

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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

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River of Grass Weekly Update – January 14, 2021

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend - Bending the Arc 1 “THIS GREAT TURNING”

Each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday we launch our annual “Bending the Arc” service series, drawn from his quote “The arc of the Universe is long, but it bends toward justice,” (which Dr. King himself learned from the teachings of Unitarian preacher and theologian, Theodore Parker) and focused on our part of bending that arc of justice in our time.. This year’s series, “This Great Turning” explores the massive shift we are living through in this moment of history -- this moment that is ours to decide what comes next.

We’ll have music from MaMuse (“We Shall Be Known”), Neil Young (“Don’t Let It Bring You Down”), and The Nields (“Tyrants Always Fall”) along with our regular beautiful shared elements. Join us on Zoom or Facebook, as we, too, turn toward building a new way in this world.

Come as you are to gather with us for this Sunday’s love-streamed service, remembering only the medium is virtual; the connections, the love, the spirit are real. Following the service, we will share virtual Hospitality time with a live chat and small groups where we can relish each other’s beautiful faces and voices together once again.

Follow the link below to join us in Zoom – or if you’d like, we’ll be simulcasting on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu/>. Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward. And now that we have a larger Zoom space ready to welcome all who will join us from over this world – who will we meet this week?

Sunday morning, gather with us at the River – on your computer, your tablet, your phone (with video or only audio if you like, we’ll miss your face!) -- just click or dial into our River of Grass Meeting Room at the link or numbers below. We’ll be watching for you!

### **Topic: Worship January 17, 2021**

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 Virtual Events - This Sunday:***

#### **Sunday, January 17, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – In This Great Turning - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

**Faith Development - There are no classes this Sunday in order to allow parents to be present at the Congregational meeting.** In keeping with the spirit of imagination, this is a good afternoon to decorate the white

masks that were in this month's Family Faith-at-Home bags. You can use T-shirt paint, permanent markers, needlework - let your imagination run wild. Then bring them to class on the 24<sup>th</sup> to share and show. Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for information about our programming for children and youth.

**Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm – Reminder for our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting:** At River of Grass, we have traditionally had a mid-year congregational meeting to update members on what is happening within our beloved community. It could conceivably be called “State of the Congregation.” In accordance with our Bylaws, this notification provides all members with the subjects addressed at the Mid-Year Meeting of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, which will be held this Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, virtually via Zoom from 12:15 - 2:30 pm.

Below is a preliminary agenda for this meeting. At this point, there is nothing on the agenda that will need a congregational vote. If there are additions to the agenda, a final agenda will be sent two weeks prior to the meeting per our Bylaws. If any business that needs congregational vote is added, we are required to have a quorum of 40% of the voting membership. - Kathy Jens-Rochow, President [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org)

**Agenda for Congregational Mid-Year Meeting on Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, Location: [Zoom](#)**

Meeting ID: 981 3212 8247; Passcode: 7237877;

One tap mobile +19292056099,,98132128247#,,,,\*7237877# US (New York)

12:15 pm Welcome (Kathy)  
Invocation/Chalice Lighting (Rev. Amy)  
Today's Agenda (Kathy)

12:25 pm President's Report

12:30 pm Minister – Sabbatical plans

12:45 pm Team Update: Annual Pledge Drive  
Team Update: Future Home Search Team (Steve)  
Team Update: Music (Gary)  
Team Update: COVID Recovery Team  
Team Update: Team on Ministry  
Team Update: Small Group Ministry (Janet/Diane L)  
Team Update: Communications (Zena)  
Team Update: SSJGT (Steve)

1:30 pm Committee Update: Membership (Zena)  
Committee Update: Worship (Rita)  
Committee Update: Finance (Brit)  
Committee Update: Faith Development (Diane L)

2:25 pm Capital Foundation (Ed/Kip)

2:30 pm Q&A (Kathy/Rob)

### ***How well do you know your UUs:***

**Viola Fauver Liuzzo** was a housewife and mother of five. In March 1965, Liuzzo heeded the call of Martin Luther King, Jr. and traveled from Detroit, Michigan, to Selma, Alabama, in the wake of the Bloody Sunday attempt at marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Liuzzo participated in the successful Selma to Montgomery marches and helped with coordination and logistics. At the age of 39, while driving back from a trip shuttling fellow activists to the Montgomery airport, she was murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan and FBI infiltrator Gary Thomas Rowe.

After Liuzzo's murder, the FBI immediately began a smear campaign and leaked disinformation to politicians and the press about Liuzzo. The FBI attempted to downplay their role in Liuzzo's murder by discrediting her through planting misinformation that she was a



member of the Communist Party, was a heroin addict, and included sexual disinformation that Liuzzo had abandoned her children to have sexual relationships with African-Americans involved in the Civil Rights Movement. All of the rumors were entirely false and were wholly fabricated by the FBI.

In addition to other honors, Liuzzo's name is today inscribed on the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, created by Maya Lin. Liuzzo frequently told her family and friends that the Civil Rights struggle "was everybody's fight." (Source [Wikipedia](#))

***Auction 2020-2021: Pick 'N Click River Givers Virtual Auction:***



**GET YOUR TICKETS!!! "Pick N Click" River Givers Virtual Auction**

**THIS Saturday night Jan 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 pm ET.**

**We are not constrained by our 4 walls, and you can participate whether you are in Davie, Maine, Arizona, or Paris.** So plan on joining us for a lively entertainment, raffle, and extraordinary live auction. It is a **family event!**

- For just \$10 per family (one screen), you can enjoy an evening of live auction, music and "Meet the River" interviews with some of our members and friends who have been so important to the life of the River. You will also have an exclusive evening of bidding on these auction items.
- Tickets on sale now: [for desktop](#) and [for mobile](#)
- Once you register as a bidder, click at the bottom of the registration form to purchase your ticket and raffle tickets.
- If you don't attend the kickoff, free online bidding for remaining open items will start on Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and continue through Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. And of course, you can bid from your smartphone, too! Link will be available Jan 17<sup>th</sup>.

**We are still gratefully accepting donations.**

**Please send a description of your donation to [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org)**

Here are some of the wonderful donations we have received;

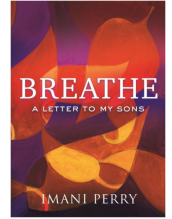
- one of the live auction items is a week in a cabin in Breckenridge! Thanks Scott & Carolyn
- beautiful jewelry from Audrey Stang
- socially distanced dining
- Tarot readings by Sheryl Cattell
- business building workshop
- mandala creation workshop by Lily Mazurek
- massages
- Sheryl Cattell's Life Coaching
- and more

More donations needed – parties, baskets, gift cards and certificates for service. Ask your favorite restaurant, your hair stylist, your masseuse to donate something, and. If applicable, be sure to get details about current social distancing procedures etc. We are also looking for a few more big-ticket items, like a vacation stay at a condo or cabin or a long weekend stay at a hotel, for our live auction. Email the details of your donation and a contact # to [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org).

Thank you for your support by attending the auction and, of course, with your generous donations of items and services. We are so looking forward to an exciting evening with you! More to come as this event unfolds before our eyes!

### ***bUUkies Announce UUA Common Read Discussion***

Every year the UUA selects a book to be shared by all UU congregations. A "Common Read" invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. The River of Grass conversation will be on a date to be announced later.



This year's Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. The UUA says:

“Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* “an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent’s unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children’s right simply to be possible.”

This book may be purchased in hardcover from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). The e-book and audio book (CD or MP3) are available from [Bookshop.org](#). Hardback, audio and e-books are also available at [Amazon.com](#).

### ***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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**Flowing River Sangha** – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at [meditation@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Young Adults** are now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**. During our next meeting, Colby and Tosh will be hosting a virtual group game called “**One Night Ultimate Werewolf**”. This is a fast-paced game where everyone gets to play a different role. In the course of only one "night" and the following "morning", the players will determine who among them is a werewolf... hopefully. Each game lasts about 10 minutes and encourages debating and bluffing to be successful. It can be played with 3 - 21 players, but we find that 6 or more is best! Our group’s purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

#### **The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the schedule below!**

Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Jan 27<sup>th</sup> and is FF Inquirers #6: Social Action & Community**

**Service.** For more info, email Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
1/27/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
2/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
2/10/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
2/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
3/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

**Full Moon Daughters** are heading back to the great outdoors. All women and girls are invited to join our group for a camping weekend at **Collier-Seminole State Park, near Naples, on the weekend of Feb 19<sup>th</sup> through Feb 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will kayak, take nature hikes and explore the beautiful ecosystem of the western Everglades. Full Moon Daughters is an outdoors spirituality group dedicated to honoring our 7<sup>th</sup> UU Principle, respecting the interdependent web of life. If you are interested in the Collier-Seminole trip, please email Diane Lade and Deb Giblin-Davis at [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org). Space is limited and all attendees must follow our COVID protocols.

### Capital Campaign Contributions

We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%
PayPal	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment

Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$0
Securities	<p>Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners:  <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i></p> <p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination  <b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b>  <b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</p>	

***SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Purchase green products, such as green cleaners, green laundry detergent, products made from recycled materials, low-energy appliances, fuel-efficient cars, and compact fluorescent or led light bulbs. Use your buying power to be green! Help the environment with your wallet!*

### **COVID-19 Response Update**

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. All face-to-face gatherings of any kind are suspended or moved on-line, and we have left our building. Numerous meetings and gatherings have transitioned online via Zoom. Welcome to our new norm!

We are grateful that many many members and friends are in self-quarantine, doing their part to protect themselves as well as reduce the spread of the virus, and only venturing outside when absolutely necessary.

Our extended Caring Team has coordinated a 'network of contacting' to help ensure our community has communication and is cared for..... and our Covenant Groups are a large part of this.

There is deep gratitude for the way our community cares for each other, remains flexible, and is diligent in responding to this unprecedented situation!

Take a deep breath. Allow any feelings and thoughts to be as they are. Know you are supported. Stay safe!

### **Basic Protective Measures Against Coronavirus**

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against coronavirus here at River of Grass and in the wider community we share. River of Grass is adhering to the following recommendations from the World Health Organizations.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Be aware of those in our midst with compromised immune systems.

### **Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:**

1. Regularly and thoroughly CLEAN YOUR HANDS with an alcohol-based hand-rub or washing with soap and water, especially – after coughing/sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during, and after you prepare food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty – and when they are not; after handling animals or animal waste.
2. Maintain social distancing – 6 feet between yourself and anyone.
3. Even if well, try to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and when greeting, instead of elbow and fist bumps (no handshakes or hugs), consider placing your hand over your heart as a gesture of welcome and hello.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid transfer of viruses from contaminated surfaces.
5. Practice respiratory hygiene: 1) Cough/sneeze into your elbow, 2) If you use tissues, dispose of them immediately, then clean your hands.
6. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care promptly.
7. If you feel unwell, stay home, even with mild symptoms like headache and runny nose.

8. Stay informed, and follow any guidelines from your healthcare advisor.

**How to cope with stress during this coronavirus outbreak:**

1. It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during any crisis.
2. Talk to people you trust, and contact your friends and family.
3. If you must stay home, maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid smoking or using alcohol and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and the internet.
7. Draw on coping skills that have helped you in the past.
8. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor, and have a plan to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed or called into the congregation's office 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.*