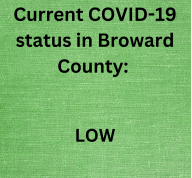


# River of Grass

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 – March 2, 2023

### **Through Impossible to Possible: or, How to Make A New Beginning**

The only way to discover the limits of the possible  
is to go beyond them into the impossible.

– Aldous Huxley

By now y'all likely know that our beloved River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation specializes in the impossible – from the day of its birth 24 years ago, through every threshold of growth, challenge, and changes foreseen and unforeseen. So many of you have witnessed it again and again. And if you haven't yet, then you are right on time! This Spring of 2023, we are once more asked to find out what is possible for our vision and mission with a good look at our monthly theme of "Vulnerability" by, well, getting vulnerable with truths about the future of our beloved River of Grass Congregation – and what we are asked to do, to be, and to give to get us from here to there.

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/ab3E9JRtb9>

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

**Sunday, March 5, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Through Impossible to Possible: or, How to Make A New Beginning – Rev. Amy Carol Webb <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

**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.

**New Member Sunday** – We will joyfully welcome new members to River of Grass in our New Member Ceremony **this Sunday, 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). We look forward to welcoming you!

### **ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2023-24 IS HERE!**

**“A New Beginning” – March 5 to March 31, 2023**

**The Annual Pledge Drive (APD) will kick off THIS Sunday, March 5 with CAKE!!**

This yearly Campaign provides financial resources for our facilities, staff and programming so that we may do the vital work in the world and carry out the mission that River of Grass is meant to do. **\*\*You will receive your pledge packet after service on Sunday and have CAKE!\*\*** If you are not in attendance, your packet will be mailed. Please take a moment to check out the 2023-24 On-Line Brochure [online](#). Our staff and President have messages to share; testimonials from your Friends as to why they give and lots of pictures of River Moments. The [online](#) pledge card is convenient. It is the preferred way to pledge so our Thermometer can include your pledge and show our progress to our goal of \$220,000.



### **Each week the numbers will climb!!**

Please consider raising your pledge 10, 15, 25% - whatever your circumstances can afford - will help us continue to build the world we dream about. We are hoping for 100% participation as we Go, Grow and Flow The River Way. **We know there is more joy to be had; more life-giving work to do; more love to share...together, at this time of A New Beginning.** Rob Giblin-Davis will give his testimonial this Sunday and share why he and Deb give so generously to their spiritual home. For more information, do reach out to us. Questions? Your Stewardship Co-Chairs can be reached at [stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org). Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini

**Faith Development** This Sunday in our Faith Development class for kids, we'll be reminded that families come in lots of different configurations, including Foster Families. We'll learn about Kids in Distress, how they help care for the kids in our community and how we can help, too! For more information about our FD program for kids, contact our director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### **Children's Fundraising Service Project**

Kids In Distress, Inc. (KID) is a nationally accredited organization dedicated to preventing child abuse, preserving families, and treating children who have been abused and neglected. Their services include individual, family, and group therapy and counseling; preschool, aftercare and summer camp programs; recruitment, training, and support of foster/adoptive homes; and prevention, reunification, family preservation and maternal and child health services. Our FD kiddos are raising funds for this organization through their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Duck Fest Derby on April 1<sup>st</sup>. They'll be looking for donations during hospitality time each Sunday in March. Buy a duck for \$5, help a kid and



enter to win the \$10,000 prize! See one of our smiley kids on Sunday or click this link to donate to our River of Grass team. <https://2023kidduckfestderby.funraise.org/team/river-of-grass-team>

### **Membership News:**

**Inquirer's:** You are invited to join us for the **Faith Forward Inquirer's Meeting next Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**, when we will explore together in interactive dialogue the ways we can ALL develop our love-based faith as Unitarian Universalists. Folks new to River of Grass and members alike are welcome. The meeting will take place from noon to 1:15 PM, and will be led by Karen Gonzalez, our Faith Development Director, and Tanya Gustafson, chair of the Faith Development Committee. Not able to attend in person? No worries...the Zoom link for the meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NllRYzJlMG9lVk1lMHA5djIwZlZhc0Zz09>

### **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.

### **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/>

**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](#).

## 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/u/kvL0D418Y>.



**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.

**Old Davie Schoolhouse Historical Tour** - Are you enjoying the beautiful space we get to call home at The Old Davie Schoolhouse? Would you like to know more about the history of this building and the town? Sign up during hospitality time on Sunday to join a guided tour after our Third Sunday Picnic on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The tour will begin at 1:00 and last about 1 1/2 hours. There will be a small fee, depending on the number of people who sign up. You can also reach out to our Faith Development Director, Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) to sign up.

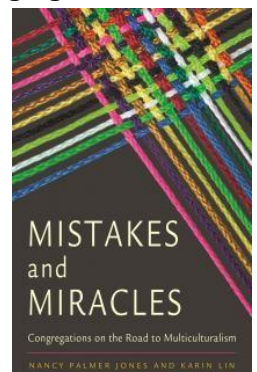
**Fundraiser Yard Sale** - The River of Grass Yard Sale returns on **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon**, at Kathy & Steve Jens-Rochow's house in Ft. Lauderdale. Email below for the address. Our RoG Men's Group is working with the RoG FundRaising Team in our congregation-wide effort to rehome those extra tools, furniture, records, household stuff, targeting items that have a retail value of \$20 or more. (No clothes, tapes or books, please.) Sorting & pricing will start at Steve and Kathy's home the Sunday before, so bring your stuff to them from Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Steve Jens-Rochow and Ken Bresnahan will be recruiting volunteers during Coffee Hour on Sundays before the sale. So, help yourself, the planet and RoG by supporting this River fundraiser. Questions: email [fundraising@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fundraising@riverofgrassuu.org).

**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.

*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!

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat – March 31- April 2, 2023** at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center Ellenton Florida. A Weekend Gathering of UU Women featuring Shelley Graff facilitating Singing in Sacred Circle

- Friday evening we will get to know one another and create community
- Saturday one-hour workshops offer choices
  - Singing in Sacred Circle with Shelley Graff
  - Free time in the afternoon for personal exploration
- Sunday we share a UU Service bringing it all together



DaySpring Conference Center is conveniently located off I-75 just north of Sarasota

on Florida's West Coast. The beautiful campus nestled under ancient oaks and located on a cove of the Manatee River offers a serene setting for our annual retreat. Take a look. <https://dayspringfl.org>

\$232 per person covers expenses for a semi-private room plus meals for the weekend. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$304 each. 8 women share a cozy cottage with 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a screened porch and common area. Come join us for an enriching and memorable weekend. To register or for more information contact Helen Leddy [helen.leddy@gmail.com](mailto:helen.leddy@gmail.com).

***SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:*** Visit [OptoutPrescreen.com](https://OptoutPrescreen.com) to stop unsolicited credit card offers. This website is run by the 3 credit agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion) and is supported by the Federal Trade Commission. In just 3 minutes you can stop this junk mail, saving you hassle and reducing landfill waste.

#### ***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)**