

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 31, 2022

Moments of Silence

Join us in-person or virtually on Zoom and facebook!

“Moments of silence are part of the music”

~ Anonymous

What can we learn from moments of silence? What do you hear in the silence? This Sunday, as we enter the April theme of Awakening, Kathy Jens-Rochow will lead us as we explore mindfulness, being present, and listening. We will touch our interconnectedness with everybody and everything in the world. Meet with us at the University of Florida campus or virtually.

Join us this Sunday, April 3, 2022 – for a First Sunday Multi-Platform service in-person or virtually on Zoom and facebook at the info below. 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!

In person at:

University of Florida -IFAS

Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center

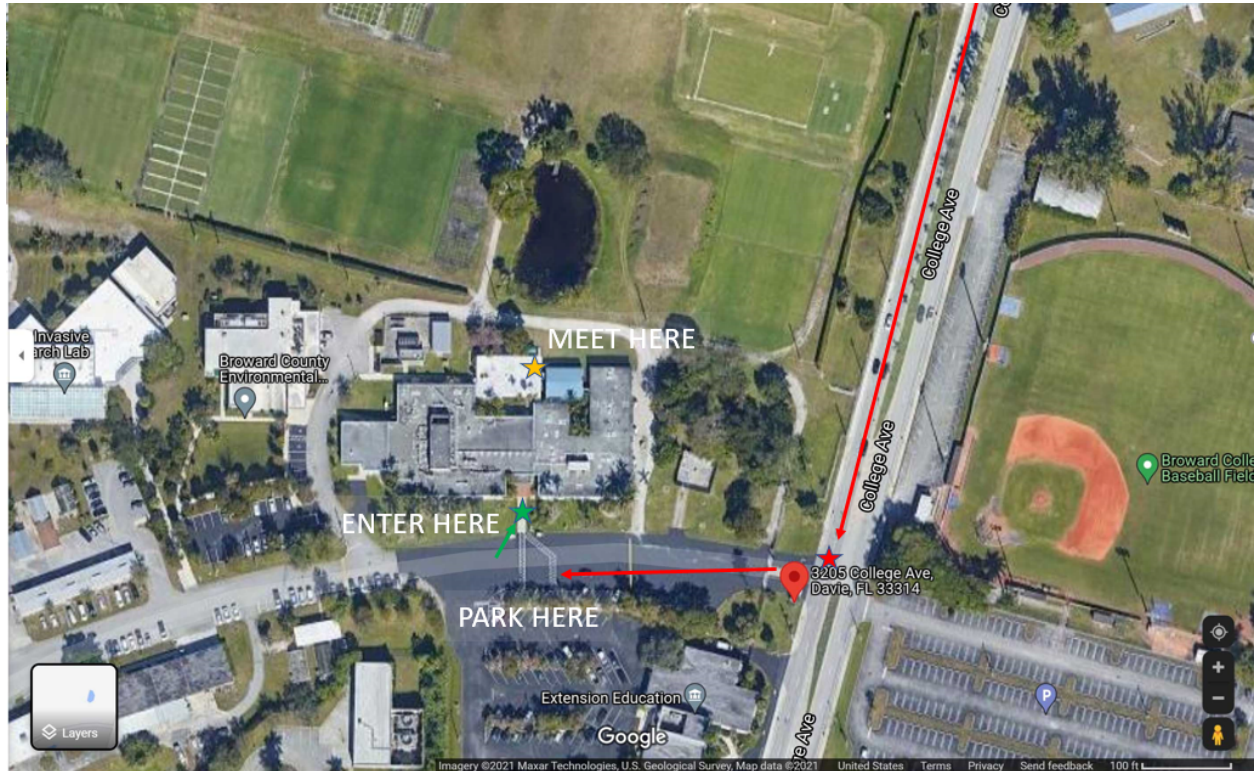
3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314

Directions: <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/directions/>



If you Are arriving via University Drive:

- Turn east at Nova Drive (SW 24th Street), which would be a right turn if driving from the south and a left turn if driving from the north.
- Drive east on Nova Drive to the first stoplight, which is College Avenue.
- Turn right onto College Avenue and drive south ¼ mile to the first entrance on the right side of the street. Look for a large blue monument sign with University of Florida on it. The entrance is 600 feet past this monument sign.



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

Virtually at:

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, April 3, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Moments of Silence - Kathy Jens-Rochow -

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

Faith Development:

This Sunday, we'll gather in-person at 10:30am to explore our relationship with the earth and with the people in our community. Our 7th Principle asks us to value earth's web of life. How can we be more present as we interact with the earth and her people? Following Children's Chapel and fun activities, we'll search for hidden canned goods to trade for candy. All finds will be donated to LifeNet4Families so that we may help to ease the burden of food insecurity for members of our community. For more information about our Faith Development Program for Kids and Teens, contact our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

canned food drive



**APRIL 3RD. TO BENEFIT
LIFENET FOR FAMILIES**

Please bring non-perishable food items to our in-person worship on April 3rd - to benefit LifeNet and also our children's "egg" hunt. For more information, contact Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Rowing this River Together: Please complete this 4 question survey to help us determine the risk level of our in-person River of Grass gatherings. Vaccinations are the surest way to keep each other safe and care for our community. Being vaccinated means you are less likely to spread the virus to others, so although we cannot (in Florida) require that our attendees be vaccinated, we can be grateful to those who are. We would like to share with

each other just what percentage of our congregants are indeed vaccinated, to help ease people's minds about risk. Please click on the link and complete the survey, regardless of your status.

[Rowing this River Together survey](#)

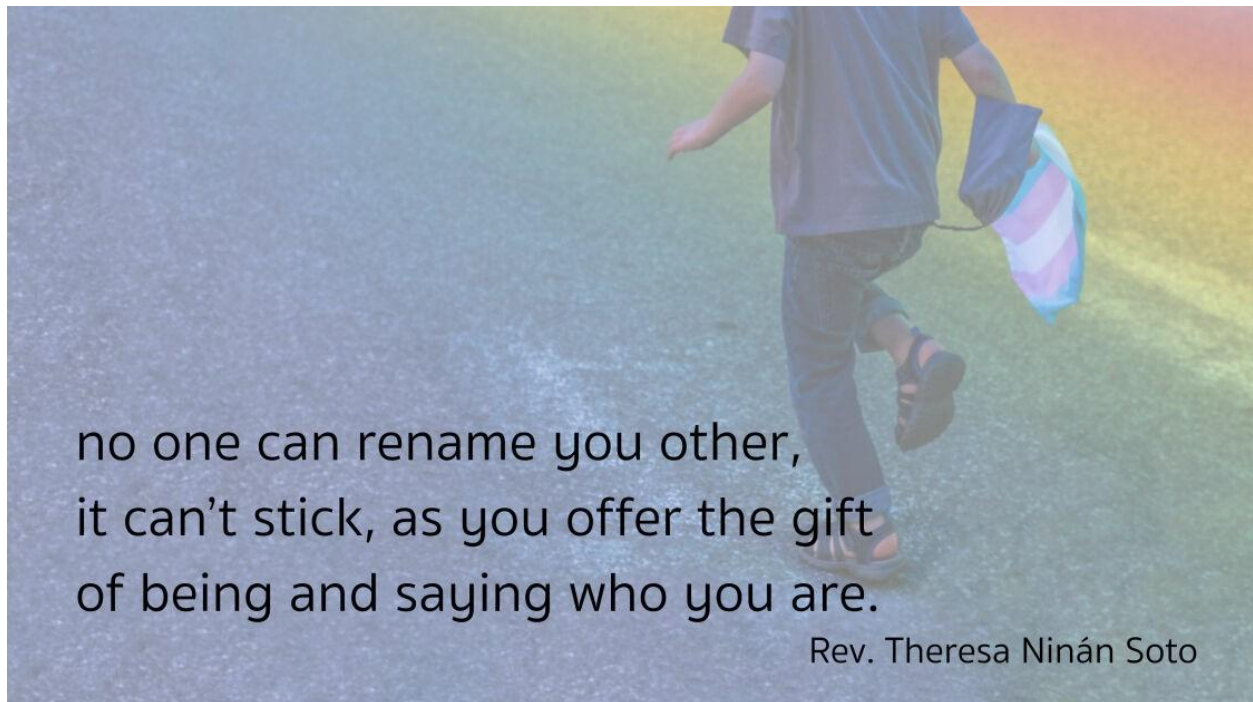
Thank you, River of Grass Covid Task Force (covidteam@riverofgrassuu.org)

International Transgender Day of Visibility - March 31

Transgender Day of Visibility is an international event dedicated to recognizing the resilience and accomplishments of the transgender community. On this day, we celebrate the trans people amongst us, raise awareness about the struggles that they face, and advocate for more protected rights for them in a bid to reform society and empower this community — as it so rightfully deserves. Let's join hands together with the trans community to celebrate not 'fitting in' when we all yearn to stand out!

There are many types of transgender — trans women are women who were AMAB (assigned male at birth) and transitioned to female; trans men are men who were AFAB (assigned female at birth) and transitioned to male; and non-binary people are people who do not identify with male or female (and may be AFAB or AMAB).

There is no doubt that the transgender community continues to face discrimination worldwide. Be it in the workplace, schools, or society, it has been subjected to immense harassment and inequality in every part of the world for the "sin" of being born different. Therefore, on Transgender Day of Visibility we recognize and revere their contributions, successes and relentless resilience in standing tall and strong in the face of injustice. Through this Day of Visibility we hope to induce moral responsibility and acceptance, and lift the restrictions on the rights of transgender people.



The Worship Team has a number of opportunities that might interest YOU!

Some of these positions are scheduled on a weekly rotation. Please inquire as your dynamic ministry may just be an email or phone call away!!

- **Tech Builder** - Create Sunday morning worship with Rev Amy and the Crew.
- **Tech Runner** - Run the Pre-recorded services every Sunday morning with the Tech Team.
- **Media Librarian** - We have a media library chock full of music, stories, Chalice Lightings that need to be managed.
- **Zoom Host** - Ever wonder how we make Worship happen on Sunday? The Zoom Host is the key!



Inquiries to Rita Cherubini, Worship Chair, 781.856.2335 or worship@riverofgrassuu.org.

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY IF IT DOESN'T INCLUDE EVERYONE?

The 8th Principle states, "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."

Resources for the week:

1. **Dismantling Racism Is Patriotic | Jon Talks Race w/ Sen. Cory Booker | The Problem With Jon Stewart**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9NN7v0z8r2g>

2. **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race By Beverly Daniel Tatum**

Buy: <https://www.amazon.com/Black-Kids-Sitting-Together-Cafeteria/dp/0465060684>

Or

Borrow: <https://broward.overdrive.com/media/3274246>

The classic, *New York Times*-bestselling book on the psychology of racism that shows us how to talk about race in America.

Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? How can we get past our reluctance to discuss racial issues?

Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about communicating across racial and ethnic divides and pursuing antiracism. These topics have only become more urgent as the national conversation about race is increasingly acrimonious. This fully revised edition is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand dynamics of race and racial inequality in America.

Don't forget 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 and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Interim Report from the Future Home Team

During the last two years of our search process we have been active, looking at properties and opportunities, and we have learned a lot. We have looked at nursery schools, IT buildings, retail strip malls, warehouses, office buildings, former group homes and empty land. During the 2 years of our search prices have increased substantially. And there has not been a church for sale in our price range in our area, which is a five-mile radius from 595 Park of Commerce.



Two examples of properties we have looked at are:

1. 11200 Griffin Road 2.2 acres mainly wooded. \$595,000 Large billboard in front. The reason for the low price is that there is a 2 story Comcast building in the center. Demucking needed in the rear before building. Very approximate cost to build \$1.5 to 2 million. The lot had a contract on it when our realtor inquired.
2. Group home at 4111 SW 53 Ave., Davie 1.58 acres \$739,000. Property consists of an old house with attached garage like addition divided into small rooms. This floods when it rains. 3,600 sq. ft. total. The problem is that the property is on the approach path for Fort Lauderdale airport, and it is noisy. Extensive renovations, additions or demolition would be needed.

Pam Kelner is our Realtor. She is a member of both River of Grass and TAO, the Jewish Congregation that rented from us when we were at 595 Park of Commerce. We have had one meeting with Rabbi Marc, the Rabbi of TAO. We discussed forming a possible partnership with TAO where we might share parking and some other facilities.

We currently have \$1,300,000 in cash available for purchase. And we have over \$100,000 in outstanding pledges. We urge people to give to our capital campaign since we need roughly double that for a Future Home.

<https://riverofgrassuu.org/capital-campaign.html>

Stay tuned to this space as we keep you informed of our continuing progress.

Steve Jens-Rochow futurehome@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/>

SUUSI 2022, "Gratitude," will be held in-person on the campus of Western Carolina University, from July 17-23. Registration opens tomorrow, April 1 at 7pm. No fooling! SUUSI registration opens April 1, 2022 at 7pm EDT. If you haven't been to SUUSI before, the SUUSI website has a [page of helpful information to help you get oriented](#). From the webpage, use the menus at the top to navigate to practical information about SUUSI (the "join us!" menu), programs for various age groups (the "by age" menu), and our planned events (the "by interest" menu).



Click on the [2022 catalog link](#) to see the listing of all planned events for SUUSI or to search by event type. You can also view [workshops](#), [nature trips](#), and [sports & games](#) events on the pages devoted to those programs.

To register for SUUSI, you will need to have an account in SOLIS, the SUUSI Online Information System. Click [here](#) to create an account or to log in and register for SUUSI on April 1st. We're so excited! We hope you are too.

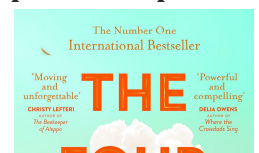
SUUSI Job Listings! We are always looking for folks to join our SUUSI staff family. While everyone at SUUSI is encouraged to volunteer to help out in some way, SUUSI Staff make a formal commitment to work a set number of hours in one (or more) SUUSI departments. In exchange, they receive credit towards the cost of registration, meals, and housing. [Staff applications are available in SOLIS](#). Considering applying for staff? Our current openings are on the SUUSI website, [information on staff positions](#).

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 Apr 7th topic is: "TBD."** 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.

Celebration of Life – Patricia Ann McCrary. River of Grass member, Patricia McCrary, passed away on January 21, 2022. There will be a celebration of her life for her beloved S. Florida spiritual family and friends (and via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person). **Where: Center for Spiritual Living Ft. Lauderdale; 4849 North Dixie Highway, Oakland Park, FL 33334. When: Sunday, Apr 17th from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM ET.** Please indicate on your RSVP if you will be joining via Zoom or in-person: <http://evite.me/5j769vHyUf>



BUUKies April Read – "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Wednesday, Apr 20th at 7pm. [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613



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

"The Four Winds seems eerily prescient in 2021 . . . Its message is galvanizing and hopeful: We are a nation of scrappy survivors. We've been in dire straits before; we will be again. Hold your people close." – The New York Times

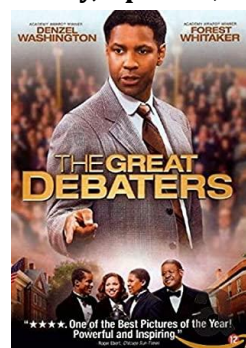
"Through one woman's survival during the harsh and haunting Dust Bowl, master storyteller, Kristin Hannah, reminds us that the human heart and our Earth are as tough, yet as fragile, as a change in the wind." – Delia Owens, author of "Where the Crawdads Sing".

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUkies@riverofgrassuu.org.

8TH Principle Dinner Conversations – If you missed the Lunch and Dinner Conversations offered in March by the 8th Principle Team, please join Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow at their home in Ft Lauderdale on **Apr 24th at 6:00 pm!** Please respond to 8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org to secure your space or for further information. We look forward to your participation as we plan to vote on this principle at the May 15th Annual Meeting!



HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM – The Black Film group will discuss "The Great Debaters" on **Wednesday, Apr 27th**, at 7pm. It is a docudrama based on the true story of a young James Farmer Jr. (who went on to create the Committee on Racial Equality), a 14 year old attending an all-Black college in Texas in the 1930's. He is selected to be on the debate team. The team was the first black debate team to compete against a White University (Oklahoma City University) but then went on to challenge Harvard (although in the real life story it was University of Southern California, the number 1 debate school at that time). Directed by Denzel Washington [black]. Great cast Denzel Washington, Denzel Whitaker, Forest Whitaker. [all black]



Watch the movie "The Great Debaters" on your own (available on Amazon). We will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, Apr 27th, 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>

The SE UU Cluster and UU Justice Florida present – Justice Saturday 2022 – Environmental Justice: Big Money, Sugar Cane, and Racism – Saturday, Apr 30th, at 1:30 pm

Other countries have effectively banned sugar cane burning and found better ways to harvest sugar cane. While in Florida, Big Sugar continues to burn sugar cane fields despite the environmental and health issues of surrounding BIPOC communities.



Join us as Rev. David Lawlor, Co-Chair of UU Ministry for Earth, and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rashid Shaikh, Co-Chair of UU BIPOC Caucus for Climate Justice, and a panel of activists discuss the issue and what we can do to stop this injustice.

Free: Pre-register for the zoom link: vicepresident@SEUUcluster.org

Panelists:

- **Colin Walkes**, former mayor of Pahokee, representing Sierra Club's "Stop the Burn" Campaign
- **Robert C. Mitcherll**, Friends of the Everglades
- **Dr. Arkush Banzal**, Clinicians for Climate Action
- **Aliki Moncrief**, Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters
- **Rep Anna V. Eskamani**, District 47, Orange County, Florida House

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Compost your vegetable and fruit scraps, if you can. If you can't, use your in-sink disposal rather than the landfill.

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 March 24, 2022

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. 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.

When risk levels are very high or severe, for over two weeks, in person gathering may be canceled.

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 tests are 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.

It is highly recommended that persons attending in person gathering be vaccinated.

In person service leaders, hosts and singers may wish to be unmasked. If so desired, the individual shall have tested negative within the last 24 hours.

The meeting space shall be well ventilated. Air purifiers or fans may be utilized within the meeting space.

Chairs shall be arranged utilizing social distancing (6 ft).

Food may be shared outdoors only, provided people remain socially distanced while unmasked.

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.