

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 – March 3, 2022

Ask What's Possible

Join us in-person or virtually on Zoom and facebook!

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask 'What's possible?' not 'What's wrong?' Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

(Margaret Wheatley)

What shall we do, living here in this liminal time, between what was and what will be? With old ways passing behind us and new ones yet forming before us, how shall we live into the new world before us – as a people of faith, as Unitarian Universalists, as the Beloved Community at River of Grass?

Join us this Sunday, March 6, 2022 – for a First Sunday Multi-Platform service in-person or virtually on Zoom and facebook at the info below – as we launch our March theme of “Renewing Faith,” along with our Annual Pledge Drive (APD) let us dare to ask what is possible.

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.

We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

*Looking forward
to seeing you...*

JOIN US FOR AN
IN-PERSON SERVICE

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 6TH
10:30AM**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
3205 COLLEGE AVENUE
DAVIE, FL 33314

IFAS SATELLITE BUILDING

**MASKS REQUIRED
SEATING IS LIMITED
FOOD & DRINKS ARE NOT PERMITTED
THANK YOU!**

River of Grass
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

In person at:

University of Florida -IFAS

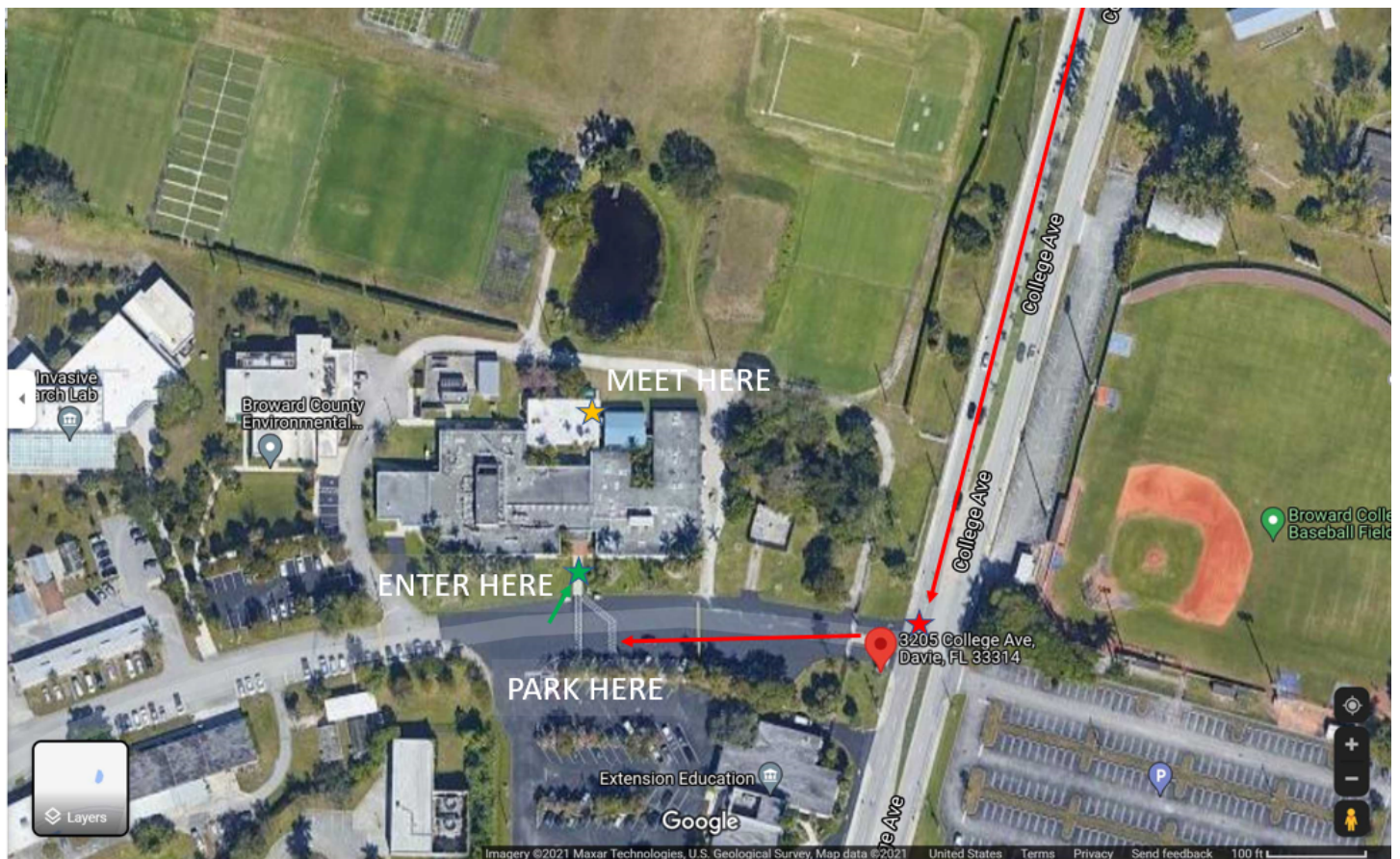
Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center

3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314

Directions: <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/directions/>

If you Are arriving via University Drive:

- Turn east at Nova Drive (SW 24th Street), which would be a right turn if driving from the south and a left turn if driving from the north.
- Drive east on Nova Drive to the first stoplight, which is College Avenue.
- Turn right onto College Avenue and drive south ¼ mile to the first entrance on the right side of the street. Look for a large blue monument sign with University of Florida on it. The entrance is 600 feet past this monument sign.



We'll be live on Zoom at the link below, as well as on our facebook page.

Virtually at:

Topic: Worship March 6, 2022

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, March 6, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Ask What's Possible - Rev. Amy Carol Webb -

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

Faith Development:

This Sunday, we're excited to meet together under the pavilion to focus on "Renewing Faith in Each Other". Our faith teaches us that, together, we have the ability to change the world. Remembering this power that arises when we unite in common cause is a great source of hope. We have some fun games planned, so bring your trust and your funny bones (oh, and your masks)! For more information about our Faith Development program for kids and teens, contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Monthly Family Fun, Outdoors!

Mark your calendars for another fun events for families -

Saturday, Mar 19th - gather at Bergeron Park for playground fun

Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org for more information.

Faith Development is for Adults, too! Would you like to know more about our Unitarian and Universalist histories? Or, need some help in articulating your faith? Maybe you're wondering about the origin of our UU Principles or just how our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors decided to become one faith. Our Southern Region staff of the UUA is hosting an online series to help you to grow your understanding. This is a self-paced online program which culminates with one group session. We can also arrange a River of Grass study group for those taking the course. Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org if you're interested in being connected to others on the journey. [Learn more or register here.](#)

From the River of Grass Board of Trustees:

Every year at our Annual Meeting we elect new members to the Board. The officers and trustees serve 2-year terms. Our Nominating Committee is charged with building a slate for the elections. I am so very pleased to announce the following slate:

- President – 2-year term – Kathy Jens-Rochow
- Treasurer – 2-year term – Rob Giblin-Davis
- Trustee – Bev Kaufman
- Trustee – Kechi Mourer

The Nominating Committee is also charged with creating the slate for the next year's Nominating Committee. Per our bylaws – the congregation elects 3 people and the Board then appoints an additional three. The candidates for the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee are:

- Linda Lathroum
- Lucy Harty
- Kip Barkley

We share a very big thank you to the current Nominating Committee – Scott May, Linda Lathrum and Kat Holland. Due to extenuating circumstances, three other members had to resign from the committee. The committee did a superlative job in creating the slate and in a timely manner!

Per our bylaws, other nominations may also be made by written petition signed by at least two members, delivered to an officer or Board member at least 20 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting in order to be included on the final written slate. Members may nominate themselves. With the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 1st, 20 days prior would be April 11th. If you have any questions, Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

River of Grass Policies & Procedures update:

In accordance to our Policy on Policies, the following is a notification and a request for feedback on the following amendment:

Part I, Section 3

3. River of Grass Fund Raising
 - A. All fundraising events must first receive Board approval.
 - B. **Capital Campaign Funding**

1. Capital Campaign 2020-2023

- a. Members and Friends may make contributions to the fund at any time.
- b. Members and friends have the option to receive, upon request, a refund of their Capital Campaign donation should a home (or equivalent or via a partnership) not be purchased within 4 years of the end of the Capital Campaign (March 31, 2027).

Black Film Group - The film for Mar 23rd is "13th"

The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for a crime. It details how the prison industrial complex has continued to negatively impact black and brown citizens since the end of the Civil War.



Watch the movie "13th" on your own (available on Netflix). We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, Mar 23rd, at 7pm. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org if you are coming. For Discussion join Zoom Meeting at 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>
Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile +13017158592,,84418593114# US (Washington DC)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

Why single out racism when there are so many oppressions?

At a global level, this would not necessarily make sense (for instance, the oppression of women is fundamental to poverty and lack of development in many areas), but in the USA, racism stands out. The two worst crises of the UUA were both related to race.

The Black Empowerment Controversy 1968-1970. After much pressure from black UUs after the race riots in 1967 the 1968 GA funded the UUA's Black Affairs Council [BAC] \$1,000,000, to be paid over four years. The first payments were made, but then the UUA had a huge budget deficit and had to renege on the remaining payments. Amid bitterness, most of the black UUs left the denomination.

And in 2017 UUA President Morales left 3 months before the end of his term as a result of controversy regarding the UUA's hiring practices and charges of institutional racism. The UUA had installed a white person as head of the Southern Region, skipping over several highly qualified persons of color."

Racism in the US stems from chattel slavery, where people were uniquely, and legally treated as property that could be inherited, for something (skin color) they had no control over. Systemic racism is endemic in the US right now, as evidenced by all of the shootings of unarmed black people.

This is why we need to add the 8th Principle:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

The adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting. 8th Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org.

8TH Principle Dinner Conversations

In preparation for the vote of the 8th Principle at the Annual Meeting on May 15th, we are providing opportunities for members of the congregation to have some nourishment and conversations at Members' homes to discuss the many faces of racial disparity that we have been raised in and may not even recognize. We are on this journey as Unitarian Universalists to raise awareness and openness by doing this work together. We start by looking within ourselves for answers to questions we never thought to ask.

All members have received an invitation ("Evite") by email to join a discussion group in March about the 8th Principle in a safe outdoor space at a Member's home to listen and think deeply. Please RSVP to this Evite. If you do

not believe you received an Evite, please email us at 8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org. If you cannot make it in person, a Zoom link will be provided. If you need a different date, please let us know so we can try to accommodate that. We hope you will join each other in building the world we dream about! See Q&A about the 8th Principle on our website at RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html.

8th Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org.

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 meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Mar 3rd topic is: “Widening Circle of Comfort.”** There is a third page for future discussion that is not planned as part of our discussion. The Topic Description is online at KipBarkley.com/topic/. There we post past topics and links to the UU Small Group Ministry Network. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Do come out and join us. The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. If you have any questions please contact Kip Barkley; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

BUUKies March Read – Dancing in the Mosque, An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son, by Homeira Qaderi. We will meet on Wednesday, Mar 16th at 7pm.

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

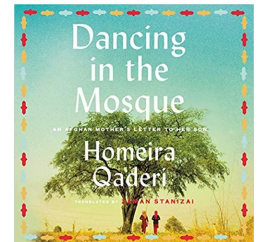
One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC)

An exquisite and inspiring memoir about one mother’s unimaginable choice in the face of oppression and abuse in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

No ordinary Afghan woman, Homeira refused to cower under the strictures of a misogynistic social order. Defying the law, she risked her freedom to teach children reading and writing and fought for women’s rights in her theocratic and patriarchal society. Devastating in its power, *Dancing in the Mosque* is a mother’s searing letter to a son she was forced to leave behind. In telling her story—and that of Afghan women—Homeira challenges you to reconsider the meaning of motherhood, sacrifice, and survival.

Her story asks you to consider the lengths you would go to protect yourself, your family, and your dignity.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: It takes over 50 years for leather shoes to break down in a landfill. Be sure to buy quality comfortable shoes, not just the latest fashion. And as they wear, take them to the shoe repair shop. In the long run, it will help your feet, save you money, and help the environment.

Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign - Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase and build our church ourselves.

We need your help in order to be better prepared when the right opportunity presents itself. Those of you who made your pledge during our campaign last fall, thank you for your commitment. We have received about 65% of the total amount pledged.

In order to get a handle on our finances, **we would like to know when you plan to complete your contribution.**

And we are always open to new pledges and contributions. Go to our website, riverofgrassuu.org, scroll down to the [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team, capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.

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 CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

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

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, 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: considers first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

Sources:

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/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 November 4, 2021

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

River of Grass COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team is monitoring Broward County's risk level of transmission. The level of risk used by the River of Grass UU Congregation shall be as measured on [Broward County, Florida \(FL\) - COVID Vaccine & Risk Tracker - Covid Act Now](#). Risk levels are **low**, **medium**, **high**, **very high**, and **severe**.

In-person/hybrid Worship services, large group concerts, fundraisers, other large events (with 50 or more participants) shall occur while the COVID risk is at low, medium, or high levels. According to the Updated Gathering Guidance from UUA.org, "In areas where transmission risk is very high or severe, suspend all large in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers." As such, in-person worship services and other large gatherings shall be suspended if the level of risk for Broward County is and has been very high or severe for two or more weeks. The level of risk, as reported on the COVID Act Now website, will be monitored by the Re-Emergence Team, which will alert the Board and Worship Team if the risk level changes to or from very high or severe and stays at that level for two weeks.

Further, all attendees of in-person gatherings, small or large, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as possible based on eligibility by age. Vaccination or recent negative COVID test is strongly encouraged for in-person gatherings. Facial coverings/masks are required for large indoor in-person gatherings and strongly encouraged for other groups to protect the most vulnerable, including unvaccinated babies and young children. Small groups are encouraged to set-up and enter into their own covenants, using the guidance herein, regarding COVID-19 safety procedures.

If protocols at rental facilities are more restrictive, their guidelines will be followed.

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.