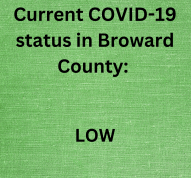


River of Grass

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 – March 23, 2023

All of Us Need All of Us

All of us need all of us to make it.
– Rev. Theresa Ninán Soto

On this final Sunday of our month-long exploration of vulnerability, we'll gather within the interconnections of our lives, our congregation, our communities, and our humanity to consider how we need one another in the Interdependent Web of Life we share (our 7th Unitarian Universalist Principle). What does it mean to help one another? What does it mean to answer the world's call for love, justice, and hope? What does it mean to learn how to not only extend a hand, but to reach for one – not only to be a friend, but to need one – not only to see need before us, but to see need within us ... and be willing to have it known? With all that we do not know, one thing we know for sure: it takes all of us for any of us to make it.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall 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/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – All of Us Need All of Us – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

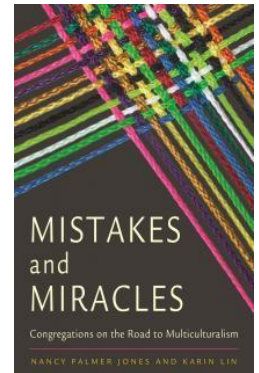
Faith Development: There are no formal small group meetings for kids and youth on Sunday as many families are traveling to celebrate Spring Break. Young ones are welcome to play in the nursery or attend worship. We hope to see our families at the Kids in Distress Duck Fest Derby on Saturday, April 1st. For more information about our programming for kids and youth, reach out to our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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.

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.

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!

Membership News: You are invited to attend the next session of the Faith Forward Inquirer's Series which will be held after worship service this Sunday, March 26th, at Old Davie School (6650 Griffin Road in Davie) from **noon to 1:15 p.m.** This week **we will explore together the meaning of membership in this Beloved Community;** and the steps you can take to formally join River of Grass UU Congregation. **Childcare will be provided if we know ahead of time that it is needed. RSVPs ahead of time are also helpful for our planning.** Not able to attend in person? No worries... here is the [Zoom link for the meeting](#).

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE: A New Beginning March 5 to March 31, 2023

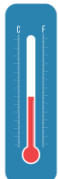
IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR - PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN SO OUR THERMOMETER RISES TO THE TOP! 62% of our goal has been reached! BE PART OF OUR FUTURE!!

This new fiscal year begins 7/1/23 – 6/30/24. Even though you filled out a pledge card for this current year, you will need to do it again for the upcoming year.

PLEDGES RECEIVED TO DATE \$169,186



GOAL



Your pledge packet was mailed to you. It includes messages from Rev Amy, Karen Gonzalez, Faith Development Director, and our Board President, Kathy Jens-Rochow, some guidance on giving and a pledge card with a return envelope. Please think deeply about how this community has nourished you and how you can support the work in the world we are meant to do.

The full brochure is [on the website](#) under Donations or click the link on the opening page. Below the brochure is the digital pledge card which is the preferred way to let us know your wishes. With a few clicks,

you are done! We are in the budget phase of planning for next year. Please help us bring our plans to life with your generous investment in the future of River of Grass. If you did not receive a packet, please let us know; or If you have questions, we can be reached at stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org. Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs

Announcement from the Board:

The River of Grass Board has called a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 2. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the authority of the Board to present an offer to purchase a property. In the current commercial market, it is important that we be able to present a valid offer to purchase quickly when we find a suitable home.

Written notice was emailed to River members on March 20.

This is an important congregational decision, requiring a quorum of 40% of the membership to vote on any business. According to our by-laws, members eligible to vote are those in good standing 14 days prior to a Special Meetings. A new member is eligible to vote 60 days after signing the membership book.

We need you! Please put April 2 on your calendar with details of the time and place forthcoming.

Please stay tuned.

Kathy Jens-Rochow, President (president@riverofgrassuu.org)

Nominating Committee Update:

This year our Nominating Committee was charged to create a slate of candidates to fill 5 positions on the Board:

- 2-year term Vice President
- 2-year term Secretary
- 2-year term Trustee
- 2-year term Trustee
- 1-year term to complete the term for Treasurer since Rob Giblin-Davis is moving

The Nominating Committee is please to present the following slate:

The slate for next year's Board is:

- Maureen Lundell has agreed to be nominated to serve another 2-year term as Vice President
- Bruce Ngo has agreed to be nominated to serve another 2-year term as Secretary
- Scott Migliori and Geri Mikulski are the candidates for the two 2-year term Trustee positions
- Ahysa Boutron will be the candidate for the 1-year term of Treasurer

The bylaws also allow for other nominations. These nominations can 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.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee members: Linda Lathroum, Elly Keane, Leana Bresnahan, Barbara Ratchford, Peter Fox and Linda Morgan Crain.

Kathy Jens-Rochow, President (president@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 17th Annual Duck Fest Derby on April 1st. **They've already raised over \$700!!** If you haven't had a chance to give yet, be looking for an enthusiastic young one during hospitality time on Sunday or use the link below. 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>

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/>

Drum Circle Friday, Mar 24th at 7:00 pm! No drum necessary -- we have plenty of 'em -- or bring your own to drum out the week's woes and energize ourselves for the coming days! Please contact minister@riverofgrassuu.org for address and info.

Fundraiser Yard Sale - The River of Grass Yard Sale is on **Saturday, Mar 25th, 8am to 12 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. So, help yourself, the planet and RoG by supporting this River fundraiser. Questions: email fundraising@riverofgrassuu.org.

LifeNet4Families Volunteer Day - Mar 25th: If garage sales aren't your thing, LifeNet4Families is hosting our volunteers on **Saturday Mar 25th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**. We will probably be doing what we seem to do best, which is packing bags full of food to be distributed to those in need. Come join the fun! Contact Linda at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org with any questions and to RSVP so we know who is coming.

11th Annual Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat - Mar 31- Apr 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.

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 April 1st**. This is not an April Fools Prank - we pushed the date back so others can still join in on the fun! Contact auction@riverofgrassuu.org to purchase.

RoG Men's Group – We'll next **meet Thursday Apr 6th 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.

Mind & Body Wellness Program – Want to explore ways to take better care of your mind and body? Join the online 6-week "Mind & Body Wellness Program" **starting on April 10th**. We will explore and discuss topics such as expressive arts & movement, balancing life's challenges, healing trauma, mindful eating, and a variety of mindfulness practices. This program was started by Dr. James Gordon and the Center for Mind-Body Medicine and is research-based. It is offered on a sliding scale starting at \$0. Find out more at www.insightinstitutellc.com or contact carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com.

From our 8th Principle Action team: The Dock C. Bracy Center for Human Reconciliation is a non-profit non-denominational learning organization, focused on the eradication of racism and other forms of human oppression. It is offering 2 online upcoming seminars:

1. Eradicating Racism: A Path Forward Learning Series which will be on **Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm on April 13, 20, 27 and May 4**.
REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/468722530707>.
2. Let's Talk Series: Antisemitism is Everyone's Concern held on **Wed. April 19, from 7-9 pm**
REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/558702282567>.

The Eradicating Racism series provides the opportunity for dialogue about the complexity of racism in a safe learning environment with other concerned people. In addition, participants become part of the Center's Finding Your Voice Program, which creates an environment for learning, healing, and transformation, rich in educational resources, and networking support. Questions? Contact Tanya Gustafson at 8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org.

MUUVies for Change April viewing is "Youth v Gov"

Directed by filmmaker and scientist Christi Cooper. This documentary is the story of [Juliana v. The United States of America](#) constitutional lawsuit and the 21 American youth, ages 11 to 25, who are taking on the world's most powerful government. Since 2015, the legal non-profit [Our Children's Trust](#), has been representing these youth in their landmark case against the U.S. government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, personal safety, and property through their willful actions in creating the climate crisis they will inherit. The youngest plaintiff was Levi Draheim, pictured, a UU youth from Jacksonville Beach. Available on: [Netflix](#). MUUVies for Change will discuss "Youth v Gov" on **Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 PM**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow 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>.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: AVOID BEEF! Avoiding beef is most likely the #1 thing each of us can do to help the environment. Compared to other meats, beef generates 5 times the greenhouse gasses, uses 11 times the water, and 28 times the land, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Skip the beef, save the planet.

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