

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 22, 2020

Be Seen, Be Heard, Be Counted: UU Your Vote!

In the midst of global pandemic, rising authoritarianism, and uprising, lives hang in the balance and the future of democracy is on the line. In response, Unitarian Universalists are answering the call of our faith, building powerful partnerships to mobilize our communities to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate in the 2020 elections. Join us at River of Grass with RevAmy, UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, UU the Vote National Team, and a lineup of powerful, prophetic UU voices as we explore the intersections of faith, justice, and democracy in this collective service.

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 25, 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/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84146804418) at 7:00 pm. (Meeting ID: 841 4680 4418 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84146804418>). These meetings take place every 4th Thursday

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Be Seen, Be Heard, Be Counted: UU Your Vote!**

<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

This coming Sunday, in our Faith Development classes, we'll be considering our ancestors and the wisdom they've had to share with us. Our faith reminds us that deep listening to people is important, so much so that we've put it in the second of our UU sources: "Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love." But it's not just prophetic people, it's also wise people. It can take years to develop such wisdom! Listening to the journeys of older beloveds helps us navigate our own. We'll share photos of our favorite elders, both living and passed and nourish each other in their wisdom! For More information, please contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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 YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Oct 25th 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.

Faith Development - Trick or Treating for UNICEF

This month our children will be raising money to help needy children around the world through an online unicef campaign. It's easy to contribute! [Connect through this link](#) or use the QR code. A pandemic only increases their need. Please give if you are able.



Faith Development - Virtual Halloween Parade!

Come be a part of our spooky fun! Like everything else, this year our Halloween Parade will be virtual. If you'd like to show off your spookiest, silliest self, please send a photo to Aaron Stang at AStang22@aol.com by October 25th.

Faith Development - Zoom Halloween Party

Families, This Halloween will be like no other! Typically, this time of year, kiddos are brimming with excitement about their costume choices and the chance to wander door to door, in the dark, collecting treats. I imagine most of you won't be doing that this year. Luckily, Bruce and Tanya Gustafson-Ngo are inviting your kids to a fun Zoom Halloween party, complete with costumes and treats! You will need to pre-register for this event, so that they know just who to deliver treats to. Look for an email from Karen or reach out to her at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

SE Cluster Virtual Annual Meeting on Nov 14

Starting at the conclusion of the exciting and informative Southern Region "Turn, Turn, Turn" Assembly, the SE FL Cluster will have its Virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov 14th at about 3 pm.

SE Florida Cluster presents its virtual Annual Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#): Meeting ID: 825 8027 8403 Passcode: 780761

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,82580278403# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82580278403>

Incentive to Register for "Turn, Turn, Turn" on Saturday, Nov 14th. Your SE Florida Cluster is offering an incentive for you to attend the ***Turn, Turn, Turn—A Day of Companionship, Collaboration, and Learning***, a virtual webinar, hosted by the Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on Saturday, Nov. 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern time.

In lieu of holding our customary Annual Fall Program, the SE Florida Cluster ***will cover the cost for forty (40) individuals*** (\$20@each) to attend this online regional assembly. So register today!

This pay option is open to all, **and** we encourage those who are most able and willing to pay their own way to do so—the conference will certainly be worth it.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will offer the keynote address and workshops offered by Southern Region staff include:

- "Where Do We Go From Here?": Rev. Nato Hollister and Kathy McGowan
- "To Every Season": Co-Leads Connie Goodbread and Natalie Briscoe
- "A Time To Build Up": Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick

[Click here to register for Turn Turn Turn: A Virtual Regional Assembly of the Southern Region UUA.](#)

1. To access the SE Cluster option: register and click out when the system takes you to PayPal.

2. To pay your own way, register and proceed to PayPal.

Please email Kathy Charles kcharles@uua.org or Jessica Curran sr@uua.org for any questions about the Southern Region Assembly.

From our Welcoming Congregation Team

October 26th is Intersex Awareness Day to commemorate the first intersex protest which took place in Boston. And what is intersex, you may ask? Intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male. Intersex babies are always assigned a legal sex, but sometimes when they grow up, their gender doesn't match the sex selected for them. Being intersex is a naturally occurring variation in humans, and isn't a medical problem. It's more common than most people realize. Estimates suggest that about 1 in 100 people born in the U.S. is intersex.



UPDATE ON FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023

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

The Capital Campaign to fund our Future Home has one week left!!

***** 48 Pledges and \$550,531 Toward the \$750,000 goal. *****

If you haven't made your pledge to the Future Home Capital Campaign, you can still join with any amount that fits your budget. Building a home comes in many forms as we all have experienced. It takes planning and saving and finding just the right space that will nourish and sustain us as we move through our search in West Broward County. Your gifts will make it happen!

You will hear on Sunday the journey of Kathy Jens-Rochow, our current President of the Board and Team Lead for the Capital Campaign. Her UU homes have been many, but now she has settled on the one that means the most...

If you need further information, everything you need to know is on our website. Our [Capital Campaign 2020-2023 page](#) is where you will find the Capital Campaign brochure and the online pledge card. Our [Future Home page](#) has all of our Future home documents from our feasibility study and planning documents. On our [online payment portal page](#) you can set up recurring payments for your Capital Campaign pledge payments. Please note, you can also Text To Give a dollar amount followed by the code "CC" (without the quotation marks), example 150.00 CC, to our texting number, (844) 948-1153! **Kathy Jens-Rochow, CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org, is available to answer your questions.** Be well, be safe and we will see you on Sunday!



EARLY VOTING IS NOW!

Early Voting **polling stations** for Broward County are open: Monday, Oct 19th - Sunday, Nov 1st (7 am-7 pm).

You can find Early Voting locations for Broward County here:

<https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Early-Voting-Dates-Hours-and-Sites>

If Early Voting is part of your voting plan and you haven't voted yet -- don't delay!

Note: During the past week, there were issues related to the secure drop boxes for Vote-by-Mail ballots under legal discussion between the Florida Department of State and Florida Supervisors of Elections, creating lack of clarity. Given this situation, the Statewide Communications Manager for the League of Women Voters of Florida, Blake Summerlin, has provided the recommendation that voters use dropboxes within the same hours as Early Voting.

If you have a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot that you haven't sent in yet, and would like to vote in person instead, you can still do so. Bring your VBM ballot (blank or filled out) with you to your polling place, where poll workers will cancel it so that you can vote by regular ballot.

- Don't live in Broward County? Check your county's Supervisor of Elections website for information on Early Voting in your county: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors>
- Not sure of your county? Check what county your city or town is in here: <https://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/florida-information/government/local-resources/citycounty-list/>

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.

River of Grass - Fundraising Mask

Would you like a River of Grass Side with Love Mask? [Click here to purchase](#) your River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Fundraising Mask! Orders will be shipped right to your door without any additional shipping charges! This face mask is machine washable, double ply, and made up of 60% Polyester, 40% Cotton. They cost \$15 each with 3 different sizes available: Adult, Youth 9-15, and Child 3-8. (<https://www.fundraisingmasks.org/product-page/river-of-grass-fundraiser>)



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, Oct 27th 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.

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.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the 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 28th and is FF Inquirers #1: Q&A with Minister**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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
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
1/27/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service

2/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
2/10/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
2/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
3/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: *Insulate your water heater. Wrap the tank with an exterior insulation kit and insulate exposed pipes. It will reduce electricity costs and save money. Also consider installing a solar water heater. This alone may cut your electric bill by a third or more - saving electricity and saving you money!*

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.