

# Announcements

**Faith Development:** Dragonflies **9:30am**; Teens **12:00pm**; Mockingbirds **1:30pm**

On Sunday our children will be experiencing the concept of "building bridges" in order to help cultivate relationships. We will also be making some real bridges, so bring those popsicle sticks and the dragon to cross over! Our teens will be focusing on the concept of covenants or promises that we make in our friendships that help everyone feel safe, celebrated and cared for. If you'd like further information about our FD program, contact Karen Gonzalez at [religioueducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religioueducator@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Rev. Amy's sabbatical** - Rev. Amy's sabbatical began Monday, Sep 27<sup>th</sup>, and will end Tuesday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. She will be back in the pulpit on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. 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](#).

**Intersex Awareness Day - October 26:** Since 2004, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as Intersex Awareness Day, an initiative by the Intersex Day Project that encourages people to take action and share the histories and stories of the intersex rights movement.

Intersex Awareness Day commemorates the anniversary of a protest held by members of the intersex community during the annual American Academy of Pediatrics convention in 1996. Activists gathered in action against the standard practice of invasive gender based surgeries that many intersex children have been forced to undergo without consent.



To understand the importance of Intersex Awareness Day, it's also necessary to have an accurate definition of what it means to be intersex. People who are intersex were born with a genetic, genital, reproductive, or hormonal configuration that isn't easily categorized as "male" or "female."

***LifeNet4Families - Provide a traditional holiday meal to food-insecure families this Thanksgiving!***

Thanksgiving is usually a time to gather and celebrate with family and friends around the dinner table. This year, more families are struggling to put enough food on the table; many of which are in need of help for the first time this holiday season. With your support, an isolated senior, an individual on their own this holiday season, or a food-insecure family will be able to access a warm traditional meal this Thanksgiving!



Here are some of the ways you can help feed one senior, one person, or one family:

- \$75 to deliver families a fully-cooked traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings.

- \$50 to provide a holiday food box so food-insecure families can prepare a delicious holiday meal at home.
- \$25 to surprise an isolated senior living alone with a traditional holiday dinner delivered to their home this Thanksgiving.
- Consider a one-time gift to feed as many people as possible this Thanksgiving Day.
- Setup a recurring monthly gift to help feed families this holiday season and beyond.

Thank you for your generosity this season of giving (meals). [Click here to donate to LifeNet4Families!](#)

**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/>

**Faith Development Trunk or Treat Event: Saturday Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.** Do YOU love to decorate for Halloween! Faith Development is hosting a Trunk or Treat this year. This is an outdoor event with decorated car trunks instead of houses to visit for a trick (game) and a treat (gift or candy). We need volunteers to participate with their decorated car trunks! If you can help or you'd like more information about this event, you can contact Tanya Gustafson at [FaithDevelopment@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:FaithDevelopment@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**SE Cluster Meeting - Saturday Oct 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm** - The SE UU Cluster is excited to have Paula Cole Jones as the Keynote Speaker at our Annual Meeting on **Saturday, Oct 30, 2021 from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**. Paula will discuss the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle for Unitarian Universalism. She is one of the principal authors of the Principle.

"8. Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountability dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

There will be a panel discussion of congregations that have adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. To register for the meeting send an email with your name to [Secretary@seucluster.org](mailto:Secretary@seucluster.org). A Zoom link will be returned to you.

**Young Adults** are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

**Broward Solar Co-op is still open:** Thinking of going solar? You are in luck. The Broward Solar United Neighbors Co-op is still open, it closes on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. With it you get the advantage of a fully vetted installer, a discounted group price, and their expertise. <https://coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/broward-county-2021-solar-co-op/>

**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.

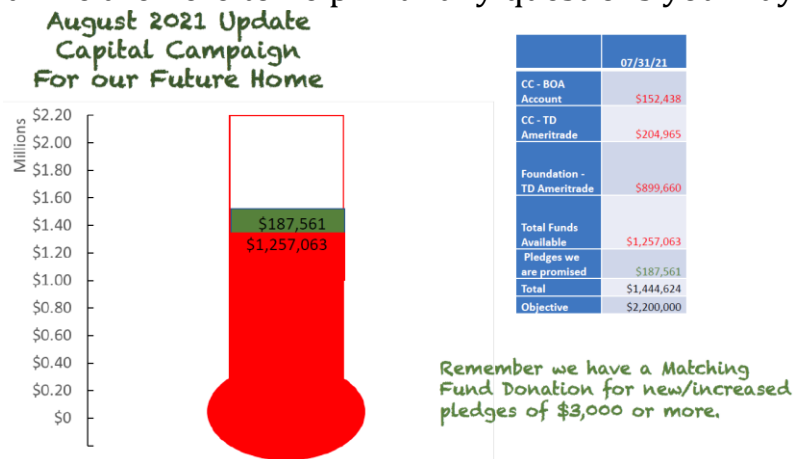
**River of Grass UU Congregation, 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345**

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Take an "electronics day off". Turn off the TV, stay off Facebook, no internet. Just grab a book, take a walk, or speak with loved ones. It's healthy and it's green!

**Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign** - Thank you to all who gave us a new pledge and those who generously increased their pledge. Remember there is a Matching Fund Donor who will match any new or increased pledge of \$3,000 or more. With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team. [capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org) Go to our website, [riverofgrassuu.org](http://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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).



<b>Monetary Donations</b>		
<b>Method</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Processing fees paid by River of Grass</b>
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 <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . 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	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$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><b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b>  <b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</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](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html)). Contact Susan Juncosa at [COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:COVIDteam@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 contract 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 contract 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, contract 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.