

**Celebrating  
25 Years**

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

11850 W State Rd 84, Ste 9, Davie, FL 33325

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## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**Welcome to our River of Grass Family  
Welcome to our Love; Welcome Home**

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**

**Sunday Service December 8, 2024**



### **STARS OVER JERUSALEM: Pluralism in Practice**

*Pluralism: We celebrate that we are all sacred beings,  
diverse in culture, experience, and theology.*

*We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible  
search for truth and meaning.*

*We embrace our differences and commonalities with  
Love, curiosity, and respect.*  
- *Unitarian Universalist Values: Article II, 2024*

What do we mean by, and live into “Pluralism.” – especially as a core value of our Unitarian Universalist faith in practice? How wide our circle? How intentional our inclusion? How enduring our embrace of one another in an increasingly plural, but even more deeply divided, world? Join us to draw our circles wide and wider still this second Sunday of the Season of Light at River of Grass!

Come as you are at 10:30 this Sunday morning – either in-person at our new location in Davie (info below) or virtually on Zoom and Facebook Live. Come a bit before and we can chat prior to the service. We’ll be watching for you!

**Come worship with us in person at:**

- 11850 W State Road 84, Suite A9, Davie, FL 33325
- Service will begin at 10:30 AM
- Children’s and youth’s Faith Development begins at 10:30pm
- Childcare will be provided.

**Virtually:**

**Go to Zoom link below.**

Or catch us live on Facebook on the Facebook page below.

**The Order of Service is at the end of this newsletter**

**Faith Development for Kids and Youth:**

In our Faith Development program for kids and teens this week, we are continuing our theme of Pluralism by taking a look at our Christian roots.

Our Bibleodeon class will be reading the Christmas story in the New Testament, and sharing their family's holiday traditions. They'll discuss why UUs celebrate the holiday and make a holiday ornament.

**Worship Service:** <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>  
Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805  
Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

<https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>.

ReligiousEducator@riverofgrassuu.org

**Meditation:**

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

## Faith Development, Continued

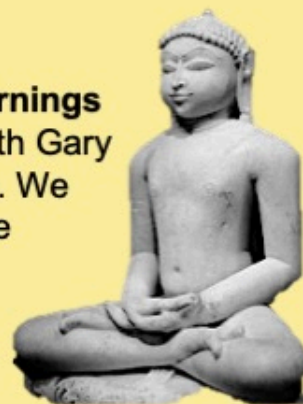
Our Building Bridges group will be venturing into Christianity and learning how it fits into religious history. They'll hear the life story of Jesus, and deepen their understanding of doctrine and scripture.

For more information, reach out to our Religious Educator, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

## Multi-platform Mindfulness Meditation on Sunday Mornings

Good news! We have returned to in-person meditation with Gary Gonzalez every Sunday morning at River of Grass at A-9. We will gather at **8:30 am** and **begin meditating at 8:45**. The meditation sessions are available via Zoom as well. Link below.

"I look forward to sitting with you again, be it in person or remotely."



***River of Grass Connection Circles are Back!  
and they are Calendared!***

Good news! We're back on the calendar for connection circles older and newer, as Rev. Amy leads explorations of our lives in the company of others on this path of human spirituality – and spiritual humanity. Three, count 'em **THREE**, return this very month, the rest in January, continuing through early June.

Here are the details:

**Good Grief Bereavement Group** – Dec. 17, 7pm, A9 and Zoom  
(1st Tuesdays, 7pm; ongoing, see RoG calendar)

Gather with this circle of sojourners of all kinds as we navigate life after loss, using Francis Weller's "The Wild Edge of Sorrow" as our guide.

**Welcome Table Communion Circle** – Dec. 19, 7pm, A9 and Zoom  
(3rd Thursdays, 7pm; ongoing see RoG calendar)

Join us for a Unitarian Universalist communion ritual remembering the life of Jesus of Nazareth and its teachings for our own lives in the 21st century.

**Baby, Bathwater, and the Bible: or, How to Take the Bible Seriously but Not Literally**

Dec. 22, 12:15pm, following service

(4th Sunday monthly as ongoing Second Helping Sunday opportunity, see RoG Calendar)

Join us to explore the differences between big-T Truth and little-t truth, the uses of metaphor and meaning, and how the historic weaponization of the Bible has built barriers between us and its wisdom – and between us and our neighbors.

**What Dreams May Come: Dream Reflection Group**

Jan. 21, 7pm, A9 and zoom

(3rd Tuesdays, 7pm; ongoing see RoG calendar)

Guided by Jungian theory, we'll explore our dreams as gateways to meaning for our lives!

**The Beat Goes On Drum Circle**

Jan. 31, 7pm, A9 only (drumming just doesn't do well on zoom)

(Monthly, last Friday, 7pm; ongoing, see RoG Calendar)

Bring your drum or enjoy one of ours the last Friday of each month to drum out the stresses of the days behind and find new rhythms for ones to come. No drum, no problem -- we have plenty. No experience, also no problem – use your inner drummer.



## **Our ROG Café returns!**

The Glen Friedman Jazz Quintet will perform their

### **Cool Jazz Holiday & Seasonal Favorites**

**At River of Grass [A-9] on Sunday, December 8, 6-8**

The band features Glen Friedman on trumpet & piano, our own **Aaron Stang** on guitar, Ethan Neuburg on bass, Derek Simms on trumpet & Jason Furman on drums.

Special guest **Cecilia Roy** will join to sing a few songs as well.

**All** proceeds benefit River of Grass; refreshments & snacks will be available. Bring family and friends to fill up the 60 seats.

*Tickets are \$25 each and are AVAILABLE **NOW***

Use the QR Code or link below to buy & reserve your seats **NOW!**

Questions, ask Ken Bresnahan at the email address below.





**Grand Canyon**



**Iceland**



**Tuscany**

## **Epic Adventures Deadline now Dec. 9 at 7pm**

The Auction committee has extended the 3 Adventure Trips' deadline. This gives you time to talk to your family or friends to plan your trip. Once you have decided on the trip(s) you want to do simply go to [silentauctionpro.com](http://silentauctionpro.com) enter our code G1763 and purchase your Adventure Trip.

People have inquired how it works: about 14 days after we close the adventure trips you will receive a certificate. Within 60 days you need to confirm you have received your certificate. Then you have up to 12 months to book your trip.

This trip can be taken up to 2 years from when you make the reservation.

(Almost like you have 3 years to take your trip!)

The company has expressed that occasionally the special date you have in mind may have already been booked. So, some flexibility may be needed.

These are fixed prices with a markup so that ROG makes a profit on each adventure sold. Share with your friends.

The more we book the more ROG makes.

**A flier for each Adventure is below**

Silentauctionpro.com

Church id G1763. enter your bidder number

**Grand Canyon**



file:///Users/stephenjens-rochow/Downloads/Auction%  
20Grand%20Canyon%20\$%20(1).pdf

### **Iceland**

file:///Users/stephenjens-rochow/Downloads/Auction%  
20fire%20and%20Ice%20iceland%20AND%20\$%20(4).pdf

### **Tuscan Sun**

file:///Users/stephenjens-rochow/Downloads/Auction%  
20Tuscan%20inder%20the%20sun%20\$%20(2).pdf

Elly Keane [Auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Auction@riverofgrassuu.org)



## LifeNet4Families

is in dire need of donations: non-perishable food, cans, protein [tuna, chili, peanut butter, baked beans], men's clothing, and toiletries. And Christmas toys.

Every week please bring your donations to church and put them in the large basket in the hall.

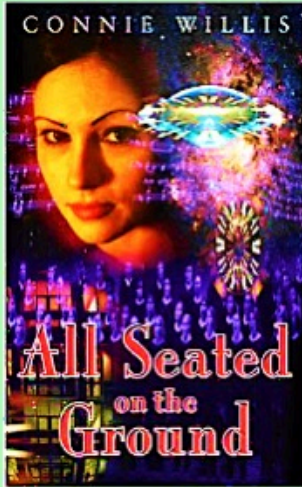
“Service is our law”



Rachel Malca at [LifeNet@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:LifeNet@riverofgrassuu.org) is very close to reviving our monthly service opportunity at LifeNet4Families on fourth Saturday morning.

Yay Rachel!

Chat with her during Coffee Hour



bUUKies December read is **All Seated on the Ground** by Connie Willis  
This is set at Christmas – perfect for December.  
*The aliens have landed! The aliens have landed!*  
But instead of shooting death rays, taking over the planet and carrying off Earthwomen, they've just been standing there for months on end, glaring like a disapproving relative. And now it's nearly Christmas, and the commission assigned to establish communications is at their wits' end.

bUUKies will discuss “All Seated on the Ground” on Wednesday, December 18, at 7pm. Zoom is below.

mUUVies December viewing is **The Beautiful Game**. *Amusing, uplifting, it puts the emphasis on play and uplift.*  
The documentary celebrates the healing power of team sports for those who are pushed to society's margins by misfortune. As an English soccer squad heads to Rome for the Homeless World Cup, their talented new player must let go of his past and learn to be part of a team. A feel-good story with a happy-ending that revolves around the fortunes of a half dozen unhoused men. Directed by Thea Sharrock. On Netflix.



mUUVies for Change will discuss “The Beautiful Game” on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7pm. The Zoom is below



[bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org)

bUUKies Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/95865321771?pwd=B0ZyYgWc5bxHJQY8j4ESaIZFCbtu8M.1>

Meeting ID: 958 6532 1771; Passcode: 436687

One tap mobile: +13052241968, ,95865321771#,,,,\*436687# US

[mUUVies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mUUVies@riverofgrassuu.org)

mUUvies Zoom: Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114?pwd=eHI0OExyVWRTSUpRtZrRqWERvRUUp3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; Passcode: 537288



## **It's That Time of Year Again Only A Few Children Left**

As the holiday season quickly approaches, we are collecting toys and gift cards to distribute to the fostered children and youth in Broward and Palm Beach County. Let's help the children and youth that have been neglected, abused and abandoned experience the magic of the holiday season. You generously donated gifts to 50 kids last year.

This year, ChildNet want to make sure that every child or teen receives gifts in time for the holidays. All gifts and gift cards must be new and unwrapped for boys and girls up to 18 years of age. Nothing can even begin to replace the joy that these special gifts bring to the children in our community during the holiday season.

The deadline is Sunday, December 8. Please deliver or mail the gifts to Marilisa Lawless' porch. Or bring them to church on Dec. 8.

***Please choose a child from the Google Spread Sheet below:***



[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m0jODiQIC9UvJO4V-1sqcUfIINVgHagL\\_3SVYPKp9NY/edit?gid=0#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m0jODiQIC9UvJO4V-1sqcUfIINVgHagL_3SVYPKp9NY/edit?gid=0#gid=0)



**The River of Grass Choir** gathers at 9:30 every Sunday morning for warm-ups. We are working on “Draw the Circle Wide”. Please see Theo before or after service.



Choir practices are usually at 7pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 7pm. However, on Dec 8 we will not practice due to the concert. Please see Theo for location.

If anyone would like to know what musical pieces we are working on, please see Theo.

The Choir welcomes anyone who would like to join the Choir. Please see Theo.

**River of Grass Spiritual  
Artists' Open Studio  
at A-9, Sat., Dec. 7, 2pm**



We will start creating our Christmas Eve banners to make  
Old Davie School our own for the evening.  
We will use spray paint on paper using templates.

Come Help.  
As we create together in the company of others on this path of  
human spirituality in our River of Grass community.



Spiritual Art's Central Park Elementary School Banners 2004



**THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**United Nations Human Rights Day**

**December 10, 2024; An Annual Celebration.**

In 1948, the United Nations approved this major statement on human rights.

Eleanor Roosevelt led the adaptation.

This human rights concept is often mentioned  
in anti-racism work,  
in support of women's rights,  
in support of indigenous peoples,  
in support of LGBTQ-plus people.

(By coincidence, December 10th is also the day when the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded.)

## **Order of Service for Sunday, December 8, 2024**

### **GATHERING**

Morning Sing  
Ringing of the Chimes  
Prelude "True Colors" (Cyndi Lauper)  
Welcome  
Call to Worship "Out of Many Singular Rooms"  
Theme Hymn "Draw the Circle Wide"  
Chalice Lighting  
*To a world so much in darkness  
We kindle this flame  
For life born anew  
On the earth  
And in our hearts  
For this is the Season of Light. (Webb)*

### **CONNECTING**

Covenant  
DEEPING  
Deepening Music – #318, We Would Be One  
Candles of Community  
Stones of Reflection  
Pastoral Response  
Sung Response (Music #371, text #381)  
Wisdom Story "Jerusalem Sky" (by Mark Podwal)  
Singing Youth to Class  
Heritage and Hope  
Growing the Beloved Community  
Offering / Offeratory #402, From You I Receive  
Message – STARS OVER JERUSALEM: Pluralism in Practice

### **SENDING**

Closing Music – #128, One More Step  
Closing Words  
Extinguishing Chalice  
Invite to Zoom and Live Hospitality  
Sending/Shine on  
Music Reprise





# UPCOMING EVENTS

*All email addresses or links are below*

Thursday, December 5, 6pm

**Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Saturday, December 7, 2-4pm

**Spiritual Art Open Studio A-9** Steve Jens-Rochow

Sunday, December 8, 8:30am

**Flowing River Sangha** at A-9 Gary Gonzalez

Sunday, December 8, 10:30am **Worship Service** Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Sunday, December 8, 10:30am

**Children and Youth Faith Development** Karen Gonzalez

Sunday, December 8, 6pm, A-9 **Glen Friedman Jazz Quintet**

**Cool Jazz Holiday** & **Seasonal Favorites**

Thursday, December 12, 6pm

**Mindfulness for Today's World** Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

Thursday, December 12, 7pm Zoom

**mUUvies** The Beautiful Game - Kathy and Steve Jens-Rochow

Sunday, December 15, 8:30am

**Flowing River Sangha** at A-9 Gary Gonzalez

Sunday, December 15, 10:30am **Worship Service** Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Sunday, December 15, 10:30am

**Children and Youth Faith Development** Karen Gonzalez

Sunday, December 15, 12-2pm A-9 **Holiday Gathering**

Carolyn Santangelo and Scott May

[Scott@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Scott@insightinstitutellc.com) [Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com)

Gary Gonzalez <https://riverofgrassuu.org/sunday-meditation.html>

Worship Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

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

Steve Jens-Rochow [SpiritualArt@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:SpiritualArt@riverofgrassuu.org)

[mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mUUvies@riverofgrassuu.org)



## Green Tip of the Week

Avoid plastic toys. Instead buy wooden toys.



To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website posted on the page below  
River of Grass UU Congregation is on **FaceBook**. For more information, please contact us at the community awareness email below

*Unsubscribe* - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email to our office [email below] and we will remove you from the mailing list.

*Announcements wishing to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed to the email below by noon Wednesday.*

*All announcements will pertain to congregational life and affiliated groups and will be for activities or events occurring within two weeks of the e-mail. Outside groups and individuals, wishing to use this vehicle of congregation-wide communication, must have the approval of the Board of Trustees.*



[communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org)

[office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)

[WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org)