

Announcements

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

This Sunday in our Faith Development classes, our focus will be on “**Truth-telling**”. We haven’t always shared this country’s honest and true stories with each other. By keeping some of our history hidden, we’ve caused pain to those who were at the center of those stories. This has not only caused pain for them but has also prevented their gifts from flowing out into the world. As part of our Unitarian Universalist faith, we want to resist and defy the racism in our country that wants to keep the truth hidden. We want truthful telling so that we can find the broken places, and let the beauty and healing emerge. If you'd like more information about our program, please email our Director, Karen Gonzalez 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](#).

In-person Service:

We are making plans for being together on Dec 5th, 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 5th 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 5th 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 and check the weekly email for updates.



Auction News!

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

It's almost here. We have some wonderful donations. Lots of gorgeous jewelry, including chalice jewelry, some parties, vacations, massages and even a beautiful piano!

We are looking for more donations! We will be publishing the catalog on Wednesday, Dec 1st, before the auction starts so you can find the items you would like to bid on. We need your donation writeups by Sunday, Nov 28th so we can include them in the catalog.

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

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on Nov 20th that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. The number is rising – and likely far higher than we know. Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses the community faces due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. The need to fight for their rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice.

- adapted from Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith

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 4th.
- 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.

8th Principle Adoption - WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY?

Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, abilities, sexual orientation backgrounds/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.

As a beloved community, we will be addressing specifically racial disparity and how it has happened over the decades in these United States. The wording of the 8th Principle...

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

The adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting. In the meantime, the 8th Principle Team will be bringing forward historical perspectives and conversations through films, books and discussions that have been more recently revealed due to the killings of Black citizens. White supremacy affects all parts of our society. We are excited to begin this work!

Members of the Team are Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson and Steve Jens-Rochow. More information to come! 8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org

UUMFE - Decolonizing Thanks Giving

Un-learning Session at 4:00 ET on Nov 23rd

Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 1-2:30 PT / 2-3:30 MT / 3-4:30 CT / 4-5:30 ET

Come experience an Un-learning session!

What's an Un-learning Session, you ask? Un-learning Sessions are an educational organic environment taking note of Indigenous perspectives as they are applied and adapted to various conversations. This will be done embracing Indigenous modalities, which means we are free to experience no outline and no agenda. Un-learning Sessions are not fixed, rather they're fluid and dynamic; no two sessions will be alike as the subject matter will be flexible and fluid based on participant input and participation.

Un-learning Sessions invite experiences of other ways of engaging learning and engaging each other as our time together will be guided by questions, thoughts, and participant input. Un-learning Sessions offer ways to access learning through a different lens, which activates a process about how we perceive, understand, and relate to cultures, knowledge, and traditions while we're learning.

Facilitated by Alan Lechusza Aquallo (Luiseno Nation & Maidu Nation)

Register HERE:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtdeyhqDMoGtA00hzELbBbjCfy5nGwLb7h>

2021 National Day of Mourning

Thursday, Nov. 25 - Beginning at 9am PT / 10 MT / 11 CT / 12pm ET

Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA (hill above Plymouth Rock)

[Live streaming here](#)

Hosted by the United American Indians of New England

An annual tradition since 1970, Day of Mourning is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day. Many of us fast from sundown the day before through the afternoon of that day. We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. NDOM is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in action.

Over the years, participants in Day of Mourning have buried Plymouth Rock a number of times, boarded the Mayflower replica, and placed ku klux klan sheets on the statue of William Bradford, etc.

For those who live far away from Plymouth, you can still participate by [watching the live stream](#) of the days events &/or [making a donation](#).

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 18th topic is “Major Influences Impacting Our Lives.”** What major world influences, like Viet Nam, your birth culture, or the real estate crash of 2008 have affected your life? 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.

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

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 YUng Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Dec 12th 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.

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: It takes over 50 years for leather shoes to break down in a landfill. Be sure to buy quality comfortable shoes, not just the latest fashion. And as they wear, take them to the shoe repair shop. In the long run, it will help your feet, save you money, and help the environment.

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

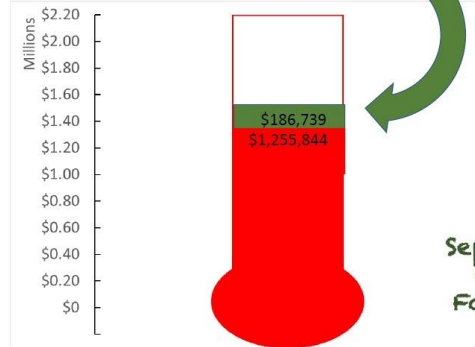
Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase property and build our church ourselves.

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:

- 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 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.