

Announcements

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00 pm:** teens
In this Sunday's classes, our kids will learn about the stillness that comes by waiting, specifically waiting for Freedom. They'll learn how our siblings in the AME denomination honor Watch Night or Freedom's Eve on December 31st, commemorating that night in 1862 as Black slaves and free Blacks awaited Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. I had not heard of Watch Night before and am grateful that our kids get the opportunity to fill in some of the gaps in our collective American history! Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org for links to join a class, or for more information about our Faith Development program.

The pandemic is not enough to keep our kids from our annual tradition of a holiday pageant! **Join us on Dec 20th** to see our woodland animals perform, "**The Snow Tree**" to welcome in the Winter Solstice.

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 on **Sunday, Dec 13th at 7:30 pm**. Our purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please e-mail youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT RIVER OF GRASS: "Comfort and Joy"

****December 24 at 5:30 p.m.****

Come Join Our Christmas Eve Service of Music and Celebration of Light!
New Musical Renditions of your favorites to Celebrate the Season,
with Virtual Choir, Ensembles, Instrumentalists, Singers & Soloists, and the Band!
Be sure to bring a candle to the screen for our traditional candle-lighting.
Come One. Come All. Bring Friends and Family!

Auction 2020-2021: Pick 'N Click River Givers Virtual Auction:



Drum roll please!!!!!!!!!! Announcing our first ever... "Pick N Click" River Givers Virtual Auction

We have moved our annual auction online! What you need to know:

- The virtual auction will begin **Saturday Jan 16 beginning at 7:00 pm EST. Please put it on your calendar.**
- We will have a live auction, raffles and lots of parties, services and wonderful gift items. It is a family event!
- Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of January.
- Online bidding will continue through January 31. And of course, you can bid from your smart phone, too!
- Bidders will get notifications when there is a higher bid, so they can adjust their bid.

But... it takes a whole bunch of people to make this happen seamlessly. Since this is virtual. We are not constrained by our 4 walls, and you can participate whether you are in Davie, Maine, Arizona, or Paris. As always, we are requesting donations from our beloved community, which is generous beyond compare!

We are gratefully accepting donations – parties, baskets, gift cards and certificates for service. Ask your favorite restaurant, your hair stylist, your masseuse to donate something, and. If applicable, be sure to get details about current social distancing procedures etc. We are also looking for a few big-ticket items, like a vacation stay at a condo or cabin, or a long weekend stay at a timeshare, for our live auction. Other ideas for donations (always with social distancing in mind if it is not virtual):

- A party via Zoom - poker party, wine tasting, beer tasting, live concert etc.
- Online game night (contact auction team to confirm date)
- Cooking lesson (contact auction team to confirm date)
- Craft lesson (contact auction team to confirm date)
- Food Delivery subscription
- Virtual Play or game night
- Gift cards – Trader Joe’s, Whole Foods, Amazon, Instacart, restaurants
- New household items (delivery negotiated)
- Antiques (delivery negotiated)
- Gift Baskets (wine, coffee, tea, etc.)
- Toys (delivery negotiated)
- Master Class subscription

Email the details of your donation and a contact # to auction@riverofgrassuu.org. Thank you for your support by attending the auction and of course with your generous donations of items and services. We are so looking forward to an exciting evening with you! More to come as this event unfolds before our eyes!

Money Matters - As 2020 draws to a close, everyone's situation is different. If you are looking to make a gift of securities that are now worth more than you paid, give the securities directly. If they have gone down, sell them, claim the tax loss, and give the cash. If you are giving from an IRA, 2020 is a year of special opportunities. If you claim the Standard Deduction, check if you are eligible to deduct an extra \$300 given to charity. Always consult your tax advisor before

acting in this tricky world of finance. A dollar you don't pay in taxes is a dollar you get to keep.

Guest At Your Table 2020



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights worldwide through collaboration with grassroots organizations. Let's help build our movement for systemic change with partners around the world by giving online to our annual Guest at Your Table program. Just put [UUSC.org](https://www.uusc.org/) in your browser. Gifts of \$150 or more are doubled. Or go to <https://www.uusc.org/>. **River of Grass's Congregation ID is 3019.** There is an attachment in this email for the Template for a homemade GAYT box for 2020-2021 in pdf format.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Dec 15th 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.

Mind/Body Skills Group - Scott May and Kallie LeFever will be teaching a free mindfulness program called Mind/Body Skills. Info about the Introductory Workshop and Program are listed below. For additional details please contact Kallie or Scott directly.

MIND/BODY SKILLS - Introductory Workshop

- Free 90-Minute Live Online Event
 - Experience an introduction to mind/body skills of self-awareness, self-care, and self-expression.
- **Wednesday December 16th, 4-5:30pm**

MIND/BODY SKILLS GROUP

- Free 8-Week Live Online Program
 - Learn evidence-based skills of self-awareness, self-care, and self-expression enabling

MIND/BODY SKILLS GROUP (ONLINE)

LEARN EVIDENCE-BASED SKILLS OF SELF-AWARENESS, SELF-CARE, AND SELF-EXPRESSION ENABLING YOU TO BE MORE BALANCED AND RESILIENT TO MEET LIFE'S CHALLENGES. ...



Free Introductory Workshop

Wednesday December 16th 4-5:30pm Eastern

Free Mind/Body Skills Group (8 Weeks)

Wednesdays January 13th to March 3rd, 4-6pm Eastern

Contact: Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com

you to be more balanced and resilient to meet life's challenges. The program was created by the Center for Mind Body Medicine.

- **Wednesdays January 13th - March 3rd, 4-6pm**

For more information and registration contact: Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com.

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>.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Change your car's air filter the next time you change the oil. Over time, air filters get clogged causing your engine to work harder - creating more greenhouse gas emissions and lowering your fuel economy. Save money on gas by spending money on a new air filter.

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

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 **Jan 6th 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
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

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>	