

# 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!

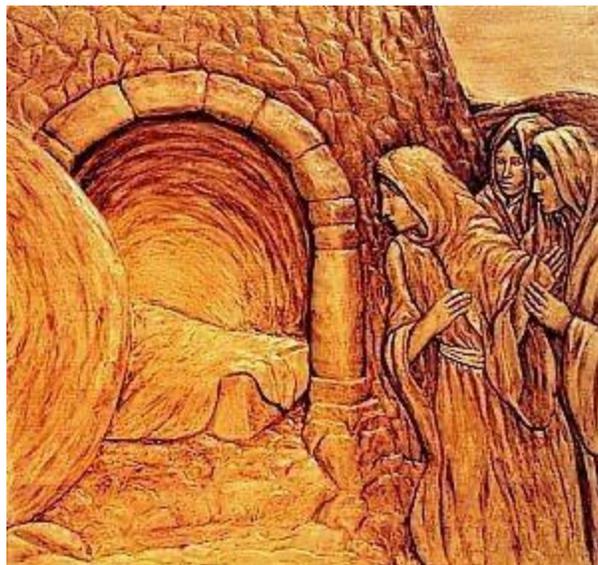
---

## River of Grass Weekly Update – June 24, 2021

### How Heavy The Stone

During our Summer Series of River of Grass Classics, we will be refreshing some favorite services that took place in the past year. As Rev Amy is away for the summer months, we have nine more weeks to explore some old and new experiences on Sunday morning. Some lay led, some from Rev Amy and, yes, there will be an opportunity for you to join other congregations on Sunday mornings to experience their worship services. A full schedule is on the [River of Grass website](#).

Sunday's service was first done on April 12, 2020 at the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Who knew it would be over a year that we and the world would stop in time. EVERYWHERE – in every country across this planet – coming to a screeching halt like somebody stuck a stick through our bicycle spokes and we're thrown off, lying in a ditch wondering what the heck just happened. At that time Rev. Amy was convinced the pandemic was "a gateway to liberation, for ourselves as individuals, as communities, as nations, as a planet." And, she gave us the light of optimism...even then.



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](#). Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward.

We'll be watching for you!

#### **Topic: Worship June 27, 2021**

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, June 27, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - How Heavy the Stone

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

## Summer Fun Program: All Ages 12:30 pm

On Sunday in our Summer Fun Program for children, we'll finish our month of Play by thinking about Jokes. All ages will be meeting via Zoom (link below) at 12:30. Some jokes are funny, which heals with laughter. There are also jokes that harm by being cruel or mean to a group of people. So, what's one of the ways our faith guides us into being a people of Play? It tells us "Spread the jokes that heal and bury the jokes that harm." If you need the Zoom info, or have any questions, please email: [faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org). (Summer Fun will be held at 12:30 pm every Sunday, except Jul 4<sup>th</sup>, through Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. [For a full schedule and more information, click here](#))



## Living our UU principles:

### Heritage: Rev. Richard Nash and Elgin Blair

At our 1970 our Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly Rev. Richard Nash and Elgin Blair proposed a General Resolution to end [Discrimination against Homosexuals and Bisexuals](#), which called on congregations to develop sex education programs that promote healthy attitude toward all forms of sexuality. A year later, the Reverend Richard Nash and lay-leader Elgin Blair co-founded the UU Gay Caucus which later became [Interweave Continental](#) — and took on the battle for Marriage Equality, while developing systems of support for our youth, who come out at younger ages, and the elderly LGBTQ persons, who face inequalities in health care and housing. This is our heritage.



### Hope: TRUUsT

TRUUsT - Transgender Religious professional Unitarian Universalists Together – founded in 2004, by the Rev. Sean Parker and Mr. Barb Greve, committed to cultivate and celebrate the gifts, safety, liberation, and leadership of transgender people, in our faith and in our world. TRUUsT works to counter oppression, including but is not limited to, dismantling racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, colonialism, and sizeism. TRUUsT also provides trainings in transgender identity to UU organizations and congregations. This is our hope.



## 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/>

**Flowing River Sangha** – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Jun 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at [meditation@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Young Adults** are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Jul 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**. Our group's purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Want a cooler home? Have your AC ducts inspected to ensure you are cooling your home and not your attic. Over time, the tape covering ductwork connections can lose its stickiness and fall off, exposing gaps for the AC to escape. Sometimes even small affordable repairs can significantly reduce your electric bill, and help the environment!

**Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign** - The Future Home teams have estimated we will need \$2-2.2 million to purchase the property, renovate, and furnish our new home when we find it. As your Capital Campaign Team members look for creative ways to reach that objective, we have launched a Drive to the Finish to reduce the amount we will need to finance. *Great news! Any new or increased pledge of \$3,000 or more will be doubled by an anonymous donor.* Go to our website, [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org), scroll down to the Drive to the Finish information and [click on the link to make your pledge](#). For more information, contact [capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . 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	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$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><b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b> <b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</p>	

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

**Team:** Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten

**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: February 2021**

**Small Group Meeting COVID Requirements**

The CDC has released guidelines which allow meetings of fully-vaccinated\*\* people. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

In accordance with these guidelines, Official River of Grass meeting protocols have been updated to reflect the differences in the make-up of meeting attendees. \*\*People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen). This meeting protocol has been developed and can be found on our web ([RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html)). Contact Susan Juncosa at [vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.

**Frequently Asked Questions - Small Group Meetings**

**1. Can I meet with my RoG friends?**

- That is your choice at all times. These recommendations are only for official River of Grass – sponsored gatherings.

**2. What's the first thing to consider when organizing an in-person event?**

- Is it necessary that the gathering be in person? Can the same purpose be achieved by meeting on Zoom? Is there a reason to meet other than the fact that we want to be together?

**3. My small group has some people who are not vaccinated. Can we meet in person?**

- Small groups with unvaccinated attendees can meet outdoors. Follow the procedure for such meetings and sign the covenant.  
+ If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

**4. My group has all been vaccinated with all shots and have waited the recommended times. Can we have an in-person meeting?**

- Yes, if you take these actions:  
+ follow the procedure for such meetings and sign the covenant.  
+ If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

**5. What about an indoor meeting?**

- Yes, see question four.

**6. Can children come to the gathering?**

- At this time, there is no vaccine approved for children. They would have to maintain social distance and masking, etc. This might be a group decision.

**Meetings with all attendees fully-vaccinated (INDOORS AND OUTDOORS)**

**Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + determine, with group members, if proof of vaccination must be provided;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;

### **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + attendee states they have been fully vaccinated and will provide card if requested;
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and is not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Actions During a Gathering**

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees do not have to wear masks or social distance
- + Meeting attendees may share food or drink.

### **Fully-Vaccinated Small Group Gathering Covenant**

We; the members, friends, and visitors of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation acknowledge the role we play in keeping ourselves, each other and our community safe from the spread of COVID-19. With that in mind, we agree to adhere to the following protocols when gathering in small groups in or out-of-doors:

- o We have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- o We have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- o We will comply with any contract tracing following our gathering, if needed.

### **Meeting with some attendees unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated (OUTDOORS ONLY)**

#### **Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

### **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

### **Actions During a Gathering**

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

### **Actions after a Gathering**

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have Covid symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.

### **Small Group Outdoor Gathering Covenant**

We; the members, friends, and visitors of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation acknowledge the role we play in keeping ourselves, each other and our community safe from the spread of Covid-19. With that in mind, we agree to adhere to the following protocols when gathering in small groups out-of-doors:

- o We will wear masks at all times and keep 6 feet from persons who do not reside in our households.
- o We will not partake of food or drink.
- o We are not experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.
- o We have not traveled out of the country in the past two weeks.

- We will comply with any contact tracing following our gathering, if needed.

### **Factors Considered in forming the Guidelines:**

All guidelines depend on both the public and the personal.

The public – the surrounding community – must meet certain standards for daily new cases, infection rate, test positivity percentage, contact tracing in place and hospital capacity.

Personal – each individual's state of health.

### **Scope of Recommendations:**

At this time, the recommendations are only for small gatherings in **indoor and outdoor** spaces depending on who is vaccinated in the group.

### **Format of Recommendations:**

The team will develop a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document to be posted on the web site and added to the weekly e-mail, which will be updated as needed.

### **Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

### **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

### **Actions During a Gathering**

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

### **Actions after a Gathering**

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have Covid symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.

### ***COVID-19 Response Update***

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. Any face-to-face gatherings of any kind must follow the new small group protocols that were recommended to the Board by the COVID Re-Emergence Team. Otherwise, all gatherings are suspended or moved on-line, while we search for our forever home, continue to keep ourselves and our community safe, and prepare for congregational life after COVID.

We are grateful that many many members and friends are in self-quarantine, doing their part to protect themselves as well as reduce the spread of the virus, and only venturing outside when absolutely necessary.

Our extended Caring Team has coordinated a 'network of contact' to help ensure our community has communication and is cared for..... and our Covenant Groups are a large part of this.

There is deep gratitude for the way our community cares for each other, remains flexible, and is diligent in responding to this unprecedented situation!

Take a deep breath. Allow any feelings and thoughts to be as they are. Know you are supported. Stay safe!

## ***Basic Protective Measures Against Coronavirus***

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against coronavirus here at River of Grass and in the wider community we share. River of Grass is adhering to the following recommendations from the World Health Organizations.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Be aware of those in our midst with compromised immune systems.

### **Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:**

1. Regularly and thoroughly CLEAN YOUR HANDS with an alcohol-based hand-rub or washing with soap and water, especially – after coughing/sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during, and after you prepare food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty – and when they are not; after handling animals or animal waste.
2. Maintain social distancing – 6 feet between yourself and anyone.
3. Even if well, try to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and when greeting, instead of elbow and fist bumps (no handshakes or hugs), consider placing your hand over your heart as a gesture of welcome and hello.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid transfer of viruses from contaminated surfaces.
5. Practice respiratory hygiene: 1) Cough/sneeze into your elbow, 2) If you use tissues, dispose of them immediately, then clean your hands.
6. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care promptly.
7. If you feel unwell, stay home, even with mild symptoms like headache and runny nose.
8. Stay informed, and follow any guidelines from your healthcare advisor.

### **How to cope with stress during this coronavirus outbreak:**

1. It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during any crisis.
2. Talk to people you trust, and contact your friends and family.
3. If you must stay home, maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid smoking or using alcohol and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and the internet.
7. Draw on coping skills that have helped you in the past.
8. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor, and have a plan to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

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 or called into the congregation's office 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.*