

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

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River of Grass Weekly Update – November 12, 2020

## Moving Mountains: Love that Heals

Join us this Sunday as we continue our contemplations and celebrations of healing with the beginning of the season of coming light through the Hindu holiday of Diwali -- the first of the light-bringing holidays -- and its story of healing love powerful enough to move mountains.

To be sure, there are mountain-movers among us -- and those who need mountains moved this very moment -- and those who remember the ones who moved mountain just so we can be here now -- and those just beginning to summon the strength and courage to be the mountain movers love needs us to be in seasons of change to come.

Gather with us this Sunday to breathe, to bear witness to and with one another, to rest and reflect and restore ourselves for the days to come, assured that love always wins -- when we make it so.

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 15, 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>

### ***WHEN WE BREAK BREAD TOGETHER: HUNGER COMMUNION 2020 NEEDS YOUR BREAD***

Got a special memory, recipe, ritual involving bread? We need your photos, your memories, your stories. Send Rev. Amy a photo of a special time or way you make it, share it, a photo of bread itself, or the process of making it, or someone you make/made it with, a recipe in your ancestor's handwriting. Send to [minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org), by Wednesday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>!

### *Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:*

**Sunday, November 15, 2020**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Moving Mountains: Love that Heals**

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

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

This coming Sunday in our Faith Development classes, our children and youth will be talking about healing our relationships with others. Our faith reminds us that healing takes work. After a fight with someone, it's easy to never want to see that person again. We'd rather ignore or run away from the mess. This is true whether we are the ones who did the harm or got harmed. It takes courage, commitment and skill to successfully travel the path of healing. Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for links to join a class, or for more information about our Faith Development program.

### *Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet:*

This year, River of Grass has adopted 75 foster care kids for this holiday season. We are trying to stay safe and yet still be generous and loving with our most vulnerable population.

- We are asking you to choose a child and then purchase one of the requested gift cards and an age appropriate plush toy.
- Our Faith Development children will be creating holiday postcards that we will attach to the toy.
- The gift cards and plush toys can be delivered to Marilisa Lawless's home, as she is the lead on this project.
- Marilisa's address is 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL 33324. They can be mailed or delivered. She has a covered porch and they can be left out front whether she is home or not.
- We are asking that these are at her home by **Saturday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- [The Google Sheet can be viewed by clicking here.](#) Please add your name and contact information to the green column to the right of the child (ren) you choose.

Thank you for always stepping up for River of Grass!

To find out more about ChildNet please check out their website: <https://www.childnet.us/>

ChildNet has been chosen by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community Based Care (CBC) lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach Counties. As such, it is the single private non-profit entity responsible for managing the local system of services and supports for the communities' most vulnerable children. Their system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support.

### *The Auction Alternative*

*"It's coming! It's coming!"*

"Holding the Vision" The Auction Alternative

And to kick off the week of online bidding

**Saturday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, FUNd Raising Game Night, Bingo and Bidding!**

Put your thinking caps on. What would you like to donate? An online game night? There are a large number of games a group can play online. Gift items – jewelry, new household items. The donor will be responsible to deliver the item to the bidder either by mail or contactless delivery. Services – contactless services like oil changes, life coaching session. We are not accepting donations yet. But we will be shortly. Stayed tuned for more information. Contact [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.

### *Capital Campaign Update*

The formal part of our Capital Campaign is done.

We have almost \$560,000 in pledges from 57 member pledging units and friends. The exact total is \$559,991.

***A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THE COMMITMENT!***

Our River of Grass light shines much brighter because of you.

We are now in a very good place for finding our future home. The Future Home Team has been active for a while and now has a good idea of what we can afford.

*Just a little side note: for those of you who haven't made a pledge, we are, of course, still accepting your pledges/donations. Pledge forms and electronic payment information is on our website, [RiverofGrassUU.org](http://RiverofGrassUU.org). Look for the [Capital Campaign page](#).*

### **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>)

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>.** 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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:kcharles@uua.org) or Jessica Curran [sr@uua.org](mailto:sr@uua.org) for any questions about the Southern Region Assembly.

### **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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**Flowing River Sangha** – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Young Adults are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom** – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUing Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

**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 **Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and is FF Inquirers #5: Worship & Liturgical Year**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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:** *Shade windows with direct light. If you have windows facing east or west consider adding landscaping or an awning. Or consider window tinting, or simply a pull down shade. These options will keep your home cooler and reduce your electric bill, saving money and 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*