

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

River of Grass Weekly Update – January 12, 2023

Eyes on the Prize and Marchers of Every Size!

Freedom's name is mighty sweet
And soon we're gonna meet
Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on!

- African American Spiritual, Civil Rights Period

The Broward County MLK Day Parade is back, and we're marching for the first time since 2020! So this All-Generations Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday we launch our annual Bending the Arc Toward Justice series with preparations for our first preach-with-our-feet justice action since COVID began by honoring those who marched long before us to pave the way for our work in our time.

Join us to prepare our bodies, minds, and spirits, for the work of racial justice in our time, in the world desperate to learn again the ways of non-violence and the fiercest kind of love. We'll keep our eyes on the prize and hold on!

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on **Sunday morning at 10:30 AM**. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

In person at:

- Our new Sunday morning rental space at the Old Davie Schoolhouse!
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, January 15, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Eyes on the Prize and Marchers of Every Size! – Karen Gonzalez and Rev.

Amy Carol Webb <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Membership – Inquirers: This coming **Sunday, Jan 15th**, we will also be finishing up the Inquirers' Series for newcomers that we had begun last fall. Rev. Amy will host an informational session focused on worship in Unitarian Universalism, and specifically at River of Grass—what is our approach to worship; what holidays do we celebrate; what does our liturgical year look like? We will meet for Inquirers after worship service from roughly **11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We would love to have you join us, and newcomers are very WELCOME! It will be Multi-Platform (In-Person + Zoom). **The Zoom link for the Inquirers' Session is**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NlIRYzJ4MG9IVk11MHA5djJwZHc0Zz09>.

Faith Development -This week there will be no separate Faith Development classes for our children and youth as we will all be growing our faith together in worship. Families are invited to remain after service for a brown bag picnic in the park on the Old Davie Schoolhouse grounds. Chairs or a blanket to sit upon are recommended. For more information about our Faith Development programming for children and youth, reach out to our Director, Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

Looking for Help:

Love babies? You're in luck! The River has been attracting quite a few, lately. Our new location in January will include a paid staff position for the nursery. If you know someone who might be interested in caring for our babies and kids for 3 hours each Sunday, please contact our Faith Development Director, Karen at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. We are also looking for some items to fill this space. Let Karen know if you can contribute any of the following: extra-large baby gate, high chair, and play items such as stacking blocks, cars and puzzles.

Other Events:

Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions:

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

Full Moon Daughters Florida Keys Getaway: Start the year with a pajama party in paradise that will warm your body and soul. Women, girls and those who identify as female are invited to a Keys weekend near **Marathon on Jan. 13-15** that will include beach walks and meditations, kayaking and outdoor opportunities, and fabulous shared meals and conversation. Come for a day or stay overnight. Limited housing available at the home of a River member-- or stay at a hotel in the Middle Keys. To sign up: email fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.

ML King Day Parade Monday, January 16, 2023

River of Grass will be marching in the ML King Day PARade on Monday, Jan 16th. Come show our 8th Principle spirit: Black Lives Matter. The Parade starts from the Longshoreman's Hall, 440 NW 6 Street [Sistrunk Blvd.], Ft. Lauderdale 33311 at 9:30 AM and proceeds west along Sistrunk and then north to Joseph C. Carter Park on Sunrise Blvd. Car pooling arranged by Susan is available from the congregational office, 4431 Davie Rd., Davie, FL 33314. Contact her at SSIGT@riverofgrassuu.org for carpool details. Come early to the parade and help decorate the River float, Steve and Kathy's gray Prius Prime. Bring your own signs; and there will be signs there.

Sign Making Party Friday, Jan 13th at 10:30 AM at Steve and Kathy's House.

Contact Steve Jens-Rochow at SSIGT@riverofgrassuu.org for the address.



BUUKies January Read - "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie. We will meet on Wednesday, January 18th at 7pm.

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

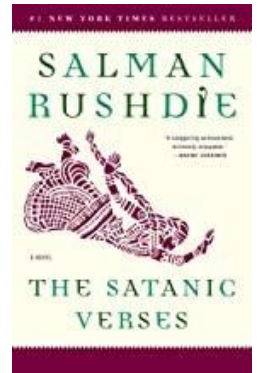
One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC)

The book caused an uproar when it was first published several decades ago. The Satanic Verses was viewed as blasphemous by many Muslims, who saw the main character as an insult to the Prophet Muhammad, among other objections. The novel was banned in Iran, where the late leader Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, on February 14, 1989, calling for Rushdie's death, for "insulting Islam" with his novel.

For a discussion of the Fatwa, Death Threats, Exile - How "The Satanic Verses" Changed Salman Rushdie's Life go to

<https://www.india.com/explainer/fatwa-death-threats-exile-how-the-satanic-verses-changed-salman-rushdies-life-explained-5569453/>

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



RoG Men's Group: We'll next **meet next Thursday Jan 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.** We meet in person and via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 PM at Uncle Al's, 8200 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Do come out and join us. The Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 PM. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

Hello Service and Social Justice Warriors - We have a confirmed date to volunteer at LifeNet4families on **Saturday, Jan 28th 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.** No experience is necessary, just a willingness to make a difference. See Linda Morgan Crain and clipboard this Sunday or email SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org. Hope to see you there!

The Broward Folk Festival is being held at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds (4201 SW 65th Way, Davie, FL 33314) on **Feb 4th - 5th! (Saturday and Sunday).** Here's the website for you to peruse all of that great music from the folks you love! www.BrowardFolkClub.com The arena is covered-(shady) with food trucks and camaraderie - but you can bring your own (friends, food, chair) Folks will gather everywhere! There'll be a place for the children, too! Lessons to be learned (workshops, jam sessions) - bring your "ax" (instruments, voices) - and mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this beloved, highly anticipated, annual engagement of delight, merriment, and music!

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Invest green! Most 401Ks and IRAs offer "sustainable" or "social" investment options - which avoid petroleum, coal, guns, etc. One example is Vanguard Social Index. Align your money with your values!

Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten (COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org)

Purpose of Team: To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

These recommendations are:

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor and indoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: consider first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

Sources:

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: Updated October 16, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

Community Level LOW:

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

Community Level MEDIUM:

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

Community Level HIGH: Current Broward County Status

In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)
- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html. **River of Grass UU Congregation** is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org.

Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org by 12 pm Wednesday. All announcements will pertain to congregational life and affiliated groups and will be for activities or events occurring within two weeks of the e-mail. Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must have the approval of the Board of Trustees.