



Celebrating 27 Years

Jon Kitner/Spiritual Art

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
11850 W State Rd 84, A-9, Davie, FL 33325

Welcome to our River of Grass Family

Welcome to our Love; Welcome Home

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Thursday, April 8, 2026

Sunday Service April 12, 2026

Monthly Worship Theme: Embracing Possibility

### The Factory of Dreams

Rita Cherubini

"Don't ask what will happen; Be what happens."

Rebecca Solnit



Let your mind float back to your own forgotten dreams, accomplishments, and even failings.

Think deeply about who you were, are,  
and who you want to be.

Growing doesn't stop just because you're older.

You are the wise one now....

## ***Our Mission***

*We nurture our spirits, love intentionally,  
and work to create a just and healthy planet.*

Come as you are Sunday morning at 10:30 – either  
**in-person in Davie:** 11850 W SR 84, A-9, Davie, FL 33325  
or **virtually on YouTube LiveStream** (link below).

Childcare provided

**Flowing River Sangha** with Gary Gonzalez  
Sunday in A-9; Zoom below. Gather 8:15, start 8:30

We come together to lament with, celebrate with,  
& care for one another in our community & our world.



## **Children's & Youth's Faith Development 10:30am**



This Sunday, our Middle School anti-racists will be  
exploring the concept of power.

Who has it, how did they get it, and what's  
our role in deciding?

They'll learn to use their power to decipher fake  
news from accurate news and be reminded of the  
power of voting.

Our Youngers will be focusing on just what  
Racism is and what Black Lives Matter means.  
We'll all explore how our Unitarian Universalist  
faith calls us to take this journey.

*For more information about our FD program for kids,  
contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at  
[religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org)*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChJNmoySFzsKskHmsjkZe2g>

[riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org)

Flowing River Sangha:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/646777873?pwd=WHZaNjJQNWF5T0t6UW1kRIFLTVcyZz09#success>





# Google Workspace

New Member Accounts Coming Soon!

River of Grass is moving to Google Workspace to provide a more secure "Member-only" digital home.

In the coming days, watch your inbox for your new [@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:@riverofgrassuu.org) login credentials.

What are the changes for you?

- Google Meet:

This is a Google equivalent to Zoom for our virtual services and meetings.

- Member Library:

Your login is the "key" to private directories and documents.

- Login Only:

This is not a new email address; please continue using your personal email for all church correspondence.

# River of Grass Masquerade Ball and Auction April 18, 2026, 5-9

Long Key Nature Center 3501 SW 130 Ave, Davie



Discover a world of possibility  
at the River of Grass  
Masquerade Ball and Auction.

We like to party - enjoy an Elegant Dinner,  
Dancing to a live jazz trio  
and a Silent Auction.

Bring your friends and neighbors.

Masks and Flowers are encouraged.

Formal to cocktail attire.

QR codes for 3 tiers of tickets below.



Elly auction@riverofgrassuu.org

***QR codes to purchase tickets are below:***

ROG 2025/2026 Auction -  
Suggested Price



Suggest price \$50

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5M69RBS5SHEXG>

2025/2026 Auction Ticket -  
Pay it Forward



Pay it forward \$80

I can afford to help others who can't afford to buy a ticket at the suggested price.

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/6Z5NRPZSSPB88>

2025/2026 Auction Ticket -  
Economy



Economy \$30

Finances are tight, but I can afford the economy price.

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/TSSZ5DJV32RYS>



Our decor team is excited to create an enchanted garden for this year's auction! We are looking to borrow some items you may have available to lend.

Please bring candle stick holders or small clear vases to the River this Sunday, - labeled with your name.

## *Eat, Play, Love*



### **Community Potluck and Trivia for all ages**

Join us at A-9 for potluck and games tomorrow from 7 to 9pm, at our second Friday of the month

# Celebration of Life Barbara Ratchford



Sunday, April 26, 2026, 12:30 pm  
River of Grass

Rev Amy Carol Webb will preside.

Light Snacks

Personal Reflections  
are Welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:

The DHS William & Barbara Ratchford  
Scholarship Fund

c/o Danbury High School, 43 Clapboard Ridge Rd.  
Danbury, CT 06810

mUUVies presents

**A Special Viewing at River of Grass**

*Tonight 7pm A-9; also on Zoom*

# GOOD MEN

AN HONEST LOOK AT THE HEART OF MASCULINITY.



## **An Honest Look at the Heart of Masculinity**

Inspired by the birth of his grandson, filmmaker Bobby Roth gathered 50 friends – including Peter Coyote, Henry Winkler, and Michelle Satter – to take stock of their lives, loves, mistakes, & regrets in this wonderfully candid examination of the journeys these men have taken.

Produced by Monica Valdes,  
A member of River of Grass

Monica will host a Question and Answer after the viewing.

Zoom Link is below.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82583304230?pwd=umvc  
laaE9DesHRLSqfshN6OzUdlfs1.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82583304230?pwd=umvc<br/>laaE9DesHRLSqfshN6OzUdlfs1.1)

Meeting ID: 825 8330 4230

Passcode: 008596

# River of Grass Café Concert Series

Join us for an evening  
with singer, songwriter,  
instrumentalist.

# Billy Jonas



Saturday, April 25, 2026, A-9, 7pm

Doors open 6pm

\$30 advance; \$35 at the door

Food & Beverages available for donation





Update your anti-racist identity with this new UUA workshop fostering belonging and liberation in UU Congregations and Communities.

This Sunday, we will continue our anti-racism series with a focus on Addressing Historical and Contemporary Wrongs with Reparations.

Who has received them and who is still waiting?

We'll learn about H.R. 40 and the continued fight for Black Reparations on the House floor.

Join us at 12:15 in the sanctuary.

Karen Gonzalez, Director of Faith Development  
[Faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org)



London Drum Institute

## **Beating Hearts Drum Circle**

Friday, April 17, 7pm, A-9

Drum out the stresses of the days behind and find new rhythms for upcoming days.

Tap into the rhythms that are the heartbeat of life.

Bring your own drum or we have extras.

Contact Andy Bunce or Linda Lathroum  
[andrewbunce@att.net](mailto:andrewbunce@att.net)



## **Big Cypress National Preserve Interfaith Prayer Vigil To Shut Down Alligator Alcatraz**

**Every Sunday 4-5pm**

When we have a group to carpool, we meet at the  
River at 2:15 and depart by 2:30.

Please contact Andy Bunce or Susan Skach-Bejarano  
for carpool details: [andrewbunce@att.net](mailto:andrewbunce@att.net)

**SILENCE IS LOUD**



April 10th is the Day of Silence

*Take a vow of silence in support of LGBTQ+ youth.*

It is a campaign that sheds light on what many LGBTQ youth experience daily.

Initially intended to focus on this problem within the school system, it has since expanded into workplaces, university campuses, and sporting events.

Yearly, millions participate by staying silent for the duration of their day, representing the silencing of LGBTQ students.

2026 marks the 30th year of the first Day of Silence.

Originally held by students at the University of Virginia, in response to the bullying and harassment of LGBTQ+ students.

It has grown to a national day of action pushing back against the silencing of LGBTQ+ youth and the erasure of their experiences.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 9, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World**  
Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, April 9, 7pm Zoom **mUUVies Special Showing: Good Men**  
Kathy and Steve Jens-Rochow

Friday, April 10, 7pm A-9 **Eat, Play, Love** Karen Gonzalez

Sunday, April 12, 8:15am A-9 +Zoom **Flowing River Sangha**  
Gary Gonzalez

Sunday, April 12 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream **Worship Service -The Factory of Dreams** Robert Smith

Sunday, April 12, 10:30; A-9 **Children's Faith Development**  
Karen Gonzalez

Thursday, April 16, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World**  
Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, April 16, 7pm Zoom+A-9 **Men's Group** Ken Bresnahan

Friday, April 17, 6pm A-9 **Drum Circle** Linda Lathroum and Andy Bunce

*Saturday, April 18, 6 pm A-9 **Masquerade Ball, Dinner and Auction** Elly Keane*

Sunday, April 19, 8:15am A-9 +Zoom **Flowing River Sangha**  
Gary Gonzalez

Sunday, April 19 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream **Worship Service -The Factory of Dreams** Robert Smith

Sunday, April 19, 10:30; A-9 **Children's Faith Development**  
Karen Gonzalez

Thursday, April 24, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World**  
Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Friday, April 25, 7 pm **River of Grass Concert Series: Billy Jonas** Ken Bresnahan

Carolyn Santangelo & Scott May  
Mindfulness for Today's World  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82686665851?  
pwd=kF4kTZS0dA7mK3HM2FXXalsxV1bJX0.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82686665851?pwd=kF4kTZS0dA7mK3HM2FXXalsxV1bJX0.1)

Worship Service:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChJNmoySFzsKskHmsjkZe  
2g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChJNmoySFzsKskHmsjkZe2g)

Gary Gonzalez Sangha  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/46777873?pwd=WHZaNjJQNWF5T0t6U  
W1kRIFLTVcyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/46777873?pwd=WHZaNjJQNWF5T0t6UW1kRIFLTVcyZz09)

Karen Gonzalez [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org)

Andy Bunce [andrewbunce@att.net](mailto:andrewbunce@att.net)

Leana Bresnahan [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org)  
[membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org)

Steve Jens-Rochow. [stevejensrochow@gmail.com](mailto:stevejensrochow@gmail.com)

Ken Bresnahan [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org)  
Men's Group  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81490716445?pwd=NHV2akh4OURkQ2Y  
vcTdGdmw5VjY3dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81490716445?pwd=NHV2akh4OURkQ2YvcTdGdmw5VjY3dz09)

Kathy Jens-Rochow. [kjensrochow@gmail.com](mailto:kjensrochow@gmail.com)

Diane Lade [dlade@bellsouth.net](mailto:dlade@bellsouth.net)

Peter Meerwarth [musicdirector@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:musicdirector@riverofgrassuu.org)

Elly Keane [elly.keane19@gmail.com](mailto:elly.keane19@gmail.com)

# Order of Service for April 12, 2026

## **Morning Sing**

#1024 When the Spirit Says Do; Words and Music: African American Spiritual

#1017 Building a New Way; Words and Music: Martha Sandefer

O, Let us Gather; Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

## **Welcome/Ringing of the Chimes**

**Prelude** Here, There and Everywhere by The Beatles; River of Grass Musicians

## **Welcome Cont.**

**Call to Worship** Dwelling Place by Ullie Kaye

**Opening Music** #1059 May Your Life Be as a Song: Words: Jim Scott, Music: Yuri Zanitsky

**Chalice Lighting** by Jane Richardson

To keep turning toward this world, To keep turning your face

Toward this sky, to keep turning your heart

Toward this unendurable earth,

Knowing your heart will break

But turning it still.

I tell you this is how the stars get in your bones.

## **Covenant**

***English:** Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.  
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

***Spanish:** El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación  
y el servicio su ley principal. Esta es nuestra gran promesa:  
vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor,  
y ayudarnos mutuamente.*

**Offering/Offertory** Somewhere Over the Rainbow from The Wizard of Oz;  
Music by Harold Arlen & Lyrics by Yip Harburg

**Wisdom Story** "Leo the Lightning Bug" by Eric Drachman, illustrated by James Muscarello

## **Singing the Children to Classes**

**Special Music** A Song is a Wish; Song Writers: Mack David, Jerry Livingston and Al Hoffman

**Deepening Music** More of This by Ashley Mulcaire

## **Candles of Community**

## **Stones of Reflection /Pastoral Response**

**Musical Response** Music #370 Genevan Psalter, Words #381 by Isaac Watts

**Heritage** Beatrix Potter 1866-1943

**Hope** Rev Nancy Combs-Morgan, M.Div., CRE-LL

**Message** The Factory of Dreams Rita Cherubini

## **SENDING**

**Closing Music:** #1020 Woyaya; Words & Music Loughy Amos, Solomon Amarfio et al

## **Closing Words**

**Extinguishing the Chalice** Sometimes, written by Jan Richardson

## **Announcements/Invite to Hospitality**

## **Shine On/Reprise**



# River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

[riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org)

River of Grass UU Congregation is on FaceBook.

*Unsubscribe* - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email,  
please contact the office and  
you will be removed.

*Announcements wishing to be sent out in this weekly  
congregation-wide newsletter should be received  
by noon Wednesday.*

*All announcements will pertain to congregational life  
and affiliated groups and and will be for activities or  
events occurring within two weeks.*

*Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this  
vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must  
have the approval of the President.*

Steve Jens-Rochow, Editor  
[stevejensrochow@gmail.com](mailto:stevejensrochow@gmail.com)



# *Eat, Play, Love*



## **Community Potluck and Trivia for all ages**

**11850 State Road 84 suite A9**

**6:00pm-9:00pm**

