

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 – December 15, 2022

Light One Candle: Telling the Hanukkah Story

Don't let the light go out, let it shine through our love and our tears.

Peter Yarrow

“What is the memory that’s valued so highly we keep it alive in this flame,” beloved singer Peter Yarrow asks of us in the re-telling of the Hanukkah story. “We have come this far always believing that justice would somehow prevail – this is why we will not fail!” he charges us. Gather with us this Sunday, December 18, in person or livestream as we once more learn the wisdom of the Hanukkah story – a story of strength, endurance, hope, freedom, and peace – that our light, like the Maccabee children told, may never go out!

Come as you are – either in-person at University of Florida IFAS Satellite Building or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

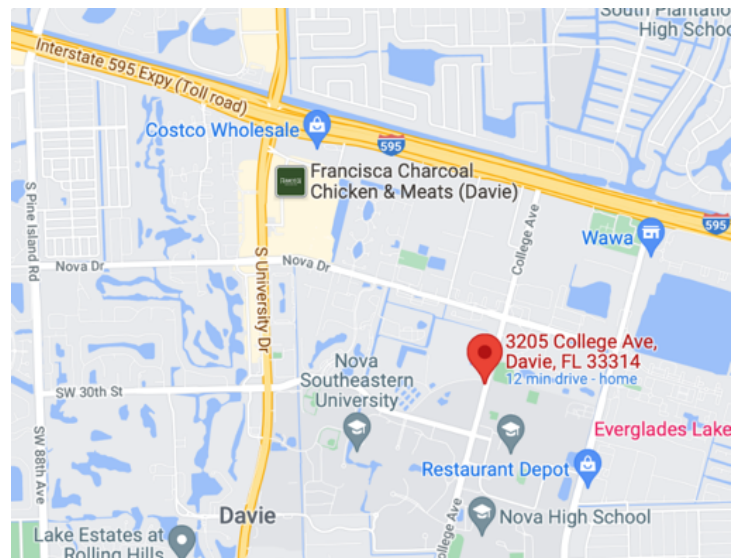
University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions: <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/>

If you Are arriving via University Drive:

- Turn east at Nova Drive (SW 24th Street), which would be a right turn if driving from the south and a left turn if driving from the north.
- Drive east on Nova Drive to the first stoplight, which is College Avenue.
- Turn right onto College Avenue and drive south ¼ mile to the first entrance on the right side of the street. Look for a large blue monument sign with University of Florida on it. The entrance is 600 feet past this monument sign.



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, December 18, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Light One Candle: Telling the Hanukkah Story – Karen Gonzalez and the Faith Development Children

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

Faith Development - Our set has been created, our costumes sewed, our lines rehearsed! We are ready for this year's holiday play - the story of Hanukkah. We look forward to sharing this tale with you on Sunday during our all-ages worship service. There will be no other Faith Development classes on this day as we'll all be in worship together. For information about our Faith Development program, contact our Director of Religious Education, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

December Board Meeting – Find out what's happening behind the scenes at the River. The River of Grass Board will be meeting in person this **Sunday, Dec 18th at 1:00 pm** after Sunday service at the UF-IFAS Building. Our meetings are open to members and friends. Bring a brown bag lunch. Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow (president@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

"Something Like A Star" Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Old Davie Schoolhouse*, 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, Florida 33314

5:00-6:00 Cookie Hospitality - Bring cookies or other goodies to share!

6:00-7:00 Candlelight Service

Please bring your poinsettias to grace our space! This will be our first Candlelight Service in a very long time. Family and friends are welcome.

We would love to see you!

We'll be broadcasting on Facebook and Zoom!

Link:

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

Questions: worship@riverofgrassuu.org

*Handicap Accessible

*Childcare Provided

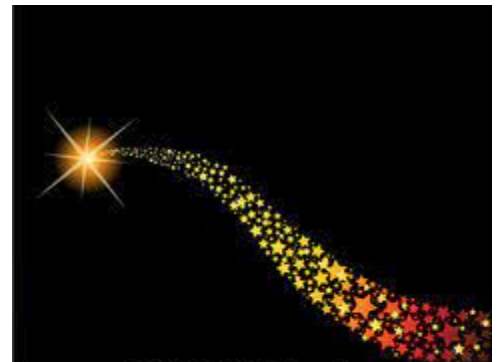
New Member:

Sigrid Macdonald – Originally from New Jersey, Sigrid Macdonald lived for almost thirty years in Ottawa, Ontario, and currently resides in Weston, Florida. She owns an editing company called Book Magic and is the author of three books and numerous articles. Sigrid is also a social activist who has spent decades working on the seemingly disparate issues of women's rights and wrongful convictions.



Membership Matters – New Member/Friend Directory

As we look forward to 2023, and so many new and exciting things for our beloved community, we are working hard to publish an updated version of the member/friend directory. This will make it so much easier for everyone to get in touch with each other!



Once completed the new directory will be sent to you by email and also posted to the password-protected Members' Section of the River of Grass webpage, to which Friends of the Congregation also have access. The published directory will have just phone numbers and emails.

Please be on the lookout for a separate email with easy instructions for how to provide updated information. The deadline for providing information is January 2, 2023.

If you have had no changes since the last directory (from January 2020), and/or we receive no update from you, we will include the information we have on file from that directory.

Looking for Help:

Love babies? You're in luck! The River has been attracting quite a few, lately. Our new location in January will include a paid staff position for the nursery. If you know someone who might be interested in caring for our babies and kids for 3 hours each Sunday, please contact our Faith Development Director, Karen at religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. We are also looking for some items to fill this space. Let Karen know if you can contribute any of the following: extra-large baby gate, high chair, and play items such as stacking blocks, cars and puzzles.

Help Get Banks to Divest from Fossil Fuels

Banks, particularly the big 4 [Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and CitiBank] remain, despite their vague pledges, among the biggest investors in fossil fuels. Bank of America has over 200 Billion Dollars worth of investments in them. A good way to nudge the banks into divesting from global warming investments is to go into your bank with one or two other people, present a letter asking for divestment, and talk to the branch manager. Scott Lewis of Third Act's [Banking on Our Future](#) Campaign will be presenting a training on Tuesday, Dec 13th, at 7:00 pm. He will show us how to meet with bank managers. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtceisqDksHtCka9lCj0u02DDgUBLaQ_7W

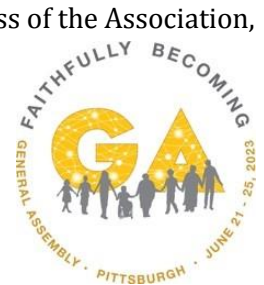
The big 4 banks have been giving significant financial support to the fossil fuel industry for new fossil fuel infrastructure since the Paris Agreement – new extraction construction that scientists say we cannot afford if we are to stay within a target of 1.5 degree celsius increase.

Steve Jens-Rochow will be there at the training, and is eager to go to his bank and urge them to divest. If you have questions email Steve Jens-Rochow SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Be part of the greater UU Community Go to General Assembly!

In person in Pittsburg or virtually

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us **Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania** and/or online for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!



Anyone can attend. Even just register for programs/worship and not sit through the business meetings.

But, you too can represent our community by being a delegate and vote on important issues, including the election of a new UUA president. The River will pay our delegate's registration fee. For more information, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

8th Principle Action Team – Be The Change

Our 8th Principle Action Team wants YOU to take action in your committee or small group! See the links below for more information about microaggressions and white supremacy culture and then identify one thing you can do or one change you can make to be more inclusive and anti-racist or more of an ally to BIPOC and other oppressed groups. As a key part of keeping the River going, growing and flowing, we need YOU to make our 8th principle a real part of our congregational life. Please include what you have done or changed in your committee in your January or February Board Report, or for small groups, send a note to the board (board@riverofgrassuu.org) in January. We look forward to hearing from you!

https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/m/microaggressions_by_derald_wing_sue_ph.d..pdf

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yk411vUztwA47x6kYpNL5sC6_WBpNFHB/view

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’ll next **meet on Thursday Dec 15th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** We meet in person and 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. 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.

The annual Full Moon Daughters Solstice Party is here!

Good food and drink, Good company, Lots of sharing and joy. FMD, which includes females, female children and female identifying people, will gather **Saturday, December 17th, at Kathy Jens-Rochow's home at 5:30 PM-9:00 PM** for potluck dinner, \$10 gift exchange (optional) and the sharing of annual blessings. This is one of our favorite gatherings. We will be outside around the pool for safety and request all to be vaccinated. For directions and RSVP to Kathy Jens-Rochow at fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org so we can count people.

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 \$2,135.76 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: Avoid buying stuff. Try a birthday or holiday where no gifts are bought. Simply re-gift unused things found around the house. Or give a gift that is handmade from the heart, like a poem or painting. Or give the gift of your time, like a stroll with your loved one, or a kayak excursion. Or donate to a charity in honor of them. There are many ways to give, without buying more stuff!

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.