

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

River of Grass Weekly Update – January 7, 2021

What will you do with your one precious and wild life?

One of the River's annual services, our Wild and Precious Life service, asks the question that comes at the end of Pulitzer Prize winning poet Mary Oliver's poem The Summer Afternoon. "Tell me what is it you plan to do with your one wild & precious life?" Using this question, we ask members of various ages to reflect on their life and what they want for the future. Several members of our beloved community will share their reflections.

Come as you are to gather with us for this Sunday's love-streamed service, remembering only the medium is virtual; the connections, the love, the spirit are real. Following the service, we will share virtual Hospitality time with a live chat and small groups where we can relish each other's beautiful faces and voices together once again.

Follow the link below to join us in Zoom – or if you'd like, we'll be simulcasting on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu/>. Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward. And now that we have a larger Zoom space ready to welcome all who will join us from over this world – who will we meet this week?

Sunday morning, gather with us at the River – on your computer, your tablet, your phone (with video or only audio if you like, we'll miss your face!) -- just click or dial into our River of Grass Meeting Room at the link or numbers below. We'll be watching for you!

Topic: Worship January 10, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350

Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – What will you do with your one precious and wild life? - Kathy Jens-Rochow & Diane Lade <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development for kids and teens: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00pm:** Teens
In keeping with our monthly theme of Imagination, this Sunday in our Faith Development program for children and youth, we'll be imagining a better world without racism. We'll revisit the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and assess what progress has been made in fulfilling that dream. We'll consider the roles we must play in continuing his work and developing our own dreams for the country. For links to join a class contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org, or for more information about our Faith Development program.

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, Jan 10th 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.

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



GET YOUR TICKETS!!! "Pick N Click" River Givers Virtual Auction

Saturday Jan 16th beginning at 7:00 pm ET.

We are not constrained by our 4 walls, and you can participate whether you are in Davie, Maine, Arizona, or Paris. So plan on joining us for a lively entertainment, raffle, and extraordinary live auction. It is a **family event!**

- For just \$10 per family (one screen), you can enjoy an evening of live auction, music and "Meet the River" interviews with some of our members and friends who have been so important to the life of the River. You will also have an exclusive evening of bidding on these auction items.
- Tickets on sale now: [for desktop](#) and [for mobile](#)
- Once you register as a bidder, click at the bottom of the registration form to purchase your ticket and raffle tickets.
- If you don't attend the kickoff, free online bidding for remaining open items will start on Sunday, Jan 17th and continue through Jan 31st. And of course, you can bid from your smartphone, too! Link will be available Jan 17th.

We are still gratefully accepting donations.

Please send a description of your donation to auction@riverofgrassuu.org

Here are some of the wonderful donations we have received;

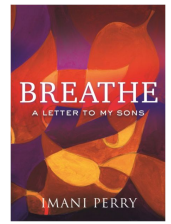
- one of the live auction items is a week in a cabin in Breckenridge! Thanks Scott & Carolyn
- beautiful jewelry from Audrey Stang
- socially distanced dining
- Tarot readings by Sheryl Cattell
- business building workshop
- mandala creation workshop by Lily Mazurek
- massages
- Sheryl Cattell's Life Coaching
- and more

More donations needed – 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 more big-ticket items, like a vacation stay at a condo or cabin or a long weekend stay at a hotel, for our live auction. 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!

bUUkies Announce UUA Common Read Discussion

Every year the UUA selects a book to be shared by all UU congregations. A "Common Read" invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. The River of Grass conversation will be on a date to be announced later.



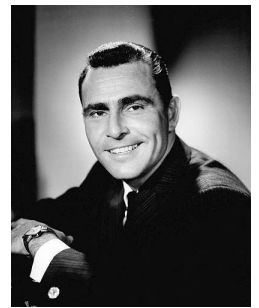
This year's Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. The UUA says:

"Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* "an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent's unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children's right simply to be possible."

This book may be purchased in hardcover from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). The e-book and audio book (CD or MP3) are available from [Bookshop.org](#). Hardback, audio and e-books are also available at [Amazon.com](#).

How well do you know your UUs:

Rod Serling was an American screenwriter, playwright, television producer, and narrator known for his live television dramas of the 1950s and his science-fiction anthology television series, *The Twilight Zone*. Serling was active in politics, both on and off the screen, and helped form television industry standards.



He was known as the "angry young man" of Hollywood, clashing with television executives and sponsors over a wide range of issues including censorship, racism, and war. Serling's experiences as a soldier left him with strong opinions about the use of military force. He was an outspoken anti war activist, especially during the Vietnam War. He supported anti war politicians, notably Eugene McCarthy in his presidential campaign in 1968. Mr. Serling incorporated his protest against prejudice in vivid dialogue and sound situations. His play *A Town Has Turned to Dust* is just one of the examples. He made his point that hate for a fellow being leads only to the ultimate destruction of the bigoted.

"The ultimate obscenity is not caring, not doing something about what you feel, not feeling! Just drawing back and drawing in, becoming narcissistic" (Source: [Wikipedia](#))

Other Events:

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/>

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Today, Thursday, Jan 7th at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "Together/Apart." We will share thoughts on sheltering in place and all the impacts it is happening on each of us. 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.

LinkedIn Free Webinar available for ROG congregation by member Sheryl Cattell on Friday, Jan 8th at 1pm

ET - With more than 30 years in digital marketing, Sheryl Cattell, MBA, CSM, MCLC is the founder of the South Florida Interactive Marketing (sfima.com), a digital marketing coach for the BizHack Academy and a Master Certified Life Coach. The topics that will be covered include:

1. Tips on profile enhancements you will want to make
2. Get your social selling score and compare with others in your industry and network
3. Tips on growing your network
4. How to get more mileage from your posts (from hundreds to thousands of views)



Registration is free and open to all River of Grass members and friends: [Click here to register](#), this event is sponsored by The Resort Trades Magazine. I hope you can join us. - Sheryl Cattell

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Jan 12th at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet 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. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

Mind/Body Skills Group

Scott May and Kallie LeFever will be teaching a free mindfulness program called Mind/Body Skills. For additional details please contact Kallie or Scott directly.

MIND/BODY SKILLS GROUP

- Free 8-Week Live Online Program
 - 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. The program was created by the Center for Mind Body Medicine.
- **Wednesdays January 13th - March 3rd, 4-6pm**



Information and registration contact: Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 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 13th and is FF Inquirers #8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life** For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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 #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 CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Turn off printers and computers when not in use as they continue to use electricity. Shutting them off saves you money and uses less natural resources.

COVID-19 Response Update

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. All face-to-face gatherings of any kind are suspended or moved on-line, and we have left our building. Numerous meetings and gatherings have transitioned online via Zoom. Welcome to our new norm!

We are grateful that many many members and friends are in self-quarantine, doing their part to protect themselves as well as reduce the spread of the virus, and only venturing outside when absolutely necessary.

Our extended Caring Team has coordinated a 'network of contacting' to help ensure our community has communication and is cared for..... and our Covenant Groups are a large part of this.

There is deep gratitude for the way our community cares for each other, remains flexible, and is diligent in responding to this unprecedented situation!

Take a deep breath. Allow any feelings and thoughts to be as they are. Know you are supported. Stay safe!

Basic Protective Measures Against Coronavirus

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against coronavirus here at River of Grass and in the wider community we share. River of Grass is adhering to the following recommendations from the World Health Organizations.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Be aware of those in our midst with compromised immune systems.

Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

1. Regularly and thoroughly CLEAN YOUR HANDS with an alcohol-based hand-rub or washing with soap and water, especially – after coughing/sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during, and after you prepare food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty – and when they are not; after handling animals or animal waste.
2. Maintain social distancing – 6 feet between yourself and anyone.
3. Even if well, try to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and when greeting, instead of elbow and fist bumps (no handshakes or hugs), consider placing your hand over your heart as a gesture of welcome and hello.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid transfer of viruses from contaminated surfaces.
5. Practice respiratory hygiene: 1) Cough/sneeze into your elbow, 2) If you use tissues, dispose of them immediately, then clean your hands.
6. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care promptly.
7. If you feel unwell, stay home, even with mild symptoms like headache and runny nose.
8. Stay informed, and follow any guidelines from your healthcare advisor.

How to cope with stress during this coronavirus outbreak:

1. It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during any crisis.
2. Talk to people you trust, and contact your friends and family.
3. If you must stay home, maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid smoking or using alcohol and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and the internet.
7. Draw on coping skills that have helped you in the past.
8. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor, and have a plan to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html. **River of Grass UU Congregation** is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org.

Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed or called into the congregation's office by 12 pm Wednesday. All announcements will pertain to congregational life and affiliated groups and will be for activities or events occurring within two weeks of the e-mail. Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must have the approval of the Board of Trustees.