



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

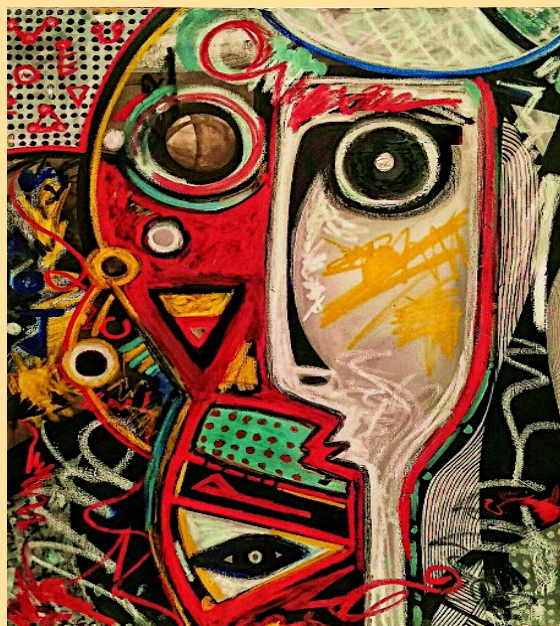
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Sunday Service August 16, 2026

Meeting the Moment Dialectically: Why Balance Matters

Andy Bunce



Dialectic by Magdalene Herring

Theodore Parker, a prominent Unitarian minister and abolitionist, advocated for social justice and the idea of progress through “the synthesis of ideas.”

His belief in ever-advancing truth reflects a dialectical approach to understanding morality & society.

The message is all about the dialectics that we encounter in this Universe we are a part of.

Simply put, dialectics refers to the dynamic, interconnected nature of this Universe we are experiencing, where opposing forces are often present simultaneously, inside of us, outside of us, between us, changing all the time.

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.



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

On Zoom only; link below;
Gather 8:15, start 8:30

In person River meditation will resume on Aug 30.

Mark Kmetzko will be the Zoom guide for August.

This Sunday,
our UU kids
will paint rocks.



Growing Family

For more information about our religious education
programs: faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org.

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

riverofgrassuu.org

Flowing River Sangha:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/646777873?pwd=WHZaNjJQNWF5T0t6UW1kRiFLTVcyZz09>

Sunday Worship in August

Monthly Theme: Meet the Moment

August 16 - Meeting the Moment Dialectically: Why Balance Matters; Andy Bunce

August 23 – A Call to Social Justice; Leana Bresnahan, Susan Skach-Bejarano, Kechi Mourer, Theo Lucas

August 30 – ?

Auction News

*Join the planning team
And make it happen!*

Do you want an auction this year?

We need a team to make it happen.

Our Annual Auction is scheduled for
December 5.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year.
We budgeted \$15,000 from the Auction!

Be part of the Auction excitement.

A virtual planning team meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday, August 19, at 6:30.

For the link, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at
kjensrochow@gmail.com.



Meet the Minister Events! Coffee & Tea with RevNick

If you are interested in getting to know our new minister, RevNick, a little better, we are setting up some times to chat with him in small groups.

Grab a cup of coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage and sit down with RevNick for an informal chat.

We are offering in-person dates at River of Grass during the day, and a few dates online via Zoom in the evening.

Come say hello, introduce yourself, ask questions, discuss hobbies, ideas, life, and everything that you're interested in!

Please note, that if you'd like to schedule a more personal, one-on-one conversation, you can do so by emailing RevNick at minister@riverofgrassuu.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

In Person Dates at River of Grass:

Tuesday, August 18: 10am – Noon

Monday, August 24: 10am – Noon

Monday, August 31: 10am - Noon

(and of course, Sundays after service!)

Online Dates via Zoom:

Monday, August 17: 6pm – 8pm

Tuesday, August 25: 6pm – 8pm

Tuesday, September 1: 6pm – 8pm

Zoom Link below



RevNick at UUA Headquarters in Boston
In front of portraits of Unitarian Minister William Ellory
Channing and Universalist Minister Hosea Ballou.

Hello River of Grass!

I am the RevNick Sanchez (he/him/él), and
I am delighted and excited to
be beginning this new chapter with you.

Each week, I hope to put a little bit more information
in the newsletter about myself so that you can all get
to know me a little better.

I was drawn to River of Grass because of its spirit, its
love of music, its desire to lean into new things, and
explore because of all of the small threads of
connection we share.

Did you know that in my ministerial internship, I
served the WellSprings UU Congregation
in Chester Springs, PA?

It was the second congregation started up by RevKen
Beldon – the same minister who planted
River of Grass!

In fact, my internship title was “Nick Sanchez –
Beldon Ministerial Intern.”

When I started my ministerial formation and began theology school classes, I was at a neighboring congregation up in Boca Raton.

It was there that I first worked with RevAmy Carol Webb.

She helped provide the music for the retirement ceremony for RevHarris Riordan – her own ministerial internship supervisor back in the day.

It was RevHarris who helped me discern my call to ministry and has been a mentor along the way.

In that same ceremony, I also worked with Rev. Dr. Rebekkah Savage – another name that might also be familiar to some here at the River.
[She was the wife of Ken Belden.]

I am a lifelong learner, and fell in love with philosophy early in life, and subsequently theology and religious studies – especially comparative religion, both of which I studied in my undergraduate years at Penn State.

One of my favorite philosophers is the pragmatist William James – when I read his *On The Varieties of Religious Experience*, I was hooked!

Imagine my delight to hear his quotation, “We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep,” at the end of our Candles of Community ceremony each week.

(William James has so many great quotations, but another personal favorite is “If you can change your mind, you can change your life”).

My bookshelves are filled with various philosophers, theologians, famous Unitarians and Universalists (like William Ellory Channing and Hosea Ballou whose portraits I am standing next to in the photo above).

And I absolutely love a deep discussion over life's big questions over a cup of coffee or tea.

Come join me!

In the coming weeks to months, I hope to listen a lot, learn much, worship deeply, laugh heartily, and dream big dreams.

I look forward to doing it all, with YOU.

Please come introduce yourself or say "hello" when you see me –

I am eager to get to know all of the people that make this beloved community what it is.

With joyous blessings! – RevNick





SWIM 2027 Many Voices One Community **January 27- February 2, 2027**

If you're dreaming of a future after-holiday getaway filled with music, reflection, friendship, and a little Florida sunshine, SWIM 2027 may be just the retreat you're looking for.

SWIM (Southeast Winter Institute in Mid Florida) - an intentional community of Unitarian Universalists and friends—will gather at the Franciscan Center on the Hillsborough River in Tampa, Florida.

Set on an 8-acre riverside estate, this week-long retreat offers the kind of setting that invites you to slow down, connect deeply, and enjoy both peaceful moments and lively community.

[SWIMUU.org](https://swimuu.org).

Follow us on Facebook: SWIMUU

Information: SWIMuuinfo@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 13, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Sunday, August 16, 8:15am Zoom Only **Flowing River Sangha**

Sunday, August 16, 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream **Sunday Service: Meeting the Moment Dialectically: Why Balance Matters;** Andy Bunce

Sunday, August 16, 10:30am A-9 **Children's Faith Development**

Thursday, August 20, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Sunday, August 23, 8:15am Zoom Only **Flowing River Sangha**

Sunday, August 23, 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream, **Sunday Service; A Call for Social Justice** Leana Bresnahan, Susan Skach-Bejarano, Kechi Mourer, Theo Lucas

Sunday, August 23, 10:30am A-9 **Children's Faith Development**

Sunday Service in A-1, about 2015



Carolyn Santangelo & Scott May

Mindfulness for Today's World

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82686665851?pwd=kF4kTZS0dA7mK3HM2FXXalsxV1bJX0.1>

Worship Service:

Gary Gonzalez Sangha

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

Karen Gonzalez religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org

Andy Bunce andrewbunce@att.net

Leana Bresnahan president@riverofgrassuu.org
membership@riverofgrassuu.org

Steve Jens-Rochow. stevejensrochow@gmail.com

Ken Bresnahan mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org

Men's Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81490716445?pwd=NHV2akh4OURkQ2YvcTdGdmw5VjY3dz09>

Kathy Jens-Rochow. kjensrochow@gmail.com

Diane Lade dlade@bellsouth.net

Peter Meerwarth musicdirector@riverofgrassuu.org

Elly Keane elly.keane19@gmail.com

Order of Service for August 16, 2026

Morning Sing Oh, Let Us Gather;

Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

Welcome

Prelude Turn, Turn, Turn by The Byrds

Welcome Cont.

Call to Worship Grounding by Jess Reynolds

Opening Music Just As Long As I Have Breath #6;

Words: Alicia S Carpenter, Music: Johann C Ebling

Chalice Lighting Light the Candle by Jess Reynolds

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.

Wisdom Story I Am Enough by Grace Byers,

Illustrations by Keturah A Bobo

Singing the Children to Classes

Offering/Offertory

Deepening Music Both Sides Now by Judy Collins

Candles of Community

Stones of Reflection

Pastoral Response

Heritage and Hope

Message Meeting the Moment Dialectically:

Why Balance Matters Andy Bunce

Closing Music Ironie by Alannis Morissette

Closing Words The Music of the Spheres

by Ernest Cardenal

Extinguishing the Chalice

Announcements

Invite to Hospitality

Shine On

Music Reprise Turn, Turn, Turn by The Byrds



River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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 and Art Director
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