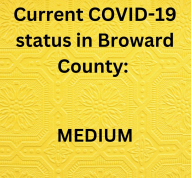


River of Grass

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 – February 9, 2023

Side with Love: What I Call Myself

*You know, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender - people are people.
Judith Light*

Sunday's worship service focuses on ... Proper use of gender identity terms, including pronouns, is a crucial way to signal courtesy and acceptance. Alex Schmider, associate director of transgender representation at GLAAD, compares using someone's correct pronouns to pronouncing their name correctly – "a way of respecting them and referring to them in a way that's consistent and true to who they are."

One thing to note: Language changes. Some of the terms now in common usage are different from those used in the past to describe similar ideas, identities and experiences. Some people may continue to use terms that are less commonly used now to describe themselves, and some people may use different terms entirely. What's important is recognizing and respecting people as individuals.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse at the Historical Auditorium 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=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

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

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, February 12, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Side with Love: What I Call Myself – Kathy Jens-Rochow

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

Faith Development - In our Faith Development class for kids on Sunday, we're exploring the love we feel for family members and friends. And we'll look at Valentine's through a justice lens, by hearing about all of the times in this country when Love Won. We'll listen to the story of the Supreme Court case of Loving vs. Virginia. We'll learn what happened on Valentine's Day in California in 2005, when thousands of Unitarian Universalists sent valentines to their governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger to teach him something about Love. And, we'll hear about how we UUs were at the forefront of the Marriage Equality Act. It's no wonder that we're known as "the Love People"! For more information about our FD program, contact our Director, Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

FAITH FORWARD INQUIRERS' SERIES BEGINS THIS SUNDAY: PLEASE JOIN US! This interactive 8-session discussion series explores Unitarian Universalism and many aspects of River of Grass. It is intended for people new to River of Grass AND members too! The discussions will be held the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Led by congregational leaders and Rev. Amy, this is your opportunity to learn more about our faith and many aspects of congregational life. We will meet after worship service from noon to 1:15 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Zoom will also be available at this link:

<http://ec2-54-202-43-228.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com/x/d?c=28794685&l=e2c3a142-62b8-4ba4-a16f-fd21b05a4376&r=b5185801-7fbe-434c-b17c-2a578973797a>

This week we will focus on the history and main tenets of the UU faith, plus a quick overview of our own history at River of Grass. If you can let me know you plan to attend, that will be helpful...but drop-ins are ALWAYS WELCOME!

Signup For Washing Coffee Mugs

The Service, Social Justice and Green Team [SSJGT] has donated lots of coffee mugs to replace the styrofoam and non recyclable plastic coated paper coffee cups we have been using during coffee hour after Sunday Service. SSJGT is looking for congregational volunteers to take the dirty mugs home at the end of Coffee Hour, wash them, and bring them back the next Sunday.

Please sign up by emailing SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org for the Sundays when you would stay late and take home the dirty coffee mugs, wash them, and bring them back the next Sunday.

- First Sunday of the month -
- Second Sunday - Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow
- Third Sunday -
- Fourth Sunday -
- Fifth Sunday -



GO GA! Oops. We do love initialism. What am I talking about?

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us **Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and/or online for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

The theme for General Assembly 2023 is "Faithfully Becoming." We are at a threshold moment for our faith and will choose the next path in our journey. We will consider new articulations of Article II (including our Principles and Purpose) and elect a new President to lead our Association. These are decisions that will shape who we are and how we respond to and grow through these times. These changes offer us possibilities for becoming more connected, courageous, inclusive, generous, and continuing our ongoing journey of becoming Beloved Community.

Anyone can attend. Even just register for programs/worship and not sit through the business meetings.



But, **you too can represent our community by being a delegate and vote on important issues, including the election of a new UUA president and the proposed principles revision.** The River will pay our delegate's registration fee. For more information, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2023-24 IS COMING UP!

"A New Beginning" – March 5 to March 31, 2023

The Annual Pledge Drive (APD) will kick off on Sunday, March 5 with CAKE!! This yearly Campaign provides financial resources for our facilities, staff and programming so that we may do the vital work in the world and carry out the mission that River of Grass is meant to do. You will receive your pledge packet after service on that Sunday! More information to follow and why the campaign this year is so important to our future! Questions? Or contact us and let us know if you'd like to be on the Team! Your Stewardship Co-Chairs, Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org

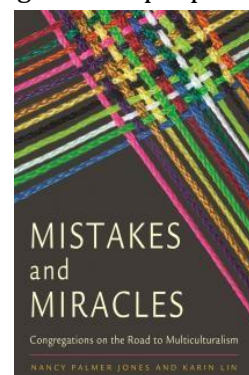


Common Read March 26th at noon:

The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared focus for reflection and action. A Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy. "Mistakes and Miracles" What lessons and inspiration can we find in *Mistakes and Miracles* to guide our striving for Beloved Community, today?

Common Read 2022-23: *Mistakes and Miracles* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin

Co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. Their book, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*, shares the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.



Today, Unitarian Universalists are grappling with a charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. As we enter a Common Read of this book, many will bring a spirit ready to meet the urgent need for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our congregations and our movement.

Read or Listen to Mistakes and Miracles

Mistakes and Miracles can be purchased from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](https://www.inspirituu.org). Discounts are available on orders of 10 or more books.

You can also [listen to *Mistakes and Miracles* as an audiobook!](#)

If you need the book in another format, please email UUA Publications Director Mary Benard at mbernard@uua.org.

Join the conversation!

Rev. Amy will lead us in discussion about this inspiring read on March 26th, during our Second Helping series at noon. Bring your thoughts, questions and ideas about how River of Grass can be inspired in this good work!

Welcome New Member, Tobey Pearl (who was recently interviewed by Wendell Abern)

Tobey and family moved here from Boston at the beginning of the pandemic. She grew up in Brookline, Mass., received a BS in psychology from Tulane University (where she also interned at the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic), followed by JD and MA degrees from Boston U for law and international relations. While practicing law, this Jill-of-all-trades worked at a nonprofit legal services center in Boston as a housing advocate. Tobey's husband, Matthew, is a professional writer, with eight published novels worthy of a Google search. Tobey left her law practice to raise their three children: Cooper, 12; Graham, 11, and Olivia, 9. Somehow, with three kids clamoring for attention, Tobey found time to write a book: a history of the first jury trial in the country (1638), "Terror to the Wicked," a murder trial.



Three kids, three degrees, a law practice, nonprofit experience, a published book, and the only member of our congregation named after a Yellow Lab Retriever. Now if anyone deserves a good warm River of Grass hug, it's Tobey!

Last Chance to update your information for the New Member and Friend Photo Directory:

Please send any new information for your family since 2020 (address; telephone; email; recent photo) to membership@riverofgrassuu.org and office@riverofgrassuu.org.

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 Feb 16th 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 the Fat Stork Restaurant, 8270 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. 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.

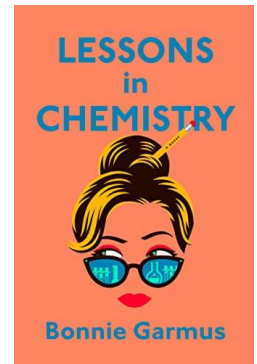
BUUKies February Read – “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus. **We will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 7pm.**

[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: Save electricity by shutting off lights when not in the room. And decide if all lights can be turned off during the night. This uses less power, lowers your electric bill, and helps the environment!

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.

River of Grass UU Congregation

6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)

4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314 (Office Location)

PO Box 452485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345 (Mailing Address Only)

954.723.7877 - office@riverofgrassuu.org