

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 – June 9, 2022

Woven In a Single Garment of Destiny

"We are not alone, though sometimes we forget that truth. We are woven into one cloth, one gorgeous blanket, designed for use, for comfort, to sustain and to love..."

—Rev. Dr. Sarah Lenzi

Sunday's worship service focuses on exploring and celebrating hallmarks of our Unitarian Universalist theology.

We're all connected: an interdependent whole. Therefore, says Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, "covenant is our religious response to our fundamental interdependence." We make promises about how to be together, and how to be in the world. We also fall short of honoring those promises, inviting us to repair and strengthen the strands of community. The choice to mend broken strands of the web is an act of faithfulness.

Come as you are – we'll be watching for you! We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

Use 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, June 12, 2022

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny - UUA Worship Web - Gary Gonzalez <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

June 12 – Pulse Remembrance Day

June 12, 2022, will mark six years since the Pulse nightclub shooting where 49 mostly LGBTQ+ and LatinX people tragically lost their lives. Pulse was considered a refuge for LGBTQ+ Floridians until the tragedy. The club hasn't operated since the shooting, but the site where it stands has turned into a makeshift memorial until a permanent memorial is constructed.



The remembrance of the Pulse nightclub shooting comes as violence against LGBTQ+ people persists. Transgender people, especially black transgender women, face a heightened level of violence. The Human Right Campaign has reported "Sadly, 2022 has already seen at least 14 transgender people fatally shot or killed by other violent means. We say "at least" because too often these stories go unreported — or misreported. In previous years, the majority of these people were Black and Latinx transgender women."

Options with Text-to-Give: From Kip Barkley (kipbarkley@aol.com)

Every church I have ever connected with as a tradition of passing the plate. Typically I put something in, whether I am a member or not.

In these modern times, the River offers a text-to-give option. First, you link your cell phone number to your financial institution. This is all explained online at <https://riverofgrassuu.org/donations-and-pledge-info.html>.

For example, text 10. plate to 844.948.1153 and your gift is split between LifeNet4Families and our operating fund. Members have reported that they like this split. Alternatively, when you text the 10. with no key word, the full amount goes to our operating fund.

Me, for tax-advantages, I pay my pledge directly out of my IRA. Some members schedule payments. Others pay catch-as-catch-can when they have it. If you text 10. pledge, your payment will go towards your pledge.

What I am partial to is making our new building happen. I typically text 10. cc and this gift will go to the Capital Fund.

These alternate text-to-give options are rarely used by our members. Sandy Blair Chibnick office@riverofgrassuu.org, in the Church Office can answer any questions. Is this information interesting to you? If so, say "Thanks" to Kip.

Rev. Amy Summer Vacation & Study Leave

My Beloveds, as of June 11, I'll be heading out for both my Summer Adventures 2022, as well as my work in service to the greater Unitarian Universalist community with conferences with the UU Minister's Association, General Assembly, SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute), and as the UU minister in residence for week seven at the historic Chautauqua Institute. The business meetings of the UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association) and UUA GA (Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly) are already underway. In between I'll have some vacation time and study time to rest, renew, and prepare for this most crucial coming congregational year as we build a new way. I'll see you back in the office in mid-August, and back in the pulpit to launch our 11th year together on the first Sunday in September for Labor Day! If you have a pastoral care emergency that may require professional ministry, please contact the President of the Board, Kathy Jens-Rochow president@riverofgrassuu.org, or our Pastoral Care Team PastoralCare@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/>

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.

Welcome Table Communion Circle –

4th Thursdays, 7pm

Bonus June 9

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 Jun 14th 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.

BUUKies June Read – "Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II" by Liza Mundy. We will meet on Wednesday, June 15th at 7pm.

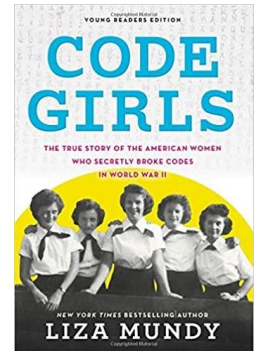
[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

The award-winning New York Times bestseller about the American women who secretly served as code breakers during World War II--a "prodigiously researched and engrossing" (New York Times) book that "shines a light on a hidden chapter of American history" (Denver Post).

Recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges, more than ten thousand women served as code breakers during World War II. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and gave them access to careers previously denied to them. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history; now, through dazzling research and interviews with surviving code girls, bestselling author Liza Mundy brings to life this riveting and vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM – We will discuss "In the Heat of the Night" on Wednesday, Jun 22nd at 7pm. **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 "In the Heat of the Night" on **Wednesday, Jun 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: Reduce garbage, by purchasing products that use less packaging. Be mindful as you put items into your shopping cart, as some products have wasteful packaging. Simply pick an alternate with recycled or reduced packaging.

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 May 24, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Based upon the updated CDC guidelines and the Broward County risk levels, the following measures are recommended to the Board.

Community Level High: Follow our previous guidelines, listed below.

In person Worship services - inside

- Masks required for all, with possible exception of speakers (see below). Masks should be KN-95 if possible.
- If the Minister and/or other speakers wish to be unmasked, they must take a rapid test the night before the service. They must maintain social distancing at all times while unmasked.
- Singing transmits more aerosols than speaking. At this time, no singing except the Minister. Humming OK!
- Maintain social distancing between household groups while indoors.
- No food or drinks inside.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

After service – outside

- Maintain social distancing.

Meetings and Small Groups – inside and outside.

- Group/meeting leader should determine if all attendees are vaccinated and comfortable with disclosing status. This may require some quick private conversations prior to the meeting! If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks: up to the group. Be mindful of crowding.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

Community Level Medium: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Medium

Community Level Low: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Low

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.