

# Announcements

**Faith Development:** Dragonflies **9:30am**; Teens **12:00pm**; Mockingbirds **1:30pm**

This Sunday in our Faith Development classes for children and youth, we'll consider that we're "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants", honor the work for justice that's been passed on to us and take responsibility for carrying it forward. If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for kids and youth, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@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, Nov 14<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.

**Rev. Amy's sabbatical** - Rev. Amy's sabbatical began Monday, Sep 27<sup>th</sup>, and will end Tuesday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. She will be back in the pulpit on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. 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](#).

## *In-person Service:*

We are making plans for being together on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, Rev Amy's first day back from Sabbatical. Thanks to Rob Giblin-Davis for securing this space for us. It is handicap accessible.

- Sunday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am
- Seating is limited to 50 Inside the Main room and 30 Inside a Satellite room where the service will be live-streamed, all keeping socially-distanced.
- Our children will be meeting on a large, covered outdoor patio nearby.
- Location: University of Florida - IFAS Satellite Building; 3205 College Ave, Davie, FL 33314
- **\*\*Masks are required for all attendees, inside or outside. Please, no exceptions. \*\***

The service will also be live-streamed on Facebook and Zoom. Attendees will also be welcomed to watch the service outside on their own devices and for those who wish to remain at home, the Zoom Room will be just as it has been. Though no refreshments will be provided we'll have opportunities for conversation before and after the service. We are so excited to finally be together!

**\*\*Please be aware that Dec 5<sup>th</sup> is the annual Christmas Toys in the Sun motorcycle run which causes a roadblock for drivers heading north on I-95 or west on I-595 on that Sunday morning from about 9:00 AM-1:30 PM.\*\***



Further information may be provided as the Covid-19 Task Force continues to meet and keep us safe. Reach out to [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org) and check the weekly email for updates.

### ***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](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org).

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

#### ***Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet:***

We have adopted 50 foster care kids for this holiday season. This year we are back to our joyous and generous selves with our most vulnerable population.

- This year we are asking you to choose a child and then purchase one of the requested gifts.
- Please attach a tag with the child's initials and their assigned number to each gift you choose to purchase.
- They can be delivered to Marilisa Lawless's home, as she is the lead on this project.
- Marilisa's address is 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL 33324. They can be mailed or delivered. She has a covered porch and they can be left out front whether she is home or not.
- We are asking that these are at her home by Saturday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Google Sheet can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Please add your name and contact information to the green column to the right of the child (ren) you choose.

Thank you for always stepping up for River of Grass!

To find out more about ChildNet please check out their website: <https://www.childnet.us/>

ChildNet has been chosen by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community Based Care

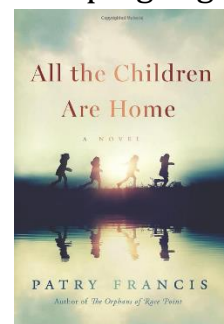
(CBC) lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach Counties. As such, it is the single private non-profit entity responsible for managing the local system of services and supports for the communities' most vulnerable children. Their system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support.

#### **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/>

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bUUKies@RiverofGrassUU.org).



**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 18<sup>th</sup> topic is "Major Influences Impacting Our Lives."** The Topic Description will be online at [KipBarkley.com/topic/](http://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](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

**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 30<sup>th</sup>**. 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 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org) 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](#).

### Capital Campaign Contributions

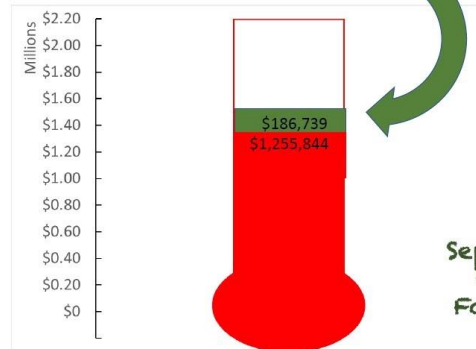
Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase property and build our church ourselves.

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](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org) 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](#).

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team. [capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org) 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](#).

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
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$1,255,844</b>
Pledges we are promised	\$186,739
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,442,583</b>
<b>Objective</b>	<b>\$2,200,000</b>

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:	\$0



	3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	
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 [COVIDteam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto: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:

- 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:

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