

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 25, 2021

Wider Still: Liberation Through Beloved Community

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still
Let this be our song, “no one stands alone”
Staying side by side, draw the circle wide.*
- Gordon Light

Nobody’s free until everybody’s free
- Fanny Lou Hamer

As we close our month-long exploration of what it means to be “a people of Beloved Community,” we look both deeper within ourselves and farther beyond ourselves to live toward the collective liberation so desperately needed that we may all get free.

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](#). Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward.

We’ll be watching for you!

Topic: Worship February 28, 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 - Today:

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Welcome Table Communion at 7:00 pm - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Join us as we observe the Lord’s Supper Communion Circle

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6455357743>

Meeting ID: 645 535 7743

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, February 28, 2021

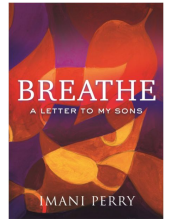
Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Wider Still: Liberation Through Beloved Community - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00pm:** Teens.

This Sunday our children and youth will be talking about how the work to combat racism can be scary and hard. Building Beloved Community and journeying toward spiritual wholeness isn't easy. The proposed [8th UU Principle](#) invites us to "accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Racism has been built up for over [400 years](#). If we want to dismantle it, we must commit to the long haul and the hard work. If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiouEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Common Read THIS SUNDAY - Feb 28th at 12:30 pm: Every year the UUA selects a book to be shared by all UU congregations. We've been reading "Breathe: A Letter to My Sons" by Imani Perry these last few weeks. Join the discussion Sunday, Feb. 28 after service at 12:30. Rev. Amy will lead the reflections by our congregation. You don't have to have read the book to participate. E-mail bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org in order to receive the Zoom meeting invitation.



Rev. Amy's upcoming sabbatical:

Rev. Amy's sabbatical will begin March 13, 2021, and end May 09, 2021. She will be back with us for the Annual Meeting on May 9th, and back in the pulpit on May 16, 2021. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the attached PDF (Rev Amy sabbatical book.pdf) or check out the information listed on our website: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/rev-amys-sabbatical.html>.

Registration for Unit One of Building the World We Dream About is now open: The registration link can be found on our website, on our Facebook page, and [REGISTER HERE FOR BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT](#).

In these first 12 90-minute sessions, we'll focus our gaze inward as we learn about ourselves and begin the work of becoming an antiracist / antioppressive / multicultural faith community. Specific dates and times will be determined by those who register.

Building the World We Dream About is a Unitarian Universalist program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. It consists of 24 two-hour workshops, with Taking It Home activities, reflections, and readings to be done between workshops. The program creates opportunities for participants to practice dreaming our world otherwise, and then commit to new, intentional ways of being.

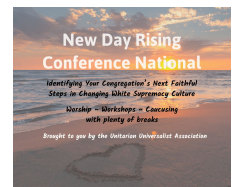
As Unitarian Universalists, we hope developing antiracist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills will lead us to build the multicultural world of the beloved community we dream about. **Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org for more information or to sign up for this transformational experience.**

UUA's New Day Rising Conference

Service and Social Justice Greet Team (SSJGT) is excited to announce the UUA's New Day Rising Conference on Feb 27th. With workshops, discussion, and worship caucusing. We will identify our next faithful steps in changing White Supremacy culture as we create our Beloved UU Community.

It's the **New Day Rising Conference, Feb 27th from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm eastern**, with lots of breaks. You can find more information at <https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/new-day-rising-2021>.

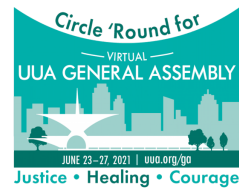
Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow, as well as three others from River of Grass, have registered for this Conference. The UUA says that with 3 or more we can take the \$20 rate in the sliding scale. And **SSJGT will pay for up to 4-\$20 registrations**. Just message Steve Jens-Rochow at SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org to let him know that you have registered and he will have a check sent to you. **Our River of Grass Board has also agreed to support any member or friend who wishes to attend after SSJGT has filled their reimbursed registrations.** Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at President@RiverofGrassUU.org.



Rising Day builds on our White Fragility course of last year. And it will be a good introduction to the Building the World We Dream About seminar that the River will be offering starting in March.

Why Virtual General Assembly?

General Assembly (commonly referred to as GA) 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. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.



This year River of Grass will fund our three voting delegates, as well as others who are interested in attending. This is a major time commitment but so worth it. Go to <https://www.uua.org/ga> to view agendas and programs being offered. Only voting delegates are expected to attend the business meetings, but all are encouraged to attend. Last year we paid the registration fee for five attendees. With many ROGers attending, we can cover most of the workshops. Attendees will be expected to write a report to the Board. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

Poetry Service - Apr 25th! Do you enjoy poetry? Members are invited to submit a poem for our annual poetry reading service. The theme is "Becoming". Poems must be brief (no more than 4 minutes reading time) and in keeping with our UU principles. All poetry must have permission of the author or no known copyright restriction. Send submissions to Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org. **All poems must be received by Mar 30th.**



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/>

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Mar 2nd 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.

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUn Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Mar 14th at 7:30 pm**. Our group's 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.

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 **Mar 3rd and is FF Inquirers #5: Worship & Liturgical Year**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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
4/14/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
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</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>	

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Drive a fuel efficient or electric vehicle. Even a few extra miles per gallon eliminates thousands of pounds of CO2 per year, saves you money, and helps Mother Earth.

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.

Have you wondered:

- ❖ What multicultural competency is, and why it is important?
- ❖ How you might meet a longing for the kind of intentional experience that will transform your life, deepen your faith, and enrich your soul?

Are you ready to:

- ❖ Lead a different kind of educational experience, one which will develop you as a facilitator and a mentor?
- ❖ Practice, enhance, and share your multicultural competency?

Is your congregation ready to:

- ❖ Engage authentically with one another about ways race, ethnicity, and culture have shaped your lives?
- ❖ Begin an intentionally transformative learning process, based on techniques we know work to help people and congregations build multicultural competency?
- ❖ Embrace individual and community practices vital for sustaining our living Unitarian Universalist faith now and for the future?



BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT

www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwwda

Are you ready?

(over) ⇨

What is Building the World We Dream About?

Building the World We Dream About is a 24-workshop curriculum to support Unitarian Universalists and our congregations in building the multicultural Beloved Community we want to embody. It seeks to disrupt the workings of racism and transform how we relate across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences, in our congregations and beyond. Participants develop their anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills and prepare to nurture a multiculturally competent, actively anti-racist congregation.

Why is it so long?

The program's education process depends on personal reflection and narrative and invites deep listening, sharing, and reflection. Participants practice skills for cross-cultural dialogue and authentic cross-cultural partnering, primarily through sharing formative stories about racial, ethnic, and cultural identity. The first 13 workshops elicit the voices of people in the group and bring in others' personal narratives as readings and video clips. The final 11 workshops invite participants to interact with people of diverse identities and backgrounds outside the workshop group, both in and beyond the congregation.

Can it be shortened or adapted?

An intentional, step-by-step process distinguishes this resource from other faith development programs from Tapestry of Faith; thus, using workshops selectively is not recommended. Explore creative calendaring rather than shortening the series. Workshop 13 offers a natural "break" after a concluding worship celebration, and the program can easily be done over the course of two years. Similarly, we recommend you adapt only with great care. Be sure to keep these core elements: inclusion of varied perspectives, opportunities for engagement and deep reflection, and opportunities to practice and integrate newly developed multicultural competencies.

What if we cannot find the ideal facilitators?

We recommend that a two-person team from your congregation facilitate the program. Both will need good facilitation skills and be well versed in anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism. Ideally, one facilitator will identify as white and the other as a person from a group marginalized by race, ethnicity, and/or culture. However, a team of two experienced white facilitators from your congregation with good anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism competency can ably lead the program. Encourage such a team to seek help from peers using this program in other congregations and from Alex Kapitan, Congregational Justice Administrator for the UUA (akapitan@uua.org).

What if our congregation does not seem racially, ethnically, and/or culturally diverse?

Building the World We Dream About is designed to meet our congregations where each is, in terms of its multicultural make-up. Participants will still benefit from sharing their individual stories and listening to others, including the narratives provided in the curriculum. Facilitators of such a group might take special care to "widen the net" both within and outside the congregation to ensure participants encounter as many diverse voices as possible, at points where the curriculum provides such opportunities. Also, facilitators might seek further guidance, before beginning the program, from the UUA's Alex Kapitan.

How can we prepare to engage with the program?

It is highly recommended that congregations lay strong groundwork in preparation for engaging with this program—with proper preparation the returns are far greater. It is important to have more than one person leading the initiative; ideally, congregational leaders are on board, including the senior minister and the Director of Religious Education. Consider doing a series of events leading up to the start of the program, and reaching people in diverse and creative ways that speak to different learning styles. Services, panel discussions, guest preachers, a video series with follow-up discussions, and book discussions are some possibilities. For congregations that want an energizing introduction to the program, introductory workshops are now available.

Check out www.uua.org/multicultural for more, or contact Alex Kapitan at akapitan@uua.org.