

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 – February 24, 2022

And Justice for All: Climate Crossroads

Final in Our 2022 Bending the Arc series on Intersectional Justice

Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part.

(7th Principle of Unitarian Universalism)

All roads toward the Intersectional Justice we seek meet at the crossroads of Climate Justice, for it is always the marginalized people of our Earth who suffer the ravages of Climate Change first and worst – people of color, the poor, the unseen and underserved.

As the Rev. Forrest Gilmore, tells us:

Our seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more. It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. It is our solution to the seeming conflict between the individual and the group.

Join us this Sunday morning at River of Grass for our Virtual service at the link below. (We'll be together again very soon if the COVID stats for our area continue to improve!) To close our 2022 Bending the Arc series considering how we face the intersections of justice before us at the crossroads where history and hope meet – in us and our work in this time of shift and change.

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 don't forget! It's fun fellowship to gather with friends to attend virtually together in River Worship Pods as we learn to gather in new ways with COVID-19 risk metrics declining right now!

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 27, 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>

New Member Ceremony, February 27th 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 23rd via email membership@riverofgrassuu.org. For more information see our website: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/becoming-a-member.html>.

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, February 27, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – And Justice for All: Climate Crossroads – Final in Our 2022 Bending the Arc series on Intersectional Justice - Rev. Amy Carol Webb -

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

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

This Sunday, we'll look to "Widen our Principles" by including an 8th one which asks us to "Build the beloved community, free from racism and oppression". We say that our faith is a "living tradition". That means that it is an ever-growing faith, pushing us to grow in the process and widen our view of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. We'll create colorful UU Principles mobiles for our rooms, to remind us how we strive to be. For more information about our Faith Development program for kids and teens, contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Monthly Family Fun, Outdoors!

Mark your calendars for another fun events for families -

Saturday, Mar 19th - gather at Bergeron Park for playground fun

Contact Karen Gonzalez at 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 if you're interested in being connected to others on the journey. [Learn more or register here.](#)

Black Film Group - The film for Mar 23rd is "13th"

The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for a crime. It details how the prison industrial complex has continued to negatively impact black and brown citizens since the end of the Civil War.

Watch the movie "13th" on your own (available on Netflix). We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, Mar 23rd, at 7pm. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org if you are coming.

For Discussion join Zoom Meeting at 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>

Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile +13017158592,,84418593114# US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

A Valentine's Day comment...and the chocoholic in you...

I know a lot of folks observe Valentine's Day and use the day to share and indulge in chocolate goodies.

But as we continue learning to decolonize our day-to-day practices, we have to keep in mind chocolate factories are not oompa, loompa wonderlands. Cadbury and Hershey build wealth on the extraction and exploitation of land, labor, and life across the Global South.

Now you're probably about to answer, "well these chocolate companies are huge and my boycotting their chocolate won't change anything (so I may as well slip these Hershey kisses into my cart.)" But remember, buses weren't integrated because Rosa Parks said "nah" that one time. It was individual acts of resistance that grew into organized liberation movements that hurt the profit margins of the bus companies.

Walking away from imperialism and white supremacy is challenging because it is so convenient. Hershey candies are sold everywhere; decolonized candies are difficult to come by. That is how these chocolate factories and imperial industries have designed it. Our access and convenience is built on BIPOC and AAPI people we claim to support.

Celebrating Black History Month and simultaneously eating chocolate harvested by enslaved African children and indigenous laborers is what we call "liberal racism". It's time to change the narrative and the action and reimagine how to do that in everyday practices. Look for some private ethical cocoa brands and chocolate companies. They will tell you how they secure their product for you.

"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 taking place in March. If we don't talk about it, we don't know about it! More information can be found on the website at RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html. Do you have questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org

8TH Principle Dinner Conversations

In preparation for the vote of the 8th Principle at the Annual Meeting on May 15th, 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 8th 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. **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 8th Principle on our website at RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html.

8th Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 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 or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

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.

We are excited to offer this live online 8-week mindfulness program for free! It will start on **Monday, February 28th, from 4-6 PM using Zoom**. We are accepting registrations. To register, please email lindalath@gmail.com and please fill out the registration form at <https://forms.office.com/r/JkxXMN6T3j>. Once you register, you will receive a follow up email with the zoom link.

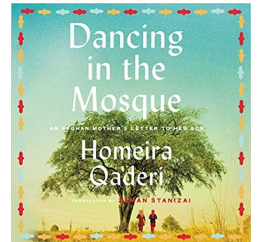
RoG Men's Group: We meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Mar 3rd topic is: TBD.** The Topic Description will be online at [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; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

BUUkies March Read - Dancing in the Mosque, An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son, by Homeira Qaderi.
We will meet on Wednesday, Mar 16th 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

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: AVOID BEEF! Avoiding beef is most likely the #1 thing each of us can do to help the environment. Compared to other meats, beef generates 5 times the greenhouse gasses, uses 11 times the water, and 28 times the land, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Skip the beef, save the planet.

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, scroll down to the [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team, 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.

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>	

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

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, 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: 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. **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.