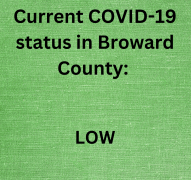


# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
PO Box 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 – March 9, 2023

## UUSC Justice Sunday Faithful Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers

Building the Beloved Community we long for means we must expand what it means to welcome our neighbors, near and far. This year's UUSC Justice Sunday worship service is guided by the Reverend Laura Randall and Heather Vickery. Together we will explore what it means to put our Unitarian Universalist values into practice by being in faithful solidarity with asylum-seekers.

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse upstairs 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/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

### *Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:*

**Sunday, March 12, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – UUSC Justice Sunday: Faithful Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers – Deb GIBLIN-DAVIS <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

**Faith Development:** March 31<sup>st</sup> is Trans Day of Visibility. In honor of our trans friends, in our Children's Small Group on Sunday, we'll read a book about gender identity and practice all of the possibilities of personal pronouns. We'll reaffirm the freedom that we wish for all people, to be their truest selves in a welcoming world. For more information about our Faith Development programs, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**Faith Forward Inquirers' Meetings:** You are invited to join us for the Faith Forward Inquirer's Meeting **on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**, when we will explore together in interactive dialogue the ways we can ALL develop our love-based faith as Unitarian Universalists. Folks new to River of Grass and members alike are welcome. The meeting will take place **from noon to 1:15 PM**, and will be led by Karen Gonzalez, our Faith Development Director, and Tanya Gustafson, chair of the Faith Development Committee. Not able to attend in person? No worries, join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NllRYzJ4MG9lVk1lMHA5djJwZHC0Zz09>.

**Faith Development Families:** This Saturday evening, Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, our families will gather for a stewardship workshop. We'll explore what it means to be stewards within our families, community, Earth, and of course, River of Grass. We'll follow-up with pizza and an outdoor movie. To join us, contact our Faith Development Director at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### **ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE: A New Beginning March 5 to March 31, 2023**

If you were not at the kick-off on March 5, you missed the amazing response from our Leadership and Board who pledged in this first week \$115,566 or 53% of our \$220,000 goal! To start the Campaign receiving over 50% of the funds needed for Staff, Programs and our Facility signals your leadership is secure in our plans for the future!



For those not at the service, your Pledge Packet has been mailed to you. It includes messages from Rev Amy, Karen Gonzalez, Faith Development Director, and our Board President, Kathy Jens-Rochow, some guidance on giving and a pledge card with a return envelope. Please think deeply about how this community has nourished you and how you can support the work in the world we are meant to do.

The full brochure is [on the website](#) under Donations or click the link on the opening page. Below the brochure is the digital pledge card which is the preferred way to let us know your wishes. With a few clicks, you are done!

We are in the budget phase of planning for next year. Please help us bring our plans to life with your generous investment in the future of River of Grass. If you have questions, we can be reached at [stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org). Leana Bresnahan and Rita Cherubini, APD 2023-24 Co-Chairs

### **Children's Fundraising Service Project**

Kids In Distress, Inc. (KID) is a nationally accredited organization dedicated to preventing child abuse, preserving families, and treating children who have been abused and neglected. Their services include individual, family, and group therapy and counseling; preschool, aftercare and summer camp programs; recruitment, training, and support of foster/adoptive homes; and prevention, reunification, family preservation and maternal and child health services. Our FD kiddos are raising funds for this organization through their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Duck Fest Derby on April 1<sup>st</sup>. They'll be looking for donations during hospitality time each Sunday in March. Buy a duck for \$5, help a kid and enter to win the \$10,000 prize! See one of our smiley kids on Sunday or click this link to donate to our River of Grass team. <https://2023kidduckfestderby.funraise.org/team/river-of-grass-team>



### **TIME SENSITIVE: ACTION ITEM FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION**

You should have received the March 2023 update to our Members and Friends Photo Directory in your email on Tuesday. Please check the information for you and your family. If you find any important changes or corrections that need to be made, please send the correction to [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org) and

[membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) by Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. We will send out an update to the update 😊 with all new information incorporated early next week.

### ***Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA):***

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. **Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and/or online. This is a 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops. GA is a chance to be part of the larger fellowship of Unitarian Universalists. There will be thousands! It is a great energy and experience. 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 a Beloved Community. Anyone can attend. You can register for total participation, in the business meetings and the programs/worship or register for programs/worship only and not sit through the business meetings. Go to [UUA.org/ga](http://UUA.org/ga) for more info and to register.

### ***Other Events:***

**How to Take the Bible Seriously but Not Literally** – The Baby, the Bathwater, and the Bible: River of Grass Bible Study Group, Session 2. Join us **Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00p** on zoom for our 2<sup>nd</sup> The Baby, the Bathwater, and the Bible: River of Grass Bible Study Group – “How to Take the Bible Seriously but Not Literally” – where we will explore the differences between big-T Truth and little-t truth, the uses of metaphor and meaning, and how the historic weaponization of the Bible has built barriers between us and its wisdom – and between us and our neighbors.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87314187354?pwd=aytaSGpRZmhyUGExK00rQ3hBeFJtUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 1418 7354; Passcode: 100005

One tap mobile: +13052241968,,87314187354# US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87314187354>

### **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’ll next **meet Thursday Mar 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

**Openings at the Auction Apple Cider Tasting Party** - Interested in trying several varieties of hard apple cider all the while nomming on snacks made with apples, proving the versatility of this most amazing fruit??There are

limited openings available for \$30 at this Auction party at a member's home **on March 18<sup>th</sup>**. Contact [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org) to purchase.

**Old Davie Schoolhouse Historical Tour** - Are you enjoying the beautiful space we get to call home at The Old Davie Schoolhouse? Would you like to know more about the history of this building and the town? Sign up during hospitality time on Sunday to join a guided tour after our **Third Sunday Picnic on March 19<sup>th</sup>**. The tour will begin at 1:00 and last about 1 1/2 hours. There will be a small fee, depending on the number of people who sign up. You can also reach out to our Faith Development Director, Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) to sign up.

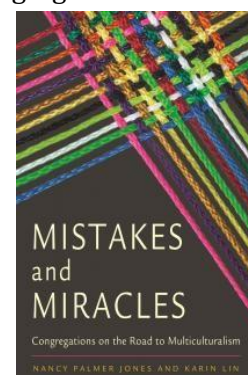
**Fundraiser Yard Sale** - The River of Grass Yard Sale returns on **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon**, at Kathy & Steve Jens-Rochow's house in Ft. Lauderdale. Email below for the address. Our RoG Men's Group is working with the RoG FundRaising Team in our congregation-wide effort to rehome those extra tools, furniture, records, household stuff, targeting items that have a retail value of \$20 or more. (No clothes, tapes or books, please.) Sorting & pricing will start at Steve and Kathy's home the Sunday before, so bring your stuff to them from Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Steve Jens-Rochow and Ken Bresnahan will be recruiting volunteers during Coffee Hour on Sundays before the sale. So, help yourself, the planet and RoG by supporting this River fundraiser. Questions: email [fundraising@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fundraising@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Common Read March 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Mistakes and Miracles* can be purchased from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). 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](mailto:mbernard@uua.org). Join the conversation!

**Rev. Amy will lead us in discussion about this inspiring read on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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!

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat – March 31- April 2, 2023** at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center Ellenton Florida. A Weekend Gathering of UU Women featuring Shelley Graff facilitating Singing in Sacred Circle

- Friday evening we will get to know one another and create community
- Saturday one-hour workshops offer choices
  - Singing in Sacred Circle with Shelley Graff
  - Free time in the afternoon for personal exploration





- Sunday we share a UU Service bringing it all together
- DaySpring Conference Center is conveniently located off I-75 just north of Sarasota on Florida's West Coast. The beautiful campus nestled under ancient oaks and located on a cove of the Manatee River offers a serene setting for our annual retreat. Take a look. <https://dayspringfl.org>
- \$232 per person covers expenses for a semi-private room plus meals for the weekend. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$304 each. 8 women share a cozy cottage with 4 bedrooms and 4 baths, a screened porch and common area. Come join us for an enriching and memorable weekend. To register or for more information contact Helen Leddy [helen.leddy@gmail.com](mailto:helen.leddy@gmail.com).

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Purchase energy efficient appliances. When it's time for a new TV, fridge, dishwasher, washer, dryer or AC, look for the Energy Star (r) rating. It ensures an energy efficient green product. Even if it costs more up front, it will save money on your electric bill, reducing the pollution created to provide electricity to your home.

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

**Team:** 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: 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: Current Broward County Status**

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

### **Community Level MEDIUM:**

- 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](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.*

## **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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)**