

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 15, 2020

Listening to the Dark

Unexpected Answers in Unexpected Places

Answers. We want them.

From day one, in the best of times. And in the worst of times?

Answers. We want them. Now.

But sometimes we may not know where to look and or recognize an answer when we see it.

As we continue our month-long exploration of the meanings and ways of Deep Listening, we'll consider daring to look for unexpected answers in unexpected places -- and recognize them whenever, and wherever, we may find them.

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 at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu/>. Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward. And now that we have a larger Zoom space ready to welcome all who will join us from over this world – who will we meet this week?

Sunday morning, gather with us at the River – on your computer, your tablet, your phone (with video or only audio if you like, we'll miss your face!) -- just click or dial into our River of Grass Meeting Room at the link or numbers below. We'll be watching for you!

Topic: Worship October 18, 2020

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, October 18, 2020 - New Member Sunday

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Listening to the Dark: Unexpected Answers in Unexpected Places** <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

New Member Ceremony, This Sunday, Oct 18th, during service. At our New Member Ceremony, we celebrate those who have found a new home in this Beloved Community. If you are interested in becoming a member but did not let us know, please email membership@riverofgrassuu.org. For more information about becoming a member, please see page on our website: [Becoming a Member](#).

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00 pm:** teens

This coming Sunday, the focus of our class sessions will be on Listening to the Voices of Black People, Indigenous People and People of Color. Each month we are dedicating one session to a different aspect of decentering whiteness work, with our theme guiding us toward which aspect to focus on. When it comes to deep listening, leaders have lifted up the importance of decentering whiteness, listening to BIPOC voices and placing those BIPOC voices at the center of our storytelling and discussions. Our faith has taken up this work and called white UU's to be especially vigilant about the work of listening to and centering BIPOC voices. For More information, please contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Faith Development - Trick or Treating for UNICEF

This month our children will be raising money to help needy children around the world through an online unicef campaign. It's easy to contribute! [Connect through this link](#) or use the QR code. A pandemic only increases their need. Please give if you are able.



Faith Development - Virtual Halloween Parade!

Come be a part of our spooky fun! Like everything else, this year our Halloween Parade will be virtual. If you'd like to show off your spookiest, silliest self, please send a photo to Aaron Stang at AStang22@aol.com by October 25th.

Faith Development - Zoom Halloween Party

Families, This Halloween will be like no other! Typically, this time of year, kiddos are brimming with excitement about their costume choices and the chance to wander door to door, in the dark, collecting treats. I imagine most of you won't be doing that this year. Luckily, Bruce and Tanya Gustafson-Ngo are inviting your kids to a fun Zoom Halloween party, complete with costumes and treats! You will need to pre-register for this event, so that they know just who to deliver treats to. Look for an email from Karen or reach out to her at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

From our Welcoming Congregation Team

October 26th is Intersex Awareness Day to commemorate the first intersex protest which took place in Boston. And what is intersex, you may ask? Intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male. Intersex babies are always assigned a legal sex, but sometimes when they grow up, their gender doesn't match the sex selected for them. Being intersex is a naturally occurring variation in humans, and isn't a medical problem. It's more common than most people realize. Estimates suggest that about 1 in 100 people born in the U.S. is intersex.



New Member: Dawn Kristy

This Sunday, we have one new member joining River of Grass, Dawn Kristy. Dawn is a Chicagoan who moved to Palm Beach County, Florida in February 2020 to join a cyber insurance broker as Vice President of Cyber Solutions. Thankfully, Dawn met a member of River of Grass at a networking event and began joining Worship Services and Inquirer Sessions via Zoom. Dawn is a nationally recognized thought leader and cyber subject matter expert, advising clients on cyber and privacy risks and cyber insurance claims. Her passion for science resulted in her developing a strong interest in the relationship between technology for good versus how hackers misuse new technology – such as cyberattacks, security breaches, data theft, and data privacy violations. During her career, Dawn had the unique opportunity of working abroad for twelve years in environmental law, the insurance coverage aspects of the 9/11 attacks, and managing multicultural global teams with extensive travel for work and pleasure. Outside of work, Dawn is interested in dance, music, and the performing arts as well as guest lecturing, mentoring students and encouraging STEM education and careers. Contact Dawn at dawnkristy10@gmail.com or find her on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/dawnkristy/. SPECIALTIES: Cyber and Privacy Risks, Artificial Intelligence, Biometrics, Thought Leader, Public Speaker, Writer, Mentor. Welcome to River of Grass Dawn! We all look forward to getting the opportunity to welcome you into our beloved community.



UPDATE ON FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023

Sep 27th - Nov 1st 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive
The Capital Campaign to fund our Future Home has two weeks left!!

***** 43 Pledges and \$529,011 Toward the \$750,000 goal. *****

Members of the ROG community have been commenting each Sunday on why they are giving to the Campaign. Last week you heard from Barbara Ratchford and her journey with her husband in becoming a UU and how our principles fed into their personal and professional decisions. She spoke with love and connection, and as newlyweds, they still were able to put aside small sums each week to support their UU values. We hope you, too, have stated your own testimonial to yourself and how River of Grass speaks to you and how you visualize our Future Home... the Sanctuary, the classrooms, the kitchen and space for our kids! We need everyone's participation, no matter how small, to make it happen!

During these difficult times, your River of Grass family connects with you every Sunday; keeps our weekly emails coming; is there for your Covenant Group participation; and, a myriad of other diverse discussions about understanding our racial upbringing and the recognition of gender studies in today's society. Our connections haven't changed, just our methods of being here for you.

During these uncertain days, a generous gift to this Campaign may not be in your budget; but, you can be part of our New Home in any way that is financially comfortable. Remember, this is a three year financial plan in addition to your Annual Pledge. Your gift will be accepted in any amount. Even if you cannot start payments to the Campaign this year, next year might be just right! [Filling out your pledge card online](#) will make it easy. Go to our website riverofgrassuu.org under the tab "Future Home" for lots of information. You can set up recurring payments online or even Text-to-Give by texting a dollar amount followed by the code "CC" (without the quotation marks), example 150.00 CC, to our texting number, (844) 948-1153! Be well, be safe and we will see you on Sunday! Kathy Jens-Rochow is available to answer your questions, at CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.

EARLY VOTING STARTS NEXT WEEK!

Early Voting **dates and times** for Broward County are: Monday, Oct 19th - Sunday, Nov 1st (7 am-7 pm).

You can find Early Voting **locations** here:

<https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Early-Voting-Dates-Hours-and-Sites>

Make sure you don't miss out—pick an Early Voting date, time, and location that work for you and put it on your calendar today!

- Don't live in Broward County? Check your county's Supervisor of Elections website for information on Early Voting in your county: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors>
- Not sure of your county? Check what county your city or town is in here: <https://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/florida-information/government/local-resources/city-county-list/>

If you already have a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot but haven't sent it in yet and would like to vote in person instead, you can still do so. Bring your VBM ballot (blank or filled out) with you to your polling place, where poll workers can cancel it so that you can vote by regular ballot.

And if you DO want to use your VBM ballot but haven't done so yet, the time is NOW! Sit down, fill it out, make sure to sign the envelope, and either mail it immediately or—better yet—drop it in a secure drop box near you to avoid possible mail delays. (The top reason mail-in ballots are rejected in Florida is because they arrive after the deadline—7 pm on Election Day.)

Your vote is your voice—use your voice in 2020!

(Note: Early voting dates, times, and locations subject to change; check back at the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website to confirm the latest information.) To be involved in promoting safe and fair elections in 2020, contact the Elders Stand for Fair Elections Florida team at FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org.



Smile.Amazon.com

Did you know you can now use AmazonSmile in the Amazon mobile app? Here is how to turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app. 1. Join AmazonSmile. If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, [sign up](#) on your web browser. Simply select your favorite charity (River of Grass 65-0791653) to start generating donations, at no cost to you. 2. Get the app. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android. 3. Turn on AmazonSmile. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

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/>

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **TONIGHT, Oct 15th at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "On Dabbling, Dithering, and Dilettantism." Do you ever do any of these? <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Kip Barkley mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

UU Womenspirit Virtual Event Fall 2020 - Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit is hosting it's first virtual weekend gathering Oct 16th-18th. Registration for Everyday Sacred is now open! To view details of our virtual weekend gathering, check out our [brochure](#), or visit the UUWomenspirit [website](#). When you are ready to register for the event, here is the link for [Campwise](#). Contact our event registrar at uuwomenspirit@gmail.com for assistance with registration. Blessed be! Melissa Christopher, Scribe, Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Oct 20th 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.

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Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUn Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Oct 25th at 7:30 pm**. Our purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Light the way for others by facilitating our Inquirers Series! Make new friends, share your story and enthusiasm for our beloved community. We need UU to shine a light, make a way and support those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and River of Grass. The series is on Wednesday evenings. Training is available. See Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org to sign up.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the schedule below! Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly

recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Oct 28th and is FF Inquirers #1: Q&A with Minister**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
10/28/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
11/4/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
11/11/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
12/2/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
1/6/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
1/13/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
1/27/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
2/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
2/10/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
2/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
3/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

Proposed Change in Policies and Procedures

The Board reviewed and approved a proposed change in our Policies & Procedures, adding the following paragraph. In accordance with our Policy on Policies, we need to have a congregational review before making the change.

Proposed Change in red and articles following this change will be renumbered.

9. Membership

- A. The Minister is the only person authorized to sign up new members in the membership book except for person(s) specifically authorized by the Minister, or in the absence of the Minister, the Board President.
- B. In the absence of the Minister for a prolonged period, the President or Vice-president will have the responsibility of signing up new members.
- C. A signed new member document, approved by the Minister, is a suitable substitute for signing the membership book. Name(s) and date of membership will be annotated in the membership book as the date the form was received by the Office Administrator.**

Please review and send any recommendations for change to Board@riverofgrassuu.org by Oct 17th.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Invest green! Most 401Ks and IRAs offer "sustainable" or "social" investment options - which avoid petroleum, coal, guns, etc. One example is Vanguard Social Index. Align your money with your values!

COVID-19 Response Update

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. All face-to-face gatherings of any kind are suspended or moved on-line, and we have left our building. Numerous meetings and gatherings have transitioned online via Zoom. Welcome to our new norm!

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 contacting' 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 the New Coronavirus

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against the new 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.

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 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.