

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 15, 2022

Seasons of Belonging: Autumnal Equinox

Fall Equinox 2022

Our seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more.

It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. [...]

It is a source of meaning to which we can dedicate our lives.

—Rev. Forrest Gilmore

It is said that Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth (falsely attributed to Chief Seattle, a subject for another day). We understand this more deeply each day we live our 7th Unitarian Universalist Principle. Join us to celebrate this Autumnal Equinox as we explore the meaning of belonging – to Earth, and with one another – as we build a new way for this world we both inherit and bequeath to generations to come.

Come as you are – either in-person at University of Florida IFAS Satellite Building 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... See you then!

University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

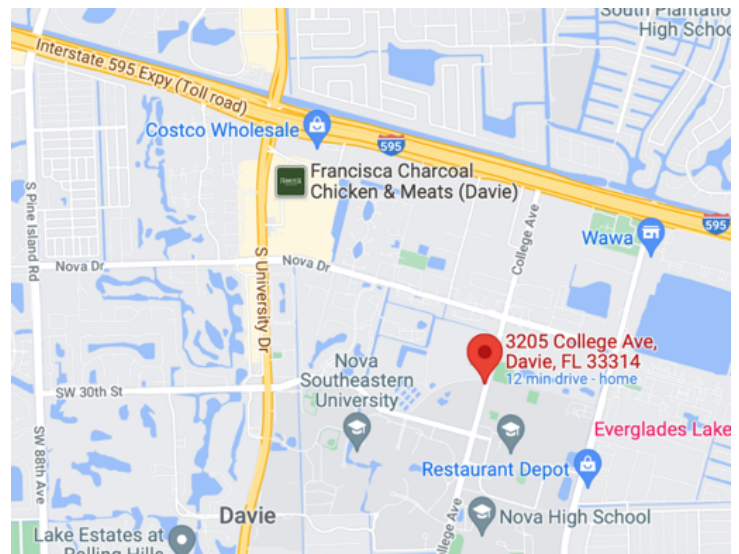
3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions:

<https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/map-and-directions/>

If you are arriving via University Drive:

- Turn east at Nova Drive (SW 24th Street), which would be a right turn if driving from the south and a left turn if driving from the north.
- Drive east on Nova Drive to the first stoplight, which is College Avenue.
- Turn right onto College Avenue and drive south $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the first entrance on the right side of the street. Look for a large blue monument sign with University of Florida on it. The entrance is 600 feet past this monument sign.



We'll be live on Zoom at the link below, as well as 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 18, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Seasons of Belonging: Autumnal Equinox

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

Faith Development - Our theme this month is Belonging, and Sunday's lesson reflects on our interconnection and belonging to everything around us. As UU's, our 7th Principle and our 6th Source remind us that we are interconnected with and belong to each other. Those principles also remind us that we belong to the universe and this beautiful blue ball called earth that floats within the universe. So, we'll reflect, meditate and play with the idea that we belong to the world around us rather than it "belonging" to us! For more information about our Faith Development Programs contact our Director of Faith Development for Children, Karen Gonzalez at religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

Take a Moment for Social Justice, this Sunday!

After worship this Sunday, you'll find postcards, pens and scripts to help you reach out to Florida voters and get them to the polls this November. Our 5th Principle reminds us that we "promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Let's live this Principle and put our faith into action! Please take a few minutes during hospitality time to give to the greater good.

Membership News – Inquirer's Sessions are back this Sunday! 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 Sep 18th and will be hosted by Rev. Amy.** We encourage everyone who can to attend in person, AND we have a Zoom link for those who cannot.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NlIRYzJ4MG9lVk1lMHA5djJwZHZc0Zz09>

The schedule of upcoming classes is available at [Becoming a Member - River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation \(riverofgrassuu.org\)](#). Please email membership@riverofgrassuu.org to confirm your attendance... but drop-ins are also welcome!! We look forward to seeing you all there!

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!

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.

#FallFlexfor4Million

We need you! **In 53 days, voters will head to polls to choose new leaders and new laws.** We will do this after 19 states passed voter suppression laws targeting Black, Indigenous, people of color and youth voters. We head to the polls after the Supreme Court struck down our constitutional right to abortion. **But, the people are fighting back.** From Kansas voters overwhelmingly supporting reproductive rights at the ballot box, to Arizona voters collecting hundreds of thousands of signatures to expand voting access and stop predatory debt collection, we are witnessing a powerful battle for values in the United States.

That's why UU the Vote is launching [Fall Flex for 4 Million to reach 4 million voters by November 8!](#) With more of us joining in, we can build the power we need to make sure democracy, justice and dignity win in 2022. Join us for a historic UU the Vote Fall push to reach out to 4 million voters in key states where voting rights, abortion access, healthcare, and education are on the ballot. Let's flex our collective power for justice.

[Join the Fall Flex Tour!](#)

UU the Vote and UUA leaders are joining congregations, State Action Networks and frontline partners for on-the-ground actions and national mobilizations to make sure the values of democracy, bodily autonomy, and human dignity are heard in the 2022 midterm elections. **Don't miss President Susan Frederick-Gray, JaZahn Hicks, and Nicole Pressley at our Fall Flex events!** From knocking on doors to working the polls, we need Unitarian Universalists to harness the power of our faith to take meaningful actions as we approach another critical election year.

Here are 4 ways you can join the #FallFlexfor4Million today:

[Donate to support on-the-ground actions in key states!](#)

[Join the Homecoming kickoff phone bank in Michigan!](#)

[Join the National Voter Registration Rally & Phone bank in Georgia!](#)

[Join our national Volunteer Squads!](#)

President Susan Frederick-Gray, Campaign Manager JaZahn Hicks, and Field and Programs Director, Nicole Pressley, are joining our partners at some of the on-the-ground actions in Michigan, Georgia, Arizona, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania! Stay tuned for more dates in a state near you.

The midterms are in full swing! Right now, we have the ability to win big for our communities. We can only do this with a groundswell of support and action from people like you.

Find your power and place in the work to build a multi-racial democracy rooted in justice, accountability and healing. Join the [#FallFlexfor4Million](#), today!

Help reach out to 4 million voters!

UU the VOTE CUUSAN

#FallFlexfor 4Million

Join the Fall push!

www.UUtheVote.org/events

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 begin meeting again the first and third Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

We will meet via this [Zoom Meeting](#) for the foreseeable future. All who identify male (to any degree) are invited to join in the fun. **The Sep 15th topic is: "Grieving to Acceptance."** 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 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 pm. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

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.

Full Moon Daughters - The Full Moon Daughters, the outdoors group for women and girls, are having their annual **Brand New Year Brunch from 10 am-noon, Saturday, Sept. 24, at a member's home.** This will be an in-person gathering and outdoors. Please bring a mask in the event anyone is not comfortable or unable to be around others unmasked. And we ask you to stay home (and get better!) if you have COVID symptoms or have tested positive for COVID within the past week. Come learn about the camping trips planned for November and March -- and bring your ideas for great outings for the rest of the year. This will be a potluck. Please email fullmoondaughtres@riverofgrassuu.org by Sep 22 if you have any questions or to sign up. Those who RSVP will receive more details, including an address for the brunch and potluck information.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *Before buying new clothes, check out thrift stores (like Goodwill). You may be surprised to find some excellent choices and big savings.*

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.