

About Sharing Sacred Spaces, Inc.

The mission of Sharing Sacred Spaces (SSS) is to encourage dialogue and explore cultural and religious differences by sharing sacred space. Founded in 2002 as The Center for Religious Architecture, the organization was a response to the events of September 11th, 2001, and the national climate of cultural and religious misunderstanding and fear. Believing that architecture can serve as neutral ground for discussing newly ignited issues of misunderstanding and bias across differences, this secular organization educates on religious traditions within each tradition's worship space through a carefully designed process that builds relationships and trust among participating communities and beyond.

Special thanks: Sharing Sacred Spaces is grateful to Arizona Faith Network and Arizona Interfaith Movement for their support and invaluable partnership in this program.



Sharing Sacred Spaces



SHARING SACRED SPACES
sharingsacredspaces.org

ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK
www.arizonafaithnetwork.org

ARIZONA INTERFAITH MOVEMENT
www.AZIFM.org

SHARING SACRED SPACES

with
Arizona Faith Network and
Arizona Interfaith Movement

The Interreligious Communities Project
Greater Phoenix Area
2025-2026



The Interreligious Communities Project

This year, religious and spiritual communities are partnering to visit one another's sacred spaces, learn about other religions, extend hospitality, equip themselves with tools for interfaith dialogue, and build an interfaith community. The Interreligious Communities Project (ICP) is designed to engage communities in a safe, tested format and to expand participation in interreligious activities around the greater Phoenix area.

Beginning on **Sunday, February 22, 2026**, the first participating congregation will open its doors to extend hospitality to its partner congregations and other visitors. Each ICP congregation will open its doors in turn, with the last visit scheduled on **Sunday, May 3, 2026**. Each visit to these spaces, where people pray, worship, engage in religious practices, and celebrate life's events, is more than a 'tour' or 'open house'; it is an experience. Participants will be invited to listen, learn, and connect with one another.

Each visit will include the following elements: an architectural/religious tour of the space; an introduction to the religion; a communal history; member sharing; a dialogue or shared activity; and a delicious meal. The ICP is designed to deepen understanding of one another, ultimately building trust, generating goodwill, and fostering a greater sense of community.

Why attend?

- Meet your neighbors
- Consider new points of view in dialogue with those of other religions
- Learn about the history and underlying principles of other traditions
- Become aware of community service and outreach programs, as well as other traditions in which they are engaged
- Build relationships with others and find common ground
- Refresh and deepen your own spiritual convictions
- Experience the hospitality, openness, and warmth of all our spiritual partners

We look forward to greeting you over the next few months as you visit each Sacred Space. Please be sure to register at

www.sharingsacredspaces.org/events

How to participate:

- Attend as many of the events as you can
- See the etiquette guide for each sacred space in preparation for your visit.
- Be respectful of each space and of others.
- Read the Guidelines for Dialogue at the end of this booklet and do your best to practice them.
- Bring your questions and ask them.
- Enjoy the journey!

VISIT: Sunday, February 22, 2026, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Valley Unitarian Universalist

6400 W Del Rio St, Chandler, AZ 85226

(480) 899-4249

<https://www.vuu.org/>



Unique statement about this community:

Valley UU is an open and affirming community that proclaims: Love is our doctrine; Service is our prayer; Justice is our calling. We search for and develop the tools for individual and communal healing, the opportunities and strategies to address suffering and needs in our community, and the courage to change the systems that oppress and harm any and all of us. We call this courageous love.

What is the origin of this religious tradition?

Unitarian Universalism originated from the merger of two different Protestant denominations, Unitarianism and Universalism, in 1961. Both traditions have roots in liberal, rational Christianity dating back to 16th-century Europe, with Universalism focusing on the universal salvation of all souls and Unitarianism rejecting the Trinity doctrine to emphasize God's unity.

How did this sacred space come to be built here?

Valley UU began in 1963 as a Sunday morning discussion group and was chartered by the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1965. The building they are currently settled in was purchased in 2004 from the Catholics who funded their downpayment.

What is distinct about this community?

We are an active and growing congregation, full of passionate and committed members and friends, grounded in the history and heritage of liberal religion.

What kind of outreach are we involved in?

Legislative advocacy; helping those in need; interfaith programs; LGBTQIA; and much more.

Etiquette for people visiting our house of worship:

Come as you are!

"From the first moment I entered VUU I felt welcome and accepted. I was also encouraged to get involved and share my religion of origin."

-Goro

VISIT: Sunday, March 22, 2026, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

M.T.O. Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism

6401 E Aster Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

(480) 829-6050

www.mto.org



Unique statement about this community:

The MTO School of Islamic Sufism is a dynamic spiritual and educational community dedicated to cultivating inner awareness, ethical living, and service to humanity. Rooted in the universal principles of Sufism, MTO provides a space for self-knowledge, compassion, and interfaith connection, where learning extends beyond doctrine to the lived experience of love, unity, and personal transformation.

What is the origin of this religious tradition?

The Islamic teachings have been passed down through an unbroken heart-to-heart transmission, as taught by Prophet Mohammed (pbuh), through a series of masters—from Hazrat Oveys Gharani to the current, 42nd Sufi master, Professor Nader Angha fondly known to his students as Hazrat Pir. Sufism is a discipline, a system of education that facilitates the journey of self-knowledge, a journey which enables the individual to discover his or her stable reality, and ultimately the reality of religion.

How did this sacred space come to be built here?

M.T.O. Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism ® is an international non-profit organization with over 42 centers around the world. Phoenix is one of those centers.

What is distinct about this community?

M.T.O. Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism ® welcomes all religions to learn about timeless teachings on true human identity, purpose, and inner alignment.

What kind of outreach are we involved in?

M.T.O. Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism ®- Phoenix engages in global charity events, open houses, and cultural celebrations in addition to lectures and book discussion classes. There is always food, chanting and lessons in art and culture.

Etiquette for people visiting our house of worship:

- We dress modestly and remove our shoes once inside. Socks are recommended.
- Please refrain from taking pictures once inside.

“I contribute my success to the teachings of the school that help me learn about myself better and help me find purpose and alignment.”

– Mercedeh Saba

VISIT: Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Visitors' center: 455 E Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201

www.churchofjesuschrist.org



Unique statement about this community:

A community of faith focused on Jesus Christ - almost 18,000,000 members in over 150 countries worldwide.

What is the origin of this religious tradition?

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are witnesses that sacred history continues. We believe that throughout history, God has blessed people with inspiration so that there are divine truths in many religious and philosophical traditions. We trace our roots to the times that produced the Bible. We look to Jesus Christ as our Savior and the center point of human history. We also believe that God calls prophets, offers guidance, performs miracles, and invites people to join His work today.

How did this sacred space come to be built here?

We'll visit the Mesa AZ Temple Visitors' Center - the Mesa AZ Temple was first dedicated in 1927.

What is distinct about this community?

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is unique because we hold the priesthood of God, restored to Earth by heavenly messengers. The Book of Mormon stands with the

Bible in revealing and declaring the full divinity and gospel of Christ. We also have a prophet of God, sharing guidance from heaven and holding the keys that bind in heaven what is bound on Earth.

What kind of outreach are we involved in?

With a desire to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and live the two great commandments, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints engaged in over 4,000 humanitarian projects in over 190 countries and territories in 2023, with over \$1.30 billion in expenditures. The Church and its members strive to care for those in need as Christ did during His mortal ministry. Through volunteer service, collaborations with organizations, and donations, the Church provides worldwide aid and service to all of God's children with the hope of building self-reliance. Just a few projects are listed here:

- 900+ women and children projects, including maternal + newborn health
- 600+ general health care projects
- 500+ food security projects
- 400+ emergency relief projects
- 200+ hygiene and sanitation projects
- 60+ mobility projects
- 25,500+ wheelchairs donated
- 25+ vision projects 7
- 0+ nutrition projects
- 110+ clean water projects
- 410+ emergency relief projects
- 110+ emergency projects aiding displaced persons

Etiquette for people visiting our house of worship:

Come as you are!

"The doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints centers on the family. We are a family Church. Our relationship to God and the purpose of our mortal life are explained in terms of the family....for the benefit of His spirit children."

-Prophet and Church President, Dallin H. Oaks, October 2025

Schedule of Visits to Sacred Spaces

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Valley Unitarian Universalist
6400 W Del Rio St, Chandler, AZ 85226
(480) 899-4249
www.vuu.org

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

M.T.O. Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic Sufism
6401 E Aster Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(480) 829-6050
www.mto.org

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Visitors' center: 455 E Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201
www.churchofjesuschrist.org

Finding Common Ground

At the conclusion of our experiences in each space, all the communities will come together to celebrate. Those communities that feel committed will sign a solidarity pledge, finding common ground in support of each other.

Watch for announcements on how you can participate.

Guidelines for Dialogue

Greater Phoenix ICP Leadership Team members have agreed to follow these guidelines for dialogue, and we ask that all participants in sacred space events try to follow them as well.

I will strive to do my part in maintaining a safe space for open exchange.

I will strive to listen with an open heart and mind, acknowledging and attending to what is heard, without addition or subtraction.

I will strive to respect the faith, culture, values, and background of each person.

I will cultivate a willingness to challenge my assumptions.

I will notice any unhelpful judgments that come up in my mind and do my best to acknowledge them and set them aside or let them go.

I will avoid gossip and protect the confidentiality of conversations.

I will speak from my own experience and use "I" statements.

I will strive to be aware of my habitual ways of thinking and conditioned response patterns.

I will pay close attention and trust the strength and wisdom of the process.

I will refrain from the urge to 'fix' or give advice—rather, I will practice my reflective listening skills.