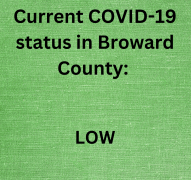


River of Grass

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 – February 16, 2023

The Home that Love Made: The Resilience of Our Blue Boat Home

*Stress has deformed and compressed our planet's glorious body
But what if size and shape can be recovered, nourished into a new flourishing.
- Leah Ongiri, from "A Blessing for Resilience"*

What if we decided to Side With Love for the sake of Earth herself, to fight for Climate Justice? What if we knew this, too, is part of our call to bend the arc of the universe toward justice in our time? What if we understood that working to heal our planet was at the intersections of healing people, and dismantling systems of oppression and harm to ourselves and all living things? What if we believed that even the smallest changes we might make in our daily lives could make big changes in our world?

Join us this Sunday to think about it, talk about it, and make a plan to better care for our Blue Boat Home – and all who make their homes here!

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse at the Historical Auditorium or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... We'll be watching for you!

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/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, February 19, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – The Home that Love Made: The Resilience of Our Blue Boat Home– Rev. Amy Carol Webb and Karen Gonzalez <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

This Sunday we'll celebrate the 24th anniversary of Charter Sunday - the birthday of River of Grass. Please stay after service to join in the celebration with a "personal picnic in a bag", special refreshments and old-fashioned games. **Let your face be seen in our new Annual Congregational Photo too!** And, let's continue thinking about Climate Action - there will be prizes for the "greenest lunch" - think about your containers and their contents! And don't forget your personal coffee mug.

Faith Development - There are no separate Faith Development classes for kids or teens today as we're all worshipping together to explore actions we can take to combat climate change. For more information about our FD program, contact our Director, Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Special Collection through UUSC:

Our hearts go out to the people of Turkey and Syria as they face the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Following two earthquakes that killed and injured thousands of people in and around Turkey and Syria, our UU Service Committee (UUSC) is working to deliver emergency support to 20 local groups providing lifesaving support and protecting the rights of marginalized people affected by the disaster. Your help is critical to ensuring a sustainable, equitable, and effective recovery.



UUSC and our community are in solidarity with the people of Turkey and Syria and the first responders and community activists mobilizing support for communities impacted by the devastating earthquake on February 6, 2023. We know that this is a time when global solidarity can strengthen mutual aid on the ground and support long-term movement-building for human rights.

Help grassroots activists save lives after the Feb 6th earthquakes in Turkey. We are taking a special collection to donate to the UUSC to support their efforts in both Turkey and Syria. Please add your donation to the collection by Friday, Feb. 17. To donate, please go to our Donation tab on our website and click on the blue Donate button: [Donate](#). On the "special collections" line enter the amount you want to donate and write Earthquake on the line. Or you can send your check payable to River of Grass with "Earthquake collection" in the memo line to River of Grass at PO Box 452485, Sunrise, FL 33345.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2023-24 IS COMING UP!

"A New Beginning" – March 5 to March 31, 2023

Our most important fund-raising event begins next month!

Your pledge supports our staff, worship, music programs, religious education programming, community outreach, and wider connections to Unitarian Universalism. Our annual budget reflects our mission and vision - who and what we want to be in this world and how we want to make a real difference.

River of Grass Mission Statement

We nurture our spirits,
Love intentionally and work to create
A just and healthy planet.



As you consider your pledge amount, think about what this congregation and community mean to you. Pledge packets will be handed out on Sunday, March 5. Please fill out the pledge card in the packet or [online](#). A Steward, one of your friends at ROG, will be contacting you. Please welcome their call. Questions? Your Stewardship Co-Chairs, Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org

We received the following note from Warren Lowe of The Food Pantry of Broward. We donated one half of our Christmas Eve collection to them.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As you can imagine, the ongoing food insecurity crisis is only getting more and more difficult for our clients (seniors 60+ and grandparents raising their grandchildren). Your \$421.50 donation from the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, believe it or not, goes a long way in helping us purchase food for our monthly food box program.

According to a recent USA Today article dated September 19th, 2022, "A million more seniors fell into poverty last year. It was the only age group that saw a rise." The statistics show seniors aged 65 and older who fell into poverty rose from 8.9% in 2020 to 10.3% in 2021; keeping in mind, these numbers do not reflect the crazy inflation crisis we experienced in 2022. Additionally, the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, the November 2022 consumer price increases over November 2021 were 10.6% for food, 10.1% for gasoline, and 7.1% for housing. This has seriously affected the limited incomes of our clients.

So, as you can see, every little bit helps!

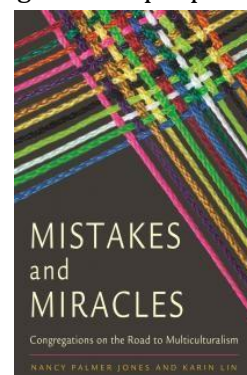
Common Read March 26th at noon:

The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared focus for reflection and action. A Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

"Mistakes and Miracles" What lessons and inspiration can we find in *Mistakes and Miracles* to guide our striving for Beloved Community, today?

Common Read 2022-23: *Mistakes and Miracles* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin

Co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. Their book, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*, shares the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.



Today, Unitarian Universalists are grappling with a charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. As we enter a Common Read of this book, many will bring a spirit ready to meet the urgent need for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our congregations and our movement.

Read or Listen to *Mistakes and Miracles*

Mistakes and Miracles can be purchased from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). Discounts are available on orders of 10 or more books.

You can also [listen to *Mistakes and Miracles* as an audiobook!](#)

If you need the book in another format, please email UUA Publications Director Mary Benard at mbernard@uua.org. Join the conversation!

Rev. Amy will lead us in discussion about this inspiring read on March 26th, during our Second Helping series at noon. Bring your thoughts, questions and ideas about how River of Grass can be inspired in this good work!

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/>

RoG Men's Group – We'll next meet **Thursday Feb 16th 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 the Fat Stork Restaurant, 8270 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. 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.

Good Grief Group on Tuesday Feb 21st at 7:00 pm – This month's Good Grief Group will meet on Tuesday, Feb 21st and will be hosted by Marilisa Lawless on zoom. Please email Marilisa for the link.

SSJGT and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty fadp.org will have a vigil protesting the execution of Donald David Dillbeck on **Thursday, Feb 23rd at 5:00 pm**. Governor Ron Desantis has signed his death warrant. The vigil location will be at the Federal Courthouse at the Northeast corner of NE 3rd Avenue and East Broward Boulevard in Ft. Lauderdale. 33301. Signs will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.



Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

LifeNet4Families Feb 25th 9:00 am – LifeNet4families is eagerly awaiting our merry band from River of Grass on Saturday Feb 25th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. It's fun and rewarding to know we are easing some folks' food insecurity by packing bags that will be donated to those in need.. If interested please contact Linda Morgan Crain at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Sign Up for Full Moon Daughters Winter Camping Trip – All women, girls and those who identify as female are invited to join us from **Friday, Mar 3rd - Sunday, Mar 5th** at Lake Griffin State Park, about an hour north of Orlando near Leesburg. There will be kayaking, hiking, bird watching, and shared meals around the campfire. If you don't like sleeping outdoors, hotels are available in Leesburg. For more information or to sign up, email: fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org. For more information about the park: [Lake Griffin State Park](http://LakeGriffinStatePark).

TOWN HALL MEETING!! Sunday, Mar 5th after service, in person at Old Davie School and virtual. **Update on future home status** – Things are moving fast. There's a lot going on. Stay after service on Mar 5th to hear what is happening, negotiations, etc. Our Future Home Search Team and Capital Campaign Team have been working hard and will provide information as to what is happening and what still needs to be done.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Before buying new clothes, check out thrift stores (like Goodwill). You may be surprised to find some excellent choices and big savings.

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/leaderlab/pandemics>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/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: Current Broward County Status

- 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:

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.

River of Grass UU Congregation

6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)

4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314 (Office Location)

PO Box 452485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345 (Mailing Address Only)

954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org