

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

## ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2024-2025 OPENING DOORS TO TOMORROW!

Dear Members & Friends!

This month we will move into our 24 / 7 home. As we plan next year's programs, based on the funds WE ALL pledge, we focus on "Opening Doors to Tomorrow." We know that tomorrow will not be like what we have lived before. New challenges will cry out for new ways of living our values. We will be able to do as much as the resources we are collectively able and willing to provide.



This year, the Annual Pledge Drive runs from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>. Our goal is 100% participation. Each pledge is vitally important. Please give generously, filling out your pledge card by clicking at this link:



<https://riverofgrassuu.org/2024-2025-pledge-card.html>

It feels like a momentous time, an important moment in the story of River of Grass! After all, we just turned twenty-five! We celebrated our birthday by remembering and re-telling our story, by welcoming back beloved friends, by dancing and singing, and by beginning to envision together what our future will be. As we celebrated, the joy and love so many felt for this beloved community we call "The River" was palpable.



We know that River of Grass has always been, is now, and forever will be about US, its members and friends. River of Grass and its good work in the world is only possible because of what WE commit to do together. If we are to provide a sanctuary where all are cherished for who they are, and a home for a free search for truth and meaning; if we are to create more love and justice in our community and the world; and if we are to create ways to live responsibly on our beautiful Blue Boat Home....it is entirely up to us.

Many blessings,

*Leana Bresnahan Rita Cherubini*

Leana Bresnahan & Rita Cherubini,  
Co-Chairs 2024-2025 Annual Pledge Drive  
Contact: [stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org)



## RIVER OF GRASS LEADERS



Twenty-five years ago, a group of passionate Unitarian Universalists set out to establish a home for liberal religion in Western Broward County, sanctuary to refuel and reflect on the work of liberation calling them to action.

We are called to live into that bold vision, to live into this transforming faith for generations to come. If ever our world needed the principles of Unitarian Universalism, it is now. If ever there were a group of folks who were called to build a new way in this world, it is us – with profound opportunities afforded us to re-imagine our life and work together on the threshold of a new era! If ever there were a day to dig deep, rise up, and feed the future of our faith, it is today and River of Grass is the place. We are the ones. What better way to celebrate 25 years than to give from our very bones for the new day rising in us and through us!

*Rev. Amy Carol Webb*  
*Minister*



## RIVER OF GRASS LEADERS

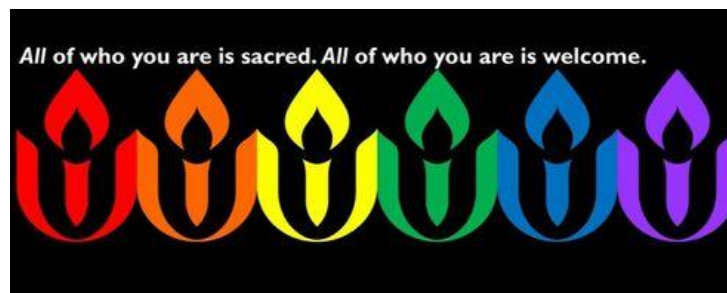


We are truly the Beacon of Liberal Religion in western Broward County. Supporting River of Grass through pledges has a real impact on the world.

Because we now reach outside of our walls as we offer religious services and community virtually along with our in-person services. We now touch people all around the country and even the world.

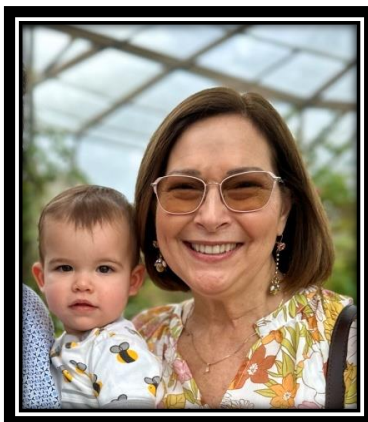
As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are moving into another phase of life at our beloved River community: moving into our temporary home. And we continue our search for a permanent home. The path is not a simple clear one, but we will rise to the occasion as we always do. We need everyone to financially support this drive so we can plan as best we can for this unpredictable future. Every gift is important, no matter how small. Please support our future with a pledge to the River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Annual Pledge Drive.

*Kathy Jens Rochow*  
*President*



## RIVER OF GRASS LEADERS

River of Grass has a long history of nurturing the spirits of our children and youth to help them engage with their faith as they grow into it. They are an integral part of our community, and we are the richer for it.



Your financial contributions help ensure that we never lose sight of giving them the support they need. And as we continue to rebuild our vibrant program, our efforts will reach out to the wider community to provide needed resources for families who are finding it harder and harder to find life-affirming information and support elsewhere.

*Karen Gonzalez*  
*Director, Religious Education*



Everything we do is Faith Formation  
Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism  
The Congregation is the Curriculum

- Connie Goodbread

## WHAT DOES RIVER OF GRASS MEAN TO YOU?

I give to River of Grass so it will continue to thrive and be there to support my values and principles - “love,” “service,” “justice,” and “kindness to all.”

*Barbara Ratchford*

As members for several years, River of Grass has provided us with so many life enriching experiences through its Sunday services and the many other creative and fun activities that promote the greater good!

*Audrey & Aaron Stang*

The River guides me to purpose. The River’s strength shows me how it can build a new course that changes into what it can be. And that growth and transformation are real and possible – for all of us, for our children, for our world and even for me. The River surrounds us in community and its waters bless us. I give because I believe in the River. I give because I believe in you.

*Diane Lade*

As the river flows through our lives, the water has continued to nourish and provide clarity. The love force keeps its course as a compass and guide. As a path of justice, compassion and wisdom is carried by the River of Grass intentions, actions, and pulse. This vital congregation continues to warm hearts, feed souls and bring us all closer to home.

*Carolyn Sant Angelo*

## FAIR-SHARE GIVING GUIDE

Adjusted Monthly Income	Approx. Adjusted Annual Income	SUPPORTER 2-6% of Income		SUSTAINER 3-7% of income		VISIONARY 5-9% of income		TRANSFORMER 10% of income	
		Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge	Suggested % of income	Monthly Pledge
\$1,000	\$12,000	2%	\$20	3%	\$30	5%	\$50	10%	\$100
\$1,500	\$18,000	2%	\$30	3%	\$45	5%	\$75	10%	\$150
\$2,000	\$25,000	2%	\$40	3%	\$60	5%	\$100	10%	\$200
\$3,000	\$36,000	2%	\$60	3%	\$90	5%	\$150	10%	\$300
\$4,000	\$50,000	3%	\$120	4%	\$160	5%	\$200	10%	\$400
\$6,500	\$80,000	3%	\$195	4%	\$260	6%	\$390	10%	\$650
\$8,500	\$100,000	3%	\$255	5%	\$425	6%	\$510	10%	\$850
\$10,000	\$120,000	3%	\$300	5%	\$500	6%	\$600	10%	\$1,000
\$12,500	\$150,000	4%	\$500	5%	\$625	6%	\$750	10%	\$1,250
\$17,000	\$200,000	4%	\$680	6%	\$1,020	7%	\$1,190	10%	\$1,700
\$25,000	\$300,000	5%	\$1,250	6%	\$1,500	8%	\$2,000	10%	\$2,500
\$40,000	\$500,000	6%	\$2,400	6%	\$2,800	9%	\$3,600	10%	\$4,000

Here is the giving guideline, based upon involvement and income, proposed by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Supporter:** The Congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support.

**Sustainer:** The Congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation.

**Visionary:** My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and my spiritual principles.

**Transformer:** I am deeply committed to the Congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual practices in living out my UU principles.

## FAIR-SHARE GIVING GUIDE

This guide was created in alignment with the stewardship values of our faith tradition: *Each of us is individually and collectively responsible for resourcing our movement and our congregation.*

### 1. Calculate your Adjusted Monthly Income and find it on the chart.

To calculate your Adjusted Monthly Income, add all your sources of monthly income, and then subtract any unusual expenses, such as large medical expenses, care of a parent, or a large financial expense).

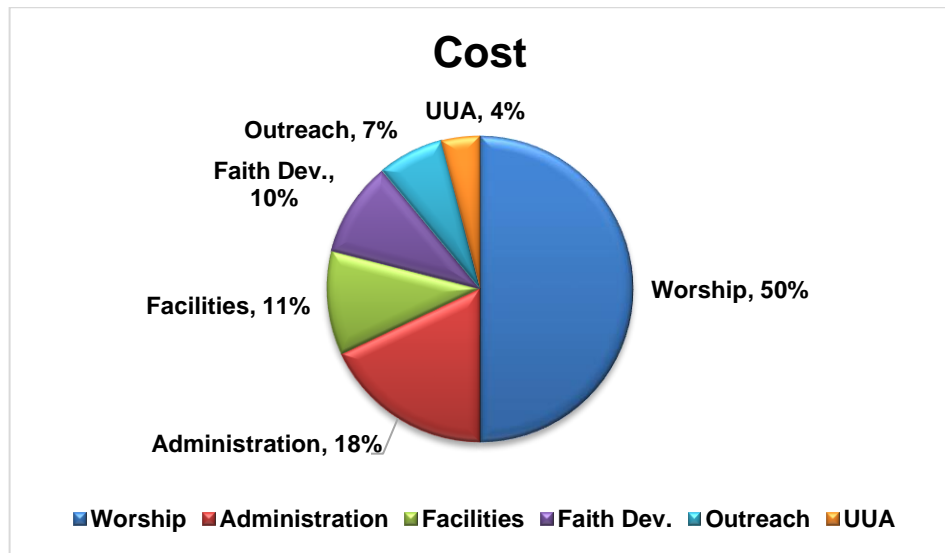
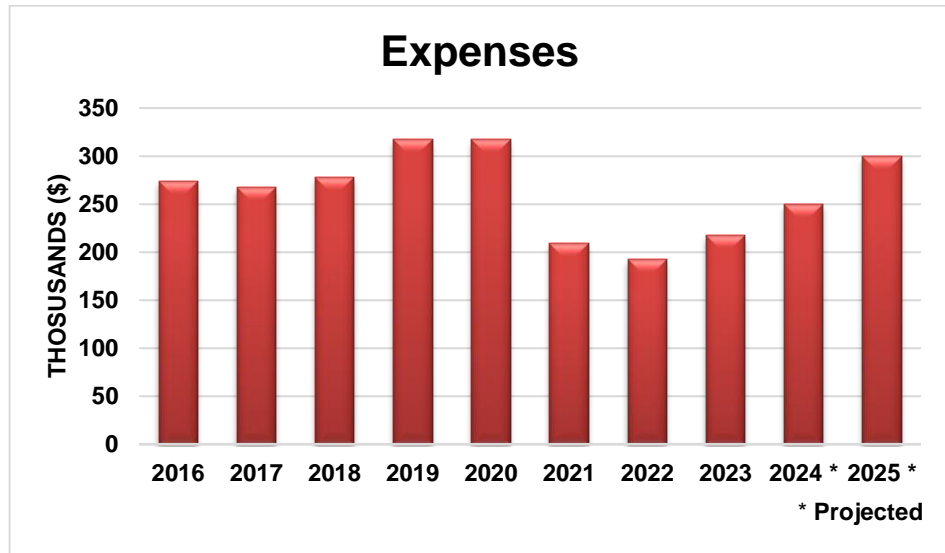
The flexibility to include meaningful and unusual exceptions in your financial life (income and expenses) is what makes the Guide fair and useful. This is an honor system; only you know your circumstances.

### 2. Choose your commitment level.

From the Adjusted Monthly Income column, look to the right to find the giving level that represents your commitment ability at this time. Consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation, as expressed in the four commitment levels.

Note that within each commitment level, the guide is progressive, with giving levels rising with capacity to give.

# EXPENSES



# WHAT WE NEED

To reach our \$225,000 pledge goal, we need:

# of Pledges	Range	Total
2	\$15,000 to \$30,000+	\$45,000
4	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$43,000
6	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$45,000
10	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$42,000
10	\$1,500 to \$2,999	\$19,000
12	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$15,000
17	\$500 to \$999	\$12,000
24	\$1 to \$499	\$4,000

Finances are important during this Annual Pledge Drive (APD) season, but our real goal is to give everyone an opportunity to reflect on:

- what brings you here,
- what keeps you coming back,
- the commitments both personal and spiritual we are all held to here,
- and the spiritual practice that is giving joyfully.

## What Is a Pledge?

A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money to the church operating budget during the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). It is a statement of intent; it is *not* a legally binding obligation. Please pledge generously and responsibly, as our budget is based on what we promise to pay. Pledges can be adjusted if your financial situation changes. Please advise our Assistant Treasurer if you have cause to increase or decrease your pledge. 10

# RIVER MOMENTS

As we moved more fully out of COVID throughout 2023, life began to look a little like it had before the pandemic, though we know so much remains changed. Many of us became accustomed once again to leaving the house on Sunday mornings to experience the joy of in-person community. New members continued to find us and we joyfully welcomed them.



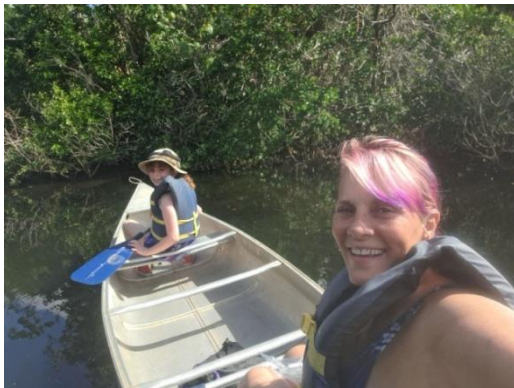
# RIVER MOMENTS

In 2023, our first full year of meeting weekly in person since COVID, Old Davie School began to feel like home.



# RIVER MOMENTS

Our connections to one another deepened through worship together, communing with nature and representing our values in the world.



# RIVER MOMENTS

Our children and youth are forever our focus, our treasure, and our future.



## RIVER MOMENTS

River of Grass turned 25 in February 2024! To mark the milestone, we held a week-long event! We began by re-telling our story in a worship service. Then during a Vespers Service, we reconnected with each other, while reverently remembering our beloved friends whose life journeys have ended. Our first minister, Rev. Ken Beldon, traveled from Philadelphia to join Rev. Amy in leading the service.



## RIVER MOMENTS

The next night we hosted a joyous and well-attended Dinner Party, Concert and Auction. Beloved former members traveled from places as far away as Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina to celebrate with us. There was so much love and joy in the room that night!





## RIVER MOMENTS

Finally, on Sunday we experienced the richness of our founding minister and our beloved Rev. Amy sharing the pulpit, inspiring with their reflections and dialogue. We ended the celebration with a kick-off envisioning session to begin planning the next 25 years together! And, of course, arm-in-arm singing and swaying to Blue Boat Home.



We are a  
**WELCOMING  
CONGREGATION**

LGBTQ are welcome as full  
members of our faith community.

## OPENING DOORS TO TOMORROW

We know that River of Grass has always been, is now, and forever will be about US, its members and friends. River of Grass and its good work in the world is only possible because of what WE commit to do together.

**IF** we are to provide a sanctuary where all are cherished for who they are, and a home for a free search for truth and meaning; **IF** we are to create more love and justice in our community and the world; and **IF** we are to create ways to live responsibly on our beautiful Blue Boat Home... **IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO US.**

Please give generously and responsibly to care for our Beloved Community and advance the values we share, as we open new doors and sail the universe.... together.



“The wide universe is the ocean we travel  
and the earth is our blue boat home.”