

# River of Grass

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 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 – July 7, 2022

This summer we are excited to be offering a way for our members and friends to explore the variety of experiences that our UU faith has to offer and to meet other amazing congregations and ministers that Rev. Amy admires and wants us to get to know. Thanks to technology, we can visit congregations all across the country from our couch! This will also give our own volunteers a much needed break. We have put together a list of congregations that we can join each Sunday that is posted with the links on our website. Find it at <https://riverofgrassuu.org/index.html>. This will run from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>. **This Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>, we will journey is to UU Society of East Brunswick, NJ at 10:30 am** [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjQpd-itpjovVDupIrcw\\_CITtw41DUUEQ](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjQpd-itpjovVDupIrcw_CITtw41DUUEQ).

After service Kathy Jens-Rochow will host a "**Sunday Noon Zoom Get-together**" from 12:00 to 1:30 so we all can meet, greet and feel connected! Grab your favorite beverage and join us! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96108106093>; Meeting ID: 961 0810 6093.

### **GIVING**

Even as we focus our attention away from our own congregation, on travel and visiting other UU congregations, and just taking a rest, we still need your contributions to sustain and strengthen this beloved community and its mission in our world. Each Sunday half of our undesignated offerings go to LifeNet4Families, which provides hot meals 365 days a year as well as clothing and support here in Broward county. The other half supports the mission and ministry at River of Grass.

To give, please go to: [Our Donation Page](#) or Text to Donate at 844-948-1153

Simply text an amount (no dollar sign needed) on your smartphone, and the key word "plate" to the number above, example: 10.00 plate. Please give generously and joyfully so that we may feed and fortify this congregation and its good work in the world that needs it, now more than ever.

### **Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:**

#### **Sunday, July 10, 2022**

**UU Society of East Brunswick, NJ at 10:30 am –**

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjQpd-itpjovVDupIrcw\\_CITtw41DUUEQ](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjQpd-itpjovVDupIrcw_CITtw41DUUEQ)

### **Rev. Amy Summer Vacation & Study Leave**

My Beloveds, I have headed 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 Ministers 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org), or our Pastoral Care Team [PastoralCare@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:PastoralCare@riverofgrassuu.org).

### ***SUUSI - Southeast UU Summer Institute - [Donate to SUUSI](#)***

#### ***Our Challenge: Bringing SUUSI Back***

In the first two years of the pandemic, we celebrated SUUSI online - sharing worship, music, workshops, and conversations. It was great to see old friends, and great to be able to bring a taste of SUUSI to a wider community.

We've been excited to bring SUUSI back in-person this year. However, it's also clear that many of our SUUSI family are not yet ready to attend in person. We honor your choices about how to stay safe - we expected this year's SUUSI to be small, and we see 2022 as a rebuilding year.

**SUUSI is in a difficult financial place.** We had ongoing expenses through the pandemic, with little money coming in. It's costly to restart our programs based on the fees from a much-smaller number of attendees. **We need your help to ensure SUUSI's future.**

#### ***Register for Virtual SUUSI and Help Preserve SUUSI's Future***

Registering for Virtual SUUSI gives you access to Ingathering, all of our Worship services and Concert Hours, and Teen Way Off Broadway. It also helps fund SUUSI's challenging re-start after two virtual-only years, preserving our ability to continue the traditions that have sustained us for over 70 years. [Register in SOLIS for Virtual SUUSI](#)

#### ***Heritage and Hope:***

**Our Heritage - Ethan Allen** (1738 - 1789) was an American farmer, businessman, land speculator, philosopher, writer, lay theologian, American Revolutionary War patriot, and politician. He is best known as one of the founders of Vermont and for the capture of Fort Ticonderoga early in the Revolutionary War.

He and the Green Mountain Boys seized the initiative early in the Revolutionary War and captured Fort Ticonderoga in May 1775. In September 1775, Allen led a failed attempt on Montreal which resulted in his capture by British authorities. He was imprisoned aboard Royal Navy ships, then paroled in New York City, and finally released in a prisoner exchange in 1778.

Upon his release, Allen returned to the New Hampshire Grants which had declared independence in 1777, and he resumed political activity in the territory, continuing resistance to New York's attempts to assert control over the territory. Allen lobbied Congress for Vermont's official state recognition.

**Our Hope - UU the Vote 2022** When we organize, we build power in our communities for justice, accountability, and healing. In the last two years, UU the Vote has built new networks of spiritual and political communities to **#VoteLove** and **#DefeatHate**.

With UU the Vote 2022 we're organizing on the state and local levels to fight for fair elections, advance voting rights, protect abortion access, and resist the targeting and criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.

There is so much at stake in the 2022 midterm elections. Together, our communities can address the current threats to our democracy and human dignity.

#### ***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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>



### **Young Adult Gathering on Saturday July 16 at 12 PM**

Let's have lunch and write some letters for UU the Vote, while we discuss the Netflix film "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America". We can take action now to advance voting rights ahead of the midterm elections so that we may then address current threats to our democracy and basic rights. We'll have pizza, chips and fruit. Bringing a dish is optional and bringing envelopes and stamps is much appreciated! The letter templates will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, please email Tanya Gustafson at [gustafson.tanya@gmail.com](mailto:gustafson.tanya@gmail.com). All are welcome. I hope to see you all there!

### **Family Fun Day on Saturday July 23 at 10 AM at Plantation Woods Park**

Our next Faith Development get together will be on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at [Plantation Woods Park](#) from 10 am to 12 pm. We will meet at Pavilion 4. Kids can play on the playground and splash pad, so wear water-friendly clothes and bring your sunscreen! We'll have popsicles to help us stay cool! Email [faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org) with any questions. See you there!

### **Good Grief Group – Summer!**

Marilisa Lawless – an LMFT, with certificates in Grief, Addiction, and Trauma Therapy (LMFT, MCAP, LCH), member of the River of Grass Pastoral Care team, and queen of our current office space -- has offered to gather the group monthly in June and July before RevAmy returns in mid-August. The date is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month: **July 26**. Email [pastoralcare@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@riverofgrassuu.org) for details, and we'll be watching for you!

**HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM** – We will discuss our July film on **Wednesday, Jul 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. "I Am Not Your Negro" (PBS 2016), available on Netflix, is a documentary and social critique film essay based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript [Remember This House](#). Narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson [black], the film explores the history of racism in the United States through Baldwin's recollections of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as his personal observations of American history. Directed by Raoul Peck [black].



The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Black Film Group will discuss "I am Not Your Negro" on **Wednesday, Jul 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto: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:** *Check the air pressure in your car tires -- it just takes a minute! Properly inflated tires will improve fuel economy, using less gas and reducing air pollution. Plus it will extend tire life, saving you \$\$\$!*

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

**Team:** Deb Buehler Ely, 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/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](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.*