

# Announcements

**Faith Development** – Faith Development classes will continue meeting this Sunday as we finish out our regular school year online. Reach out to Karen at [religioueducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religioueducator@riverofgrassuu.org) for information about joining our Zoom rooms.

**Young Adults are meeting every Sunday at 6:30 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 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. We are an intentional community of young adults that uplift and inspire each other. We seek to grow together while enjoying life to the fullest. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> – Back for an Encore Performance - "James Taylor" is performing live via Zoom at 7:00 PM** (“Doors” will close at 7:15 pm – no entry into the Zoom room after this time) It's official! "James Taylor" is performing again live via Zoom Sunday, May 24, at 7:00 PM. His decision was based on the confusion caused by the short notice for his last performance. So for those of you who wanted to attend, but had other plans; for those who missed the first half of the concert because of confusion about the start time; for those who opened up the email invitation too late or never received the invitation; for those who liked the first one so much, you want to see him again; this concert's for you!

This is a free concert, although an opportunity is provided to donate at the bottom of this email, if you choose. 50% of the proceeds will go to Lifenet4Families (a gateway to stability for people in Broward County, Florida experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty) and 50% will go to River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Feel free to share this information with whomever you think might enjoy it.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87096592880?pwd=RVMQUcrWFJEaVZlYjhMcXdyZDFoUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 9659 2880; Password: 817142

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,87096592880#,,1#,817142# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87096592880?pwd=RVMQUcrWFJEaVZlYjhMcXdyZDFoUT09>

## **Here's the donation information:**

If you're willing and able to donate (any amount is fine), you can do so the following ways:

- Text to donate: 844-948-1153. Text the dollar amount and the code “plate” (e.g., "20 plate". A dollar sign is not necessary).
- To donate online, click on [River of Grass payment page](#) and select the Sunday Plate payment option.

**Welcoming Congregation Opportunity – Have you started it yet?** “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations” course, of course

River of Grass UU congregation has made a commitment to be welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We became a UUA recognized Welcoming Congregation June 4, 2002. Throughout this past congregational year, the Welcoming

Congregation Renewal Team has taken intentional steps to renew our commitment to welcoming and inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We are now offering “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations.” This module is a very important one for all of us.

This course is for congregations who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and learn how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over 6 sessions you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality and faith community and gain the grounding, context and skills to transform yourself and our congregation.

This module can be very deeply moving, with personal reflection. Many people may need to process what they learned. We will also talk about how the River can incorporate changes to become more naturally welcoming. We will be scheduling some Zoom sessions for anyone who wishes to participate.

Yes, we are already pretty welcoming, but awareness of the multi-layers of identity can make critical subtle changes to improve our welcome to all.

Please take advantage of this “stay at home” time to take this course. You can view the sessions at your own pace. For more information and the link to connect to the sessions, contact Kathy at [Welcoming@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Welcoming@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Thursday Mindfulness Drop-in 6:00 pm** – How are you doing, and are you tending to any felt anxiety or stress? Are you taking time to pause and check-in with your heart, body and mind? Consider joining tonight's community mindfulness Zoom session every Thursday at 6:00 pm. Our next gathering will be **Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm on <https://zoom.us/j/551319571>.**  
**Note:** This is not a class, just a time to pause and notice, and share with others. Drop in any week. Contact: [Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com) or [Scott@Insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Scott@Insightinstitutellc.com).

**Faith Development – Parents Having Coffee Online** - Parents will join together to share their woes, joys and ahas in a Zoom Room on **Saturday morning, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**. Look for an email from Karen Gonzalez [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Children's Summer Fellowship** - Through the summer months, our River of Grass children will be exploring our National Zoo, virtually, with games and activities - making connections to our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle which calls us to value Earth's web of life. **If you'd like to be a part of this adventure by hosting a Sunday or two, contact Diane Lade, FD Committee Chair, [faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org).**

**Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back! The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30 pm on Zoom.** It 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 also 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 May 27<sup>th</sup> and is FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister. For more information, see Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Zoom link for each is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
5/27/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
6/3/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
6/10/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
6/17/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
7/1/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
7/8/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
7/15/20	6:30 - 7:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources

**Do You Want to Help the Search for Our Future Home for River of Grass?** The River of Grass Future Home Team welcomes additional members as we start our search for our future home. Please contact Steve Jens-Rochow if you are interested. [SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) ONLINE JUNE 24-28** Want to participate in GA? This is the year! Our UU faithful will hold GA online this year, so this is a great opportunity to be part of it. GA (General Assembly) is the annual meeting of our faith through the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association). Attending GA can be a very uplifting and moving experience, as it's an opportunity to witness the broad impact of our faith. There is money in our budget for several folks to register and participate in GA online. If interested, please reach out to Scott May at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).

**LifeNet4Families Donations needed** - As you may know LifeNet4Families has suspended their volunteer program until further notice. The staff continues to hand out about 300 hot to-go meals a day, Monday-Friday, as well as providing showers, food boxes and bags.

If you would like to help, LifeNet has provided a list of items they are in need of. The items can be dropped off outside the gate at LifeNet from 8:00am to noon, Monday-Friday. There are security guards at the gate. Let the security guards know that you have a donation and then leave it outside the gate (or security can get a staff member to come out).

Here's the list of items needed at LifeNet4Families:

- Drop off hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, soap/shower gel, razors, shaving cream, lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Drop off specific menswear (t-shirts, shorts, belts, underwear, socks, sneakers)
- Drop off masks for clients (homemade or store bought)

Another option! If you would like to support them with a financial donation there is a fundraiser to provide housing assistance for LifeNet clients. Please contact Scott May at

[scottmayrog@gmail.com](mailto:scottmayrog@gmail.com) for more information.

Location and Directions:

Lifenet4Families, 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

On Broward Blvd. just east of 441 on the north side of the road.

Landmark: there is a Mobil gas station at the corner of 33rd Terrace and Broward Blvd.

Stay safe! Any questions about LifeNet4Families please contact Judi Oltmans, [SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Reduce your AC bill by closing blinds and curtains when you are leaving your home in the morning, especially any facing east or west. This will block some of the sun's heat that enters your home, reducing the energy needed to cool your home.