

# Announcements

## Summer Fun Program: All Ages 12:30 pm

Word Play is fun! We can make up songs with silly lyrics or create goofy names for ordinary things. But this Sunday, we will explore how new realities can be formed with powerful new words, like this one: Juneteenth. We will explore how Juneteenth, the celebration of slavery's end in the United States, has gained public attention and now is becoming a federal holiday. Parents will receive an email with a list of needed supplies for our lesson and Zoom information. New families are welcome. If you need the Zoom info, or have any questions, please email: [faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org). (Summer Fun will be held at 12:30 pm every Sunday, except Jul 4<sup>th</sup>, through Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. [For a full schedule and more information, click here](#))



## Worthy Now Prison Ministry:

A great way to put our UU values into action is by becoming an adult pen pal. The program is run by a Unitarian Universalist organization called the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). The Worthy Now Prison Ministry matches incarcerated CLF members with free world UUs based on their interests. I've enjoyed getting to know my pen pal and discussing the topics that are important to both of us: Unitarian Universalism, spirituality, racism, art, nature, and music. You complete an online application and write to your pen pal once a month for a minimum of 6 months. You mail your letters to CLF and they forward them to your pen pal (and vice versa). It's an opportunity to bring compassion and understanding to people in need of some hope.



<https://worthynow.org/pen-pals/>

## From the Church of the Larger Fellowship website:

"Most CLF members in prison are new to Unitarian Universalism and learned about the CLF from friends or cellmates. With no access to the web or UU Sunday services, people who are incarcerated can only learn about Unitarian Universalism from the mailings we send them and the letters they exchange with our staff and other Unitarian Universalists like you!

The Worthy Now Prison Network staff matches CLF members who are incarcerated with UUs who live in the free world. For a minimum of six months, you will exchange friendly letters on topics of mutual interest.

The CLF's Worthy Now Prison Network provides you an opportunity to live out our Unitarian Universalist values by connecting you with a pen pal. At Worthy Now, our message is that all of us are part of the interwoven fabric of the universe. We are deeply and undeniably connected! We acknowledge that while our behaviors can vary from loving to hate-filled acts of disruption and harm, our inherent worth remains unchanged. This Universalist lens is what we hope our Pen Pals enter their relationship through."

For more information contact Judi Oltmans [SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org).

## ***Virtual SUUSI 2021: July 17-24 (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute)***

### **Priority Registration ends June 18 at midnight!**

Last chance for T-shirts and free surprise boxes for Youth & Middlers!

When we meet in person, all registration closes down one month before SUUSI starts so that staff can focus on getting ready for the event. Last year, we never closed registration at all. This year? You can expect a little bit of both.

Priority Registration ends at midnight on June 18. Priority registration comes with the following advantages:

- You can order a T-shirt, which will be shipped to your home.
- Any Youth and Middlers in your registration group will receive a free box of materials in the mail, with supplies needed for various activities and workshops.
- Your 13-year-old can participate fully in the Coming of Age program.
- Your Teen can participate in TWOB (auditions were on Jun 12<sup>th</sup>).
- You can sign up for workshops that include supplies mailed to you.

Once Priority Registration closes (midnight, Jun 18<sup>th</sup>), Late Registration will remain open until the final day of SUUSI. Under Late Registration, you can participate in all-SUUSI events such as worship services and concerts. You can sign up for and participate in any workshops, nature events, or games that still have open spaces. Your children can attend age-group programming but will not receive supplies in the mail. There will not be a late T-shirt order this year.

If you register now, you can always return to your registration later to add (or drop) workshops, nature events, and sports & games activities. However, you will not be able to add T-shirts to your order after Priority Registration closes.

**[Register now in SOLIS!](#)**

### **Great Plans for SUUSI Youth!**

This year the SUUSI Youth program is planning to send each registrant a package full of materials and great UU-themed surprises. Please register no later than June 18th in order to receive this package of goodies! There is no cost to receive this mailing.

We know your child might be feeling “Zoom fatigue” at the end of a long school year (the longest!), so we want to assure you that we welcome your child for as much or as little as they choose. Even if they only pick one or two events to attend, we will be delighted to see them and we’re confident that they’ll enjoy connecting with friends! You’ll receive a box of crafting supplies, game pieces, SUUSI Store surprises, and even cookie decorating materials for “Cookies With Kimmer” - as long as you register by the 18<sup>th</sup>.

We are particularly excited about SUUSI Nature’s partnership with the Mainspring Conservation Trust. Jason Meador, the Trust’s Aquatic Programs Manager and project coordinator for their stream restoration activities, will lead two interactive nature workshops



for SUUSI Youth. You can read more about them in the catalog - workshops #14 and #27. Other Youth activities on offer include Dungeons & Dragons gaming sessions and arts and craft workshops.

Please check out the youth section of the SUUSI catalog and let us know what activities you're most excited about. If you have any questions or concerns, we welcome you to email us at [youth@suusi.org](mailto:youth@suusi.org).

### **[Find out more about this year's SUUSI!](#)**

#### **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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**Flowing River Sangha - We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Jun 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

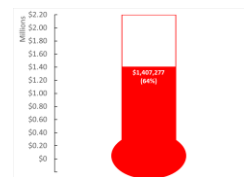
**Young Adults** are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Jul 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**. Our group's purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

**River of Grass New Mailing Address** - We have our post office box and are forwarding all of our mail there now. Our new mailing address is listed on our website as a footer on each page and in the [contact us page](#) if you need to look it up.

**River of Grass UU Congregation, 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345**

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Want a cooler home? Have your AC ducts inspected to ensure you are cooling your home and not your attic. Over time, the tape covering ductwork connections can lose its stickiness and fall off, exposing gaps for the AC to escape. Sometimes even small affordable repairs can significantly reduce your electric bill, and help the environment!

**Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign** - The Future Home teams have estimated we will need \$2-2.2 million to purchase the property, renovate, and furnish our new home when we find it. As your Capital Campaign Team members look for creative ways to reach that objective, we have launched a Drive to the Finish to reduce the amount we will need to finance. *Great news! Any new or increased pledge of \$3,000 or more will be doubled by an anonymous donor.* Go to our website, [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org), scroll down to the Drive to the Finish information and [click on the link to make your pledge](#). For more information, contact [capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org).



**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](mailto: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 <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . 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	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$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><b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b> <b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</p>	

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

**Team:** Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten

**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: February 2021**  
**Meetings in the Time of the COVID**

The CDC has released guidelines which allow meetings of fully-vaccinated\*\* people. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

In accordance with these guidelines, Official River of Grass meeting protocols have been updated to reflect the differences in the make-up of meeting attendees. \*\*People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or  $\geq 2$  weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen). This meeting protocol has been developed and can be found on our web ([RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/teams-committees--small-groups.html)). Contact Susan Juncosa at [vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org) for more information.

**Frequently Asked Questions - Small Group Meetings**

**1. Can I meet with my RoG friends?**

– That is your choice at all times. These recommendations are only for official River of Grass – sponsored gatherings.

**2. What's the first thing to consider when organizing an in-person event?**

– Is it necessary that the gathering be in person? Can the same purpose be achieved by meeting on Zoom? Is there a reason to meet other than the fact that we want to be together?

**3. My small group has some people who are not vaccinated. Can we meet in person?**

– Small groups with unvaccinated attendees can meet outdoors. Follow the procedure for such meetings and sign the covenant.  
+ + If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

**4. My group has all been vaccinated with all shots and have waited the recommended times. Can we have an in-person meeting?**

– Yes, if you take these actions:  
+ follow the procedure for such meetings and everyone signs the covenant.  
+ If any members of the group do not want to attend in person, provision must be made for attendance by Zoom or other application.

**5. What about an indoor meeting?**

– Yes, see question four.

**6. Can children come to the gathering?**

– At this time, there is no vaccine approved for children. They would have to maintain social distance and masking, etc. This might be a group decision.

## **Meetings with all attendees fully-vaccinated (INDOORS AND OUTDOORS)**

### **Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + determine, with group members, if proof of vaccination must be provided;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;

### **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + attendee states they have been fully vaccinated and will provide card if requested;
  - + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
  - + has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and is not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- #### **Actions During a Gathering**
- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
  - + Meeting attendees do not have to wear masks or social distance
  - + Meeting attendees may share food or drink.

### **Fully-Vaccinated Small Group Gathering Covenant**

We; the members, friends, and visitors of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation acknowledge the role we play in keeping ourselves, each other and our community safe from the spread of COVID-19. With that in mind, we agree to adhere to the following protocols when gathering in small groups in or out-of-doors:

- o We have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- o We have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- o We will comply with any contract tracing following our gathering, if needed.

## **Meeting with some attendees unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated (OUTDOORS ONLY)**

### **Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

### **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

### **Actions During a Gathering**

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

## **Actions after a Gathering**

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have COVID symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.

## **Small Group Outdoor Gathering Covenant**

We; the members, friends, and visitors of the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation acknowledge the role we play in keeping ourselves, each other and our community safe from the spread of Covid-19. With that in mind, we agree to adhere to the following protocols when gathering in small groups out-of-doors:

- o We will wear masks at all times and keep 6 feet from persons who do not reside in our households.
- o We will not partake of food or drink.
- o We are not experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.
- o We have not traveled out of the country in the past two weeks.
- o We will comply with any contact tracing following our gathering, if needed.

## **Factors Considered in forming the Guidelines:**

All guidelines depend on both the public and the personal.

The public – the surrounding community – must meet certain standards for daily new cases, infection rate, test positivity percentage, contact tracing in place and hospital capacity.

Personal – each individual's state of health.

## **Scope of Recommendations:**

At this time, the recommendations are only for small gatherings **indoor and outdoor** spaces in which social distancing protocol can be maintained.

## **Format of Recommendations:**

The team will develop a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document to be posted on the web site and added to the weekly e-mail, which will be updated as needed.

## **Meeting Leader will do the following:**

- + send the covenant to attendees prior to the meeting;
- + set up space and have sanitizer/hand washing supplies available;
- + collect signed covenants or procure signed covenants at the start of meeting;
- + locations of outdoor gathering will be chosen with the physical needs of the attendees in mind and alternative Zoom links will be offered if needed;
- + review masking and social distancing.

## **Actions Prior to a Gathering**

A covenant shall be developed and sent to attendees which includes the following:

- + agrees to follow social distancing and masking protocols; and
- + has not traveled internationally in past two weeks; and
- + attendee will comply with any contact tracing which may ensue; and
- + is not experiencing any COVID symptoms.

## **Actions During a Gathering**

- + attendees will give meeting leader the signed covenant or sign a copy at the start of meeting;
- + Meeting attendees will follow masking and social distancing guidelines;
- + Meeting attendees will not share food or drink.

### **Actions after a Gathering**

- + Meeting leader will keep the covenants collected for two weeks;
- + Attendees will inform the meeting leader if they have Covid symptoms and/or a positive Covid test within two weeks after the meeting. Meeting leader will inform all attendees.