

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 – December 2, 2021

Opening to Joy

It's hard to believe it was 89 Sundays ago that we closed our in-person Sunday services as the COVID-19 virus took over everything we knew, or thought we did. 89. This Sunday the numbers have turned in our favor to hold our first In-Person Multi-Platform service where some of us will in the same room together and others joining by Zoom and facebook in a world now forever changed -- as are we. But one thing has not changed – our love for one another, our commitment to this faith we share, our determination to both deepen and widen the circle of Beloved Community at River of Grass. We so hope you will join us by whatever means works for you as we open to joy that shines in and around and through us in the most challenging of times. We were made for this. We were made for now. We were made for one another. We were made for joy!

Please be aware, if you join us in-person:

- masks are required at all times
- seating is limited
- no food or drink is allowed inside our rented space
- sign in at the door for contact tracing, should the need arise

Meeting location:

University of Florida (IFAS Satellite Building)
3205 College Avenue
Davie, FL 33314

We'll be live on Zoom at the link below, as well as on our facebook page.

Topic: Worship December 5, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

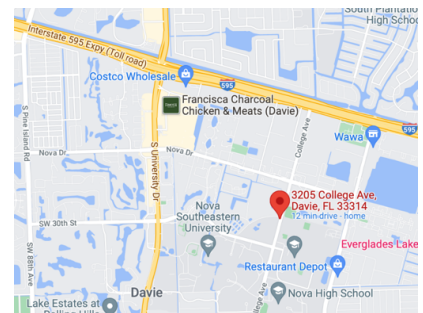
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Opening to Joy - Rev. Amy Carol Webb -

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



Faith Development:

Our children and youth are excited to meet in person this coming Sunday! Our Faith Development Team has some fun activities planned for the younger groups, on the beautiful outdoor patio, while the worship service takes place indoors. We'll create joyful cards for our Angel Tree gift recipients, learn about the UU holiday of Chalica, and just have fun getting to know each other better. For those families who attend our online classes, the December bags will be available for pick-up. Our teens will have their own cozy space indoors where they can watch and discuss the worship service together. Everyone will be masked, and we will celebrate the receiving of our vaccines! If you'd like more information about our program, please contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Chalica begins on Monday, the 6th of December:

This week-long UU holiday is a time for us to study, honor and celebrate our seven Unitarian Universalist principles. Those who celebrate Chalica spend each day reflecting on one principle and putting it into practice through their words and deeds. Each night of Chalica, a chalice is lit and one Principle is represented through food, discussion and/or activities. For example, the first night honors our First Principle, where we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Tonight's meal could include everyone's favorite food – no judgement, just enjoy! Take some time to let the people you love be reminded of that. Then, find some common ground with someone whose ideas challenge you. You may want to gather with a UU friend or two during the week to help you celebrate. There are even several Chalica songs which could be sung. Find them on YouTube!

Happy Chalica everyone!



We Will Be Seeing You on Sunday, Dec 5th:

This is Rev Amy's first day back from Sabbatical and what a welcome back it will be! We will be meeting at the IFAS satellite building for the University of Florida, 3205 College Avenue in Davie 33314. On College Avenue, you will see a sign at the correct gate directing you to River of Grass.

Seating is limited to 50 Inside the Main room and 30 Inside a Satellite room where the service will be live-streamed, all keeping socially distanced. Our children will be meeting on a large, covered outdoor patio nearby.

****Masks are required for all attendees, inside or outside. Please, no exceptions. ****

##Food and drinks are not permitted. Thank you! ##

Sunday, Dec 5th at 10:30 am

The service will also be live-streamed on Facebook and Zoom. Attendees will also be welcomed to watch the service outside on their own devices and for those who wish to remain at home, the Zoom Room will be just as it has been. Though no refreshments will be provided we'll have opportunities for conversation before and after the service.

We are so excited to finally be together!

Further information may be provided as the COVID Task Force continues to meet and keep us safe. Reach out to worship@riverofgrassuu.org and check the weekly email for updates.

****Please be aware that Dec 5th is the annual Christmas Toys in the Sun motorcycle run which causes a roadblock for drivers heading north on I-95 or west on I-595 on that Sunday morning from about 9:00 AM-1:30 PM.****

Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet:

To my River of Grassers: You are truly the loving, giving, kind people you have always been. Every year we adopt children from ChildNet. The Broward County Foster Care Program and every year you all rise to the occasion. All 50 kids have been "Santa-fied". Please remember to get the gifts to my home at 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL

33324 ASAP. Wrapped and tagged if possible. A happy time is had by all.... the givers and the receivers. Thank you!
~ Marilisa Lawless

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.

Auction News!

The Non-Event Event -- 2021-2022 Online Auction -- December 5 thru December 12

The Bidding opens at 6:00 pm on Sunday, Dec 5th. Once the bidding is open, you will need to login as a bidder. If you participated in last year's auction, you will need to login to your account and update any information including a new credit card number. If you are new to this program you will need to create an account.

Desktop link: <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/bidonlinegrid.php?groupId=1763>

Mobile link: <https://m.silentauctionpro.com/bidonlineitems.php?groupId=1763>

For more information and/or donations, contact auktion@riverofgrassuu.org.

Your Auction Team: Steve Jens-Rochow, Kallie LeFever, and Kathy Jens-Rochow



8th Principle Team Message

8th Principle Adoption - WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY IF IT DOESN'T INCLUDE EVERYONE?

The White Race Was Invented. Here is how it happened: <https://indpendent.org/authors/sean-ahern/>

Speaking of Race: And Why Everybody Needs To Talk About It – And How To Do It Celeste Headlee

A self-described “light-skinned Black Jew,” Celeste Headlee has been forced to speak about race—including having to defend or define her own—since childhood. In her career as a journalist for public media, she’s made it a priority to talk about race proactively. She’s discovered, however, that those exchanges have rarely been productive. While many people say they want to talk about race, the reality is, they want to talk about race with people who agree with them. The subject makes us uncomfortable; it’s often not considered polite or appropriate. To avoid these painful discussions, we stay in our bubbles, reinforcing our own sense of righteousness as well as our division.

###

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

The adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting. In the meantime, the 8th Principle Team will be bringing forward historical perspectives and conversations through films, books and discussions that have been more recently revealed due to the killings and incarceration of Black citizens. White supremacy affects all parts of our society. We are excited to begin this work! Members of the Team are Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson and Steve Jens-Rochow. More information to come! Questions? Reach out to: 8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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 info or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

RoG Men's Group: We meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Dec 2nd topic is: "Cycles." There are daily, weekly, monthly, and annual cycles going on all around us. How are we affected?** The Topic Description will be online at [KipBarkley.com/topic/](#). There we post past topics and links to the UU Small Group Ministry Network. 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 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. If you have any questions please contact Kip Barkley; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

You're Invited! Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together – December 11 & 12 (registration fee will be reimbursed by River of Grass)

Dear Unitarian Universalist Leaders and Friends,

You are invited to reach into your spiritual toolkits and grab your "compass," your wayfinder, that inner voice that points you toward goodness, and join us in charting a path toward a deeper knowing of Unitarian Universalism. Please join us for ***Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together***, a virtual event taking place on December 11th and 12th. Our very own [Article II Commission](#) will ask for your input on our ever-evolving Purposes and Principles. This is Unitarian Universalism, our living tradition, at its theological best: striving to change and be better in a changing world, bending its arc toward a greater inclusivity and a more profound justice for all.

This event is for: ***lay leaders, religious professionals, adults, youth, members of congregations, and anyone else who is interested in diving into an exploration of interdependence in UU theology and practice.***

[Learn more about Compass and register today!](#) We hope to see you on December 11 & 12!

In faith, Natalie Briscoe, Southern Region Lead

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd 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, Dec 12th at 7:30 pm**. Our group's 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.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2022

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2022** is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program next summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. Proof of Covid-19 vaccinations required. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Be green with creative wrapping paper. Reuse items you have when wrapping gifts. From boxes to newspapers... be creative! It will reduce the landfill, save you money, and help Mother Earth!

Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign - Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase property and build our church ourselves.

We need your help in order to be better prepared when the right opportunity presents itself. Those of you who made your pledge during our campaign last fall, thank you for your commitment. We have received about 65% of the total amount pledged. And a matching gift of \$25,000. In order to get a handle on our finances, we would like to know when you plan to complete your contribution.

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team. capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org Go to our website, riverofgrassuu.org, scroll down to the Drive to the Finish information and [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

Capital Campaign Contributions

We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%
PayPal	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$0
Securities	<p>Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i></p> <p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination</p> <p>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334</p> <p>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, 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: considers 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 November 4, 2021

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

River of Grass COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team is monitoring Broward County's risk level of transmission. The level of risk used by the River of Grass UU Congregation shall be as measured on [Broward County, Florida \(FL\) - COVID Vaccine & Risk Tracker - Covid Act Now](#). Risk levels are **low**, **medium**, **high**, **very high**, and **severe**.

In-person/hybrid Worship services, large group concerts, fundraisers, other large events (with 50 or more participants) shall occur while the COVID risk is at low, medium, or high levels. According to the Updated Gathering Guidance from UUA.org, "In areas where transmission risk is very high or severe, suspend all large in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers." As such, in-person worship services and other large gatherings shall be suspended if the level of risk for Broward County is and has been very high or severe for two or more weeks. The level of risk, as reported on the COVID Act Now website, will be monitored by the Re-Emergence Team, which will alert the Board and Worship Team if the risk level changes to or from very high or severe and stays at that level for two weeks.

Further, all attendees of in-person gatherings, small or large, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as possible based on eligibility by age. Vaccination or recent negative COVID test is strongly encouraged for in-person gatherings. Facial coverings/masks are required for large indoor in-person gatherings and strongly encouraged for other groups to protect the most vulnerable, including unvaccinated babies and young children. Small groups are encouraged to set-up and enter into their own covenants, using the guidance herein, regarding COVID-19 safety procedures.

If protocols at rental facilities are more restrictive, their guidelines will be followed.

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.