

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

---

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

---

River of Grass Weekly Update – January 13, 2022

## Thresholds & Crossroads: Justice at the Intersections Martin Luther King Sunday

Here we have arrived in the New Year, 2022. And not just any New Year, but also a new world calling for new navigations, new ideas, new solutions to both old and new challenges – and new hope.

Join us this Sunday morning at River of Grass for our Virtual MLK Sunday 2022 (while our area's COVID-19 metrics remains at "Severe Risk") at the link below. We'll talk about the thresholds before us and ways we can cross them, as well as the crossroads where history and hope meet – in us and our work in this time of shift and change.

We'll also hold our annual Fire Communion to release those things we wish to leave behind in sacred smoke as we affirm our way forward – together. We'll be watching for you.

Come as you are to gather with us for this Sunday's love-streamed service, remembering only the medium is virtual; the connections, the love, the spirit are real. Following the service, we will share virtual Hospitality time with a live chat and small groups where we can relish each other's beautiful faces and voices together once again.

Follow the link below to join us in Zoom – or if you'd like, we'll be simulcasting on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu/>. Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward.

We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

### **Topic: Worship January 16, 2022**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 961 564 350; Password: 873805

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

### ***Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:***

**Sunday, January 16, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am –**

Thresholds & Crossroads: Justice at the Intersections – Martin Luther King Sunday - Rev. Amy Carol Webb -

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

## Faith Development: Dragonflies 9:30am; Teens 12:00pm; Mockingbirds 1:30pm

In our Faith Development classes for children on Sunday, we'll talk about how our passions drive our intentions and remind us where our hearts lie. We'll make some "intention bracelets" that remind us to be true to what matters most. For more information about our FD program for children and youth, contact Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### INTERESTED IN FILM?

The Eighth Principle Team is starting a black film discussion group to explore race in America. We will see films on our own and meet on the second Wednesday of the month to discuss them. For our first film I suggest the current film "Passing".

"Passing", set in the 1920s, follows the unexpected reunion of two light skinned black high school friends. Claire has a beautiful dream of a life. Passing as white, she has a handsome husband who's a doctor, a pair of well-behaved children, an elegant New York City townhouse, and a maid to help keep her domestic life peaceful. By a chance encounter Irene enters that dream, disturbing its peace and threatening its careful illusions. The tension builds inexorably to the film's shocking climax.

Watch the movie "Passing" on your own (available on Netflix). We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, February 9, at 7pm to discuss this piercing, intense drama of passing for white. The film group will choose future films. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org) if you are coming.



### Other Events:

#### Free "Mindfulness for Today's World" weekly online sessions:

Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact [Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

#### Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) - Is there a better time to learn mindfulness?

Covid refuses to go away, so consider starting 2022 with mindfulness to build resilience and skills to respond more easily to life's daily ups and downs, keeping perspective, and being less stressed.

MBSR is an experiential 8-week research-based program developed at the UMass Medical School Stress Reduction Clinic in 1979. It cultivates your skills and strategies for handling stress and building resiliency, based on foundations of awareness, curiosity & compassion.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program (MBSR):

- Tuesdays 5:30-8pm, January 18<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Plus Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm.
- Free – Live & online
- [Click Here to Register](#)
- Carolyn Sant Angelo and Scott May are trained thru Univ California San Diego
- Take time for you, your self-care, and your well-being


**Start the Year with Mindfulness**  
**MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION (MBSR)**

- Cultivate your resources & strategies to reduce stress & build resiliency, with foundations of awareness, curiosity, & compassion.
- Participate in this research-based mindfulness program developed at the University of Massachusetts Medical School Stress Reduction Clinic in 1979.

**MBSR – 8 Weeks – Live Online**  
Tuesdays 5:30-8pm ET, January 18<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup> 2022  
Plus Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm ET

— FREE —

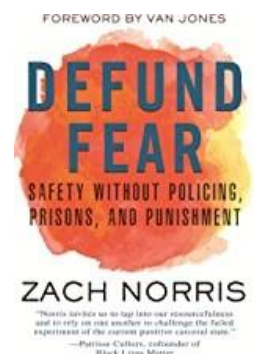
Register: [www.insightinstitutellc.com/classes](http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/classes)  
More Info: [www.insightinstitutellc.com](http://www.insightinstitutellc.com)  
Email: [info@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:info@insightinstitutellc.com)



**Got Stress?**

#### bUUKies announce the Common Read for January 2022: "Defund Fear" by Zach Norris:

Rev. Amy Carol Webb will facilitate the January meeting of BUUKies where we will discuss the 2021-22 UUA'S Common Read. [Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment](#) by Zach Norris. Zach Norris shifts the conversoperty anation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has



been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a new blueprint for public safety that holds people accountable while still holding them in community.

**BUUKies will meet with Rev. Amy on Wednesday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** The book is available on Amazon or Beacon Press: [http://www.beacon.org/cw\\_Search.aspx?k=defund+fear](http://www.beacon.org/cw_Search.aspx?k=defund+fear).

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92657017488?pwd=VFc2TVByMnJFUGdROXVZUkt1dVdOQT09>

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,\*746613# US (Washington DC)

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Jens-Rochow [buukie@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:buukie@riverofgrassuu.org).

**RoG Men's Group: We meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Jan 20<sup>th</sup> topic is: to be determined.** The Topic Description will be online at [KipBarkley.com/topic/](http://KipBarkley.com/topic/). There we post past topics and links to the UU Small Group Ministry Network. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Do come out and join us. The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. If you have any questions please contact Kip Barkley; [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Going on vacation? Be sure to close blinds that face the most intense sun, and adjust your thermostat. Also, turn off your water heater if you will be gone a week or longer. These will save money and help to protect our planet.

**Drive to the Finish: Capital Campaign** - Our Future Home Search Team is diligently looking for our new home. There are many ways we can go, either find an existing church, find a building we can use and build out to suit our needs, or even purchase and build our church ourselves.

**We need your help in order to be better prepared when the right opportunity presents itself.** Those of you who made your pledge during our campaign last fall, thank you for your commitment. We have received about 65% of the total amount pledged.

In order to get a handle on our finances, **we would like to know when you plan to complete your contribution.**

And we are always open to new pledges and contributions. Go to our website, [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org), scroll down to the [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team, [capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:capitalcampaign@riverofgrassuu.org).

### **Capital Campaign Contributions**

We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

<b>Monetary Donations</b>		
<b>Method</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Processing fees paid by River of Grass</b>
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%

Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%
PayPal	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$0
Securities	<p>Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i></p> <p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination</p> <p><b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b> <b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</p>	

### *Interim Recommendations from the RoG COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team*

**Team:** Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten ([COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:COVIDTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org))

**Purpose of Team:** To review guidelines for congregational and smaller group gatherings in order to provide recommendations to the Board to be used for official River of Grass meetings and events.

#### **These recommendations are:**

For: only for official, River of Grass - sponsored outdoor and indoor small group gatherings.

Fluid: new information comes out all the time and the recommendations could change.

Inclusive: all attendees should be able to attend physically or virtually.

Protective: considers first those who are most at risk.

Science-based: follow the directives according to the experts.

#### **Sources:**

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/covid-19>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Johns Hopkins: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map>

UU Reston Covid-19 Guidelines: <https://www.uureston.org/covid>

### **MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID**

#### **RIVER OF GRASS COVID-19 TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD: updated November 4, 2021**

*This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.*

River of Grass COVID-19 Re-Emergence Team is monitoring Broward County's risk level of transmission. The level of risk used by the River of Grass UU Congregation shall be as measured on [Broward County, Florida \(FL\) - COVID Vaccine & Risk Tracker - Covid Act Now](#). Risk levels are **low**, **medium**, **high**, **very high**, and **severe**.

In-person/hybrid Worship services, large group concerts, fundraisers, other large events (with 50 or more participants) shall occur while the COVID risk is at low, medium, or high levels. According to the Updated Gathering Guidance from UUA.org, "In areas where transmission risk is very high or severe, suspend all large in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers." As such, in-person worship services and other large gatherings shall be suspended if the level of risk for Broward County is and has been very high or severe for two or more weeks. The level of risk, as reported on the COVID Act Now website, will be monitored by the Re-Emergence Team, which will alert the Board and Worship Team if the risk level changes to or from very high or severe and stays at that level for two weeks.

Further, all attendees of in-person gatherings, small or large, are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as possible based on eligibility by age. Vaccination or recent negative COVID test is strongly encouraged for in-person gatherings. Facial coverings/masks are required for large indoor in-person gatherings and strongly encouraged for other groups to protect the most vulnerable, including unvaccinated babies and young children. Small groups are encouraged to set-up and enter into their own covenants, using the guidance herein, regarding COVID-19 safety procedures.

If protocols at rental facilities are more restrictive, their guidelines will be followed.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at [riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html](http://riverofgrassuu.org/calendar.html). **River of Grass UU Congregation** is on [Facebook](#) (LIKE us) and [Twitter](#) (FOLLOW Us). For more information, please contact [communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:communityawareness@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Unsubscribe* - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an email and we will remove you from the mailing list, [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

*Announcements to be sent out in the weekly congregation-wide update should be e-mailed or called into the congregation's office by 12 pm 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.*