

Announcements

THE ANNUAL PROSPERITY DRIVE 2020-2021 HAS COME TO A CLOSE!!

Rita Cherubini and Kathy Jens-Rochow, Co-Chairs

Annual Prosperity Drive 2020-2021

Beginning on Mar 29th, the Annual Prosperity Drive got off to a great start with 18 Stewards reaching our Members and Friends for the pledges needed to begin the fiscal year 2020-2021. However, our Kupcake Kickoff was not available to us, enthusiasm and acceptance for a new way to reach our congregation was provided by our Stewardship Team. Through this excellent caring members and friends, the pledge dollars received total:

\$196,222

We are so grateful for your welcoming spirit to the 18 Stewards and your generosity and financial ministry to our beloved River of Grass UU Congregation. If you missed this pledging process, you can still go to the [Stewardship web page](#) and scroll down for the pledge card, fill it out and click SEND and it's on the way.

Be well, be safe and we continue to look for you at Zoom Worship with Rev Amy!

Welcoming Congregation Opportunity – Have you started it yet? “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations” course, of course

River of Grass UU congregation has made a commitment to be welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We became a UUA recognized Welcoming Congregation June 4, 2002. Throughout this past congregational year, the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team has taken intentional steps to renew our commitment to welcoming and inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We are now offering “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations.” This module is a very important one for all of us.

This course is for congregations who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and learn how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over 6 session you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality and faith community and gain the grounding, context and skills to transform yourself and our congregation.

This module can be very deeply moving, with personal reflection. Many people may need to process what they learned. We will also talk about how the River can incorporate changes to become more naturally welcoming. We will be scheduling some Zoom sessions for anyone who wishes to participate.

Yes, we are already pretty welcoming, but awareness of the multi-layers of identity can make critical subtle changes to improve our welcome to all.

Please take advantage of this “stay at home” time to take this course. You can view the sessions at your own pace. For more information and the link to connect to the sessions, contact Kathy at Welcoming@riverofgrassuu.org.

Faith Development – No Faith Development classes today – **Happy Mother's Day!**

There will not be FD classes on Mother's Day. It might be a good afternoon to create that family altar space, write your family's poem stanza or paint/draw/chalk rainbows for your neighbors and essential workers (and mothers!). I would appreciate all photos and poems by Monday, the 11th - consider them birthday presents for me. ;) I am excited to incorporate all of your offerings into our Faith Development Worship Service on the 17th.

Young Adults are meeting every Sunday at 6:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm**. We are an intentional community of young adults that uplift and inspire each other. We seek to grow together while enjoying life to the fullest. Please email youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Children's Summer Fellowship - Through the summer months, our River of Grass children will be exploring our National Zoo, virtually, with games and activities - making connections to our 7th Principle which calls us to value Earth's web of life. **If you'd like to be a part of this adventure by hosting a Sunday or two, contact Diane Lade, FD Committee Chair, faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org.**

Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, May 12th 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. Gary Gonzalez meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

Children's Bedtime Story: Wednesdays at 6:00 pm - Come meet Dakota and listen to a meaningful bedtime story via Zoom on **Wednesday evenings, May 13th at 6:00 pm**. Look for an email from Karen or reach out to her at religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.

bUUKies – Blowout by Rachel Maddow (non-fiction). Next meeting **Wednesday May 13th at 7:15 pm**. The bUUKies have tackled some serious reading this year but May's selection is in a class of its own. Rachel Maddow's "Blowout" tackles the fossil fuel industry and the role it has in the world's politics. I particularly look forward to this in light of the historical low price of oil (as of this writing) of NEGATIVE \$37 per barrel. The world has truly turned upside down. bUUKies meet on the second Wednesday evenings of each month. Our May meeting is May 13th at 7:00 pm, and at this time it appears that it will be an on-line Zoom meeting. If you are not on the regular mailing list, please contact us at bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org in order to get an invitation.

June: Red, White and Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston

Thursday Mindfulness Drop-in 6:00 pm – How are you doing, and are you tending to any felt anxiety or stress? Are you taking time to pause and check-in with your heart, body and mind? Consider joining tonight's community mindfulness Zoom session every Thursday at 6:00 pm.

Our next gathering will be **Thursday, May 14th at 6:00 pm** on <https://zoom.us/j/551319571>.

Note: This is not a class, just a time to pause and notice, and share with others. Drop in any week. Contact: Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com or Scott@Insightinstitutellc.com.

Faith Development – Parents Having Coffee Online - Parents will join together to share their woes, joys and ahas in a Zoom Room on **Saturday morning, May 16th at 10:00 am**. Look for an email from Karen Gonzalez religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

River of Grass Café presents: Zoe Mulford in a Virtual Concert via ZOOM on Saturday, May 16th, from 8:00 - 10 pm. Zoe Mulford is becoming best known as the author of "The President Sang Amazing Grace," which was covered by Joan Baez in 2018 and received an International Folk Award as Song of the Year at Folk Alliance International. She is also a powerful and engaging performer in her own right. She backs her voice with guitar or claw-hammer banjo, drawing on the traditional music of Appalachia and the British Isles and to create music that feels both comfortably lived-in and sparkingly fresh.

She has been a Kerrville Newfolk finalist and a Falcon Ridge Emerging Artist. Her songs have been recognized by the Great American Song Contest and the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, and appeared in Sing Out! Magazine. Her song "Welcome In Another Year" has become a seasonal favorite on folk radio. It has been performed by many other artists, including John Roberts and Tony Barrand in their Nowell Sing We Clear Christmas revue and Four Shillings Short in their Samhain show.

Tickets are \$15 per person. ([Purchase using this link and using the BUY NOW button.](#)) Please purchase a ticket for each person attending the virtual concert. More than ever, artists are depending on us during this time of social distancing. You will receive a link to the ZOOM concert before the scheduled date/time. (Please note: Ticket sales close at 4:00 pm on the day of the concert.)

LifeNet4Families Donations needed - As you may know LifeNet4Families has suspended their volunteer program until further notice. The staff continues to hand out about 300 hot to-go meals a day, Monday-Friday, as well as providing showers, food boxes and bags.

If you would like to help, LifeNet has provided a list of items they are in need of. The items can be dropped off outside the gate at LifeNet from 8:00am to noon, Monday-Friday. There are security guards at the gate. Let the security guards know that you have a donation and then leave it outside the gate (or security can get a staff member to come out).

Here's the list of items needed at LifeNet4Families:

- Drop off hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, soap/shower gel, razors, shaving cream, lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Drop off specific menswear (t-shirts, shorts, belts, underwear, socks, sneakers)
- Drop off masks for clients (homemade or store bought)

Another option! If you would like to support them with a financial donation there is a fundraiser to provide housing assistance for LifeNet clients. Please contact Scott May at scottmayrog@gmail.com for more information.

Location and Directions:

Lifenet4Families, 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

On Broward Blvd. just east of 441 on the north side of the road.

Landmark: there is a Mobil gas station at the corner of 33rd Terrace and Broward Blvd.

Stay safe! Any questions about LifeNet4Families please contact Judi Oltmans, SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: When we are able to go back to shopping on your own, don't forget to bring your own reusable bags to the grocery store. Avoid the disposable plastic bags offered at checkout, as over 500 Billion of them are used each year, often ending up in landfills and waterways...as they are not biodegradable. Be green! :)