

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 – May 12, 2022

To See a World: Beauty Within and Without

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.
– William Blake*

As we continue our contemplations of what it means to be a people who Nurture Beauty, this Sunday, May 22, 2022, we ask – what beauty within us and around us might we be missing, or not fully appreciating? Can we learn again to see a world in a grain of sand, and heaven in a wild flower? What might it mean to hold infinity in the palm of our hand, and find eternity in an hour? Perhaps you find it in mindfulness, in communal experience, in nature, in friends and family, in solitude and silence. How can we find more of it for one another, ourselves, and the community we serve?

Come as you and join us in Zoom at the link below or on our Facebook page live at 10:30 am, May 22, 2022. Follow the [Zoom link](#) below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>.

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Beauty for Ashes - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

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

This is our last FD class, which is very full and may run past the usual time. Our focus on this day will be on recognizing that we have the power to create beauty. We'll let beauty flow through us in meditation and learn how to make beautiful playdough flowers. Your kids will need the white gel pens, purple paper (or black, if they have it) and the playdough from their bags. For more information about our Faith Development Program for Kids and Teens, contact our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

8th Principle Adopted at River of Grass!!

8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism

*“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.”*



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We did it! The 165th Congregation to adopt the 8th Principle! Thank you to the 8th Principle Team for your hard work and passion and the congregation who agreed by vote at our Annual Meeting, May 15, 2022.

Over many months the Team provided opportunities for group discussions over lunch and dinner in Members' homes, film and book discussions, as well as written and spoken testimonials weekly identifying the issues and examples of harm toward of black and brown people and other marginalized groups. We will transition over the Summer to set action goals our congregation will pursue in the next congregational year to fulfill our ongoing commitment to dismantle racism and other oppressions.

8th Principle Team: Lou De Santis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson and Steve Jens-Rochow.

A Note from our Planned Giving Guy, Kip Barkley:

Have you ever had to shut down a house? Your own or a family member? What do you do with all the Stuff? Here is a weblink of places that accept Stuff: <https://riverofgrassuu.org/planned-giving-resources.html>.

Another tactic is to start downsizing clutter now, and thus do your family a favor.

The Mountain is Hiring!! From Beverly Cree, Mountain Advancement

As our programming is increasing, The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, UU-affiliated, in western North Carolina is filling several seasonal and permanent positions. The Mountain is a magical place to live and work. Please consider applying for one of these positions, and encourage others who could be a good fit for The Mountain. Join our team.

The Mountain is hiring for:

- Kitchen manager
- Kitchen staff prepping meals, cooking, serving and dishes
- Maintenance staff
- Facility Manager
- Housekeeping

- Guest Services- phones, computers and greeting guests
- MountainCamp cabin counselors and program staff
- Camp Leadership – Ascender/CIT mentor for the summer
- Camp Nurse for the summer- EMT or higher

Visit our website for more details about The Mountain: <https://www.themountainrlc.org>

For job postings and application: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>

or send an email to the steph.anderson@themountainrlc.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/>

Gatherings Beginning and Beginning Anew!

As our COVID stats remain low-to-manageable at this time, we're bringing back some of our favorite ways to gather, and beginning another way we have profound need of in these still-difficult days. We aim for each group to meet twice before the Summer arrives, then monthly, and each group will decide whether to meet during the Summer or reconvene in September. Mark your calendars with these dates for the remainder of this Congregational Year, and email minister@riverofgrassuu.org for details.

Good Grief Bereavement Group --

3rd Tuesdays, 7pm

Bonus May 31

Welcome Table Communion Circle – Our Welcome Table will be via Zoom only this evening.

4th Thursdays, 7pm

May 19, plus bonus June 9

Drum Circle --

4th Fridays, 7pm

May 27, plus bonus June 10

Email minister@riverofgrassuu.org for details, and we'll be watching for you!

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 May 19th topic is: "If I Believe It, Am I Still Lying?"** 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.

HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM – We are switching movies. Karen Gonzalez will facilitate "American Son" next Wednesday, May 25th at 7pm. Then, we will discuss "In the Heat of the Night" in June.

May Discussion: “American Son 2019” – Time passes and tension mounts in a Florida police station as an estranged interracial couple awaits news of their missing teenage son. Directed by Kenny Leon (Black US). Written by Christopher Demos-Brown (White, Miami) based on his play of the same name.



June Discussion: "In the Heat of the Night". A black Philadelphia police detective [Sidney Poitier] is mistakenly suspected of a local murder while coming back to his racially hostile Mississippi hometown, and after being cleared is reluctantly asked by the police chief [Rod Steiger] to investigate the case. The film explores the rampant racism of the police and townspeople. The film won five Oscars including Best Picture and Best Actor for Steiger. The 8th Principle Black Film Group will discuss "Americerica Son" on **Wednesday, May 25th at 7pm.** We will be discussing "In the Heat of the Night" on Wednesday, June 22nd 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>



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Cut down on "one-use" plastic like cellophane wrap, and instead use reusable containers to store leftovers. Also, buy food in larger containers instead of multiple smaller containers, like yogurt and cheese. Even some small changes can reduce plastic waste and help our planet.

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: consider 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.