

Announcements

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00pm:** Teens. Who are we becoming as we grow up? It's normal for human beings to want to control and know their future, and yet we can only control the future so much. Sometimes the answer will be hazy, and we have to trust. So, this Sunday our children and youth will be asked to "Predict the future as best you can but be open and trust what unfolds." We'll play with some "magic 8 balls" and listen to a visitor share their life's story. If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiouEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

The River of Grass Annual Pledge Drive (APD) ended! Special thanks to everyone who pledged! If you have not pledged yet, then **Please Pledge Now!** We need all pledges to formalize our income projections for our 2021-2022 budget for the upcoming annual business meeting on May 16th. We have received over \$195K in pledges which is about what we need to operate next year with a balanced budget. Thanks again for helping to love this Beloved Community into being!

You can commit to your pledge during the month-long drive by going to our website at <https://riverofgrassuu.org> scrolling down the homepage until you see the 2021-2022 Annual Budget Drive notification link "[2021-2022 Pledge Card](#)". Click on the link and then just fill in the blanks of the "River of Grass UU Congregation 2021-2022 Pledge Form" and Click "Submit". It is that easy! Save postage and a trip to the post office! Otherwise, please fill out the enclosed form that you as a member should have recently received in the mail with an Annual Pledge Drive brochure.

We are tremendously grateful for your current and past support for our Beloved Community!

Rob Giblin-Davis, RoG APD Chair and Treasurer, Treasurer@RiverofGrassUU.org

Rev. Amy's sabbatical: Rev. Amy's sabbatical began on Saturday, March 13, 2021, and will be back with us for the Annual Meeting and in the pulpit on May 16th. 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](#).

They're Back! With More Choices! Please [click the link](#) to purchase a River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Fundraising Mask! Orders will be shipped right to your door for free! This face mask is a two ply mask made up of 60% Polyester, 40% Cotton. **\$15 each - 3 sizes available: Adult; Youth 9-15; and Child 3-8.**



(<https://www.fundraisingmasks.org/product-page/river-of-grass-unitarian-universalist-congregation-fundraiser>)

Lesbian Visibility Day - April 26, 2021 – Lesbian Visibility Day aims to show our solidarity with every woman within the LGBTQI community. Recent research has shown that gay women are almost twice as unlikely



to be out in their workplace as gay male colleagues. There has been a Lesbian Visibility Day since 2008. This day recognizes, celebrates and importantly supports lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer women to be their true selves at work, at home and socially.

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 meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Apr 27th 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. Gary Gonzalez meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

Have you heard about our Faith Forward Inquirers Series? We meet on Wednesdays from 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 **Apr 28th and is FF Inquirers # 4: Faith Development for Children and Adults**. For more information, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

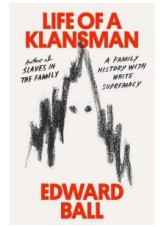
Date	Time	Event
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 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

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. **On Thursday, May 6th at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "The Work of Justice." The Topic Description is online at KipBarkley.net/topic. 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 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, May 9th 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.

bUUkies - May 12th We are reading “Life of a Klansman” by Edward Ball. "A haunting tapestry of interwoven stories that inform us not just about our past but about the resentment-bred demons that are all too present in our society today . . . The interconnected strands of race and history give Ball’s entrancing stories a Faulknerian resonance." —Walter Isaacson, The New York Times Book Review. We will discuss this book **on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 pm.** Send an email to bUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org to get a Zoom invitation. All are welcome!



River of Grass New Mailing Address - We have our post office box and are forwarding all of our mail there now. Our new mailing address is listed on our website as a footer on each page and in the [contact us page](#) if you need to look it up.

River of Grass UU Congregation, 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Clean or replace your AC filter! It only takes a few minutes. And consider an annual AC maintenance checkup. A properly functioning AC system can reduce energy usage 10-30%, saving the environment and reducing your electric bill. Go ahead and clean or replace that filter today!

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 #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

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: February 2021

Meetings in the Time of the COVID

The CDC has released guidelines which allow meetings of fully-vaccinated** people. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

In accordance with these guidelines, Official River of Grass meeting protocols have been updated to reflect the differences in the make-up of meeting attendees. **People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen). This meeting protocol has been developed and can be found on our web (RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html). Contact Susan Juncosa at vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions - Small Group Meetings

1. Can I meet with my RoG friends?

- That is your choice at all times. These recommendations are only for official River of Grass – sponsored gatherings.

2. What's the first thing to consider when organizing an in-person event?

- Is it necessary that the gathering be in person? Can the same purpose be achieved by meeting on Zoom? Is there a reason to meet other than the fact that we want to be together?

3. My small group has some people who are not vaccinated. Can we meet in person?

- Small groups with unvaccinated attendees can meet outdoors. Follow the procedure for such meetings and sign the covenant.
 - + + If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

4. My group has all been vaccinated with all shots and have waited the recommended times. Can we have an in-person meeting?

- Yes, if you take these actions:
 - + follow the procedure for such meetings and everyone signs the covenant.
 - + If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

5. What about an indoor meeting?

- Yes, see question four.

6. Can children come to the gathering?

- At this time, there is no vaccine approved for children. They would have to maintain social distance and masking, etc. This might be a group decision.

Meetings with all attendees fully-vaccinated (INDOORS AND OUTDOORS)

Meeting Leader will do the following:

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + determine, with group members, if proof of vaccination must be provided;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;

Actions Prior to a Gathering

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + attendee states they have been fully vaccinated and will provide card if requested;
 - + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
 - + has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and is not experiencing any COVID- 19 symptoms.
- #### **Actions During a Gathering**
- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
 - + Meeting attendees do not have to wear masks or social distance
 - + Meeting attendees may share food or drink.

Fully-Vaccinated Small Group Gathering Covenant

We; the members, friends, and visitors of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation acknowledge the role we play in keeping ourselves, each other and our

community safe from the spread of COVID-19. With that in mind, we agree to adhere to the following protocols when gathering in small groups in or out-of-doors:

- We have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- We have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- We will comply with any contact tracing following our gathering, if needed.

Meeting with some attendees unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated (OUTDOORS ONLY)

Meeting Leader will do the following:

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

Actions Prior to a Gathering

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

Actions During a Gathering

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

Actions after a Gathering

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have COVID symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.

Small Group Outdoor Gathering Covenant

We; the members, friends, and visitors of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation acknowledge the role we play in keeping ourselves, each other and our community safe from the spread of Covid-19. With that in mind, we agree to adhere to the following protocols when gathering in small groups out-of-doors:

- We will wear masks at all times and keep 6 feet from persons who do not reside in our households.
- We will not partake of food or drink.
- We are not experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.
- We have not traveled out of the country in the past two weeks.
- We will comply with any contact tracing following our gathering, if needed.

Factors Considered in forming the Guidelines:

All guidelines depend on both the public and the personal.

The public – the surrounding community – must meet certain standards for daily new cases, infection rate, test positivity percentage, contact tracing in place and hospital capacity.

Personal – each individual’s state of health.

Scope of Recommendations:

At this time, the recommendations are only for small gatherings **indoor and outdoor** spaces in which social distancing protocol can be maintained.

Format of Recommendations:

The team will develop a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document to be posted on the web site and added to the weekly e-mail, which will be updated as needed.

Meeting Leader will do the following:

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

Actions Prior to a Gathering

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

Actions During a Gathering

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

Actions after a Gathering

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have Covid symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.