

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 25, 2021

Ancestors of Justice

Our worship service on November 28th is a collection of true stories that might make you feel proud, or surprised, or even uncomfortable. Our seven stories are about the ordinary people in our Unitarian and Universalist histories who acted as justice-makers in both bold and secret ways. Our guest minister, Rev. Erika Hewitt, will help us celebrate some of the unknown, or lesser-known, stories of these religious ancestors whose legacy we carry -- as **WE** now hold that history.

Please join us on Sunday at 10:30 am or a little before to chat. Join us as you are from wherever you are in Zoom or on FaceBook live for both our service, and Hospitality in Zoom following the service. (If you tune in on Facebook, c'mon over at Hospitality time with the link below!). We can't wait to see you!

Topic: Worship November 28, 2021

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/ab3E9IRtb9>

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Ancestors of Justice - Rev. Erika Hewitt -

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

Faith Development: No Children's Programming - Sunday after Thanksgiving

If you'd like more information about our program, please contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

Rev. Amy's sabbatical: Rev. Amy's sabbatical began Monday, Sep 27th, and will end this upcoming Tuesday, Nov 30th. She will be back in the pulpit on Dec 5th. 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](#).

UUMFE - Decolonizing Thanks Giving

2021 National Day of Mourning

Thursday, Nov. 25 - Beginning at 9am PT / 10 MT / 11 CT / 12pm ET

Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA (hill above Plymouth Rock)

[Live streaming here](#)

Hosted by the United American Indians of New England

An annual tradition since 1970, Day of Mourning is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day. Many of us fast from sundown the day before through the afternoon of that day. We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. NDOM is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in action.

Over the years, participants in Day of Mourning have buried Plymouth Rock a number of times, boarded the Mayflower replica, and placed ku klux klan sheets on the statue of William Bradford, etc.

For those who live far away from Plymouth, you can still participate by [watching the live stream](#) of the days events &/or [making a donation](#).

In-person Service - Are You Ready?:

We are making plans for **being together** on Dec 5th, Rev Amy's first day back from Sabbatical. We will be meeting at the IFAS satellite building for the University of Florida, 3205 College Avenue in Davie 33314. Thanks to Rob Giblin-Davis for securing this space for us. Seating is limited to 50 Inside the Main room and 30 Inside a Satellite room where the service will be live-streamed, all keeping socially-distanced. Our children will be meeting on a large, covered outdoor patio nearby.

****Masks are required for all attendees, inside or outside. Please, no exceptions. ****

Food and drinks are not permitted. Thank you!

Sunday, Dec 5th at 10:30 am

The service will also be live-streamed on Facebook and Zoom. Attendees will also be welcomed to watch the service outside on their own devices and for those who wish to remain at home, the Zoom Room will be just as it has been. Though no refreshments will be provided we'll have opportunities for conversation before and after the service.

We are so excited to finally be together!

Further information may be provided as the Covid Task Force continues to meet and keep us safe. Reach out to worship@riverofgrassuu.org and check the weekly email for updates.

****Please be aware that Dec 5th is the annual Christmas Toys in the Sun motorcycle run which causes a roadblock for drivers heading north on I-95 or west on I-595 on that Sunday morning from about 9:00 AM-1:30 PM.****

Auction News!

The Non-Event Event -- 2021-2022 Online Auction -- December 5 thru December 12

It's almost here. We have some wonderful donations. Lots of gorgeous jewelry, including chalice jewelry, some parties, vacations, massages and even a beautiful piano!

We are looking for more donations! We will be publishing the catalog on Wednesday, Dec 1st, before the auction starts so you can find the items you would like to bid on. We need your donation writeups by Sunday, Nov 28th so we can include them in the catalog.

New or gently used items, gift baskets, gift cards, services, antiques, artwork and crafts. oh, and don't forget parties! We can meet face to face in small groups so we can have parties together again. For more information and/or donations, contact auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

Your Auction Team: Steve Jens-Rochow, Kallie LeFever, and Kathy Jens-Rochow

Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet:

We have adopted 50 foster care kids for this holiday season. This year we are back to our joyous and generous selves with our most vulnerable population.

- This year we are asking you to choose a child and then purchase one of the requested gifts.
- Please attach a tag with the child's initials and their assigned number to each gift you choose to purchase.
- They can be delivered to Marilisa Lawless's home, as she is the lead on this project.
- Marilisa's address is 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL 33324. They can be mailed or delivered. She has a covered porch and they can be left out front whether she is home or not.



- **We are asking that these are at her home by Saturday, Dec 4th.**
- The Google Sheet can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Please add your name and contact information to the green column to the right of the child (ren) you choose.

Thank you for always stepping up for River of Grass!

To find out more about ChildNet please check out their website: <https://www.childnet.us/>

ChildNet has been chosen by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community Based Care (CBC) lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach Counties. As such, it is the single private non-profit entity responsible for managing the local system of services and supports for the communities' most vulnerable children. Their system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support.

8th Principle Team Message

8th Principle Adoption - WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY IF IT DOESN'T INCLUDE EVERYONE?

“These hard times we endure together now are not new in the passages of human history – they are new only to some of us. Yes – only to some of us – for the black, brown, poor, queer and others among us, they are nothing new even now. And it’s not that our system is broken. No... actually, our system is working exactly as it was designed – to keep power and wealth in the hands of the few, while too many go hungry ... in body and in spirit. Things have not been getting worse, they have been getting revealed.”

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: 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.”

The adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting. In the meantime, the 8th Principle Team will be bringing forward historical perspectives and conversations through films, books and discussions that have been more recently revealed due to the killings and incarceration of Black citizens. White supremacy affects all parts of our society. We are excited to begin this work!

Members of the Team are Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson and Steve Jens-Rochow. More information to come! 8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org.

Other Events:

Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions:

The Thursday night mindfulness drop-in will skip this week, Thanksgiving, wishing everyone time with family and friends. We will meet again starting next Thursday, Dec 2nd from 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/>

Broward Solar Co-op is still open: Thinking of going solar? You are in luck. The Broward Solar United Neighbors Co-op is still open, **it closes on Nov 30th**. With it you get the advantage of a fully vetted installer, a discounted group price, and their expertise. <https://coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/broward-county-2021-solar-co-op/>

RoG Men’s Group: We meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. The Dec 2nd topic is still being determined. The Topic Description will be online at KipBarkley.com/topic/. There we post past topics and links to the UU Small Group Ministry Network. 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 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. If you have any questions please contact Kip Barkley; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

You're Invited! Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together - December 11 & 12 (registration fee will be reimbursed by River of Grass)

Dear Unitarian Universalist Leaders and Friends,

You are invited to reach into your spiritual toolkits and grab your “compass,” your wayfinder, that inner voice that points you toward goodness, and join us in charting a path toward a deeper knowing of Unitarian Universalism. Please join us for *Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together*, a virtual event taking place on December 11th and 12th. Our very own [Article II Commission](#) will ask for your input on our ever-evolving Purposes and Principles. This is Unitarian Universalism, our living tradition, at its theological best: striving to change and be better in a changing world, bending its arc toward a greater inclusivity and a more profound justice for all.

This event is for: *lay leaders, religious professionals, adults, youth, members of congregations, and anyone else who is interested in diving into an exploration of interdependence in UU theology and practice.*

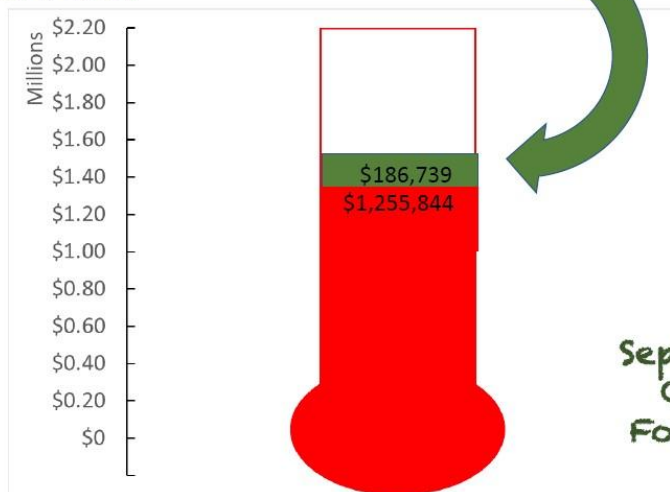
[Learn more about Compass and register today!](#) We hope to see you on December 11 & 12!

In faith, Natalie Briscoe, Southern Region Lead

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd 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, Dec 12th at 7:30 pm**. Our group’s 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.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: It takes over 50 years for leather shoes to break down in a landfill. Be sure to buy quality comfortable shoes, not just the latest fashion. And as they wear, take them to the shoe repair shop. In the long run, it will help your feet, save you money, and help the environment.

Is your Capital Campaign pledge commitment current?



	09/30/21
CC - BOA Account	\$153,260
CC - TD Ameritrade	\$202,955
Foundation - TD Ameritrade	\$899,629
Total Funds Available	\$1,255,844
Pledges we are promised	\$186,739
Total	\$1,442,583
Objective	\$2,200,000

September 2021 Update
Capital Campaign
For our Future Home

Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign - Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase property and build our church ourselves.

We need your help in order to be better prepared when the right opportunity presents itself. Those of you who made your pledge during our campaign last fall, thank you for your commitment. We have received about 65% of the total amount pledged. And a matching gift of \$25,000. In order to get a handle on our finances, we would like to know when you plan to complete your contribution.

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team. capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org Go to our website, riverofgrassuu.org, scroll down to the Drive to the Finish information and [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

Capital Campaign Contributions

We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%
PayPal	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$0
Securities	<p>Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i></p> <p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination</p> <p>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334</p> <p>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, 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: considers 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 November 4, 2021

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

River of Grass COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team is monitoring Broward County's risk level of transmission. The level of risk used by the River of Grass UU Congregation shall be as measured on [Broward County, Florida \(FL\) - COVID Vaccine & Risk Tracker - Covid Act Now](#). Risk levels are **low**, **medium**, **high**, **very high**, and **severe**.

In-person/hybrid Worship services, large group concerts, fundraisers, other large events (with 50 or more participants) shall occur while the COVID risk is at low, medium, or high levels. According to the Updated Gathering Guidance from UUA.org, "In areas where transmission risk is very high or severe, suspend all large in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers." As such, in-person worship services and other large gatherings shall be suspended if the level of risk for Broward County is and has been very high or severe for two or more weeks. The level of risk, as reported on the COVID Act Now website, will be monitored by the Re-Emergence Team, which will alert the Board and Worship Team if the risk level changes to or from very high or severe and stays at that level for two weeks.

Further, all attendees of in-person gatherings, small or large, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as possible based on eligibility by age. Vaccination or recent negative COVID test is strongly encouraged for in-person gatherings. Facial coverings/masks are required for large indoor in-person gatherings and strongly encouraged for other groups to protect the most vulnerable, including unvaccinated babies and young children. Small groups are encouraged to set-up and enter into their own covenants, using the guidance herein, regarding COVID-19 safety procedures.

If protocols at rental facilities are more restrictive, their guidelines will be followed.

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.