

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 – October 1, 2020

Do You Hear?!

Come with us this first Sunday of October as we embark on a month-long exploration of the meanings and ways of *Deep Listening*. We'll begin by listening for and to the voices of the indigenous peoples of this land as we honor the First Nations. Together we'll practice the old ways of hearing -- beyond our ears, through our hearts and in our bones and with our spirits, learning again the teachings of long-ago memories, the rhythms right beneath our feet, and the call of the generations to come as we vow to care for the Earth and her people as one.

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 October 4, 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>

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Do You Hear?!**

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

Faith Development - A new month is upon us and with it a new theme of "listening". This will be our focus for our **Family Vespers service on Sunday evening at 5:00 pm**. Specifically, we'll be contemplating listening to our ancestors and to the natural world. In honor of Indigenous People's Day on Oct 12th, we'll hear a lovely legend about a young girl, "She Who Loves Her People" and Rev. Amy will remind us of lessons we can learn from our Unitarian ancestor, Henry David Thoreau. We'll also sing, celebrate milestones and find joy in being together!

There are no afternoon classes. Contact Karen at ReligiouEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org for a link if you'd like to join our Family Vespers service.

We have a new friend! Meet Harper, the Great Blue Heron. Harper has been missing their River of Grass home and would like to stay with some friends for a while. They'll be arriving in someone's Family Faith Kit each month and they are excited about all of the fun you can have together! Keep an eye to our Facebook page for photos of their fun adventures.



Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUng Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Oct 11th at 7:30 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.

FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023

Sep 27th - Nov 1st 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive
The Capital Campaign to fund our Future Home has begun!!

Raised to Date: \$449,516

Capital Campaign Goal: \$750,000

You will soon be hearing from the Capital Campaign Stewards. Please thank them for their work on behalf of River of Grass. We hope you have received your packet in the mail which outlines the dreams expressed by this congregation for our Future Home. Please review it and remind yourself how it feels not to have that 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 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 our kids and families? We hope that dream is alive and well in your thoughts.

We can ONLY make this happen with YOU!

During these times you may feel unable to make a generous 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. Please fill out that [Capital Campaign pledge card online](#) and tell us what you can do within three years' time. Maybe you cannot begin this contribution till next year? That's fine; any gift you give is a gift of your love of our continued ministry to Members, Friends and the Community and most of all to you in these hectic times of uncertainty and yet hope. Your gift will shape our future dreams. Remember, River of Grass is here for every one of us.

We thank you for your conviction and generosity to our Future Home.

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. She can be reached at 954-531-9540 or you can email her at CapitalCampaign@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Don't Let Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot Go to Waste

If you requested a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot, you should have just received it. Don't let your ballot go to waste! The top reason that VBM ballots are rejected in Florida is because they arrive after 7:00 pm on Election Day. This is an even bigger concern this year because of Post Office delays.

What can you do to make sure your vote counts?

- 1. Sit down and fill out your VBM ballot right now.**
- 2. Make sure to follow all instructions, especially signing the envelope**
(Your ballot is invalid without signature and will be rejected)
- 3. Mail your ballot today and avoid post office delays.**
(You can also drop it in a secure drop box – see drop box locations on your county's Supervisor of Elections website: <https://www.browardsoe.org/>)



If you haven't received your VBM ballot yet, contact the Broward County Supervisor of Elections office at: 954-357-7050

Want to vote in person? Choose a date to vote during Early Voting. Early voting in Broward County is currently scheduled for Monday, Oct 19th - Sunday, Nov 1st (7 am-7 pm). If you haven't registered to vote in Florida yet, the deadline to register to vote in the 2020 election is Monday, Oct 5th – go to registertovoteflorida.gov to register today. **Your vote is your voice – use your voice in 2020!** (Note: Early voting dates, times, and locations subject to change; check back at the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website to confirm the latest information.) 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.

From our Welcoming Congregation Team

October is National LGBTQ+ History month. It was declared a national history month by President Barack Obama in 2009. In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history, and gathered other teachers and community leaders. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur that month. The LGBTQ+ community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBTQ+ History Month provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement about our extraordinary national and international contributions.

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/>

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **TONIGHT, Oct 1st at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: “Pandemic.” We respond to three readings, what are we grateful for, expectations, or what beautify might we be creating? <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Kip Barkley mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

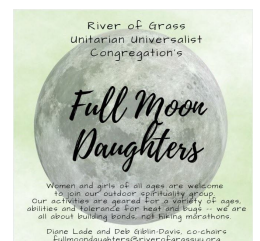
Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Oct 6th at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

River of Grass UU Congregation Service, Social Justice and Green Team (SSJGT) presents Decision 2020 Friday, Oct 9th at 7:00 pm. The League of Women Voters of Broward County will bring useful and critical information about the 2020 elections to Broward residents via live online presentation on [Zoom](#).

Full Moon Daughters Virtual Brand New Year Brunch Oct 10th

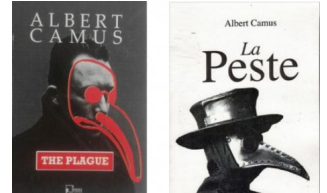
The Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass nature spirituality group for women and girls of all ages, will be holding its annual fall Brand New Year Brunch – virtual style! We invite you to join us from 12:00 - 2:00 pm on Saturday, Oct 10th. We will gather by Zoom, catch up with a special check-in, and plan our new CO-VID safe 2020-21 year. Bring your favorite brunch snack and beverage, and let's get creative on how we can still enjoy nature and each other's company. It's very important that we get your feedback. YOU MUST REGISTER in order to receive the Zoom link.

But it's easy: Just email fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org. Give us your name, current email and (optional) phone/text number. Blessings from your co-coordinators, Deb Giblin-Davis and Diane Lade



bUUKies Go Olde Skool with Camus - Oct 14th

What could possibly make life more interesting as we remain COVID-quarantined? Why, reading about a fictional plague and contemplating the parallels. So that's what the bUUKies are doing for the October read – the 1947 classic “The Plague” by Albert Camus. This book shot back onto the bestseller lists earlier this year, but it's not necessarily about an illness. Reviewer Liesl Schillinger notes that “the bacillus under the author's lens is not so much physiological as sociological, and philosophical...he addresses any contagion that might overtake any society; from a disease...to a corrosive ideology”. This is deep stuff, folks. But don't worry – we're reading it in English, not the original French!



Our remaining selections for the fall are:

November - “Rodham” by Curtis Sittenfeld – what if Hillary had not married Bill?

December - “American Spy” by Lauren Wilkinson – a black woman CIA agent and American adventurism in the 1980s? Oh, yes.

Buukies meet by Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month, so the next meeting is Oct 14th. A link will be sent to the regular bUUKies. If not on our list, e-mail bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org and a link will be sent!

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

New Member Ceremony, Sunday, Oct 18th, during service. At our New Member Ceremony, we celebrate those who have found a new home in this Beloved Community. If you are interested in becoming a member at this ceremony, please RSVP by Oct 12th via email membership@riverofgrassuu.org. For more information see our website: [Becoming a Member](#).

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 **Oct 7th and is FF Inquirers #7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups**. For more information, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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

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.

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!

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 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 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.