

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 – March 17, 2022

Loved Into Being – Spring Stewardship

Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. Worship this Sunday features a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.

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!

We'll be live on Zoom at the link below, as well as on our facebook page.

Virtually at:

Topic: Worship March 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/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Ukraine Special Collection through UUSC:

Many are asking how River of Grass can support relief efforts in Ukraine, especially to target a contribution to those offering equal access to funds and support services.

We can do this by supporting the special collection which is beginning today, March 17th and will continue for two weeks. The money collected will go to our [UU Service Committee](#) who is working with the Hungarian Unitarian Church and other partners in Eastern Europe to help refugees, both inside and out of the Ukraine.

To donate, please go to our Donation tab on our website and click on the blue Donate button: [Donate](#). On the "special collections" line enter the amount you want to donate and write Ukraine on the line. Or you can send your check payable to River of Grass with "Ukraine collection" in the memo line to River of Grass at 3225 N. Hiatus Rd., Unit 452485, Sunrise, FL 33345.



Rev. Amy's sabbatical:

Rev. Amy's sabbatical has begun and will end on Monday, April 11, 2022. She will be back in the pulpit on April 17, for the Season of Renewal - Easter, Passover, and Earthly. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the information that Rev. Amy prepared. It is listed on our website: [Rev. Amy's Sabbatical Page](#).

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, March 20, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am - Loved Into Being - Spring Stewardship - Rita Cherubini -

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

Faith Development: Only one class on March 20th, at 9:30am!

This Sunday in our Faith Development program for kids, we'll "Renew Our Faith in Ourselves" by practicing something new and getting really good at it! We'll consider the special gifts which we each have and that we can rely on to get us through challenging times. For more information about our River Kids, contact our Faith Development Director, 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.



**Bergeron Park in Davie at
4:00pm, Saturday March 19th
See you there!**

From the River of Grass UU Congregation Capital Fund Board:

The River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Capital Fund manages the money set aside for our new church home. It also manages our Legacy Fund of planned giving. The Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) corporation owned by the membership of River of Grass. At the May 15 Congregational Meeting, the membership will elect three to the six members to this Board.

The current Board is :

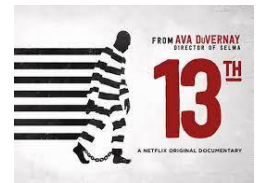
- President & Trustee: Kip Barkley '22
- Secretary & Trustee: Melissa Buehler '22
- Treasurer & Trustee: Corey L. Fleming '23
- Trustee: Ahysa Boutron '23
- Trustee: Roy Schwartz '23
- Trustee: Jacquie Velazquez '22

Melissa Buehler will be stepping down from the Board. Jacquie Velazquez and Kip Barkley are seeking re-election. The Foundation Board has nominated them and Rita Cherubini to serve 2-year terms July 2022-June 2024.

Additional nominations may be submitted to Foundation@RiverOfGrassUU.org via email by April 25. See more about the Foundation at RiverOfGrassUU.org/foundation.

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. It is available on Netflix.



Dr. Kitty Oliver will join us for our discussion. She is a friend of the River. She is an award winning Black scholar, race relations oral historian, inspirational speaker, author and veteran journalist.



Watch the movie "13th" on your own. 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/u/kvL0D4l8Y>

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

Should we add to the 7 principles?

The UU principles were always intended as a dynamic and flexible covenant instead of a fixed creed. Unitarian Universalism is perhaps the only religion that intentionally builds in the flexibility to adjust to ongoing revealed truth; much as the 7th principle was added to respond to our interconnection with each other and the earth in response to environmental awareness, adopting and practicing this 8th principle reflects the current urgency and awareness of the need to do the personal and institutional work of acknowledging and eradicating systemic racism.

The existing 7 Principles are not enough; although the first principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, it does not call us to action specifically to address white supremacy, racism, or other oppressions that are destructive of human worth and dignity. In addition, the first principle has existed for many years, and yet racism persists within our minds, within our congregations, and within our denomination.

The 8th Principle is: *"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."*

The adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting. 8th Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. 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:

On a break for the next two weeks. We will not be meeting on Mar 17th or Mar 24th - 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 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 17th topic is: "Leadership."** The Topic Description is 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.

SUUSI 2022, "Gratitude," will be held in-person on the campus of Western Carolina University, from July 17-23. What to expect from SUUSI 2022? We're anticipating a smaller and more intimate event, both in terms of the number of attendees and in the amount of space we take up on the WCU campus. We'll all need to be on our toes, because events and locations may be a bit different from when we last gathered in-person in 2019. The 2022 Catalog will go live **on our website** on **March 20**, with **registration opening April 1 at 7pm**. We will continue to use the new web-based interactive format we debuted last year. Beginning on March 15, the SUUSI website will be packed with up-to-date information about SUUSI 2022 programs and events. You'll be able to search by type of activity (for example, Workshops) or by day. We understand that not everyone is ready to gather in person, so SUUSI 2022 will offer a few events in a multiplatform format. Worship services and concert



hours will be streamed online, and we're also developing plans for an informal daily time for online socializing. If you prefer not to travel to Cullowhee, these online options will be available for a small per-family fee.

Everyone who attends SUUSI in person must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 if vaccines are available for their age group. In addition, participants under the age of 18 must be up-to-date with all of the vaccines listed in the CDC's Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, and staff and volunteers working with children must be up-to-date on MMR and TDap or Td vaccines. Documented medical contraindications will be accepted. SUUSI has a new Vaccination Coordinator position to help implement this new policy, and Sarah Gonzalez will be serving in this role. She is available to help with questions and concerns at vaccination@suusi.org.

Apply for Staff! SUUSI is built exclusively through the contributions and efforts of its volunteers. All departments are currently seeking staff members! Please consider sharing your gifts with SUUSI by applying for a staff position. Staff are compensated by receiving a credit for a percentage of their SUUSI registration and housing, up to 100% for full-time staffers. Apply now in [SOLIS, the SUUSI Online Information System](#).

Congregational Town Hall – March 27th at 12:30 pm – At our Annual Meeting, we will approve a budget for the next year. The budget reflects the monetary need to achieve our mission. It requires a congregational vote to put this in place, as our democratic process.

We, the members of the River of Grass, need to be informed voters. Where we want to go and how we are going to get there is the very heart of the River. This congregational town hall meeting will discuss options.

Our plans for Sunday in-person meetings is a major part of the budget. There have been numerous scenarios presented. Decisions regarding our next year's (and future) budget need to recognize the reality of our dreams and the future of River of Grass.

Please plan to be there! Your input is important. The meeting will be recorded if you are unable to attend.

Contact board@riverofgrassuu.org for questions or further information.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Change your car's air filter the next time you change the oil. Over time, air filters get clogged causing your engine to work harder - creating more greenhouse gas emissions and lowering your fuel economy. Save money on gas by spending money on a new air filter.

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 CapitalCampaign@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.