

Peace Starts with Me Alliance
Interfaith Prayers for Peace in Recognition of World Interfaith Harmony Week
Saturday, February 28 at 10:00 am
Salt Lake Family Church, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Peace Starts with Me Alliance held an Interfaith Prayer for Peace in recognition of the World Interfaith Harmony Week on Saturday, February 21, 2026. It was hosted by the Salt Lake Family Church. It was co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation and the Salt Lake Center for Spiritual Living. Around 30 guests participated.

The Salt Lake Family Church has hosted several Interfaith Prayers for Peace in the past, but this is the first time we have been co-sponsored by other groups which allowed us to expand our horizons a little bit by including live music and the lighting of candles instead of a water ceremony.

We had 4 guest Speakers from different faiths. They were Karamea Edwards from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Fr. Langes Silva from the Roman Catholic Diocese; Indra Neelameggham, a Member of the Hindu Community and Pastor Michael Stovall of the Salt Lake Family Church.

The program began with Sophie Zane, playing an electronic harp as a prelude to the start of the program. This then led to the musicians, Ric Sharette and Sophie singing the song "Imagine." A beautiful start to the program. A young adult, You Won Hwang, was invited to light a large candle on a table in front of the podium. Emcee, Pastor Mike Stovall, then invited Rev. Myrna Hirst from the Salt Lake Center for Spiritual Living to light a taper candle using the flame of the large candle which she then placed in a candle holder on the table. She then offered a very moving invocation.

Wendy Stovall, co-pastor of the Salt Lake Family Church, and Executive Director of the Utah Chapter of the Universal Peace Federation offered a summary of the organizations who supported the event, as well as an introduction to the World Interfaith Harmony Week which we were recognizing with our Interfaith Prayers for Peace.

Our singers were invited back to lead us in singing "Weave us Together." As we sang the song we all waved our lit votive candles. Our speakers were then invited up one at a time, to light a candle and then speak on the topic "Prayer – Connecting with our Creator Across Faith Traditions". The speakers were asked to speak about how they prayed; did they follow any rituals before, during or at the end of their prayer, and did they have to wear any special clothing, for example a head covering or to take off their shoes while praying.

We then invited everyone to have a few minutes of silent prayer, meditation or reflection while Sophie Zane played the harp in the background. Our program concluded with everyone singing "Let there be Peace on Earth."

The guests were invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship during which we received many compliments about the program.