

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 – November 10, 2022

Hope, Change, & Weathering the Possibility of Happiness

*We seldom admit the seductive comfort of hopelessness.
It saves us from ambiguity. It has an answer for every question:
“There’s just no point.”
Hope, on the other hand, is messy.
If it might all work out, then we have things to do.
We must weather the possibility of happiness.
~ the CryptoNaturalist*

Gather with us this Sunday as for a deep dose of messy hope in the wake of one of the most difficult election seasons of our lives – and in the midst these liminal times that are not quite done with changing us so that we might ourselves bring good, hard, worthy, time-consuming, heart rending, arc bending change into the world in the name of this Love that calls us onward ... no matter what ... that we might “weather the possibility of happiness” together in our time.

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/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, November 13, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Hope, Change, & Weathering the Possibility of Happiness – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development - On November 13th, in our online Zoom class, our children will explore the path of changing our world for the better. We’ll listen to calls for action in the form of anthems, including the poetry of Amanda Gorman in her book *Change Sings; A Children’s Anthem*. If you’d like more information about our Faith Development program for children, contact our Director of FD, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

River of Grass Deepening Connection Opportunities:

- **Want to deepen your River connections? Join a covenant group!** Now is a great time, as we begin our brand new congregational year, to check out covenant groups at River of Grass. Members, usually no more than eight per group, gather once or twice monthly, building bonds that go behind hospitality hour conversations through personal sharing and spiritual reflection. A new group is forming this fall, giving you a chance to join other newcomers. And some existing groups have openings for new members as well. Meeting times and days vary. Some groups offer virtual gatherings, or a combination of in-person and virtual. For more information, email: sharedministry@riverofgrassuu.org.
- **90 minutes every 4-5 weeks:** The Worship Team needs **three new Zoom Hosts** to rotate with two 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 want to jump into volunteering, here is an opportunity! Please contact Rita Cherubini at worship@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.
- **November 12 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - LifeNet4Families...** Good news! LifeNet4families is looking for some volunteer assistance during the holidays. This is a great way for us to be involved in a really worthwhile community organization. Volunteers are usually needed to work in the kitchen or dining room, or help sort and pack individual food boxes as part of a team. We can use a few folks from 9-12 on November 12 and we are awaiting other available dates. If you are interested or have questions please contact Linda Morgan Crain at SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org (That's the Service and Social Justice Green Team)

Membership Events for this week, if you have any questions please contact Leana Bresnahan at membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

- Our fall picnic **for the entire congregation** will take place on **THIS SUNDAY, November 13, 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.** You should have received an invitation via EVITE. If you RSVPed 'YES', please check your emails for instructions on how to arrive at Liz and John Perez's home in Plantation. This picnic is for ALL AGES. Please remember that this is a **"bring your own everything"** picnic, including (to be green) your own plates, cups, and cutlery. We will provide desserts and goodies! Please email membership@riverofgrassuu.org if you did NOT receive an invitation and would like to attend; or directions to the Perez home. You can also call Leana at 954-258-6315.
- Please join us for the sixth session of the Faith Forward Inquirers' Sessions, which will be held next Sunday on November 20th after **WORSHIP SERVICE** from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm. The discussion will focus on SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS AND STEWARDSHIP, led by our Small Group Ministry co-lead, Janet Schwartz, and by our Finance Chair, Brit Lundell, and our Treasurer, Rob Giblin-Davis. It will be Multi-Platform (In-Person + Zoom). **[Click here for the Zoom link for the Inquirers' Session.](#)** All are welcome for this important and informative meeting!

8th principle Action Team announcement:

Bold Justice is an organization of 22 religious congregations from different racial/ethnic and religious backgrounds. Their mission is to “powerfully address community issues in Broward County through a self-sustaining, interfaith, interracial, proactive organization rooted in religious congregations.”

They have won victories related to Affordable Housing, Dental Care, Juvenile Arrests, Jobs, Unemployment, and Education. Currently, they are working to end the criminalization of poverty. One example of this is to encourage the State Attorney to support a program for civil citations instead of arrests for adults with misdemeanor offenses, such as driving with an expired tag or failure to pay a fine. They are also working on climate change with a focus on extreme heat in Broward County.

The work of this group is in line with our recently adopted 8th principle - *Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.* For more information, check out their website at boldjustice.org.

WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 28 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org Questions: whalecoastak@gmail.com.



A Seat at the table this Thanksgiving (LifeNet4Families):

This year may be different for food-insecure families in Broward. Some people won't have food, some won't have a table. But with your help, we can make sure everyone has a seat at the table with a nutritious holiday meal. Here are some of the ways you can help feed one senior, one person, or one family.

Ways to help Food-insecure Families this Thanksgiving:

- \$75 provides a fully-cooked traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings to families living in their car this season
- \$50 provided a holiday food box so under-employed, food-insecure families can prepare a delicious holiday meal at home.
- \$25 surprises an isolated senior living alone with a traditional holiday dinner delivered to their home this Thanksgiving.
- \$25 gives five homeless patrons a seat at the table in our Community Cafe, a special holiday meal, and a sense of hope.
- Consider a one-time gift to feed as many people as possible this Thanksgiving Day.
- Set up a recurring monthly gift to help feed families this holiday season and beyond.



[COUNT ME IN! – Click here to donate to LifeNet4Families](#)

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/>

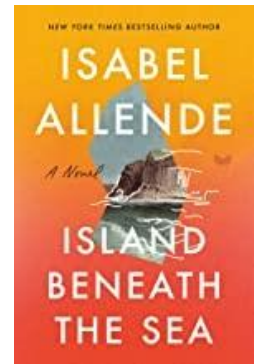
BUUKies November Read – "Island Beneath the Sea" by Isabel Allende. We will meet on Wednesday, Nov 16th at 7pm.

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613


One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC)

From the sugar plantations of Saint-Domingue to the lavish parlors of New Orleans at the turn of the 19th century, the latest novel from New York Times bestselling author Isabel Allende (Inés of My Soul, The House of the Spirits, Portrait in Sepia) tells the story of a mulatta woman, a slave and concubine, determined to take control of her own destiny.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



RoG Men's Group: We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. We are now meeting in person as well as via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 pm at Uncle Al's, 8200 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. Our Nov 17th topic will be announced closer to the meeting date. 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 Zoom Meeting Room will open 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.

Please remember to **Smile when you shop at Amazon.com**. When you use the River of Grass link while shopping on Amazon, our community receives a .5% donation as one of their eligible charitable organizations. The direct River of Grass Amazon link is:  <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0791653>. River of Grass has received \$2,079.50 since we signed up with AmazonSmile. This holiday season you can help support River of Grass while online shopping with Amazon.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Stop paper billing statements! Simply go online and setup your bills and investments to send electronic statements, via email. It only takes a couple of minutes, and you will have less paper to deal with and will save trees!

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 will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the 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 will 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.