

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 – September 7, 2023

What's In Your Backpack? Teaching & Learning Blessings

In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.

— Phil Collins

As this new school year -- and our new River of Grass congregational year -- get underway with excitement and anticipation, and also some worry and maybe anxiousness, what do you need in your backpack to feel ready, strong, brave, and hopeful for all that's ahead of us? Let's explore together, as we bless our teachers and learners and one another for the year to come!

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Auditorium 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, September 10, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – What's In Your Backpack?: Teaching & Learning Blessings – Rev. Amy Carol

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

Faith Development for Kids and Youth

This Sunday, in the worship service, we'll bless our backpacks to set our new school year on a strong path. Students and teachers of all ages are welcome to bring backpacks, tote bags, lunch boxes, or whatever you carry to school each day. Bring them forward for a blessing from Rev. Amy and myself.

In our Small Group for Kids, downstairs, we'll be exploring how our faith calls us to be welcoming to everyone. This is sometimes a challenge so we'll practice some skills, and we'll share ways our congregation helps us all to feel like we belong. Please remind your child to wear their nametags on Sunday - a first step in being welcoming to all! Class will run until noon and will include a snack. For more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.



A new school year of
Faith Development
for our children and
youth has begun!

River of Grass is joining BOLD Justice [Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice] <https://boldjustice.org/>

It is an interfaith interracial group that addresses community justice issues. From different racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds, BOLD Justice is a direct action organization that holds community leaders accountable to solve serious community problems that affect Broward County.



One of BOLD Justice's successes is to divert the Broward Sheriff Department to issue juvenile Civil Citations instead of arrests. This expansion of Civil Citations has resulted in 31,000 fewer children arrested in the county.

Each year BOLD Justice engages in a process that distills input from its congregations down to one problem that BOLD Justice acts on. It starts in the fall when congregations engage in a listening campaign. Leaders host small group meetings in their homes to hear stories about community problems that are impacting the lives of congregational members. These house meetings give you a chance to share what you are worried about.

Sunday after service you will be able to show your interest in these house meetings.

Together we stand BOLD for Justice. If you have any questions please reach out to Steve Jens-Rochow at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org.

NAMI Walk:

River of Grass will be joining a team led by Allen and Gayle Giese: TsuNAMI! NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. We walk on **Saturday, Oct 7th from 8am - 12pm at Nova Southeastern**. Please consider walking and joining [Team TsuNAMI!](#) If you want to help out the team with a donation one of our members, Linda Lathroum, has requested that others can donate to her page and has offered to help out if anyone needs assistance or has any questions. "THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of all of us who benefit from mental health support and life changing programs like those provided by NAMI Broward." Please sign up!!! <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=59136>

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 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 **tonight, Thursday Sep 7th, 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 5:15 PM **at the Quarterdeck, 3155 S. University Dr, 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.

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 Tangos.

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

When: Saturday, **September 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

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.



MUUVies for Change September viewing is "The Green Book" Director: [Peter Farrelly](#)

It is a drama set in the 1960s about a racist Italian American man ([Viggo Mortensen](#)) who takes a temporary job chauffeuring an acclaimed black pianist ([Mahershala Ali](#)) during his concert tour of the Midwest and Deep South. It explores how the two men had to abide by the titular Green Book, a "traveling while black" guide to restaurants and accommodations that showed blacks in the '60s where they could go. The film's messages about empathy and the danger of prejudice and stereotypes are important and thought-provoking. And the story is a timely reminder of how, just a few decades ago, there were whole parts of the country where segregation kept African Americans from fully participating in civic life. Available on [Amazon](#).



MUUVies for Change will discuss "The Green Book" on **Wednesday, September 13th 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: [Zoom Link](#). Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvL0D418Y>.

BUUKies September Read - "The First Ladies" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. **We will meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 7pm to discuss this BUUK.** [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

The authors have a knack for introducing readers to undersung ambitious women in history. They shine a light on the extraordinary friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, white, privileged, and a Democrat, and Mary McLeod Bethune, a Black Republican woman who was born of formerly enslaved parents. Over the years, Eleanor and Mary forge an



unshakeable bond, supporting each other through personal struggles with marital infidelity, illness, loss, and love. This novel is a brilliant illustration of the strength of two trailblazing women who cross race and class and hold hands through tragedy and triumph.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Cut down on "one-use" plastic like cellophane wrap, and instead use reusable containers to store leftovers. Also, buy food in larger containers instead of multiple smaller containers, like yogurt and cheese. Even some small changes can reduce plastic waste and help our planet.

COVID-19: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency at the end of the day on May 11, 2023. River of Grass UU has over 3 years experience during the COVID pandemic keeping our members safe and will always look to do so as we make the transition to congregational life free from guidelines. The members of our COVID Team have the thanks of the entire congregation for all their good work taking care of us all. We honor and respect anyone's choice to wear a mask and ask all attending our Worship Services and events to consider their own health when choosing whether or not to mask. If you have any questions please reach out to our team at COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org.

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