

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 – August 4, 2022

New Beginnings

“Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.”

- From “the Wizard of Oz,” by L. Frank Baum

Sunday’s worship service focuses on exploring and celebrating New Beginnings. Are all beginnings, by their very nature, new? Is a beginning simply an ending, which then wipes the slate clean and we can write a new story in that space? Or is a new beginning what rises from a shared experience, crisis, or the desire to embrace change? As we return from our summer adventures and time off, we will look this Sunday, August 7, 2022 at what New Beginnings mean to ourselves and to our congregation as we continue to write the story of us.

This worship service will be presented by the Wildpines Covenant Group. It’s one of several groups at River of Grass where people gather once monthly or more to engage in reflective discussions and personal exploration, with hopes of fostering deeper connections. For more information, or to join a covenant group, please email: covenantgroups@riverofgrassuu.org.

Come as you are – either in-person at University of Florida IFAS Satellite Building or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

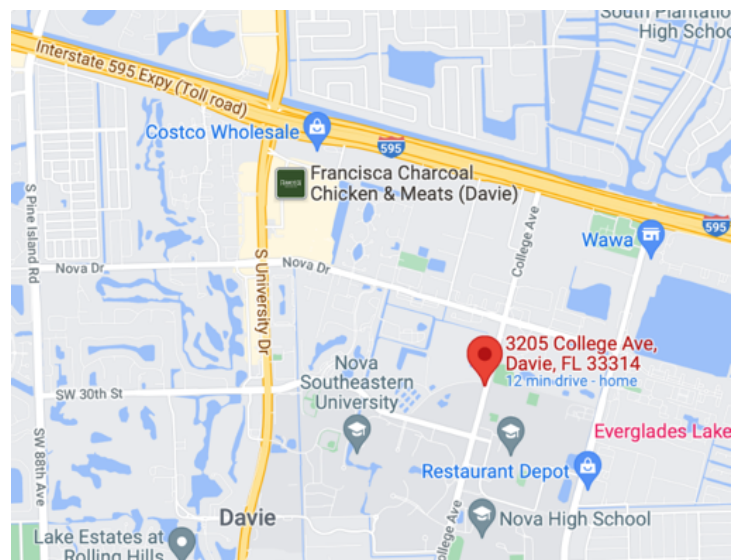
3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions:

<https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/map-and-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.



Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, August 7, 2022

Sunday Service at 10:30 am – New Beginnings – Wild Pines Covenant Group

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

Faith Development – We are so excited to see our Faith Development kiddos, in-person this Sunday! Just like in the before times, we'll begin in worship with our families and enjoy a wisdom tale together, before being sung out to activities on the patio. Remember to wear a mask! For questions about Sunday or this year's Faith Development program, contact our Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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 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.

Heritage and Hope:

Our Heritage – Rev. Egbert Ethelred Brown

From the 1920s through the 1930s, Jamaican-born Unitarian minister Ethelred Brown was an important figure in the New Negro movement. Brown's biography demonstrates how the battle for political power among black leaders was local, cultural and personal. Brown's ambitious personality and Caribbean cultural identity shaped his use of Unitarianism as liberation theology—to uplift and inspire with the hope of liberating Jamaicans from the tyranny of British colonial rule and black Americans from the albatross of Jim Crow racism, and, in the process, make a name for himself. Although Brown was one man with limited resources, as founder of the first black Unitarian church in Harlem, member of the Socialist Party, and leading figure in several Jamaican nationalist organizations, Brown stood at the vanguard of radical, leftist politics. As a Jamaican immigrant, he leveraged his status as a British colonial subject to gain fiscal support for his ministry and to challenge racism within the Unitarian church in Jamaica and the U.S. In all of these endeavors, Brown used his personal biography and Caribbean identity as a type of cultural capital to further his mission of racial uplift and anti-colonialism. (Source: *Ethelred Brown and the Character of New Negro Leadership* by Tammy L. Brown)



Our Hope – Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) is committed to expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within Unitarian Universalism; providing support, information, and resources for Black Unitarian Universalists: and justice-making and liberation of Black people through our faith.

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism was founded in 2015 at the Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, Ohio. The dozen or so Black UUs in attendance imagined a cohesive, national, vibrant community of Black Unitarian Universalists. BLUU evolved from several conversations among Black UUs at that gathering.



In six years, BLUU has transformed from a small, informal gathering of Black UUs into an impactful 501(c)(3) organization that creates life-giving and life-saving opportunities for spiritual community and Black-centered organizing. Since its founding, BLUU has hosted a symposium centering Black UU theology, established a popular virtual worship space for Black people; organized UU congregations to donate and organize for bailout funds; and started a vibrant youth ministry. (Source: <https://blacklivesuu.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/>

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Give away unneeded useful stuff to places like LifeNet, Goodwill, ARC Broward, and Faith Farm, rather than putting it in the trash. Let someone else make use of it and help save the planet!

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

Team: 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.