

Announcements

Faith Development: Family Vespers at 7:00 pm

There will not be regular classes this Sunday as we'll have a Family Vespers service at 7:00pm for our younger families. (Our Teens will meet at Tree Tops Park at their regular time.) The title of our Family Worship is "Holding History" and that is the theme for the month of November. We'll hear a lovely story about a young girl who helps her Cree grandfather reclaim some of his lost culture, and talk about the responsibility we all have to honor the past and make reparations to prepare for a brighter future. If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for kids and youth, contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Rev. Amy's sabbatical - Rev. Amy's sabbatical began Monday, Sep 27th, and will end Tuesday, Nov 30th. She will be back in the pulpit on Dec 5th. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the information that Rev. Amy prepared. It is listed on our website: [Rev. Amy's Sabbatical Page](#).

CLOTHING DRIVE - LifeNet4Families / River of Grass UU! -- CLOTHING DRIVE ENDS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

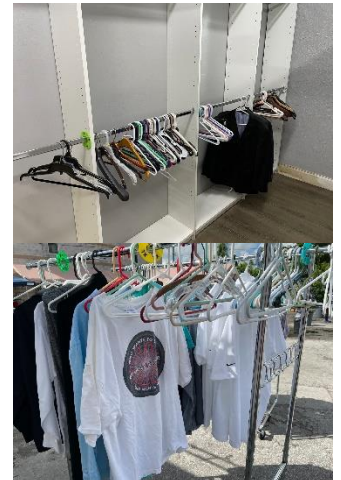
LifeNet does an amazing job serving the underserved in our community. They feed and clothe the hungry and the homeless, as well as offer numerous other vital services (mail, showers, case management, etc.) I've been volunteering regularly and LifeNet is in need of clothing. Here are recent photos showing the scarce supply of men's clothing. A small clothing donation just arrived, which is wonderful, but all items are 3XL.

The need is real, which I see up close and personal working face-to-face with clients as they approach the clothing racks, one at a time, trying to find something that fits and meets their needs.

As autumn arrives bringing somewhat cooler weather, now is a great time to sift through closets and dressers and select a pile of clothing to share with those in need. LifeNet's clients are grateful for all clothing - not just shirts and pants, but also shoes, socks, belts, hats, and underwear. And if you're at all like me, I have a lot more clothes than I truly need.

Getting the clothes to LifeNet is easy, with 3 options:

1. Email Scott May at ScottMayROG@gmail.com and he will pick up clothing from your front porch.
2. Drop off clothing at Scott's front porch at: 1660 E Oak Knoll Cir, Davie, FL 33324.
3. Bring the clothing directly to LifeNet4 Families at: 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Lauderhill, FL.



Auction News!

The Non-Event Event -- 2021-2022 Online Auction -- December 5 thru December 12

It's happening and, as always, a bit different. We are going to have only an online auction. It will be just like our online auction last year.

Donations needed: New or gently used items, gift baskets, gift cards, services, antiques, artwork and crafts. oh, and don't forget parties! We can meet face to face in small groups so we can have parties together again. For more information and/or donations, contact auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

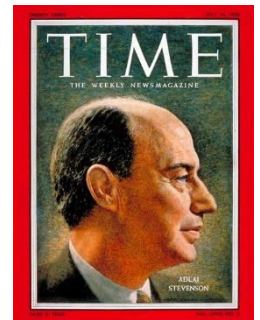
Your Auction Team, Steve Jens-Rochow, Kallie LeFever, and Kathy Jens-Rochow



Hope & Heritage:

Heritage - Adlai E. Stevenson (1900-1965) U.S. political leader and diplomat who helped found the United Nations (UN), where he served as chief U.S. delegate (1961-65); he is mainly remembered by his countrymen as the eloquent, witty, but unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1952 and 1956

In 1948 Stevenson was elected governor of Illinois by a larger majority than any other candidate had received in the history of the state. His administration was characterized by far-reaching reforms: establishment of a merit system for state police, improved care and treatment of patients in state mental hospitals, greater state aid for schools, and a revitalized civil service.



In spite of his refusal to seek the presidential nomination in 1952, he was drafted by the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He waged a vigorous campaign, but the popular appeal of wartime hero Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower proved irresistible. Stevenson was defeated a second time four years later, again by Eisenhower. (Source: Britannica.com)

Hope - From involvement in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level.



The UUA Office at the UN represents the UUA and the Canadian Unitarian Council at the United Nations, where they promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Through targeted education, advocacy, and outreach, we engage Unitarian Universalists in support of international cooperation and the work of the UN. (Source: uua.org)

Free “Mindfulness for Today’s World” weekly online sessions:

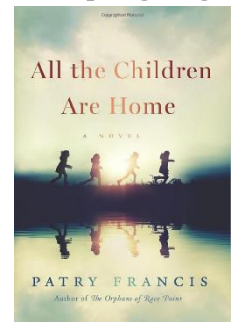
Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

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 meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Nov 4th topic is” Be the Change.”** What with all that is going on in the world, what might I do and not just watch? The Topic Description will be online at KipBarkley.com/topic/. There we post past topics and links to the UU Small Group Ministry Network. 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 Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. If you have any questions please contact Kip Barkley; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd 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, Nov 14th 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 if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Buukies are reading “All the Children are Home: A Novel” by Parry Francis. A sweeping saga following a foster family through almost a decade of dazzling triumphant and wrenching heartbreak; from the author of the “Orphans at Race Point”. Set in the late 1950s through 1960s in a small town in Massachusetts, all the children are home follows the Moscatelli family - Dahlia and Louie, foster parents, And their long-term foster children Jimmy, Zaidie, and Jon- and the irrevocable changes in their lives when a six-year-old indigenous girl, Agnes, comes to live with them. **Buukies will meet online Wednesday, Nov 17th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.** Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613; One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC). If you have any questions please contact Steve Jens-Rochow at bUukies@RiverofGrassUU.org.



Broward Solar Co-op is still open: Thinking of going solar? You are in luck. The Broward Solar United Neighbors Co-op is still open, **it closes on Nov 30th.** With it you get the advantage of a fully vetted installer, a discounted group price, and their expertise. <https://coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/broward-county-2021-solar-co-op/>

You’re Invited! Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together – December 11 & 12 (registration fee will be reimbursed by River of Grass)

Dear Unitarian Universalist Leaders and Friends,

You are invited to reach into your spiritual toolkits and grab your “compass,” your wayfinder, that inner voice that points you toward goodness, and join us in charting a path toward a deeper knowing of Unitarian Universalism. Please join us for ***Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together***, a virtual event-taking place on December 11th and 12th. Our very own [Article II Commission](#) will ask for your input on our ever-evolving Purposes and Principles. This is Unitarian Universalism, our living tradition, at its theological best: striving to change and be better in a changing world, bending its arc toward a greater inclusivity and a more profound justice for all.

This event is for: ***lay leaders, religious professionals, adults, youth, members of congregations, and anyone else who is interested in diving into an exploration of interdependence in UU theology and practice.***

[Learn more about Compass and register today!](#) We hope to see you on December 11 & 12!

In faith, Natalie Briscoe, Southern Region Lead

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: Avoid beef. It generates 4 times more greenhouse gases than chicken, and 13 times more than plants. Plus excess red meat is linked to many health issues. Do a favor for Mother Earth and for your body - avoid beef.

Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign - Thank you to all who gave us a new pledge and those who generously increased their pledge. Remember there is a Matching Fund Donor who will match any new or increased pledge of \$3,000 or more. With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team. capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org Go to our website, riverofgrassuu.org, scroll down to the Drive to the Finish information and [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

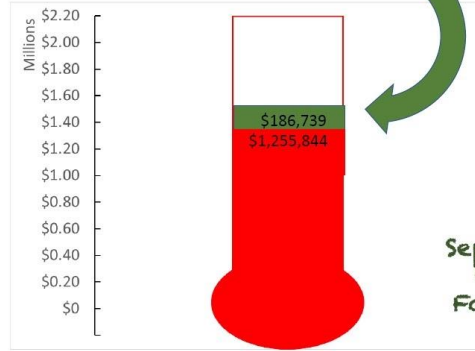
Capital Campaign Contributions

Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase property and build our church ourselves.

We need your help in order to be better prepared when the right opportunity presents itself. Those of you who made your pledge during our campaign last fall, thank you for your commitment. We have received about 65% of the total amount pledged. And a matching gift of \$25,000. In order to get a handle on our finances, we would like to know when you plan to complete your contribution.

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team. capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org
Go to our website, riverofgrassuu.org, scroll down to the Drive to the Finish information and [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

Is your Capital Campaign pledge commitment current?



	09/30/21
CC - BOA Account	\$153,260
CC - TD Ameritrade	\$202,955
Foundation - TD Ameritrade	\$899,629
Total Funds Available	\$1,255,844
Pledges we are promised	\$186,739
Total	\$1,442,583
Objective	\$2,200,000

September 2021 Update
Capital Campaign
For our Future Home

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 Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . 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	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$0
Securities	Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i> 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>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334 RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC. The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>
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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 ≥2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥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). Contact Susan Juncosa at COVIDteam@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:

- We have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- We have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days and are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.
- 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 contract 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, contract 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.