

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 – April 21, 2022

A Seed Knows How to Wait: Earth Day 2022!

A seed knows how to wait. Each beginning is the end of a waiting

-Hope Jahren (geochemist/geobiologist, University of Oslo, Norway)

We continue with our April theme of Awakening in this holy season of rebirth and renewal, we celebrate Earth Day 2022 in Beloved Community at River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Here at the threshold of a new beginning of our own after a long liminal time of great uncertainty and change, sometimes feeling the Earth Herself shift beneath our feet, what seeds have been waiting within us – as individuals, as congregation, as community? What new days await their unfolding among us and around us in a world forever altered. How are we called to stretch into new ways of being? Gather with us this Sunday to explore!

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!

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

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, April 24, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – A Seed Knows How to Wait: Earth Day 2022! - Rev. Amy Carol Webb -

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

Faith Development: Dragonflies **9:30 am**; Teens **12:00 pm**; Mockingbirds **1:30 pm**

On Sunday, our children and youth will be waking up to the wonder and beauty around them and practicing being present to it. Our youngests will be creating their own kaleidoscopes of beauty to help in this practice. For more information about our Faith Development Program for Kids and Teens, contact our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Virtual Service Watch Pods

Tired of watching our virtual service alone? Want to share the joy of being together while watching the virtual service? Invite a couple of your River friends (or other friends) to your patio and watch the service together, on each person's own device. Or on your big screen tv. And enjoy hospitality together.

The Worship Team has a number of opportunities STILL OPEN!

Without volunteers we cannot do what we do on Sunday morning!! Volunteer positions are typically once a month for 2.5 hours on a rotation! That's it! Please inquire as your dynamic ministry may just be an email or phone call away!! We cannot do what we do without everyone doing their part. Training is available. Here are the positions and a little about what is involved.



Brit Lundell has volunteered for the ROG Media Library and new Zoom Hosts will be Ken Bresnahan, Jorge Rodriguez, Rebecca Rice and Kip Barkley.

- **Tech Runner** - Run the Pre-recorded services every Sunday morning with the Tech Team. **Duties:** After all pre-recorded segments are completed, they are sent to the Runner for Sunday morning. An ethernet connection and some basic skills taught to you by our professional, Rebecca Rice, and you are on the Team! **Time Commitment: Two hours a month!**
- **Host Scheduler** - **Duties:** Assists Worship Chair scheduling Service hosts for upcoming services. Sends emails, schedules on the Sunday Morning Volunteer spreadsheet. **Time commitment: One hour a month.**
- **Co-Chair for Worship** - Worship needs a co-chair to assist and support Rev Amy in all aspects of putting services together weekly. **Duties:** Scheduling and training of Service Leaders, building Sunday scripts and OOS, scheduling Storytellers and Zoom Hosts; keeping our services inclusive; and responsibility for all lay worship services. Member of the Sunday Experience Team. **Time commitment: 3 - 5 hours a week. With two people, the schedule would be less demanding! I would love to share what I've learned with YOU!**

Please consider how you support River of Grass with your efforts. This is your spiritual home. We value and truly need the gifts you bring! Inquiries to Rita Cherubini, Worship Chair, 781.856.2335 or worship@riverofgrassuu.org.

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

WHAT IS **BELOVED COMMUNITY** IF IT DOESN'T INCLUDE EVERYONE?

The 8th Principle states, "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."

Resources For The Week:

1. **The 8th Principle by Paula Cole Jones (March 7th 2021)**

Watch on YouTube: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bUvJ3c1xSu8>

2. **River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation: The 8th Principle**

Watch on YouTube: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dj5b1-NXN6k>

3. **The Matter of Black Lives: Writing from The New Yorker**

By Jelani Cobb and David Remnick

Buy: <https://www.amazon.com/Matter-Black-Lives-Writing-Yorker/dp/B08TP4YC6S>

Or

Borrow: <https://www.overdrive.com/media/6007982/the-matter-of-black-lives>

A collection of TheNew Yorker's groundbreaking writing on race in America - including work by James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Hilton Als, Zadie Smith, and more - with a foreword by Jelani Cobb.

This anthology from the pages of the New Yorker provides a bold and complex portrait of Black life in America, told through stories of private triumphs and national tragedies, political vision, and artistic

inspiration. It reaches back across a century, with Rebecca West's classic account of a 1947 lynching trial and James Baldwin's "Letter from a Region in My Mind" (which later formed the basis of *The Fire Next Time*), and yet it also explores our current moment, from the classroom to the prison cell and the upheavals of what Jelani Cobb calls "the American Spring". The Matter of Black Lives reveals the weight of a singular history and challenges us to envision the future anew.

Don't forget 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 and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org.

April 22, 2022 – Day of Silence

The GLSEN Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration where LGBTQ students and allies all around the country—and the world—take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ people in schools.



Started in the mid 90's by two college students, the Day of Silence has expanded to reach hundreds of thousands of students each year. Every April, students go through the school day without speaking, ending the day with Breaking the Silence rallies and events to share their experiences during the protest and bring attention to ways their schools and communities can become more inclusive.

April 26, 2022 – Lesbian Day of Visibility

Lesbian Visibility Day aims to show our solidarity with all LGBTQI woman and non-binary people in the community, as well as celebrate lesbians. It is essential that Lesbian Visibility Week is a voice for unity and lifts up ALL women, especially those who come from marginalized communities. Recent research (Pride Matters survey, conducted by Pride In London 2018) has shown that gay women are almost twice as unlikely to be out in the workplace as gay male colleagues.



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](#)

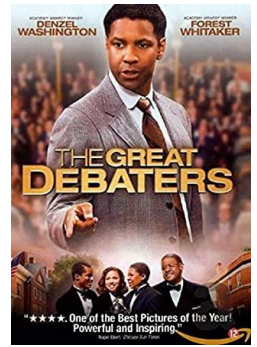
For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

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 Apr 21st topic is: "TBD."** 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.

8TH Principle Dinner Conversations – If you missed the Lunch and Dinner Conversations offered in March by the 8th Principle Team, please join Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow at their home in Ft Lauderdale on **Apr 24th at 6:00 pm!** Please respond to 8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org to secure your space or for further information. We look forward to your participation as we plan to vote on this principle at the May 15th Annual Meeting!



HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM – The Black Film group will discuss “The Great Debaters” on **Wednesday, Apr 27th**, at 7pm. It is a docudrama based on the true story of a young James Farmer Jr. (who went on to found the Congress of Racial Equality), a 14 year old attending an all-Black college in Texas in the 1930’s. He is selected to be on the debate team. The team was the first black debate team to compete against a White University (Oklahoma City University) but then went on to challenge Harvard (although in the real life story it was University of Southern California, the number 1 debate school at that time). Directed by Denzel Washington [black]. Great cast Denzel Washington, Denzel Whitaker, Forest Whitaker. [all black]



Watch the movie “The Great Debaters” on your own (available on Amazon). We will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, Apr 27th, 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>

The SE UU Cluster and UU Justice Florida present – Justice Saturday 2022 – Environmental Justice: Big Money, Sugar Cane, and Racism – Saturday, Apr 30th, at 1:30 pm

Other countries have effectively banned sugar cane burning and found better ways to harvest sugar cane. While in Florida, Big Sugar continues to burn sugar cane fields despite the environmental and health issues of surrounding BIPOC communities.



Join us as Rev. David Lawlor, Co-Chair of UU Ministry for Earth, and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rashid Shaikh, Co-Chair of UU BIPOC Caucus for Climate Justice, and a panel of activists discuss the issue and what we can do to stop this injustice.

Free: Pre-register for the zoom link: vicepresident@SEUUcluster.org

Panelists:

- **Colin Walkes**, former mayor of Pahokee, representing Sierra Club’s “Stop the Burn” Campaign
- **Robert C. Mitcherll**, Friends of the Everglades
- **Dr. Arkush Banzal**, Clinicians for Climate Action
- **Aliki Moncrief**, Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters
- **Rep Anna V. Eskamani**, District 47, Orange County, Florida House

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE – On Saturday, May 14th, River of Grass needs 30 volunteers for the Postal Food Drive. We got the Post Office we had 3 years ago: Plantation Post Office, 7580 NW 5 St, Plantation, FL 33317. This Drive is where we sort and pack food coming in during the Postal Food Drive for LifeNet4Families, the feeding program we support. This is a family friendly event. Children and youth can help by sorting and packing food for LifeNet4Families. We will have two shifts: **4 to 6 pm and 6 to 8 pm**. Please sign up by replying to Steve Jens-Rochow, SSIGT@riverofgrassuu.org.



SUUSI 2022, “Gratitude,” will be held in-person on the campus of Western Carolina University, from July 17-23. Registration has opened! If you haven’t been to SUUSI before, the SUUSI website has a [page of helpful information to help you get oriented](#). From the webpage, use the menus at the top to navigate to practical information about SUUSI (the “join us!” menu), programs for various age groups (the “by age” menu), and our planned events (the “by interest” menu).



Click on the [2022 catalog link](#) to see the listing of all planned events for SUUSI or to search by event type. You can also view [workshops, nature trips](#), and [sports & games](#) events on the pages devoted to those programs. **To register for SUUSI, you will need to have an account in SOLIS, the SUUSI Online Information System.** Click [here](#) to create an account or to log in and register for SUUSI on April 1st. We're so excited! We hope you are too.

SUUSI Job Listings! We are always looking for folks to join our SUUSI staff family. While everyone at SUUSI is encouraged to volunteer to help out in some way, SUUSI Staff make a formal commitment to work a set number of hours in one (or more) SUUSI departments. In exchange, they receive credit towards the cost of registration, meals, and housing. [Staff applications are available in SOLIS.](#) Considering applying for staff? Our current openings are on the SUUSI website, [information on staff positions.](#)

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Visit 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.

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 March 24, 2022

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. 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.

When risk levels are very high or severe, for over two weeks, in person gathering may be canceled.

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 tests are 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.

It is highly recommended that persons attending in person gathering be vaccinated.

In person service leaders, hosts and singers may wish to be unmasked. If so desired, the individual shall have tested negative within the last 24 hours.

The meeting space shall be well ventilated. Air purifiers or fans may be utilized within the meeting space.

Chairs shall be arranged utilizing social distancing (6 ft).

Food may be shared outdoors only, provided people remain socially distanced while unmasked.

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.