

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – February 4, 2021

Draw the Circle Wide: Becoming Beloved Community - Bending the Arc 4

Unitarian Universalists are called to build the Beloved Community. Yes! That sounds wonderful! But what is the Beloved Community? What does it ask of us? Who is part of it? Have we drawn our circle wide enough? How do we draw it wider? So often, when we find Unitarian Universalism and this community we gather here at River of Grass, we feel so deeply relieved, and comforted, and enlivened, and amazed to find a place that welcomes us as we are. But is it enough that we have found it? Are we not charged in turn to draw the circle beyond ourselves? This Sunday, come into this circle of love -- and help to draw it wider still!

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](#). 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!

We'll be watching for you!

Topic: Worship February 7, 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, February 7, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Draw the Circle Wide: Becoming Beloved Community - Bending the Arc 4 - Rev. Amy Carol Webb <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development: Family Vespers 5:00pm [Zoom link here](#)

Our Unitarian Universalist faith asks us to consider what it means to build the beloved community that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of. That is why our 2nd Principle reads that we covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion. Working for fairness and offering compassion to everyone, within our congregation and in society at large, helps everyone in our community to feel seen and loved. That's why our theme this month is Building the Beloved Community. Join us for story, song and spirit as we celebrate our ability to share the love and build a beautiful world. Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org for more information about our Faith Development Program.

New Member Sunday - February 14th:

River of Grass will have another **New Member Sunday on Feb 14th** - Are you interested in becoming a member of River of Grass? For more info or to RSVP for this celebration of membership contact Diane Diaz or Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

How well do you know your UUs:

Olympia Brown (January 5, 1835 – October 23, 1926) was the first woman to be ordained as clergy with the consent of her denomination. Brown was also an articulate advocate for women's rights and one of the few first generation suffragists who were able to vote with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.



Brown decided to attend Mount Holyoke Female Seminary. Mount Holyoke and a college education were what Brown had hoped for. Her excitement was tempered by the restrictions placed on women at Mount Holyoke. Perhaps the best example of the school's thinking was the words of a Chemistry professor, "You are not expected to remember all of this, but only enough to make you intelligent in conversation." Brown, who already knew she could meet the challenges of a higher education, looked elsewhere

Putting aside her experiences at Mount Holyoke, Brown enrolled at Antioch College. Brown learned that despite the progressive nature at Antioch, there were still forms of discrimination. For example, in Brown's English class, women were not required to have speeches memorized. In a defiant act, Brown delivered her speeches from memory, just as the men had.

Once Brown finished her schooling at Antioch, she decided her calling was to be a minister. After countless rejections, she was accepted to the Theological School of St. Lawrence University, although the school's president, Ebenezer Fisher, made it clear he did not believe women should be ministers. She became the first woman to graduate from an established theological school.

Despite finishing her schooling and preaching experience, Brown still met opposition to her ordination. Brown's appeal was a simple plea for equality. But on June 25, 1863, the Northern Universalist Association ordained Olympia Brown. She was the first woman to be ordained with official approval from a national denomination.

In all her ministerial settings, she was well respected as a preacher. She was described by a reporter for the Superior Daily Leader as "the female Beecher of the rostrum." This was intended as a high compliment, as Henry Ward Beecher was widely considered to be the best preacher in the United States at the time.

Brown had always been aware of the quest for equal rights. Due to Brown's strong speaking skills and beliefs, Susan B. Anthony continually sought the involvement of Brown. With the encouragement of Lucy Stone and her husband, Henry Blackwell, Brown traveled to Kansas in order to speak on women's rights. Over the course of the summer, Brown delivered more than 300 speeches despite facing many hardships.

"The grandest thing has been the lifting up of the gates and the opening of the doors to the women of America, giving liberty to twenty-seven million women, thus opening to them a new and larger life and a higher ideal."

UUA's New Day Rising Conference:

Service and Social Justice Greet Team (SSJGT) is excited to announce the UUA's New Day Rising Conference on Feb 27th. With workshops, discussion, and worship caucusing. We will identify our next faithful steps in changing White Supremacy culture as we create our Beloved UU Community.

It's the **New Day Rising Conference, Feb 27th from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm eastern**, with lots of breaks. You can find more information at <https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/new-day-rising-2021>.

Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow, as well as three others from River of Grass, have registered for this Conference. The UUA says that with 3 or more we can take the \$20 rate in the sliding scale. And SSJGT will pay for up to 4-\$20 registrations. Just message Steve Jens-Rochow at SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org to let him know that you have registered and he will have a check sent to you.

Rising Day builds on our White Fragility course of last year. And it will be a good introduction to the Building the World We Dream About seminar that the River will be offering starting in March.

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/>

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Today, Thursday, Feb 4th at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "Reflection." We have been through a significant election. We are in a new calendar year. There is a Plague raging. We are in a time of life that reflection is common. At each session, we launch into a topic that is designed to encourage personal sharing. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Kip Barkley mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org. Please let us know if you plan to try to make it.

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Feb 9th 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.

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 **Feb 10th and is FF Inquirers #2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd 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, Feb 14th ♥ at 7:30 pm**. Our group's

purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

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.

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 Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . 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	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$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</p> <p>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334</p> <p>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Take an "electronics day off". Turn off the TV, stay off Facebook, no internet. Just grab a book, take a walk, or speak with loved ones. It's healthy and its green!

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. **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 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.

Have you wondered:

- ❖ What multicultural competency is, and why it is important?
- ❖ How you might meet a longing for the kind of intentional experience that will transform your life, deepen your faith, and enrich your soul?

Are you ready to:

- ❖ Lead a different kind of educational experience, one which will develop you as a facilitator and a mentor?
- ❖ Practice, enhance, and share your multicultural competency?

Is your congregation ready to:

- ❖ Engage authentically with one another about ways race, ethnicity, and culture have shaped your lives?
- ❖ Begin an intentionally transformative learning process, based on techniques we know work to help people and congregations build multicultural competency?
- ❖ Embrace individual and community practices vital for sustaining our living Unitarian Universalist faith now and for the future?



BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT

www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwwda

Are you ready?

(over) ⇨

What is Building the World We Dream About?

Building the World We Dream About is a 24-workshop curriculum to support Unitarian Universalists and our congregations in building the multicultural Beloved Community we want to embody. It seeks to disrupt the workings of racism and transform how we relate across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences, in our congregations and beyond. Participants develop their anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills and prepare to nurture a multiculturally competent, actively anti-racist congregation.

Why is it so long?

The program's education process depends on personal reflection and narrative and invites deep listening, sharing, and reflection. Participants practice skills for cross-cultural dialogue and authentic cross-cultural partnering, primarily through sharing formative stories about racial, ethnic, and cultural identity. The first 13 workshops elicit the voices of people in the group and bring in others' personal narratives as readings and video clips. The final 11 workshops invite participants to interact with people of diverse identities and backgrounds outside the workshop group, both in and beyond the congregation.

Can it be shortened or adapted?

An intentional, step-by-step process distinguishes this resource from other faith development programs from Tapestry of Faith; thus, using workshops selectively is not recommended. Explore creative calendaring rather than shortening the series. Workshop 13 offers a natural "break" after a concluding worship celebration, and the program can easily be done over the course of two years. Similarly, we recommend you adapt only with great care. Be sure to keep these core elements: inclusion of varied perspectives, opportunities for engagement and deep reflection, and opportunities to practice and integrate newly developed multicultural competencies.

What if we cannot find the ideal facilitators?

We recommend that a two-person team from your congregation facilitate the program. Both will need good facilitation skills and be well versed in anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism. Ideally, one facilitator will identify as white and the other as a person from a group marginalized by race, ethnicity, and/or culture. However, a team of two experienced white facilitators from your congregation with good anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism competency can ably lead the program. Encourage such a team to seek help from peers using this program in other congregations and from Alex Kapitan, Congregational Justice Administrator for the UUA (akapitan@uua.org).

What if our congregation does not seem racially, ethnically, and/or culturally diverse?

Building the World We Dream About is designed to meet our congregations where each is, in terms of its multicultural make-up. Participants will still benefit from sharing their individual stories and listening to others, including the narratives provided in the curriculum. Facilitators of such a group might take special care to "widen the net" both within and outside the congregation to ensure participants encounter as many diverse voices as possible, at points where the curriculum provides such opportunities. Also, facilitators might seek further guidance, before beginning the program, from the UUA's Alex Kapitan.

How can we prepare to engage with the program?

It is highly recommended that congregations lay strong groundwork in preparation for engaging with this program—with proper preparation the returns are far greater. It is important to have more than one person leading the initiative; ideally, congregational leaders are on board, including the senior minister and the Director of Religious Education. Consider doing a series of events leading up to the start of the program, and reaching people in diverse and creative ways that speak to different learning styles. Services, panel discussions, guest preachers, a video series with follow-up discussions, and book discussions are some possibilities. For congregations that want an energizing introduction to the program, introductory workshops are now available.

Check out www.uua.org/multicultural for more, or contact Alex Kapitan at akapitan@uua.org.