

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 – September 24, 2020

Let's Go Home!

As we close this month of September focused on the meanings of “Renewal” in our lives and work -- our own, our community's, our congregation's, and our world's -- we'll renew our commitment to the future unfolding in us, as we demand justice and create peace through a love built strong and fierce for these changing times. We'll mark the 250th anniversary of John Murray's preaching Universal salvation on this continent. And then we'll kick-off the campaign that leads us to our Forever Home -- with some music you wouldn't expect.

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. And now that we have a larger Zoom space ready to welcome all who will join us from over this world – who will we meet this week?

Sunday morning, gather with us at the River – on your computer, your tablet, your phone (with video or only audio if you like, we'll miss your face!) -- just click or dial into our River of Grass Meeting Room at the link or numbers below. We'll be watching for you!

Topic: Worship September 27, 2020

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>

Welcome Table Communion -- TONIGHT!

All are welcome to join us for this evening's virtual communion circle, as we renew our Welcome Table Communion for the 2020-2021 congregational year. Join us to give thanks for the life, love, work, and mission of Jesus of Nazareth. Bring any bread and fruit of the vine to your screen as we share this time of remembrance and gratitude. [Join us in Zoom](#) at 7:00 pm. (Meeting ID: 867 5876 2545 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86758762545>).

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Let's Go Home!**

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

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00 pm:** teens

As a covenantal religion, our faith places relationships and our promises to each other at the center of our faith. Since we're human, we sometimes break those promises and hurt those relationships. This makes renewal and repair necessary and sacred work. One of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of renewal is by asking us to

get comfortable with giving and receiving apologies in order to begin again. This Sunday, our kiddos will practice this act of humility and in so doing, learn a bit of what the Jewish High Holy Days are all about. Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org for more information.

Did you know that Faith Development at River of Grass has its own Facebook page? [Like us here](#) to receive updates and helpful tools for families, including our Wisdom Tale recordings and other fun videos to inspire faith development at home.

Young Adults are meeting every Sunday, at 6:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUng Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Sep 27th at 6:30 pm**. Our purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Proposed Change in Policies and Procedures

The Board reviewed and approved a proposed change in our Policies & Procedures, adding the following paragraph. In accordance with our Policy on Policies, we need to have a congregational review before making the change.

Proposed Change in red and articles following this change will be renumbered.

9. Membership

- A. The Minister is the only person authorized to sign up new members in the membership book except for person(s) specifically authorized by the Minister, or in the absence of the Minister, the Board President.
- B. In the absence of the Minister for a prolonged period, the President or Vice-president will have the responsibility of signing up new members.
- C. A signed new member document, approved by the Minister, is a suitable substitute for signing the membership book. Name(s) and date of membership will be annotated in the membership book as the date the form was received by the Office Administrator.**

Please review and send any recommendations for change to Board@riverofgrassuu.org by Oct 17th.

FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023

Sep 27th - Nov 1st 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive

The Capital Campaign to fund our Future Home is kicking off this Sunday!!

\$310,000 Capital Campaign Goal

You will be receiving a packet in the mail (maybe it's already come!) which outlines the dreams expressed by this congregation for our Future Home. Please review it and remind yourself how it feels not to have a permanent home to meet in. Even though we chose to leave our State Road 84 Davie location due to the COVID-19 pandemic, doesn't mean we don't miss having our memories expressed in what could be now available when this pandemic is behind us. Where would you like to be; how do you see our space together; can you visualize a new location with room to spare and outside space to share with kids and families? We hope that dream is alive and well in your thoughts.

Please know we can't make this happen without you. During these times you may feel unable to make as generous a gift to this Campaign; but, you can be part of it in any way that is financially comfortable. Remember, this is a three year financial plan in addition to your Annual Pledge. Your assigned Stewards, your friends at River of Grass, will be contacting you in the coming days. Please be open to their calls. Your wishes will be accepted in any amount that feels right. Even if you cannot start payments to the Campaign this year, next year might be your best time to start.

The Capital Foundation which holds our savings is at \$795,558, plus \$440,566 already pledged by Leadership and through Major Gifts. The \$310,000 goal is what we will be reporting on weekly as pledges come in.

\$310,000 Capital Campaign Goal

The Campaign starts with a kick-off this Sunday, Sep 27th! Rev. Amy will invite you to not only to be part of the future but to celebrate our history. We hope to see you on Sunday!



Please see our website riverofgrassuu.org under the tab [Future Home](#) for lots of information. Kathy Jens-Rochow is available for further information and to answer questions, you can call her at 954-531-9540 or you can email her CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.

Countdown to Election Day

The countdown to the November Election has begun. On Sep 24th, Florida counties will begin sending out Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots to people who requested them. **Keep an eye on your mailbox!**

If you didn't yet request a VBM ballot, there's still time—do it now by clicking here:

<https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Vote-By-Mail-Voting>

Early voting in Broward County currently scheduled for Monday, Oct 19th - Sunday, Nov 1st (7 am–7 pm). (*Early voting dates and times may be subject to change; check back on the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website for most up-to-date information.*)

And although time is short before Nov 3rd, there are still plenty of ways to get engaged for safe and fair elections, particularly participating in get-out-the-vote activities, or to signing up as an Election Day poll worker or election monitor. Be involved!

Here are a few important election protection volunteering options with [Protect the Vote](#):

On Election Day

- **Poll Monitor** [on site]: Be a poll monitor at a specific polling location on Election Day.
- **Roving Poll Monitor** [on site]: Drive or bike between polling places to collect information and report problems on Election Day.

Before the election and on Election Day

- **Social Media Monitor** [remote]: Identify misinformation and disinformation online and help voters cast their ballots.
- **Voter Contact** [remote]: Rapidly respond and proactively textbank voters.

For more information, or to participate in one of these volunteering opportunities, click here: [Protect the Vote](#)

Volunteers with legal background (attorneys, law students, and paralegals) are particularly needed. (But volunteers of all backgrounds wanted!) To be involved in promoting safe and fair elections in 2020, contact the Elders Stand for Fair Elections Florida team at FairElections-FL@eldersaction.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/>

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Sep 29th at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

UU Womenspirit Virtual Event Fall 2020 - Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit is hosting it's first virtual weekend gathering Oct 16th-18th. Registration for Everyday Sacred is now open! To view details of our virtual weekend gathering, check out our [brochure](#), or visit the UUWomenspirit [website](#). When you are ready to register for the event, here is the link for [Campwise](#). Contact our event registrar at uuwomenspirit@gmail.com for assistance with registration. Blessed be! Melissa Christopher, Scribe, Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit

Light the way for others by facilitating our Inquirers Series! Make new friends, share your story and enthusiasm for our beloved community. We need UU to shine a light, make a way and support those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and River of Grass. The series is on Wednesday evenings. Training is available. See Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org to sign up.

Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back! The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the updated schedule below! Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Sep 30th and is FF Inquirers #6: Social Action & Community Service**. For more information, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

| Date | Time | Event |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| 9/30/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service |
| 10/7/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups |
| 10/14/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life |
| 10/28/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister |
| 11/4/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources |
| 11/11/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults |
| 12/2/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year |
| 12/9/20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service |
| 1/6/21 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups |
| 1/13/21 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life |

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 \$\$\$!*

COVID-19 Response Update

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. All face-to-face gatherings of any kind are suspended or moved on-line, and we have left our building. Numerous meetings and gatherings have transitioned online via Zoom. Welcome to our new norm!

We are grateful that many many members and friends are in self-quarantine, doing their part to protect themselves as well as reduce the spread of the virus, and only venturing outside when absolutely necessary.

Our extended Caring Team has coordinated a 'network of contacting' to help ensure our community has communication and is cared for..... and our Covenant Groups are a large part of this.

There is deep gratitude for the way our community cares for each other, remains flexible, and is diligent in responding to this unprecedented situation!

Take a deep breath. Allow any feelings and thoughts to be as they are. Know you are supported. Stay safe!

Basic Protective Measures Against the New Coronavirus

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against the new coronavirus here at River of Grass and in the wider community we share. River of Grass is adhering to the following recommendations from the World Health Organizations.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Be aware of those in our midst with compromised immune systems.

Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

1. Regularly and thoroughly CLEAN YOUR HANDS with an alcohol-based hand-rub or washing with soap and water, especially – after coughing/sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during, and after you prepare

food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty – and when they are not; after handling animals or animal waste.

2. Maintain social distancing – 6 feet between yourself and anyone.
3. Even if well, try to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and when greeting, instead of elbow and fist bumps (no handshakes or hugs), consider placing your hand over your heart as a gesture of welcome and hello.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid transfer of viruses from contaminated surfaces.
5. Practice respiratory hygiene: 1) Cough/sneeze into your elbow, 2) If you use tissues, dispose of them immediately, then clean your hands.
6. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care promptly.
7. If you feel unwell, stay home, even with mild symptoms like headache and runny nose.
8. Stay informed, and follow any guidelines from your healthcare advisor.

How to cope with stress during this coronavirus outbreak:

1. It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during any crisis.
2. Talk to people you trust, and contact your friends and family.
3. If you must stay home, maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid smoking or using alcohol and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and the internet.
7. Draw on coping skills that have helped you in the past.
8. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor, and have a plan to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

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 e-mail 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 or called into the congregation's office 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.