

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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

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River of Grass Weekly Update – February 17, 2022

## Just the Way You Are: At the Intersections of LGBTQ+/Gender Justice 6th in our 2022 Bending the Arc Series on Intersectional Justice

*I'm beautiful in my way 'cause God makes no mistakes  
I'm on the right track, baby, I was born this way  
Don't hide yourself in regret, just love yourself, and you're set  
I'm on the right track, baby, I was born this way – Lady Gaga*

In an era when dignity, Love, and, equity for all bodies, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and expressions have seen so many gains – and yet now face too many risks proving such progress is not guaranteed -- how do we work at the intersections of LGBTQ+/Gender Justice that the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness be assured for all.

One place we can begin is with knowing and loving our own holy human bodies as they are, celebrating the universe of sex and gender they express, and the myriad ways they love and connect one with another. We used to think these things ran left to right or up to down on a binary linear continuum. We know better now. Join us to explore more – just the way you are.

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.

We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

**Topic: Worship February 20, 2022**

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 Virtual Events - This Sunday:**

### **Sunday, February 20, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Gender Justice: Just the Way You Are (Bending the Arc 6)

Rev. Amy Carol Webb - <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

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

This Sunday, our kids and teens are reflecting on “Widening the Ways we Accept Ourselves”. Social Media encourages us to share our outward images with the world, but it's what's inside of us that truly makes us who we are, that gets us through difficult days. We'll spend time sharing our truths and celebrating what makes us - us. For more information about our Faith Development program for kids and teens, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org).

### **Monthly Family Fun, Outdoors!**

Mark your calendars for two fun events for families -

**Saturday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>** - gather at a member's home for an outdoor movie

**Saturday, Mar 19<sup>th</sup>** - gather at Bergeron Park for playground fun

Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for more information.

**Faith Development is for Adults, too!** Would you like to know more about our Unitarian and Universalist histories? Or, need some help in articulating your faith? Maybe you're wondering about the origin of our UU Principles or just how our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors decided to become one faith. Our Southern Region staff of the UUA is hosting an online series to help you to grow your understanding. This is a self-paced online program which culminates with one group session. We can also arrange a River of Grass study group for those taking the course. Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) if you're interested in being connected to others on the journey. [Learn more or register here.](#)

### **8<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE**

As it stands, at least 36 states have introduced bills to restrict how educators can teach racism, sexism and other divisive topics – at least 14 of them have passed such measures. And school librarians across the country are being bullied into pulling books about Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movement, former first lady Michelle Obama and others that center on LGBTQ characters off the shelves of their libraries.

The efforts are almost entirely driven by white parents and supported by Republican lawmakers. And it has been put in place to identify bullying in the classroom, but, of course, that is not the reason at all.

In some of the most dramatic examples, legislation proposed in GOP-controlled Florida would ban public schools from making people feel “discomfort” when being taught about racial discrimination in U.S. history, and in Virginia, Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin established a tip line for parents to report instances when educators teach “divisive” subjects.

*“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: 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.”*

Come join the conversations either at the Black Film series, listening to the testimonials of the members of the 8th Principle Team on Sunday morning and the Potluck/Dinner Conversations that will take place in March. More information can be found on the website at [RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html). Do you have questions? [8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org)

### **8<sup>TH</sup> Principle Potluck Conversations**

In preparation for the vote of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle at the Annual Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we are providing opportunities for members of the congregation to have some nourishment and conversations at Members' homes to discuss the many faces of racial disparity that we have been raised in and may not even recognize. We are on this journey as

Unitarian Universalists to raise awareness and openness by doing this work together. We start by looking within ourselves for answers to questions we never thought to ask.

All members have received an invitation (“Evite”) by email to join a discussion group in March about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in a safe outdoor space at a Member’s home to listen and think deeply. Please RSVP to this Evite. If you do not believe you received an Evite, please email us at [8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org). **If you cannot make it in person, a Zoom link will be provided. If you need a different date, please let us know so we can try to accommodate that.** We hope you will join each other in building the world we dream about! See Q&A about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle on our website at [RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html).

8<sup>th</sup> Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? [8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:8thPrincipleTeam@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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**RoG Men’s Group: We meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Feb 17<sup>th</sup> topic is: Thích Nhất Hạnh.** The Topic Description will be online at [KipBarkley.com/topic/](http://KipBarkley.com/topic/). There we post past topics and links to the UU Small Group Ministry Network. 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 Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. If you have any questions please contact Kip Barkley; [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

**New Member Ceremony, February 27<sup>th</sup> during service.** At our New Member Ceremony, we celebrate those who have found a new home in this Beloved Community. If you are interested in becoming a member at this ceremony, RSVP by February 23<sup>rd</sup> via email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). For more information see our website: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/becoming-a-member.html>.

**Free Mind-Body Skills Group for Women** – Linda Lathroum and Kallie LeFever are offering a free 8-week evidence-based program of self-awareness, self-care, and self-expression called Mind-Body Skills Group for people who identify as women. The program was created by the Center for Mind-Body Medicine and will be offered virtually. Additional information at [CMBM.org](http://CMBM.org).

We are excited to offer this live online 8-week mindfulness program for free! It will start on **Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6 PM using Zoom.** We are accepting registrations. To register, please email [lindalath@gmail.com](mailto:lindalath@gmail.com) and please fill out the registration form at <https://forms.office.com/r/lkxXMN6T3j>. Once you register, you will receive a follow up email with the zoom link.

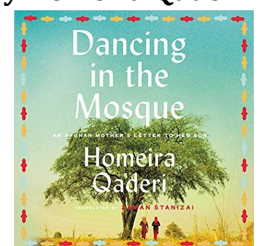
#### **BUUKies March Read – Dancing in the Mosque, An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son, by Homeira Qaderi. We will meet on Wednesday, Mar 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

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

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

An exquisite and inspiring memoir about one mother’s unimaginable choice in the face of oppression and abuse in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

No ordinary Afghan woman, Homeira refused to cower under the strictures of a misogynistic social order. Defying the law, she risked her freedom to teach children reading and writing and fought for women’s rights in her theocratic and patriarchal society. Devastating in its power, Dancing in the Mosque is a mother’s searing letter to a son she was forced to leave behind. In telling her story—and that of



Afghan women—Homeira challenges you to reconsider the meaning of motherhood, sacrifice, and survival.

Her story asks you to consider the lengths you would go to protect yourself, your family, and your dignity.

Steve Jens-Rochow [BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org)

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Skip the bottled water when grocery shopping. Resist the urge, and instead refill bottles at home. You save money, you help the environment, and you send a message that reuse is the way to go. Be green!

**Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign** - Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase and build our church ourselves.

**We need your help in order to be better prepared when the right opportunity presents itself.** Those of you who made your pledge during our campaign last fall, thank you for your commitment. We have received about 65% of the total amount pledged.

In order to get a handle on our finances, **we would like to know when you plan to complete your contribution.** And we are always open to new pledges and contributions. Go to our website, [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org), scroll down to the [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team, [capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org).

**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).

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 <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	Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i> Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination <b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b> <b>A/C #944110334</b>	

**RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.**

The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing [CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org).

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

**Team:** Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten ([COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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: 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: updated November 4, 2021**

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

River of Grass COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team is monitoring Broward County's risk level of transmission. The level of risk used by the River of Grass UU Congregation shall be as measured on [Broward County, Florida \(FL\) - COVID Vaccine & Risk Tracker - Covid Act Now](#). Risk levels are **low**, **medium**, **high**, **very high**, and **severe**.

In-person/hybrid Worship services, large group concerts, fundraisers, other large events (with 50 or more participants) shall occur while the COVID risk is at low, medium, or high levels. According to the Updated Gathering Guidance from UUA.org, "In areas where transmission risk is very high or severe, suspend all large in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers." As such, in-person worship services and other large gatherings shall be suspended if the level of risk for Broward County is and has been very high or severe for two or more weeks. The level of risk, as reported on the COVID Act Now website, will be monitored by the Re-Emergence Team, which will alert the Board and Worship Team if the risk level changes to or from very high or severe and stays at that level for two weeks.

Further, all attendees of in-person gatherings, small or large, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as possible based on eligibility by age. Vaccination or recent negative COVID test is strongly encouraged for in-person gatherings. Facial coverings/masks are required for large indoor in-person gatherings and strongly encouraged for other groups to protect the most vulnerable, including unvaccinated babies and young children. Small groups are encouraged to set-up and enter into their own covenants, using the guidance herein, regarding COVID-19 safety procedures.

If protocols at rental facilities are more restrictive, their guidelines will be followed.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to [WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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.*