

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 – October 13, 2022

Embracing Daily Practices Into Our Lives

“ ‘Blessings’ is a song of gratitude. It’s about recognizing the little blessings that life has to offer. If we don’t take a moment to acknowledge them, we can often miss them.”

- Hollow Coves

Sunday’s worship service is presented by one of our members, Kechi Mourer. The message focuses on embracing daily practices into our lives. Together we look at ways that we can be fully present with ourselves and our loved ones so as to live our very best life intentionally each day.

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!

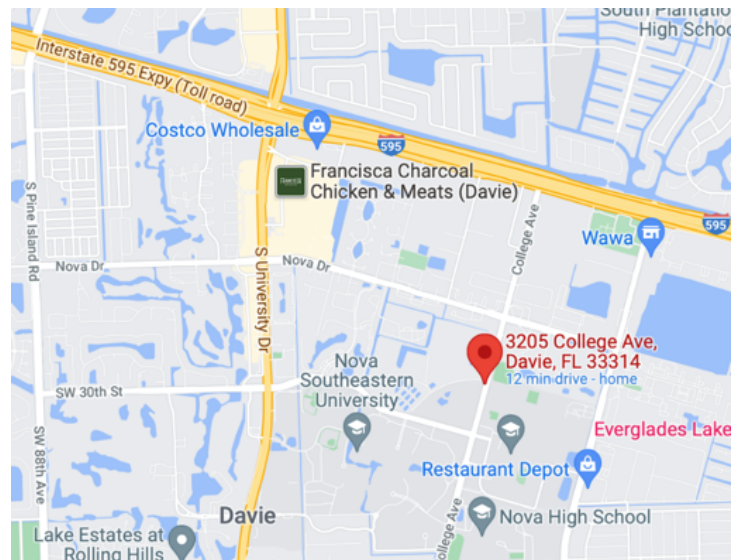
University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions: <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/>

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 ¼ 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.



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>

Rev. Amy's sabbatical:

Rev. Amy's sabbatical has begun and will end on Tuesday, Nov 1st. She will be back in the pulpit on Nov 6th, for the Sunday Service. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the information that Rev. Amy prepared. It is listed on our website: [Rev. Amy's Sabbatical Page](#).

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, October 9, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Embracing Daily Practices Into Our Lives - Kechi Mourer

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

Faith Development - In our Faith Development class for kids on Sunday, we'll continue with the theme of courage by reflecting on cultivating the courage, compassion, and connection to wake up in the morning and think, "I am enough". It's going to bed at night thinking, "Yes, I am imperfect and vulnerable and sometimes afraid, but that doesn't change the truth that I am also brave and worthy of love and belonging." We'll play games that help us to uncover our true selves and get to know one another better. Our middle school OWL kids will be meeting in our office. For more information about our programs, contact Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

BOARD MEETING THIS SUNDAY!

Your River of Grass Board will be meeting at 3:00 this Sunday, via Zoom. Our meetings are open. We welcome visitors. For the Zoom link, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

From the Membership Committee:

- The Faith Forward Inquirers' sessions continue in October. All begin right after worship service; the hours are 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. RSVPs are much appreciated, but drop-ins are welcome!
- **Our next session is this Sunday, Oct 16th.** We will explore ways to build a more just community and world. The topic will be Social Action and Community Service, presented by Steve Jens-Rochow, chairperson of our Service, Social Justice and Green Team. It will be Multi-Platform (In-Person + Zoom)
- On Oct 16th, The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NlIRYzJ4MG9lVk1lMHA5djlwZHc0Zz09>.
- Our next New Member Recognition will be on Oct 16th. If you are ready to become a member, it's really easy! Please email membership@riverofgrassuu.org or call Leana at 954-258-6315, and I'll get you started!

Volunteer Opportunities

The Worship Team needs **two new Zoom Hosts** to rotate with three other volunteers running our Worship Service through Zoom on Sunday mornings. It also includes a FB promo at 5:00 pm when Rev. Amy and Faith Development tell our FB friends about the upcoming service! Training is provided. Once every four or five weeks is the commitment for 1-1/2 hours.

If you haven't offered any volunteer services in the past, here is an opportunity to do more! Please contact Rita Cherubini at worship@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.



From the Music Team:

Hi! Do you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or both?

1. Would you be interested in joining the River of Grass Choir?
2. Or - how about singing a special piece at some point, as a soloist, or with others?
3. Do you play an instrument? Would you like to play for the congregation as a soloist, or in an ensemble?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Music Team would like you to please send your name and contact information to Gary Gonzalez at music@riverofgrassuu.org and let us know what interests you.

We've got Heart! And a lot of Art at our Auction!

Our Online Auction runs from 6PM on 10/22/2022 until 6PM on 10/29/2022

Register now to see our Auction 2022 Work of Heart catalog! **Register now to be able to bid when the Auction starts at 6:00 pm on Oct 22nd!**

To join our online Auction, grab your cell phone, open your camera and scan the QR code. Or click on this link: <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/signinregisterolb.php?groupId=1763>.

Congratulations to **this week's Auction Trivia Contest winners: Kechi Mourer and Sandy Blair Chibnick**. The final trivia questions can be found in your email on Tuesday. Who will be our last two winners of gift certificates for \$20 of a \$30 purchase at Lucille's American Cafe? It could be you if you play Auction Trivia!

Questions about Auction? auction@riverofgrassuu.org.



Constitutional Amendment

Ensure that Floridians have access to adequate supplies of Clean and Healthy Water by supporting this proposed Amendment to the Florida Constitution. [Florida Right to Clean Water](#) is collecting signatures from registered voters to place its sponsored [Constitutional Amendment 22-02](#) on the November 2024 Florida General Election Ballot.



Why it Matters

- We don't currently have this right to Clean and Healthy Waters
 - The Legislature has failed to enact preemptive measures to protect the environment and water quality.
 - Over half of our waters are polluted. Our health, economy, wildlife and quality of life depend upon clean water.
- Petition forms <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/petition>. Steve Jens-Rochow will be going around during Coffee Hour on Oct 16th to collect petitions.

From Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers (UUCFM):

Thank you to and your congregation from the bottom of my heart. This has been a traumatic experience for many in our congregation. It helps to know that others care and I can feel your compassion coming through in this video. It helps to feel like we're not going through this alone, but in community. We, as a congregation, have been banding together, showing each other love and helping as we can. It's heartwarming to feel this coming from other places, as well. We are all part of this larger UU community.

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/>

SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting on Oct 15th featuring speaker David Korten!

"We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of religion?" David Korten

David Korten, author of "The Great Turning" will speak by video at the SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct 15th at 1:30 pm – Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future.

David envisions "an Ecological Civilization where human potential is maximized. And domination is minimized." To register for this free event please reply to seuucluster@gmail.com with your name, congregation or organization and email address. (Please see the last page of this email for a flyer containing more information)

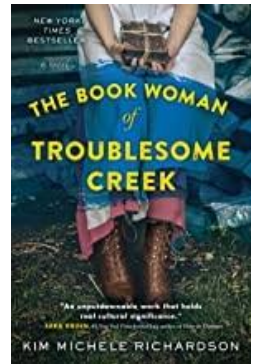
What is your vision of a better world, an Ecological Civilization where we address the climate crisis, social injustice and economic inequality?

BUUKies September Read - "The Book Women of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. We will meet on Wednesday, Oct 18th at 7pm.

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

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

The hardscrabble folks of Troublesome Creek have to scarp for everything—everything except books, that is. Thanks to Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, Troublesome's got its very own traveling librarian, Cussy Mary Carter. Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble.



Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.

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 Oct 20th topic is: "TBD."** 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.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Skip the bottled water when grocery shopping. Resist the urge, and instead refill bottles at home. You save money, you help the environment, and you send a message that reuse is the way to go. Be green!

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.

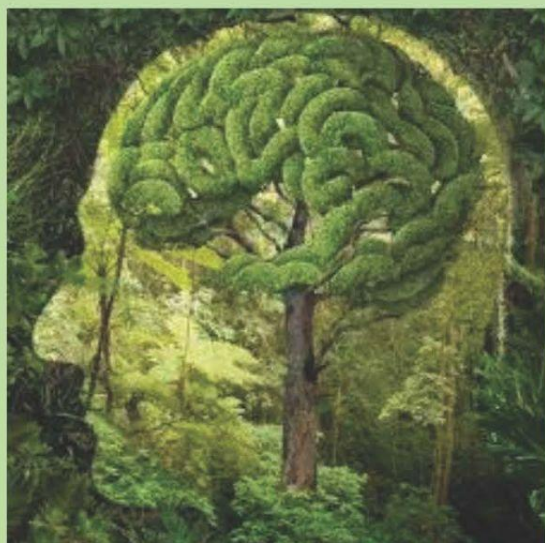
Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

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.

Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion and the Human Future

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 1:30pm

FREE



" We humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? How might we get there? And what might be the role of religion?"

David Korten, author of "The Great Turning" will speak by video.

He envisions "an Ecological Civilization where human potential is maximized.
And domination is minimized."

Also speaking are:

- Terry Lowman [Co-chair UUs for a Just Economic Community UUJEC]
Introduction of the program; what is coming.
- Lucy Hitchcock [Chair of UUJEC's Green New Deal task force]
Localization to implement systemic change toward Ecological Civilization.
 - Aly Tharp [Senior Organizer, GreenFaith]
GreenFaith actions/ways for congregations to be involved.
- Michael Cox [Cedars UU Church Green Sanctuary, Bainbridge, WA]
Congregational and Interfaith examples of action.

And two sets of breakout small groups

What is your vision of a better world, an Ecological Civilization where we address the climate crisis, social injustice and economic inequality?

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