

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – January 19, 2023

Count & Be Counted: Bending the Interdependent Arc Toward Justice Through Electoral Justice

If interdependence is the inescapable reality of our relationships
to one another and to the earth, then true democracy
is both a spiritual and political practice
of honoring that interconnectedness. – Rev. Ashley Horan

On this second Sunday of our 2023 Bending the Arc Series, we will align with UU congregations across the country and our UUA Side With Love campaign to explore the intersections of our Arc Bending through our engagements with democracy and electoral justice. For however much our hearts may be in the right place, we count when we are counted at the ballot box and thereby truly change our world.

Gather with us to consider the power of democracy in our hands joined with others working to get us all free.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... We'll be watching for you!

In person at:

- Our new Sunday morning rental space at the Old Davie Schoolhouse!
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViOT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

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

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, January 22, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Count & Be Counted: Bending the Interdependent Arc Toward Justice Through Electoral Justice – Rev. Amy Carol Webb
<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Faith Development - Our UU Principles have helped Unitarian Universalists know what we value for nearly 40 years ([since 1984](#)). Since we have a “living tradition” or faith, we expect these words to change over time. Right now, UU’s everywhere have been invited to share ideas about what values are at the center of our faith.

Our Principles and our Sources are determined by us and are not handed down to us by an almighty source. There have been many changes to our Principles and our Sources, already. There were only 5 [sources](#) at first. We voted on including “earth-centered spiritualities” in 1986 when the women of our faith recognized the importance of the natural cycles and seasons, and it ended up becoming our 6th source.

We’ve also changed the second source - Words and deeds of prophetic **people** - from the old language of prophetic **men and women** in the last few years.

Our Seventh Principle, “...respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part” was also added long after the original document was drafted.

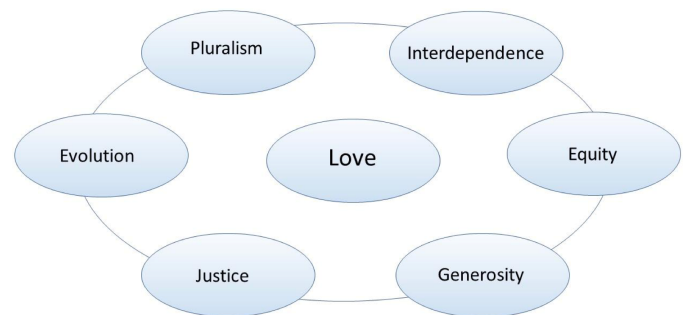
River of Grass recently voted to add an [8th Principle](#) - “...journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” And there is a movement to make this an official addition to the Principles at the Association level - something that congregational representatives will be considering at the General Assembly in June of this year, in Pittsburgh.

But right now, there is a whole new Unitarian Universalist commission, called the [Article II Commission](#), which has been asking everyone - adults, children and youth, what they value as Unitarian Universalists in order to create principles that reflect what we value, what is at the center of our faith in these times.

Because we are a faith that values democratic processes, we value building our faith from the people who are in the Unitarian Universalist community. It can take years to make a change. It is challenging but worth our while.

You can learn more about these proposed changes and the process by clicking on any of the above links.

Our children will be sharing their own thoughts about this in their Faith Development class on Sunday, and we will celebrate that we are always striving to find our center as a faith. For more information about our Faith Development programming for children and youth, reach out to our Director, Karen Gonzalez at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.



Sunday, Jan 22nd, 2023 at 4:30 PM – Reminder for our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting: Our mid-year meeting is traditional informational updates on the life of the River. It is a little different this year. In addition to an important election, this meeting includes updated information regarding our possible future home. It is important for all members to attend. We will need a quorum to conduct the election of two new Nominating Committee members. I apologize for the time. Starting at 4:30 PM was the only way we could hold this meeting. If we were to hold it after our in-person Sunday service, it would have to end within an hour. And when have any of our congregational meetings taken less than an hour? It is too important to have to cut it short. This gives you enough time to go home and grab a nibble to munch on during the meeting.. - Kathy Jens-Rochow, President president@riverofgrassuu.org

Agenda for Congregational Mid-Year Meeting

Sunday, Jan 22nd, Location: [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 961 9940 4889

One tap mobile +13052241968,,96199404889# US

- 4:30 pm Welcome - Kathy Jens-Rochow, President
Invocation/Chalice Lighting - Rev. Amy Carol Webb
Establish quorum
Today's Agenda (Kathy)
President's Report (Kathy)
- 4:45 pm Minister's Report & Sabbatical Plans - Rev. Amy
- 5:00 pm Faith Development Report - Karen Gonzalez, Religious Educator & Tanya Gustafson, Chair
- 5:15 pm Finance Report – Rob Giblin-Davis, Treasurer & Brit Lundell, Finance Chair
- 5:30 pm New business
· Election of 2 Nominating Committee Members
- 5:35 pm Future Home/Capital Campaign Update – Kathy Jens-Rochow, Rev. Amy, Steve Jens-Rochow, Janet Schwartz
- 6:15 pm Annual Pledge Drive – Rita Cherubini & Leana Bresnahan, Co-chairs
- 6:20 pm Committee Update: Membership – Leana Bresnahan, Chair
Committee Update: Worship – Rita Cherubini & Tanya Gustafson, Co-chairs & Rev. Amy
- 6:30 pm Adjourn River of Grass congregational meeting

Agenda for Congregational Mid-Year Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Location: Zoom 6:30 pm

- 6:30 pm Welcome – Jennifer A. Migliori, Interim President
Establish quorum
- 6:35 pm Background
- 6:40 pm Financial Report
- 6:45 pm New business – Congressional Vote
Update Bylaws
Elect Three (3) Trustees: Maureen Lundell, Mallory McLaren, and RoG Treasurer Robin Giblin-Davis
- 7:00 pm Chalice Release
Adjourn

Membership – New Member Andrew Meit:

Please welcome new member Andrew Meit to River of Grass. Andrew joined on December 4th, 2022. He has been attending worship services regularly over the past year and has already become involved in numerous congregational activities. Originally from Kentucky, Andrew currently lives in Plantation. Andrew is an amazing person. He shared that due to the rubella his mother contracted during pregnancy, he was born DeafBlind, and has some brain processing difficulties. But he has never let that stand in his way. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, with minors in Philosophy and Mathematics, from Stetson University. He is a life-long student of Martin Buber and of Da Vinci, and has a deep and extensive knowledge of Judaism. He is a published digital artist, and has worked in software testing, tech support, and User Interface design. He was involved in the Independent Living Movement in the 1980's. Andrew says he is never bored, always working on various projects or learning new skills. He is currently busy writing his first sermon for River of Grass, to be delivered in April. Andrew welcomes new friends, hugs, and enjoys cats.



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/>

RoG Men’s Group: We’ll next meet **Thursday Jan 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**. We meet in person and via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 PM at Uncle Al’s, 8200 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Do come out and join us. The Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 PM. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

Hello Service and Social Justice Warriors – We have a confirmed date to volunteer at LifeNet4families on **Saturday, Jan 28th 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to make a difference. See Linda Morgan Crain and clipboard this Sunday or email SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org. Hope to see you there!

The Broward Folk Festival is being held at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds (4201 SW 65th Way, Davie, FL 33314) on **Feb 4th - 5th! (Saturday and Sunday)**. Here's the website for you to peruse all of that great music from the folks you love! www.BrowardFolkClub.com The arena is covered-(shady) with food trucks and camaraderie - but you can bring your own (friends, food, chair) Folks will gather everywhere! There'll be a place for the children, too! Lessons to be learned (workshops, jam sessions) - bring your "ax" (instruments, voices) - and mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this beloved, highly anticipated, annual engagement of delight, merriment, and music!

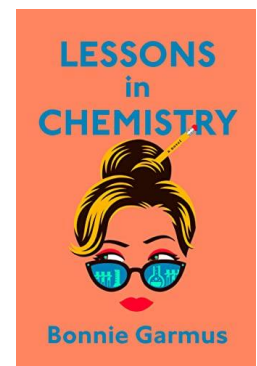
BUUKies February Read – “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus. **We will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 7pm.**

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC)

“Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus features the singular voice of Elizabeth Zott, a scientist whose career takes a detour when she becomes the star of a beloved TV cooking show. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel Prize–nominated grudge holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Insulate your water heater. Wrap the tank with an exterior insulation kit and insulate exposed pipes. It will reduce electricity costs and save money. Also consider installing a solar water heater. This alone may cut your electric bill by a third or more - saving electricity and saving you money!

Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten (COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org)

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: consider first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

Sources:

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/pandemics>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/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: Updated October 16, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

Community Level LOW:

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

Community Level MEDIUM: Current Broward County Status

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

Community Level HIGH:

In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)
- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

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 to WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org 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.