

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 – September 8, 2022

Building a New Way: Riding this River into the Future

Whatever good things we build end up building us.

-Jim Rohn

Here we are at the threshold of a future unfolding before us in news ways after more than two years of upheaval, disruption, and loss. Year upon year we have sung together, “We Are Building a New Way.” Now comes our opportunity to live it like never before, that our faith, our congregation, and its mission may bring us into the world we have dreamed of for so so long. Join us to explore how we’ll ride this River into this year of re-emergence and revival, and the future awaiting our hearts and hands building a new way of being, of belonging, of being a people so bold.

Come as you are – we’ll be watching for you! We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>.

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 11, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Building a New Way: Riding this River into the Future

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

Faith Development - This coming Sunday, our K-6th graders have the opportunity to meet online at noon for a lesson on the theme of Belonging and yet, Not Belonging. For this lesson, we'll reflect on how we want to be inclusive and expand our circles of belonging as UU's, but we have sometimes failed to walk the path of inclusion in the past. We'll remember the story of the first Black Unitarian minister, Rev. Egbert Ethelred Brown and his tortuous path to belonging to our UU community. May our community learn from the painful history of racism and make sure that people of color belong as our leaders, our ministers, and as part of our beloved community. For more information about joining this class, contact our Director of Faith Development for Children, Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

Our Online Auction returns! Let the bidding begin on October 22, 2022

Maureen Lundell will be running Auction this year. Please, reach out to her at Auction@riverofgrassuu.org with questions and offers of parties, items and gift cards you wish to donate to our fundraising Auction!

Membership News -

Here are a few important opportunities to serve this beloved community, as we enter this time of Re-Connection, and are able to meet in person more regularly. We need volunteers to:

- Reach out to welcome those who are new to help them find their place at River of Grass
- Help us stay in closer touch with our members, friends and frequent visitors.
- Provide rides to folks who are unable to drive to and from worship service on Sundays.

Please email membership@riverofgrassuu.org if you would find joy in serving in any of these ways!

We are excited to announce we are re-initiating the Faith Forward Inquirers' Sessions and have a schedule for the coming months. These interactive sessions, each about an hour and a half long, are for those new to River of Grass... and for those who have been around for a while but want to learn more! The first will be held after worship service on September 18th and will be hosted by Rev. Amy. We encourage everyone who can to attend in person, AND we will provide a Zoom link for those who cannot. The schedule of upcoming classes is available at [Becoming a Member - River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation \(riverofgrassuu.org\)](https://www.riverofgrassuu.org/Becoming-a-Member-River-of-Grass-Unitarian-Universalist-Congregation). Please email membership@riverofgrassuu.org to confirm your attendance... but drop-ins are also welcome!! We look forward to seeing you all there!

New Worship Schedule with more in person services:

Beginning Sep 4th we will be meeting at University of Florida's IFAS Building in person twice monthly! The schedule from Sep 4th through Dec 24th (Christmas Eve) includes **meeting in-person on the FIRST AND THIRD Sundays of the month**. In January, we will be meeting **EVERY WEEK at our new location at the Old Davie Schoolhouse** in Davie at 2:00 p.m. As we settle back into our fall routine, please join us. We will be looking for you! If you have any questions, please email the Worship team at worship@riverofgrassuu.org.

Hospitality is back! Yes, now that we will be together twice a month, we need some volunteers to assist Geri Mikulski, the Team Coordinator. If you want to be that person to assist in bringing goodies, set-up, clean-up, please get in touch with Geri at hospitality@riverofgrassuu.org and thank you for getting involved!



Faith Development Registration – Registration for the new school year of Children's Faith Development is now open for both online and in-person classes. Please refer to [this link](#) to complete your family's registration. In-person classes meet at 10:30 on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. (OWL meets from 10-12.) On-line classes for K-6th graders meet at noon on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays. These programs are supported by members' pledges. Are your pledges up to date? Contact our Office Administrator, Sandy at office@riverofgrassuu.org, or see [this link to make or add to your pledge](#).

Faith Development Volunteers – Our children's Faith Development program is looking for people who would like to assist with activities, games and crafts to support the elementary group lessons. We will need two assistants each time we meet in person and we hope to have enough helpers that you will only be needed once or twice a month. Do you think this is a way that you'd like to serve our River of Grass community? We promise, you'll learn something! Contact our FD Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org to volunteer or ask questions.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program for 7th-9th graders – The UUA's Our Whole Lives (OWL) program is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that is led by trained facilitators and open to youth outside of our congregation. We're excited to welcome soon-to-be-trained Sam Alva as a new facilitator for our 7-9th grade class

this year. If you know a family who might be interested in enrolling their child in this class, please have them contact Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. You can learn more about [OWL](#) at [this link](#). **Our mandatory parent orientation program will be on Wednesday, September 14th from 7:30 - 9:00pm.**

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/>

MUUVies for Change – The River of Grass film group, has chosen *Te Ata* for September's film. Based on the true story of Mary Thompson Fisher (portrayed in the film by Q'orianka Kilcher), widely known as Te Ata, who traverses cultural barriers to achieve fame as an actress and a Native American storyteller. This film was produced by the Chickasaw Nation and also stars Graham Greene (a First Nation actor) and Cindy Pickett (played the mom in Ferris Bueller's Day Off). Available on Netflix.

Movies for Change will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at 7pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>



BUUKies September Read – "Jackie and Me" by Louis Bayard. We will meet on Wednesday, Sep 21st at 7pm.

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

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

Lem knew what Jackie gave up for the Kennedys. This is his story. Lem Billings was the charming real-life outsider and college roommate of J.F.K. deputized to entertain Jackie while J.F.K. was campaigning and cavorting. The arrangement took a lasting toll. On the surface, this is a fun, glittery tale about the Kennedys. But it's also a prism for examining situational friendship and the loneliness of public life.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *Save electricity by shutting off lights when not in the room. And decide if all lights can be turned off during the night. This uses less power, lowers your electric bill, and helps the environment!*

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/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 May 24, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Based upon the updated CDC guidelines and the Broward County risk levels, the following measures are recommended to the Board.

Community Level High: Follow our previous guidelines, listed below.

In person Worship services - inside

- Masks required for all, with possible exception of speakers (see below). Masks should be KN-95 if possible.
- If the Minister and/or other speakers wish to be unmasked, they must take a rapid test the night before the service. They must maintain social distancing at all times while unmasked.
- Singing transmits more aerosols than speaking. At this time, no singing except the Minister. Humming OK!
- Maintain social distancing between household groups while indoors.
- No food or drinks inside.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

After service - outside

- Maintain social distancing.

Meetings and Small Groups - inside and outside.

- Group/meeting leader should determine if all attendees are vaccinated and comfortable with disclosing status. This may require some quick private conversations prior to the meeting! If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks: up to the group. Be mindful of crowding.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

Community Level Medium: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Medium

Community Level Low: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Low

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.