

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 29, 2020

I Dreamt We Were All Beautiful and Strong Ancestor Sunday

In this time of the thinning of the veils, amid pandemic and social uprising and depths of uncertainty and tumult unknown for generations -- we set aside time to remember those who came before us, who laid the paths we travel and inspired us to make paths of our own. We honor those of blood and bond whose lives make our own possible. We recognize their own travails were not different from our own, and yet they prevailed. Or perhaps they did not. In both we find our instruction. We celebrate, we mourn, we learn to heal in the ground of our being.

Please send photos of ancestors you would like to remember with us in this service to: minister@riverofgrassuu.org -- by midnight tonight (**Thursday, Oct 29th**).

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 November 1, 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, November 1, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Ancestor Sunday**

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

Faith Development: 5:00 pm Family Vespers

This Sunday being the first Sunday of the month, in place of regular afternoon FD classes, we'll be gathering at 5:00pm for a Family Vespers service. Ms. Karen will share a story and light some candles, and Rev. Amy will sing and talk with us. We'll learn how much better the world can seem when we remember to share our gratitude. Saying, "thank you"

can be a kind of a healing prayer. So, what better way to begin our month-long focus on healing, than to begin with, "thank you"?! Parents, look for the link for this Family worship in an email from Ms. Karen. If you are not a parent, but would like to join us, please reach out to Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Rev. Amy's Election Respite Zoom Room – and other community opportunities

River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be hosting an open Zoom room with Rev. Amy for community support on Nov 3rd, and 4th – where we will share music, readings, and hold open sharing time to help sustain ourselves and one another in this highly anxious time. Times and links below. Other on-line gatherings are also noted, and more may be coming as need arises. Stay tuned to our River of Grass Facebook page.

River of Grass UU Congregation Election Respite Space

Nov 3rd, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Time: Nov 3, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 820 1019 374; Passcode: 939091

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,82010193743# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kE1qYWgXQ>

River of Grass UU Congregation Election Respite Space

Nov 4th, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Time: Nov 4, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 896 5453 109; Passcode: 349034

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,89654531092# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdHT734CqE>

In addition, here are other opportunities to connect and share courage and care on Election Day and in its wake:

Nov 3rd, 10:00 am – 10:00 pm EST Spiritual Grounding for Election Day

UU ministers are gathering from around the country to offer a space for respite, positive energy, peace and spiritual practice on Election Day, hosted by ChaliceUU.org; Rev. Patrice Curtis, UUA; Rev. Florence Caplow, UU Church of Urbana-Champaign – [Zoom](#) and Facebook live (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/728150507736666/>)

Meeting ID: 995 5323 1971; Passcode: 954636

One tap mobile: +16468769923,,99553231971#,,,,,0#,,954636# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/aeHgtFP7Ry>

You may join us at any time during that day to find a peaceful space for reflection, prayer, meditation and spiritual practice. Different UU ministers will be leading every 15 minutes.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Nov 4th, 6:30 EST -- Sanctuary Boston –

If you could use some spiritual grounding the day after the election, Sanctuary Boston is hosting a special worship gathering on Wednesday. Join us for some deep breathing, some great music, and some connection for weary souls.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/822539115181482/>

Nov 4th, 8:00 pm – 9:15 pm EST – Unitarian Universalist Association Post Election Vigil and Gathering

No matter the results of the election this year, we know we will want to gather in community. Please save the date and join the UUA, UU the Vote, Side with Love, and UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray for this event. Hosted on Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

https://www.facebook.com/events/3713971198666868/?active_tab=about

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 - 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.

Opportunities at the River:

Reopening Task Force

Plan? Who needs a plan? Uh. . . we do

Even though we are facing uncertainty for the future, I think we all agree this separation will end and we need to make plans for the transition. Preparedness will make our life much easier.

There are actually two possibilities of where we will go once we have agreed to return to meeting face to face. One, of course, and probably the one we would most like to happen, is that we have found our permanent home and can move our stuff there and begin our new future there. The other is that we will not have found our permanent home and will need to find a temporary location using our experience from our "church in a box."

So at this point, can you guess what we need? A Task Force, of course.

This Task Force will be charged with

1. Making recommendations as to when this congregation can resume face to face services and meetings. We have a diverse demographic of members, ranging from the very young to our most senior members. Following the UUA and CDC guidelines and to best serve our whole community. We do have some planning tools so you won't be totally reinventing the wheel.
2. Planning the move into our new home.
3. Finding a temporary facility (school, party room, park, etc.) to hold our services, if necessary.

So, we need a few good people with facilities experience, logistical planning or who just want to be a part of this exciting phase in our continuing saga.

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org to discuss.

Team on Ministry

A committee or team on ministry is an important part of the health of any congregation To this objective, the Board has determined to establish a Team on Ministry. The Team will serve to provide support to our minister and to periodically check on how the congregation is functioning. In other words, the ministry is not just the minister but the ministry of our beloved community.

The Team on Ministry shall consist of 3-4 people. At least one member from the Board. The team's responsibilities consist of, but not limited to:

1. Providing feedback to the minister regarding difficult situations between the minister and our member(s).
2. Liaising between Minister and members for conflict resolution.
3. Providing ministerial support
4. Completing an annual ministerial evaluation.
5. Upon request from the Board, conducting an evaluation of the congregation's ministries for the Board review

The Board and the Minister will collaborate to reach a consensus about team members each year.

If you are interested in serving on this critical team at the heart of the River, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

SE Cluster Virtual Annual Meeting on Nov 14

Starting at the conclusion of the exciting and informative Southern Region "Turn, Turn, Turn" Assembly, the SE FL Cluster will have its Virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov 14th at about 3 pm.

SE Florida Cluster presents its virtual Annual Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting:](#) Meeting ID: 825 8027 8403 Passcode: 780761

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,82580278403# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82580278403>

Incentive to Register for "Turn, Turn, Turn" on Saturday, Nov 14th. Your SE Florida Cluster is offering an incentive for you to attend the **Turn, Turn, Turn—A Day of Companionship, Collaboration, and Learning**, a virtual webinar, hosted by the Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on Saturday, Nov. 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern time.

In lieu of holding our customary Annual Fall Program, the SE Florida Cluster **will cover the cost for forty (40) individuals** (\$20@each) to attend this online regional assembly. So register today!

This pay option is open to all, **and** we encourage those who are most able and willing to pay their own way to do so—the conference will certainly be worth it.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will offer the keynote address and workshops offered by Southern Region staff include:

- "Where Do We Go From Here?": Rev. Nato Hollister and Kathy McGowan
- "To Every Season": Co-Leads Connie Goodbread and Natalie Briscoe
- "A Time To Build Up": Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick

[Click here to register for Turn Turn Turn: A Virtual Regional Assembly of the Southern Region UUA.](#)

1. To access the SE Cluster option: register and click out when the system takes you to PayPal.

2. To pay your own way, register and proceed to PayPal.

Please email Kathy Charles kcharles@uua.org or Jessica Curran sr@uua.org for any questions about the Southern Region Assembly.

River of Grass - Fundraising Mask

Would you like a River of Grass Side with Love Mask? [Click here to purchase](#) your River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Fundraising Mask! Orders will be shipped right to your door without any additional shipping charges! This face mask is machine washable, double ply, and made up of 60% Polyester, 40% Cotton. They cost \$15 each with 3 different sizes available:

Adult,

Youth

9-15,

and

Child

3-8.



<https://www.fundraisingmasks.org/product-page/river-of-grass-fundraiser>

UPDATE ON FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023

Sep 27th - Nov 1st 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive

***** 56 Pledges and \$556,991 Toward the \$750,000 goal. *****

If you haven't made your pledge to the Future Home Capital Campaign, you can still join with any amount that fits your budget. Building a home comes in many forms as we all have experienced. It takes planning and saving and finding just the right space that will nourish and sustain us as we move through our search in West Broward County. Your gifts will make it happen!

If you need further information, everything you need to know is on our website. Our [Capital Campaign 2020-2023 page](#) is where you will find the Capital Campaign brochure and the online pledge card. Our [Future Home page](#) has all of our Future home documents from our feasibility study and planning documents. On our [online payment portal page](#) you can set up recurring payments for your Capital Campaign pledge payments. Please note, you can also Text To Give a dollar amount followed by

River of Grass
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Capital Campaign Drive

For Our Future Home
September 27 through
November 1, 2020



This little light of ours
Let it shine!
Let it shine!
Let it shine . . .
BRIGHTER

the code "CC" (without the quotation marks), example 150.00 CC, to our texting number, (844) 948-1153! **Kathy Jens-Rochow**, CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org, is available to answer your questions. Be well, be safe and we will see you on Sunday!

Did you vote using a Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Ballot? What you need to know

If you voted using a VBM Ballot—whether you mailed it or put it in a dropbox—**there's one more VERY important step to make sure your vote is counted:**

Go to the [Florida Department of State Voter Information Lookup](#) page to verify that your VBM ballot was:

1. Received
2. Accepted

Ballots may be rejected for reasons such as a missing signature, signature not matching signature on file, etc.

What do I do if my VBM ballot wasn't received?

If you mailed in your VBM ballot but by Election Day it has not yet been received according to the Florida Voter Information Lookup page, you can still go to the polls and vote in person.

Poll workers will verify that your ballot was not yet received and cancel your VBM ballot, and you can vote a regular ballot.

(If there's a question about your VBM ballot's receipt status, you can vote a provisional ballot.)

What do I do if my VBM ballot was rejected?

If your VBM ballot was rejected because it was unsigned, or the signature did not match the signature on file, you can "cure" your ballot, by following these instructions:

- Print a [Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit](#) and fill it out.
- Make a copy of your driver's license or other acceptable form of ID.
- Submit the form and the copy of your ID to your county's Supervisor of Elections by 5 pm on Thursday, Nov 5th.

❖ **To ensure it arrives on time, you can email, fax, or deliver it in person.**

If your ballot was rejected for some other reason, contact your Supervisor of Elections' office for instructions on how to proceed. (See below for contact information.)

Haven't voted yet?

If you have a VBM ballot but haven't voted yet, there's still time to fill it out and drop it off at your county's Supervisor of Elections office, or in one of the county's secure drop boxes. Or you can vote in person during Early Voting hours or on Election Day.

Check the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website for dropbox and Early Voting locations, dates, and times:

<https://www.browardsoe.org>

Even at this late date, you have choices—don't let not voting be one of them!

Have other voting questions?

Call the Broward County Supervisor of Elections at 954-357-7050 or visit their website at:

<https://www.browardsoe.org>

Don't live in Broward County? [Click here for your county Supervisor of Elections phone number and website.](#)

Not sure what county your town is in? It's easy to check! [Click here to find what county your town or city is in.](#)

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

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.

Planned Giving Task Force

What with everything else going on, Kip Barkley is part of Planned Giving at the River. Just as you are calming your reaction to COVID, he asks, do you have a Will?

There is no time like the present to ask yourself: "Where is all my stuff, and who should get it if I am not around?" Your will should be written by a professional, and that is not Kip. Before you find yourself sitting in someone's office with

their meter running, ask yourself, "Who gets my portrait of Elvis on Black Velvet? Is my ex still the beneficiary of my IRA? Who could live with my children?" Yes, figure out all of those "details" in advance.

You can bounce ideas off Kip, Zoom works, but Kip does not write Wills, Trusts, Deeds, and/or Legal Designations. It all starts with a conversation. If you have any questions or want to start a conversation, contact Kip, The Planned Giving Guy at PlannedGiving@RiverofGrassUU.org.

LifeNet4Families:

Throughout the pandemic, LifeNet4Families continues to serve hot meals to over 250 hungry people each day, as well as provide showers, mail services, clothing, and food box delivery. To minimize risk, the staff is providing all services. So if you miss volunteering at LifeNet, consider a donation of food items, mens clothing, or even a [monetary donation](#). Every donation helps!



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/>

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Nov 3rd 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.

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Thursday, Nov 5th at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "The Road Not Taken." Do you ever think about this? At each session we launch into a topic that is designed to encourage personal sharing. <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. Please let us know if you plan to try to make it.

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 YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Nov 8th 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 **Nov 4th and is FF Inquirers #2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Want a cooler home? Have your AC ducts inspected to ensure you are cooling your home and not your attic. Over time, the tape covering duct work connections can lose its stickiness and fall off, exposing gaps for the AC to escape. Sometimes even small affordable repairs can significantly reduce your electric bill, and help the environment!

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.