

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 20, 2022

The Deal on Those Days

“On these days, we must build a bigger dream for our world, and for ourselves – we must remember the deal we make as Unitarian Universalists – group by group, congregation by congregation, partner by partner. In these little rooms, in these sacred promises, we are big enough.”

- Rev. Gretchen Haley (The Deal on Those Days)

Join us as we immerse ourselves in this year’s Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly Sunday Service with the General Assembly Band and Choir, a very special Chalice Lighting, Wisdom Story, and the preaching of the Rev. Gretchen Haley calling us to remember the “deal” – the covenant – we make and remake and make again with one another as we navigate the world before us.

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](#).

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/ab3E9JRtb9>

Rev. Amy’s sabbatical:

Rev. Amy’s sabbatical has begun and will end on Tuesday, Nov 1st. She will be back in the pulpit on Nov 6th, for the Sunday Service. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the information that Rev. Amy prepared. It is listed on our website: [Rev. Amy's Sabbatical Page](#).

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, October 23, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – The Deal on Those Days - General Assembly 2022

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

Faith Development - In our Faith Development class for kids on Sunday, we’ll continue thinking about courage with a lesson that reflects on the path of social courage. In other words, the courage we find to take action. It takes courage to affirm your values and beliefs and try to make changes in an unjust world. We’ll take a look at the mission statement for River of Grass* and learn about the social justice actions our congregation has taken to live into that mission.

**We nurture our spirits,
love intentionally
and work to create
a just and healthy planet.*

For more information about our programs, contact Ms. Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

A Work of Heart Auction begins Friday, Oct 22nd!

Our 2022 Auction – a Work of Heart – **opens at 6 PM on Saturday, October 22 and runs until 6 PM on October 29**. To look at the Auction Catalog, use this link:

<https://www.silentauctionpro.com/bidonlinegrid.php?groupId=1763>.

To register to be able to bid:

<https://www.silentauctionpro.com/signinregisterolb.php?groupId=1763&olbreturn=/memberhome.php?groupId=1763&ks=1>.

Questions? auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

Congratulations to this week's Auction Trivia Contest winners: Diane Diaz and Rita Cherubini.

Intersex Awareness Day is October 26, 2022

October 26, 1996, marks the anniversary of the first public demonstration by intersex people in the United States. Members of the now defunct Intersex Society of North America and their allies arrived in Boston, MA at the annual conference of the American Academy of Pediatrics. They demonstrated and shared their pain in a very public way, denouncing non-consensual infant genital surgeries and demanding the medical industry take notice. Doctors dismissed the activists as a vocal minority in a 1997 New York Times article covering the intersex action. The tides are slowly changing.



Intersex persons are subject to violence, discrimination, and abuse on the basis of their sex characteristics. Many intersex persons, including children, experience invasive, unnecessary, and sometimes irreversible medical procedures.

On October 26, 2021 the U.S. Department of State issued the following statement:

We proudly recognize the voices and human rights of intersex people around the world. The Department of State is committed to promoting and protecting the rights, dignity, and equality of all individuals, including intersex persons. It is the policy of the United States to pursue an end to violence and discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics, while acknowledging the intersections with disability, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or other status. We stand with the activists, intersex human rights organizations, and others in civil society who tirelessly work to advance the human rights of intersex persons with governments, international institutions and organizations, and communities around the world.

On October 27, 2021, the State Department issued its first U.S. passport with a gender neutral “X” marker to intersex and non-binary activist, Dana Zzyym. (Source: GLADD & US Dept of State)

Volunteer Opportunities

The Worship Team needs **two new Zoom Hosts** to rotate with three other volunteers running our Worship Service through Zoom on Sunday mornings. It also includes a FB promo at 5:00 pm when Rev. Amy and Faith Development tell our FB friends about the upcoming service! Training is provided. Once every four or five weeks is the commitment for 1-1/2 hours.

If you haven't offered any volunteer services in the past, here is an opportunity to do more! Please contact Rita Cherubini at worship@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.



Membership Matters! For more information on any event AND TO SIGN UP/VOLUNTEER, contact Leana Bresnahan at membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

- Thank you so much to all who signed the Membership Book last week. What a joyous event that was! Our next New Member Ceremony will be during the worship service on December 4th. With our hearts always open, we invite all who find your spiritual home here at River of Grass to become formally part of this Beloved Community.
- After a hiatus of two years, we will have our annual fall picnic **for the entire congregation** on Sunday, November 13, 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Members Liz and John Perez have once again generously opened their home. They have a yard for the kids to run and play, and a pool for them to swim! This picnic is for everyone, ALL AGES...for members, friends, AND especially for those new to River of Grass. Rev. Amy will be there, just back from her sabbatical! **The picnic is a "bring your own everything..."** including (to be green) your own plates, cups, and cutlery. No sign-up required! But we do need some help for set-up and clean-up, so please volunteer. Directions to location will be forthcoming.
- Come be part of the exciting Faith Forward Inquirers' Sessions. The next session will focus on Faith Development for Children and Adults, led by our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez. Parents, this will be a great opportunity to find out more about the values we teach our young ones! It will be a Zoom only event, October 30, 11:45 a.m. -- 1:15 p.m.

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/>

RoG Men's Group: We begin meeting again the first and third Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

We will meet via this [Zoom Meeting](#) for the foreseeable future. All who identify male (to any degree) are invited to join in the fun. **The Oct 20th topic is: "Acceptance."** 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 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 pm. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

Full Moon Daughters FALL CAMPING TRIP! NOV. 4-NOV. 6, 2022, Friday-Sunday:

We are going back to a favorite park – Jonathan Dickinson State Park – just north of Jupiter, home to the Loxahatchee River, and great birding. You can come for one night or two. There are hotels nearby for hotel campers who will join us during the day. Email fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org ASAP if you are interested or have any questions. Here is a link to park info: <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/jonathan-dickinson-state-park>. See you on the water, along the trail, and under the stars! Your coordinators, Diane Lade and Deb Giblin-Davis

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *AVOID BEEF! Avoiding beef is most likely the #1 thing each of us can do to help the environment. Compared to other meats, beef generates 5 times the greenhouse gasses, uses 11 times the water, and 28 times the land, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Skip the beef, 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 October 16, 2022

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

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

Community Level LOW: Current Broward County Status

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

Community Level MEDIUM:

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

Community Level HIGH:

In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)
- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

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.