

Announcements

From the River of Grass Board of Directors:

We like to show appreciation for those who feed and fuel this Beloved Community. There are so many who contribute so much of their time to our congregation. This week we give a big **Thank You to Diane Lade**.

As our Faith Development Committee Chair Diane has helped organize teachers and especially has facilitated our Summer Faith Development classes. This year was a new challenge, doing the classes virtually.

And the wonderful volunteer teacher/tech people who made the weekly classes fun.

Melissa & Debbie Buehler-Ely, Monica Dyer, Rob & Deb Giblin-Davis, Tanya Gustafson, Kathy Jens-Rochow, Jenna Kane, Corinne Mann, and Devon Smith

You didn't have to do what you did but you did, and we THANK YOU!

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

Summer Pastoral Care at River of Grass: Our minister, Rev. Amy Carol Webb is on her summer study leave until Labor Day in September. The care and support of this Beloved Community carries on through Rev. Amy's Summer leave time, with professional counselors and loving lay-leaders on hand should the need arise. For care and support, please contact the River of Grass Pastoral Care Team at pastoralcare@riverofgrassuu.org.

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders. This Sunday, in their Faith Development classes, our children will continue delving into the wonder of their unique selves by learning how to create a self-portrait. Join us as we grow our faith by celebrating the diversities of our beautiful faces! For more information, contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

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, Aug 23rd at 6:30 pm**. Our 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.

Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions - Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults; [Zoom link for 6pm](#) For more info contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <https://www.insightinstitute.com>.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Aug 25th 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.

Auction - For over 15 years, the River has raised funds to support our work in the community with a fun and fabulous themed event. Luau's, Oscar's, and more! Your 2020 auction team is trying to determine if we should continue our annual tradition in a new way... Like everything else, there is an online option! Before we invest in this service, we would like to get your input on donations that you could provide. Parties, art, jewelry, timeshares, services, etc. It's time to think outside the box! Please contact the team at auction@RiverofGrassUU.org and let us know how you can contribute!

Stamp Out Hunger Virtual Food Drive - For 20 years River of Grass has participated in the Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive to benefit LifeNet4Families by volunteering at a local post office to box up several tons of food that letter carriers brought in from their routes. This year due to COVID-19 the drive is virtual. And this year the need is greater because of increased food insecurity due to the pandemic. Please go to <https://www.lifenet4families.org/portal/> and donate.

Seeking facilitators for our Inquiries Series - Our weekly sessions to orient newcomers to our beloved community needs dedicated River members. Facilitating is an excellent way to get to know new people, learn more about the River and serve the congregation. Facilitation guides make it easy! See Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

Seeking Zoom hosts for Sunday Worship - Zoom Hosts are needed for worship services. Be a part of the behind the scenes team that makes our Sunday Experience so great! Learn new skills in Zoom as a bonus! See Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

Should I Still Vote By Mail? With all I'm hearing about Post Office delays, do I risk throwing away my vote if I use Vote By Mail (VBM)? The latest developments regarding Post Office delays are very concerning, but there are still two ways you can use Vote By Mail and keep yourself healthy, while assuring that your vote will be counted:

1) Return your VBM ballots VERY SOON after receiving them and then track whether your Supervisor of Elections Office received it. When you receive your ballot in the mail, fill it out immediately and then drop it in the mail the same or next day. You will be able to monitor if your ballot was received by checking its status online in the State of Florida's Voter Information Lookup System: <https://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>. (If your ballot still hasn't been received by Election Day, you will have the option to go to the polls and vote in person -- poll workers will be able to check your ballot receipt status online and once they validate that your ballot was not received, you will be permitted to vote in person.)

OR, EVEN BETTER:

2) Drop off your VBM ballot in one of the secure drop boxes available at your county's

early voting sites. This option bypasses the mail altogether and assures that your ballot will arrive at your Supervisor of Elections Office to be counted. Again, you will be able to check your ballot's receipt status in the State of Florida's Voter Information Lookup System. Stay tuned -- we will be providing the list of early voting sites for your county in a future weekly announcement.

To be involved in promoting safe and fair elections in 2020, contact the Elders Stand for Fair Elections Florida team at FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Purchase energy efficient appliances. When it's time for a new TV, fridge, dishwasher, washer, dryer or AC, look for the Energy Star (r) rating. It ensures an energy efficient green product. Even if it costs more up front, it will save money on your electric bill, reducing the pollution created to provide electricity to your home.