

# Announcements

## *Welcoming Congregation*

For more than twenty years, the Welcoming Congregation Program has helped Unitarian Universalist congregations become more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. River of Grass was recognized as a Welcoming Congregation in June 2002, after completing the tasks required by the UUA.

So much has changed in the lives of the LGBTQ+ peoples, the UUA thought it would be good to offer the opportunity to congregations to review, update and renew their commitment. This last year, our Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team has worked for this renewal. At our Annual Meeting, we voted unanimously to ask for recognition of our renewal to the Welcoming Congregation efforts.

Our application was approved and **we are a renewed Welcoming Congregation** as recognized by the UUA!

A big thank you to the Welcoming Congregation Team - Kathy Jens-Rochow, Steve Jens-Rochow, Marjie Loring, Esther Sampol, Kallie LeFever, Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini. And to the 29 people who registered for and participated in the Transgender Inclusion program.

*Congratulations River of Grass - our beloved renewed Welcoming Congregation.*



**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**

**Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> graders; 1:30 pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders; 3:00 pm: teens**

This Sunday in our Faith Development classes, we'll use the metaphor of water to remind us how intricately we're connected to others and how nourishing our church community can be for us. We'll learn the history of our UU Water Communion ritual and be renewed by being together! Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for more information.

**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, Sep 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <https://www.insightinstitutellc.com>.

**Flowing River Sangha** – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Sep 15<sup>th</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).

***VIRTUAL WATER INGATHERING NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT 20th!***

Beloveds, the time has come for our annual Water Ingathering. Each year we gather in September to mingle waters symbolizing our connections to one another, to the Earth we share with all living things, and the learnings of our life’s journeys in body and in spirit. **On Sunday, September 20th**, we will share a Virtual Water Ingathering in this unprecedented time we’re living through together. For a part of this time of service, you are invited to offer a video or photo of yourself, your beloveds, your family with, in, on, partaking, celebrating, appreciating, marveling at that life-giving waters of your life, in advance, and get it to us to prepare for the service. Share with us your ...

- waters of abundance or scarcity
- waters of travel, movement, change
- waters of life’s storms, worries, frustrations, losses
- waters that form the wellsprings of your life

Get creative. Be serious or silly. In a boat on the sea or a kayak on the river? On a unicorn float in the pool or toes in the dew-drenched grass at dawn? Simply enjoying a cold glass on a hot day or watching the steamy rainfall? Drinking from the garden hose or a prehistoric waterfall? A quench straight from your kitchen tap or scooped up from afar? Show us what life-giving

water means to you. Most of all, we want to see your faces and be assured once more of the bonds of Beloved Community.

Send your videos, photos, art, poems – whatever speaks best for you – to [minister@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org) – **by Tuesday, Sep 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Oh, and one more thing, please also be prepared to bring an ice cube to the zoom screen for this service! Till then, Shine on! ~ RevAmy

***Don't Lose Your Right to Vote in Florida: Check Your Voter Status by October 5!*** Did you know that if you're registered to vote but didn't vote in the past two national elections you may have been removed from the voting rolls? In Florida, if you don't vote in one national election and don't return voter address confirmation mailers, you can be marked as an "inactive voter," and—depending on your county—after two elections without voting you may be marked as an "ineligible voter," and removed.

Thankfully there's a simple fix: Go to [registertovoteflorida.gov](http://registertovoteflorida.gov) and check your voter registration status. If you don't show up in the system as a registered voter, you can register online immediately. But you must do it before October 5 -- the deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the 2020 election.

Three other important reasons to go to [registertovoteflorida.gov](http://registertovoteflorida.gov) before October 5:

- If you haven't registered to vote before and want to vote for the first time.
- If you've moved or changed your name since you last voted.
- If you just want to make sure—sometimes voters have been flagged for removal because of a computer error.

Don't lose your right to vote in the 2020 election! Your vote is your voice. Go to [registertovoteflorida.gov](http://registertovoteflorida.gov) to register or to update your registration today. 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](mailto:FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org).

**Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back!** The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the updated schedule below! Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Sep 16<sup>th</sup> and is FF Inquirers #4: Faith Development for Children and Adults**. For more information, email Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
9/16/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
9/23/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year

9/30/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
10/7/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
10/14/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
10/21/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
10/28/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
11/4/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
11/11/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
11/18/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
12/2/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
12/9/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Visit [OptoutPrescreen.com](http://OptoutPrescreen.com) to stop unsolicited credit card offers. This website is run by the 3 credit agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion) and is supported by the Federal Trade Commission. In just 3 minutes you can stop this junk mail, saving you hassle and reducing landfill waste.