

WFWP Grand Junction, Colorado - Interreligious Sharing

Gale Alves
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Grand Junction Colorado Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Our April Interreligious Sharing program was held via Zoom due to several participants navigating health situations. Despite the virtual format, the gathering was vibrant and deeply engaging. Representatives joined from the Baha'i Faith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the United Methodist Church, and the Universal Peace Federation / Women's Federation for World Peace / Peace Starts with Me Alliance.

The Latter-day Saints selected the topic: "How do your beliefs help you navigate life on your good days as well as your worst days?" Each representative shared their perspective in 10 minutes or less, followed by affirming feedback and thoughtful questions. The program extended to nearly two hours, reflecting the enthusiasm and meaningful dialogue among participants.

Latter-day Saints:

Drawing on teachings from Saint Peter, it was shared that strength in facing life comes from walking with Christ and holding to eternal truths. Life's trials are opportunities for growth and learning. Faith in Jesus brings joy and provides the शक्ति to overcome challenges, grounded in the call to love God and one another.

Baha'i Faith:

On our best days, we are encouraged to live with gratitude, remain prayerful, and serve others with love. On our most difficult days, challenges can be viewed as spiritual tests - opportunities for growth. Practicing joyful acceptance and trusting in divine wisdom are key, while recognizing that self-centeredness can hinder alignment with God's will.

United Methodist Church:

Faith offers both peace and strength in times of joy and deep hardship. A personal relationship with God provides reassurance - "I've got you" - and an invitation to trust even in overwhelming circumstances. This sense of divine presence brings comfort, while scripture offers guidance, joy, and the strength needed to fulfill God's purpose.

UPF / WFWP / Peace Starts with Me Alliance:

Key themes shared included understanding God as our Heavenly Parent - both Father and Mother - the importance of the Four Realms of Heart, and the belief in life after death. Emphasis was placed on gratitude as a central practice in daily life, along with reflections on peace, true love, and gratitude inspired by the teachings of Hak Ja Han and Sun Myung Moon.

Overall, the program fostered a spirit of mutual respect, curiosity, and shared wisdom, demonstrating how diverse faith perspectives can offer meaningful guidance for navigating both the joys and challenges of life.