

Announcements

New Member Ceremony, Today, Sunday, Oct 18th, during service. At our New Member Ceremony, we celebrate those who have found a new home in this Beloved Community. If you are interested in becoming a member but missed the opportunity to let us know in advance of today's service, please email us at membership@riverofgrassuu.org. For more information about becoming a member, see our website: [Becoming a Member](#).

New Member: Dawn Kristy This Sunday, we have one new member joining River of Grass, Dawn Kristy. Dawn is a Chicagoan who moved to Palm Beach County, Florida in February 2020 to join a cyber-insurance broker as Vice President of Cyber Solutions. Thankfully, Dawn met a member of River of Grass at a networking event and began joining Worship Services and Inquirer Sessions via Zoom. Dawn is a nationally recognized thought leader and cyber subject matter expert, advising clients on cyber and privacy risks and cyber insurance claims. Her passion for science resulted in her developing a strong interest in the relationship between technology for good versus how hackers misuse new technology – such as cyberattacks, security breaches, data theft, and data privacy violations. During her career, Dawn had the unique opportunity of working abroad for twelve years in environmental law, the insurance coverage aspects of the 9/11 attacks, and managing multicultural global teams with extensive travel for work and pleasure. Outside of work, Dawn is interested in dance, music, and the performing arts as well as guest lecturing, mentoring students and encouraging STEM education and careers. Welcome to River of Grass Dawn! We all look forward to getting the opportunity to welcome you into our beloved community.



Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00 pm:** teens
This coming Sunday, the focus of our class sessions will be on Listening to the Voices of Black People, Indigenous People and People of Color. Each month we are dedicating one session to a different aspect of decentering whiteness work, with our theme guiding us toward which aspect to focus on. When it comes to deep listening, leaders have lifted up the importance of decentering whiteness, listening to BIPOC voices and placing those BIPOC voices at the center of our storytelling and discussions. Our faith has taken up this work and called white UU's to be especially vigilant about the work of listening to and centering BIPOC voices. For More information, please contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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 - Virtual Halloween Parade! Come be a part of our spooky fun! Like everything else, this year our Halloween Parade will be virtual. If you'd like to show off your

spookiest, silliest self, please send a photo to Aaron Stang at ASTang22@aol.com by October 25th.

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 religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Oct 20th 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.

Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions - Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults; [Zoom link for 6pm](#) For more info contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <https://www.insightinstitutellc.com>.

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 today, **Sunday, Oct 25th 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.

FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023! Sep 27th - Nov 1st 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive - The Capital Campaign to fund our Future Home has three weeks left!! **43 Pledges and \$529,011 Toward the \$750,000 goal**

Members of the ROG community have been commenting each Sunday on why they are giving to the Campaign. Last week you heard from Barbara Ratchford and her journey with her husband in becoming a UU and how our principles fed into their personal and professional decisions. She spoke with love and connection, and as newlyweds, they still were able to put aside small sums each week to support their UU values. We hope you, too, have stated your own testimonial to yourself and how River of Grass speaks to you and how you visualize our Future Home... the Sanctuary, the classrooms, the kitchen and space for our kids! We need everyone’s participation, no matter how small, to make it happen!

During these difficult times, your River of Grass family connects with you every Sunday; keeps our weekly emails coming; is there for your Covenant Group participation; and, a myriad of

The graphic features the River of Grass logo at the top, followed by the text 'Capital Campaign Drive For Our Future Home September 27 through November 1, 2020'. Below this is a stylized illustration of a lit candle in a holder, with a large orange arc behind it. To the left of the candle is a circular progress indicator showing the campaign's progress: a total goal of \$750,000, with current amounts of \$529,011, \$505,340, and \$449,516. To the right of the candle is the text 'This little light of ours Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine . . . BRIGHTER'.

other diverse discussions about understanding our racial upbringing and the recognition of gender studies in today's society. Our connections haven't changed, just our methods of being here for you.

During these uncertain days, a generous gift to this Campaign may not be in your budget; but, you can be part of our New Home in any way that is financially comfortable. Remember, this is a three year financial plan in addition to your Annual Pledge. Your gift will be accepted in any amount. Even if you cannot start payments to the Campaign this year, next year might be just right! [Filling out your pledge card online](#) will make it easy. Go to our website riverofgrassuu.org under the tab "[Future Home](#)" for lots of information. You can set up recurring payments online or even Text-to-Give by texting a dollar amount followed by the code "CC" (without the quotation marks), example 150.00 CC, to our texting number, (844) 948-1153! Be well, be safe and we will see you on Sunday! Kathy Jens-Rochow is available to answer your questions, at CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.

EARLY VOTING STARTS THIS WEEK! Early Voting **dates and times** for Broward County are: Monday, Oct 19th - Sunday, Nov 1st (7 am–7 pm).

You can find Early Voting **locations** here:

<https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Early-Voting-Dates-Hours-and-Sites>

Make sure you don't miss out—pick an Early Voting date, time, and location that work for you and put it on your calendar today!

- **Don't live in Broward County?** Check your county's Supervisor of Elections website for information on Early Voting in your county: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors>
- **Not sure of your county?** Check what county your city or town is in here: <https://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/florida-information/government/local-resources/citycounty-list/>

If you already have a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot but haven't sent it in yet and would like to vote in person instead, you can still do so. Bring your VBM ballot (blank or filled out) with you to your polling place, where poll workers can cancel it so that you can vote by regular ballot. **And if you DO want to use your VBM ballot but haven't done so yet, the time is NOW!** Sit down, fill it out, make sure to sign the envelope, and either mail it immediately or—better yet—drop it in a secure drop box near you to avoid possible mail delays. (The top reason mail-in ballots are rejected in Florida is because they arrive after the deadline—7 pm on Election Day.)

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

(Note: Early voting dates, times, and locations subject to change; check back at the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website to confirm the latest information.) 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.

From our Welcoming Congregation Team October 26th is Intersex Awareness Day to commemorate the first intersex protest which took place in Boston. And what is intersex, you may ask? Intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male. Intersex babies are always assigned a legal sex, but sometimes when they grow up, their gender doesn't match the sex selected for them. Being intersex is a naturally occurring variation in humans, and isn't a medical problem. It's more common than most people realize. Estimates suggest that about 1 in 100 people born in the U.S. is intersex.



Smile.Amazon.com - Did you know you can now use AmazonSmile in the Amazon mobile app? Here is how to turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app. 1. Join AmazonSmile. If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, [sign up](#) on your web browser. Simply select your favorite charity (River of Grass 65-0791653) to start generating donations, at no cost to you. 2. Get the app. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android. 3. Turn on AmazonSmile. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

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.

Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back! The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the updated 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 **Oct 7th and is FF Inquirers #7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups**. For more information, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
10/28/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
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: Invest green! Most 401Ks and IRAs offer "sustainable" or "social" investment options - which avoid petroleum, coal, guns, etc. One example is Vanguard Social Index. Align your money with your values!

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.

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