

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

Current COVID-19
status in Broward
County:

LOW

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

River of Grass Weekly Update – May 11, 2023

The Mother of All Days

*Arise, all ... who have hearts,
whether your baptism be that of water or of tears!
-Julia Ward Howe, Mother's Day Proclamation, 1870*

Just as today's commercialized celebration of Mother's Day of candies and flowers and Sunday brunches is such a far cry from the intent of our Unitarian forebear, abolitionist Julia Ward Howe's original Mother's Day Proclamation against violence and war -- so are our understandings of this day, this role in humanity, our responsibilities to the those marginalized in their what mothering itself is in a world still learning the beautiful universe of nature and nurture, and what our responsibilities are to those marginalized in their mothering. Join us this Sunday to answer Julia Ward's Howe in our own time.

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 Sunday morning rental space is located 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, May 14, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – The Mother of All Days – Rev Amy Carol Webb

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

Children's Faith Development: There will not be a Small Group gathering for kiddos during Worship this Sunday, but kids are welcome to play in the nursery trailer or enjoy some special activities at our "pryground" table. Faith

Development would like to wish all of our mothers a blessed day! For more information about our Faith Development program, contact Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Membership News - Faith Forward Inquirer's Series – You are invited to join us for a session of the Faith Forward Inquirer's Series after worship service this Sunday. Rev. Amy and the Worship Committee will lead the interactive session after worship service at Old Davie School (6650 Griffin Road in Davie) on **Sunday, May 14th, from noon to 1:15 p.m.** for a discussion on how and what we worship in the Unitarian Universalist faith and specifically at River of Grass. As always, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and share your perspectives. 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... the Zoom link for the meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NlIRYzJ4MG9lVk1lMHA5djIwZHc0Zz09>.

Update to Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget: As you doubtless are aware, the proposed budget can change during the weeks between its distribution with the Annual Meeting Agenda and the date of the Annual Meeting itself. To keep you all updated, attached to this email is a PDF file showing the changes through Tuesday, May 9 – in this case, reflecting additional Annual Giving pledges for next fiscal year. In addition, this file adds several pages of detail showing the specific budget requests from Committees, Teams, and Staff that make up the summary budget shown on the first page. If you have any questions, please contact Finance Chair Brit Lundell at finance@riverofgrassuu.org.

May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Lesbophobia and Transphobia

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Lesbophobia and Transphobia is observed on May 17 and aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide. By 2016 the commemorations had taken place in over 130 countries.

The founders of the International Day Against Homophobia, as it was originally known, established the IDAHO Committee to coordinate grass-roots actions in different countries, to promote the day and to lobby for official recognition on May 17. That date was chosen to commemorate the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization

LGBTIQ+ people still face serious challenges in their everyday life. With 69 countries still criminalizing same sex relations, millions of lesbians, gay men and bisexual people live in fear of being who they are and showing whom they love. Transgender people are subjected to punishments in at least 26 countries and experience unprecedented levels of violence across the globe. Source: Wikipedia & UNDP.org



SUUSI!

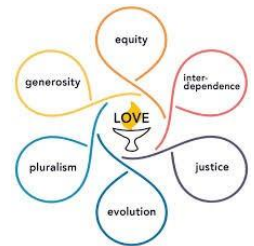
Registration is now open for the Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute, 2023 in the beautiful foothills of the Smoky Mountains during the week of July 16th - 22nd. The early registration (reduced price) deadline for this joyful all-ages family camp is May 15th. Learn more at our website, or reach out to this year's director, our own Rev. Amy or our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez.



Article II Amendment Discussion Workshops: At General Assembly 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an initial vote on proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief.

The following Zoom workshops to discuss amendments to the [Article II Study Commission proposal \(PDF\)](#) are open to all Unitarian Universalists. Whether or not you submitted a suggestion or idea, we encourage you to join us for one or more of these workshops.

1. Amendment Discussion Workshop #1
Thursday, May 11 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT
[Register now for the May 11th workshop](#)
2. Amendment Discussion Workshop #2
Thursday, May 18 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT
[Register now for the May 18th workshop](#)
3. Amendment Discussion Workshop #3
Sunday, May 21 4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT
[Register now for the May 21st workshop](#)



Presidential Search Committee Nominates Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Presidential Search Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President, for the 2023-2029 term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is an experienced leader and theologian in Unitarian Universalism, including formerly serving as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry and as Interim Co-President of the UUA in 2017. She currently serves as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The Presidential term is for 6 years. Member congregations of the UUA, through their delegates, elect the UUA President. The campaign for President will take place throughout the first half of 2023 and conclude with an election at our multiplatform [General Assembly](#), online and in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21-25.

To learn more about Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, please join the following Presidential Forums on any of the dates below. You must register to attend.

- **Saturday, May 20, 2023**
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara: 1535 Santa Barbara St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT
[Register to attend](#)
- **Saturday, June 3, 2023**
First Unitarian Church of Dallas: 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas, TX 75205
2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT
[Register to attend](#)

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/>

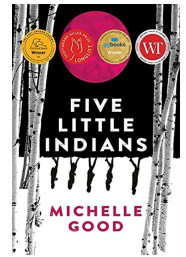
Postal Food Drive May 13 Volunteers Needed – We need volunteers for the Postal Food Drive on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 4 to 8 pm. River of Grass has supported this many times in the past. If you can help, please email Linda Morgan Crane at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org. (Usually there are two shifts.)

BUUKies May Read – "Five Little Indians" by Michelle Good (Cree Indian Canadian). **We will meet on Wednesday, May 17th at 7pm.**

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

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

BUUKies May read is about Cree Indian children in church schools. It is the story about 5 children of Native American heritage who are taken off the reservation, away from their families and sent to live in a church run "Indian School" when they are very small. Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie, and Maisie are barely out of childhood when they are finally released after years of abusive detention. Historical Fiction, based on the author's mother and grandmother's (survivors themselves) accounts. Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



RoG Men's Group - We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **Thursday May 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. Our optional pre meeting dinner is at 5:30 PM **at the Flashback Diner, 4125 Davie Road, Davie, FL 33328**. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken Bresnahan, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 7pm. Questions: contact Ken; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

FMD – Sunrise Salutation: Come greet the new day with the Full Moon Daughters at our Sunrise Salutation on **Saturday, May 20** at the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea beach. We will start gathering around 6:15 am and watch the sun rise, sharing memories and singing together. Full Moon Daughters is the outdoors spirituality group for women, girls and those who identify as female. All are welcome. For more details about the Sunrise Salutation, email: fullmoonaughters@riverofgrassuu.org.



Poker Night – Enjoy a game of poker at a member's home starting off with a welcoming drink and heavy hors d'oeuvres. There will be a meal after a few hands and then more poker playing. A full bar and beers will be

available. This will be a fun evening of poker with two tables. One table for people who have an idea how to play poker and will be using chips. The other table will be for the novice players, who will be taught how to play. The novice table will use pennies to place bids. **Saturday, May 20th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM \$25.** Questions or interested in purchasing? Auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

Trans Life in Florida; How We Can Be Supporters and Advocates – The Sunshine Cluster, formerly the SE Cluster, will present an exciting workshop on Trans issues **on Saturday, May 20th**. How can we be supporters and advocates for Trans people in Florida? The two speakers are from Equality Florida eqfl.org : Nikole Parker, Director of Transgender Equality and Geanny Joseph Ruiz, Statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Manager. Nikole will be discussing transgender life through trans eyes, and then give a current legislative update. And Geanny will be discussing protections and issues currently facing LGBTQ youth and families here in Florida. (flier on last page of this email)

When: Saturday, May 20, 2023 FREE

Time: 1:00pm

Cost: FREE

Register: To Register email seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience:

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp counselors and leaders, capital campaign manager, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- **Homecoming, May 26-29.** Join us at The Mountain for our 43rd Annual Gathering of Members and Friends. We will have three days of renewing connections with old friends and making new connections, being immersed in this extraordinary natural environment, learning about current projects and possibilities for the future, in addition to workshops, entertainment, and our Annual Meeting.
- **Summer Camp options for kids and for adults!**
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

For information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

ROG FALL FUNDRAISER: The 2 of Us presents Bossa-Novas, Boleros & Ballads “second edition”.

Following the well received concert of 2022, the duo “The 2 of Us” visits, through song and storytelling, some of the most beloved American Jazz Ballads, Brazilian Bossa Novas, Boleros, and Tangoes.

Check out the Youtube channel: <https://youtube.com/@the2ofusmusic>

When: Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 7pm

Where: Weston Community Center - 20200 Saddle Club Rd (free parking).

Cost: There will be drinks and snacks. Seating is limited to the first 40 who sign up at \$30 per seat.

Buy your tickets at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5VP/campaign/C-10TY2>

Please write THE 2 OF US on the “Note (optional)” field.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Reduce garbage, by purchasing products that use less packaging. Be mindful as you put items into your shopping cart, as some products have wasteful packaging. Simply pick an alternative with recycled or reduced packaging.

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

The Sunshine Cluster Justice Saturday 2023
Formerly the SE Florida UU Cluster

Trans Life in Florida; How We Can Be Supporters and Advocates

Speakers from Equality Florida:



Nikole Parker left her job and home at 19 to begin her journey to living authentically. After 3 years of black-market hormones and unsafe lifestyle practices, she came back to Orlando to begin her next chapter. Nikole's passion is advocating for human rights, protections for all, and the importance of everyone having a seat at the table.

Nikole is the Director of Transgender Equality at Equality Florida.

Through advocacy, Nikole hopes to encourage open dialogue on gender issues, state and federal protections for all and linkage to proper transitioning resources. Her hope is to teach people that the black-market way of transitioning isn't the only way.

She will be discussing transgender life through trans eyes, and then give a current legislative update.

Geanny Joseph Ruiz serves as the Statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Manager for Equality Florida. She is an experienced social justice education practitioner, and trained facilitator. She has worked extensively within education systems and community partners throughout the state. Her professional focus has been providing education and resources to support the health, safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC students. Geanny holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communications and a Masters Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University.

She will be discussing protections and issues currently facing LGBTQ youth and families here in Florida.



Saturday, May 20, 2023 FREE

1:00pm

To Register reply to seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link

The Workshop will feature Presentations from the Speakers,
Question and Answer times, and two Breakout Group Sessions