



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

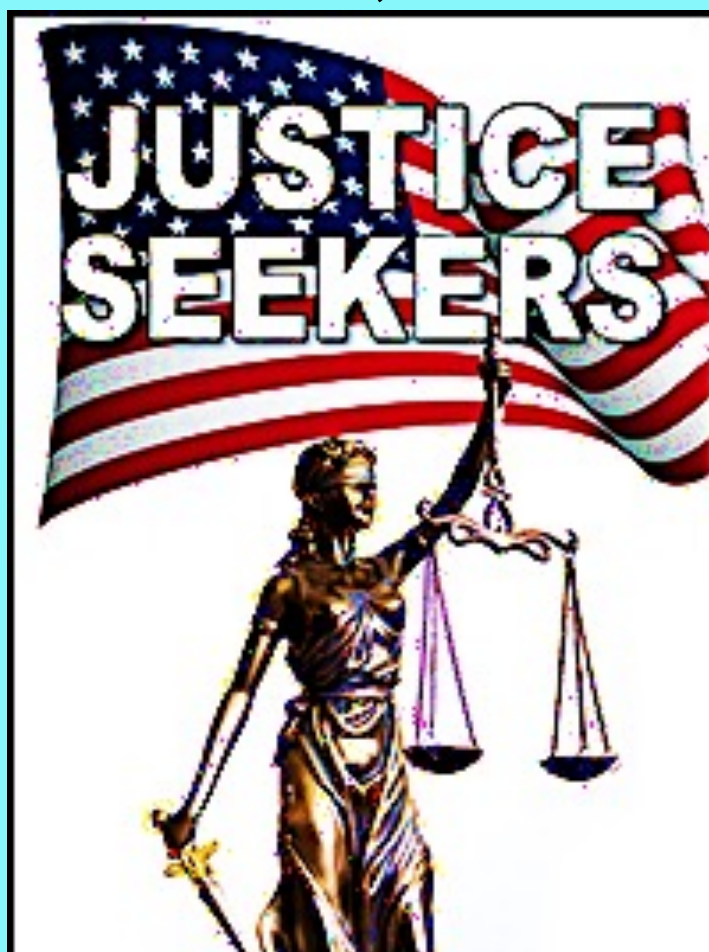
Thursday, August 20, 2026

Sunday Service August 23, 2026

Justice Seekers Meet the Moment

A Call to Social Justice

Leana Bresnahan, Susan Skach-Bejarano,
Kechi Mourer, Theo Lucas



*How can we keep love at the
center of our justice work?*

Justice Seekers Leana Bresnahan, Theo Lucas,
Kechi Mourer, and Susan Skach-Bejarano
will explore how we can hold love
for our global family in our hearts,
in the face of injustice and overwhelming despair.

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,
passing them
around so each
kid adds their
own creation.



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>

River Justice Seekers



Postal Food Drive 2019



We the People July 2 2023

River Justice Seekers



South Dade Teen Migrant Detention center 2022



MLK parade 2019



MLK parade 2023

River Justice Seekers



NoKings Young Circle, Hollywood March 2024



Alligator Alcatraz

Sunday Worship in August

Monthly Theme: Meet the Moment

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

August 30 –



River Justice Seekers



Auction News

*Be part of the
Auction excitement!
And make it happen !*

**We are growing our team.
We have lots of fun things
to plan!**

So, come join us!

**Our Annual Auction is scheduled for
Saturday, December 5.**

***This Year's Theme:
River's Got Talent***

**Live and Silent Auction
Wine and Beer**

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

Kathy 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:

Monday, August 24: 10am – Noon

Monday, August 31: 10am - Noon

(and of course, Sundays after service!)

Online Dates via Zoom:

Tuesday, August 25: 6pm – 8pm

Tuesday, September 1: 6pm – 8pm

Zoom Link below

Hello again River of Grass! Rev. Nick (he/él) here again - Each week I hope to share a little bit more about me, your new minister.

It is so hard to break down such a full life into a few paragraphs but here it goes!

I am an elder millennial, father, husband, brother, twin, thinker, fixer, lover, learner, fighter, healer, musician, tinkerer, carver, drummer, writer, reader, sailor, crafter, swimmer, philosopher, helper, joker, dreamer, and so much more.

So, let's start with some basics about me.

I grew up in Pennsylvania, enjoying its woodlands, lakes, and streams.

I have a biological family, a foster family, a chosen family, and of course – the family I started with my partner, Katie.

That family has grown to include our daughter Willow, and we are expecting our son in the coming months.

I learned long ago that family means so much more than blood relations, and I consider myself blessed to have been able to welcome so many folx into what I consider my family, to love them fiercely and deeply, and to share in this wild ride we call life.

I have been many things, held many jobs, and “worn a lot of hats” over the years.

For a long time, I would joke that I consider myself a philosopher... but to pay the bills I have been a locksmith, bartender, emergency medical technician, researcher, salesman, writer, painter, carpenter, project manager, handyman, store manager, caregiver, waiter, appliance technician, pizza deliverer, entrepreneur, construction estimator, operations manager, and so much more.

Yet, despite all of the jobs I have held over the years, all of the things I have fixed, problems I have solved, or teams that I have worked with – I have come to realize that I have always been a minister in my heart.

The call was always within me, even when I couldn't quite understand it.

From a very early age I can remember companioning friends through life struggles, precociously exploring life's deep questions (often to the chagrin of my teachers – who just wanted to focus on teaching me multiplication or cursive and not have deep, existential questions with a nine-year-old), and offering all that I could to those in need.

I now have words for what I think was underneath all of that: a deep-seated spiritual need to put more love into the world – to put love at the center of all that we do.

There is one other thing I want you to know about me: I live with multiple disabilities.

You probably wouldn't guess it from seeing me most Sundays, but they are there.

They are largely invisible and are pain-related, and sometimes they exacerbate one another.

Occasionally, you may see me walking with a cane or another mobility aid.

Sometimes I'll be wearing multiple braces – often on my back or knees.

You may see me grimace from time to time, or notice my mouth or eyes twitch.

All of this is normal for me. If you see me like this, I am okay, it is simply part of who I am and how I move through the world.

Rarely, but sometimes, I have a particularly difficult period where my brain gets a little overwhelmed by all the pain signals coming in.

When that happens, I may move or speak strangely, and most often that means I start to mumble.

If that happens, please don't hesitate to ask me to repeat myself - in fact, *please do!*

I don't always recognize when it's happening in the moment, and I rely on the folks around me to let me know.

Living with pain and disability has become something I have learned to navigate, but I am certainly not a spokesperson for everyone who experiences pain or disability.

Everyone experiences their bodies differently, and everyone navigates disability differently.

I am sure that, at some point throughout the year, I will talk and preach about disability, invisible disability in particular, pain, and what it means to navigate this perfectly imperfect vessel we call a body.

I am excited to share more of myself in the weeks, months, and years to come, but I am also eager to learn more about *you*!

Come say hello when you see me, shoot me an email (minister@riverofgrassuu.org) , or come join one of our “Meet the Minister” events.

I would love to hear your stories, learn what brings you joy, listen to the sorrows you carry, discover what makes you curious, and get to know the people who make River of Grass the wonderful community that it is.

After all, being your minister isn't just about you getting to know me. It's about all of us getting to know one another.



RevNick with his cane, preaching at WellSprings.



RevNick, problem solving some tech issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, August 22, 1pm A-9, **Leadership Round Table** Kathy Jens-Rochow

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**
Stone painting

Thursday, August 27, 6pm Zoom **Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Saturday, August 29, 9-4 A-9 **Board Retreat** Leana Bresnahan

Sunday, August 30, 8:15am Zoom Only **Flowing River Sangha**

Sunday, August 30, 10:30am A-9 + YouTube Livestream, **Sunday Service - ?**

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

NoKings in Young Circle, Hollywood, March 2024



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 23, 2026

Morning Sing

Draw the Circle Wide; Words and Music: Gordon Light,
Oh, Let Us Gather; Words and Music by RevAmy Carol Webb

Welcome

Prelude Three Little Birds; by Bob Marley

sWelcome Cont.

Call to Worship Be the Wave by Rev Nancy McDonald Ladd

Opening Music How Could Anyone? Words and Music: Libby Roderick

Chalice Lighting The Sacred Power of Justice by Jami Yandle

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 We: The Book of Community by Susan Verde, art
by Peter H Reynolds

Singing the Children to Classes

Offering/Offertory

Offertory Music Love Will Guide Us #131; Words: Sally Rogers, Music:
Traditional

A Litany of With-ness

Originally by Phillip Lund, adapted by River Justice Seekers

Deepening Music I am Willing by Holly Near

Candles of Community

Stones of Reflection

Pastoral Response

Messages

Susan Skatch-Bejarano What can I do? (Chili is Resistance)

Leana Bresnahan: We Are One

Theo Lucas: Love and Disagreement

Closing Music Lift Every Voice and Sing #149; Words: James Weldon
Johnson, Music: J Rosamund Johnson

Extinguishing the Chalice Let Us Be that Circle by Craig Rowland

Closing Words UUs for Justice

Announcements

Invite to Hospitality

Shine On / Music Reprise



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.*

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