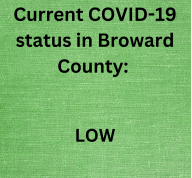


# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
PO Box 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 – February 23, 2023

## Love at the Crossroads: Till We All Get Free Liberatory Intersections to Transform Ourselves and Our World

*Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.*

*– Unitarian Universalist Article II Commission*

This Sunday as we gather up the learnings of our River of Grass Bending the Arc series and the Side With Love 30 Days of Love for 2023, we'll lift up the heart or our faith and work as we look to know – and do – our part to transform ourselves and this world in the wake of such a long season of change. For as much as the world and our lives do change, the yearning toward liberation for all grows all the louder still. Come lend your voice – and your heart – to our shared mission to get us all free. We can only get there together.

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... 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/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

### *Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:*

**Sunday, February 26, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Love at the Crossroads: Till We All Get Free – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

**Faith Development** -In our Faith Development class for kids this Sunday, we'll wrap up our theme of love by sharing that which we really loooove! We'll share our passions and the joys that fill our lives. Kiddos are asked to bring in photos or items to share. For more information about our Children's Faith Development Program, contact our director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### **Membership News:**

**Inquirer's:** If you are worried about the way the world is headed and want to do your part to make a change, please join us for the Faith Forward Inquirer's Meeting **this Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**. We will explore concrete ways River of Grass can help move our community, indeed our world, toward greater justice and more love. The meeting will take place **from noon to 1:15 PM**, and will be led by our Service, Social Justice Green Team (SSJGT) lead, Steve Jens-Rochow, and SSJGT super member, Karen "Kat" Holland. Not able to attend in person? No worries....the Zoom link for the meeting is:

<http://ec2-54-202-43-228.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com/x/d?c=28794685&l=e2c3a142-62b8-4ba4-a16f-fd21b05a4376&r=b5185801-7fbe-434c-b17c-2a578973797a>

**New Member Sunday:** We will joyfully welcome new members to River of Grass in our **New Member Ceremony on March 5<sup>th</sup>**. If you are ready to help shape the future course of this amazing River by becoming a member, there are a few easy steps to take. Please contact Membership Chair, Leana Bresnahan, at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org); or see her after worship service. We look forward to welcoming you!

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 BEGINS NEXT WEEK! ... and there will be cake!**

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

Your pledge packet will be handed out next weekend at Worship service and if you are not here, it will be in the mail! In that packet Rev Amy, President Kathy Jens-Rochow and Director of Religious Education, Karen Gonzalez, will tell you a bit about their hopes and dreams for our next year together.

You can fill out the pledge card right [online](#). The fiscal year ends on June 30 and your new deductions will begin on July 1. We ask that you consider a 10-15% increase from last year.

Thank you so much for making your commitment to this beloved community. Questions? Your Stewardship Co-Chairs can be reached at [stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org). Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini



### **Common Read March 26<sup>th</sup> 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 [mbenard@uua.org](mailto:mbenard@uua.org).

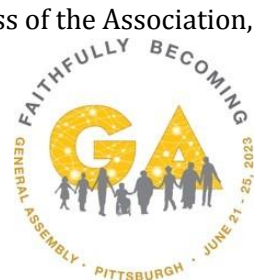
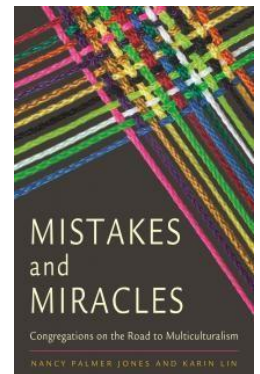
Join the conversation!

**Rev. Amy will lead us in discussion about this inspiring read on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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!

### **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA):**

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. **Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and/or online. This is a 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops. GA is a chance to be part of the larger fellowship of Unitarian Universalists. There will be thousands! It is a great energy and experience. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

**The theme for [General Assembly 2023](#) is "Faithfully Becoming."** We are at a threshold moment for our faith and will choose the next path in our journey. We will consider new articulations of Article II (including our Principles and Purpose) and elect a new President to lead our Association. These are decisions that will shape who we are and how we respond to and grow through these times. These changes offer us possibilities for becoming more connected, courageous, inclusive, generous, and continuing our ongoing journey of becoming a Beloved Community. Anyone can attend. You can register for total participation, in the business meetings and the programs/worship or register for programs/worship only and not sit through the business meetings. Go to [UUA.org/ga](http://UUA.org/ga) for more info and to register.



### ***New Member - John Rissi:***

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER JOHN RISSI! John was born in Switzerland, along with three other brothers. When he was ten, his parents moved the family to Richmond, Virginia, which -- in his words -- " was a little like moving to Mars." Florida has been his home for more than 40 years. He now lives in Plantation with his grown daughter, Kindall. His son, Michael, 27, also lives in Plantation. Influenced by the works of Carl Jung, John became a forensic psychologist. He was then given permission to do research on psychopathy with voluntary inmates (instead of many bridge players, who would certainly have qualified). Eventually, John created stress management groups for vulnerable inmates, and has written two thriller novels. And talk about eclectic interests! John enjoys motorcycle mechanics, Tai Chi and Qigong, comparative religion, nature walks, basketball, reading and writing. Please give him a warm River of Grass welcome!



### ***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/>

**Good Grief Group on Tuesday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm** – This month's Good Grief Group will meet on Tuesday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and will be hosted by Marilisa Lawless on zoom. Please email [Marilisa](mailto:Marilisa) for the link.

**SSJGT and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty** [fadp.org](http://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 Northwest 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](mailto:SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org).



**Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**

**LifeNet4Families Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am** – LifeNet4families is eagerly awaiting our merry band from River of Grass on Saturday Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org).

**RoG Men's Group** – We'll next **meet Thursday Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, Mar 5<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org). For more information about the park: [Lake Griffin State Park](#).

**TOWN HALL MEETING!! Sunday, Mar 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **MUUVies for Change March viewing is "Loving"**

Director Jeff Nichols; The true story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a couple whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that would end with the Supreme Court's 9-0 historic 1967 decision, which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. Richard Loving, a white construction worker in Caroline County, Virginia, falls in love with a local black woman and family friend, Mildred Jeter. Upon Mildred discovering that she is pregnant, they decide to marry. Available on Netflix. MUUVies for Change will discuss "Loving" on **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>. Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>.



**Openings at the Auction Apple Cider Tasting Party** - Interested in trying several varieties of hard apple cider all the while nomming on snacks made with apples, proving the versatility of this most amazing fruit??There are limited openings available for \$30 at this Auction party at a member's home **on March 18<sup>th</sup>**. Contact [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org) to purchase.

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Join your fellow UUs who avoid buying items that use styrofoam. Styrofoam is not biodegradable, so it stays in the landfill undissolved for generations! Luckily most major fast food chains stopped using styrofoam years ago. Join the no-styrofoam movement and know you are making a difference

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

**Team:** Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten ([COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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](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 to [WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)**