rabbit Listened*, and movement-filled listening games. Youth (10+) will share experiences and stories about animals that they love.

Feb 22nd SERVICE (1:00 pm): "Love is the Spirit of Unitarian Universalism." The video sermon will be "Love at the Center" by Rev. Kristen Kuriga, currently serving as the Assistant Minister of the First UU Church of San Diego. *Child care is offered during this service (see Page 7-8 for details).*

3rd PRINCIPLE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

"Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations"

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CONNECTIONS is a periodic publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Southwest Utah (UUFSU)
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<https://uufsu.org>

Reflections on the Third Principle

"Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations"—center on fostering inclusive, supportive communities where diverse beliefs are honored, people grow together through honest connection, and shared vulnerability strengthens faith, emphasizing empathy, pluralism, and mutual support through life's challenges. It's about creating a "soul spaciousness" to embrace complexity, moving from judgment to embrace, and recognizing that collective strength helps individuals' lights shine, even when flickering.

Core Themes in Reflections:

- **Embracing Diversity:** Accepting people's unique life experiences, theological understandings, and spiritual paths without demanding conformity.
- **Mutual Support:** Borrowing courage and wisdom from one another, holding each other tenderly during hardship, and offering compassion.
- **Honest & Courageous Connection:** Encouraging growth through authentic relationships, where members can offer gentle challenge (e.g., "You are welcome, but that behavior is not") and receive care.
- **Spiritual Growth as a Collective Journey:** Recognizing that growth happens in relationship, requiring "souls that can take in the world in all its complexity" and love it.
- **Action-Oriented Faith:** Living the principle by working together for justice, welcoming strangers, and creating Beloved Community, as this shared work itself fosters growth.
- **A "Living Tradition":** Viewing the Principles as guides, not dogma, that allow for change and evolving understanding, as seen in recent discussions about new Shared Values.

ACTIVITIES - UPCOMING

Sunday, Mar. 1st (2:30 – 4:30 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 RSVP to Ann by February 22nd.

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 will be taking a break during January and February since the majority of the participants will be traveling. The group will reconvene on February 18th and begin discussion of *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley. 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 February 1st at 4pm) *Lone Star (1996)* is a critically acclaimed neo-western mystery film written and directed by John Sayles. It stars Chris Cooper as Sheriff Sam Deeds who unearths a decades old murder involving the town's corrupt former sheriff played by Kris Kristofferson, while dealing with issues from his own past. The movie explores themes of race, history, family, and memory as they affect life along the US / Mexico border. Link to discussion can be found [HERE](#). To receive the Zoom link, contact Barb Gillespie at nanabarb6472@gmail.com.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next Board Meeting will be held **February 27th at 1pm** at Grace Episcopal Church. 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

Linda Mihalik, our President, will be on vacation from Feb 23 through March 8th. During her absence, please contact Bill Bohling, Vice President (williambbohling@gmail.com) with questions or issues.

SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Meeting is just a few months 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 22**. This is an important meeting for voting members (signed membership book and made a current pledge).

LOCATION

UUFSU 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

COMMUNITY SUPPORT we sponsor:

The UUFSU Community support organization for February is **Best Friends Animal Society**. The donation box (acrylic) for Best Friends is on the back table or donations can be made at bestfriends.org.



The largest sanctuary of its kind in the U.S. was founded in Kanab, Utah. **Best Friends** has become the heart of a collaborative “no-kill” movement, and a model for the future of animal welfare. Read the [Story of Best Friends](#) [HERE](#).

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary
5001 Angel Canyon Rd
Kanab, UT 84741
435-688-2327
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIONS you can take:



Manos Amigas Utah is the new community group of “helping hands” working to support detained and deported immigrants and their families (our neighbors) in southern Utah. Fundraising is ongoing for donations so that they can call their families and connecting them with legal resources when available. To learn more about the group, contact <https://share.google/1Q3GFqDz1h4gqfOIX>

Receive a weekly email with tangible ways to take action on current social justice issues (<https://heywhatcanido.com>). The emails make it easy to focus one's energy on steps you can take to counter some of the egregious actions of the current Administration and also includes positive news showing where our collective action is having an impact.



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.

ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE AWARENESS & ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Am I Too Old to Save the Planet? A Boomer's Guide to Climate Action by Lawrence MacDonald

This book provides practical advice and inspiration for baby boomers to get involved in climate action, arguing that this generation can still make a significant difference. The author addresses the role of boomers in the climate crisis and encourages them (us) to move from worry to action through personal, faith-based, and civil disobedience methods, using their (our) experience to fight for a livable planet.

MacDonald explains why we **American** boomers are **uniquely responsible** for the climate crisis—and **what to do** about it. America's most promising generation allowed climate change to become a planetary emergency - and what to do about it now. Collectively we boomers have done more to exacerbate the climate crisis than any other generation. Many of us consider ourselves environmentalists but recycling and driving an EV are not going to solve the emergency our planet faces.

If you think you've waited too long to do something about climate change...then you need to read this book. And if you are already active in the climate movement, this book will inspire you to further action.

A former foreign correspondent and vice president of the World Resources Institute, Lawrence MacDonald shares his journey to becoming a passionate climate activist. Packed with practical advice, his book invites fellow boomers to join the growing global movement to save the planet.

Described as a "gem of great value" by Bill McKibben, founder of Third Act, and noted as a noteworthy book by the Financial Times. Available in paperback, e-book, and audiobook formats. Read the book or watch YouTube interview with the author.

Book review submitted by Jean Lown, Citizens Climate Lobby St. George chapter group leader

MEMBER NEWS



NEW MEMBERS who joined us on January 11, 2026



Trevor Anderson



Andrea Batt

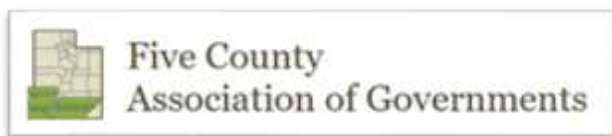


Left to right:

Martin Townsend, Linda Townsend, TJ Traub & Michael Ritchie

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 you child's image shared, please send an email to the UUFSU via administrator@uufsu.org.

INFORMATION /INSPIRATION



The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is the aging services division of the Five County Association of Governments (FCAOG), serving Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties

in Southern Utah, providing crucial support like case management, long-term care advocacy (Ombudsman), in-home care coordination, and caregiver support to help seniors and disabled adults stay independent in their homes. They manage programs for home-delivered meals, homemaker help, Medicaid waivers, and caregiver resources, connecting residents with vital community services for aging populations.

Main Office - 435-673-3548 Ext #108

Medicare counseling - Ext #171

- Medicare plan reviews
- Open enrollment

Benefit enrollment, BEC- Ext #104

- Free assistance for seniors applying for:
Medicaid, HEAT, SNAP, MSP, & LIS/Extra Help

UUA Bookstore: Books for all ages, pamphlets and many other UU related items (i.e. tee shirts, hats, jewelry, gifts, etc.) are available on the UUA bookstore website, uuabookstore.org. New books and other items are frequently updated. You are encouraged to periodically check the website.

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:

GREETERS – contact email is UUFSUWeCare@gmail.com or call (435) 414-1230 (#12).

Assist with CHILDREN or YOUTH:— [Click here](#) for the online sign-up sheet

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 February, our Religious Education (RE) program will focus on **Love** at the center.

- **Feb 1:** Everyone makes mistakes—and that's okay! In this all-ages service, we'll share stories, watch fun videos, and sing together as we learn how mistakes can help us grow. We'll explore how being kind to ourselves when we mess up is one way we practice love.



- **Feb 15:** How do we show love by listening? In this interactive children’s service, kids 3-9 will learn about empathetic listening, enjoy the story *The Rabbit Listened*, and play high-energy listening games that use their whole bodies. Together, we’ll discover how listening with more than just our ears helps us care for one another.

Youth 10+ will share stories of pets they have loved; please bring a photo or two.

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.

UUFSSU WeCare/WeShare Support

Needed: Volunteers to offer rides to/from our UUFSSU Fellowship for Tom, 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 Linda Mihalik at lindamihalik@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 UUFSSU 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 UUFSSUWeCare@gmail.com or call (435) 414-1230 (#12).

FROM THE UU-VERSE



SIDE WITH LOVE

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are responding to the fatal January 2026 killings of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti by ICE officers in Minneapolis with, protest, advocacy, and mutual aid centering on immigrant justice and opposition to federal overreach. Hundreds of UUs, including many UU and other clergy, traveled to the city for demonstrations (January 23, 2026) against ICE activities with many currently remaining to focus on supporting local, immigrant communities and condemning militarized enforcement actions.

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.



President's Day - February 16, 2026

