

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 21, 2021



Let Go / Lift Up: Bending the Arc 2

Each January we share a Ritual of Release and Affirmation to let go of things we wish to leave behind – behaviors, ideas, habits, fears, regrets, illusions that no longer serve us, that weigh us down and hold us back – and then affirm those things we wish to carry forward, to cultivate, to amplify and magnify in our lives in this new year.

Each year we give what we will release to fire. Here's how we'll do that for this Sunday's "Let Go / Lift Up" service:

1. Write down what you wish to release, to let go of, to change -- in an email to minister@riverofgrassuu.org or by private message to me on facebook.
2. I will print out your papers.
3. On Friday at sundown I will give them to the fire of my Burning Bowl with a ceremony in my Medicine Wheel (both pictured).
4. I will video this Burning Bowl ceremony, then together we'll share the video in Sunday morning's service.

Be assured, no one will see your written wishes for Release but me. I will give it to the fire, as prayers and meditations rise on the sacred smoke in my Medicine Wheel. Please get your wishes to me by **Friday, January 22, at 12noon** -- as I will perform this ceremony as the sun sets for Sabbath on Friday evening.

Then join us on Zoom or Facebook Live for this Sunday's love-streamed service, to Let Go and Lift Up as we continue to bend the arc of the Universe toward justice. 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](#). Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward.

We'll be watching for you!

Topic: Worship January 24, 2021

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 24, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Let Go / Lift Up: Bending the Arc 2 - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development for kids and teens: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00pm:** Teens. This exciting week has us dreaming of wonderful opportunities to see our country "build back better". And so, in keeping with our theme of Imagination, the topic of Sunday's class is "Dream of a World without Covid". We'll share our frustrations with a seemingly never-ending time of distancing and dream up ways to use our masks once they are no longer needed for their original purpose. Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org for links to join a class, or for more information about our Faith Development program.

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUn Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Jan 24th at 7:30 pm**. During our next meeting, Colby and Tosh will be hosting a virtual group game called **"One Night Ultimate Werewolf."** This is a fast-paced game where everyone gets to play a different role. In the course of only one "night" and the following "morning", the players will determine who among them is a werewolf... hopefully. Each game lasts about 10 minutes and encourages debating and bluffing to be successful. It can be played with 3 - 21 players, but we find that 6 or more is best! Our group's purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Auction 2020-2021: Pick 'N Click River Givers Virtual Auction:



"Pick N Click" River Givers Virtual Auction

We hope you enjoyed the live auction as much as we did Saturday night! The music was great (as always)! Diane Lade's interviews & quizzes of River of Grass Beloveds "from the beginning" to more recent years, was so fascinating, it was hard to pull away to start bidding! Thanks so much to all of you that have joined in to make this January event successful! If you missed it, you are in luck- the auction continues through Jan 31st! Click into our Auction site to register, to see new items and to sign up for these events still open! [Silent Auction Pro - Click here to register](#)

- If you didn't register for the auction there is still time. Click the link to register and start bidding!
- **We are not constrained by our 4 walls, and you can participate whether you are in Davie, Maine, Arizona, or Paris.**
- Free online bidding will remain open through Jan 31st, and of course, you can bid from your smartphone, too!

Check back regularly as new items keep coming in! AND... you can still contribute items as well! Let us know at auction@riverofgrassuu.org.

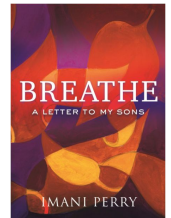
[River of Grass Auction Catalog](#)

Your 2020 Contribution Statement - Has been Delivered to Your Email Inbox!

River of Grass has recognized that printing hardcopy contribution statements and using regular mail to send them is not the most efficient or planet-friendly process. In order to save paper, time, and money, we have now been sending your statements directly to your email inbox. We have emailed the January - December 2020 Contribution Statements to each adult member of a pledging unit for whom we have an email address on Friday, January 15th. Please be on the lookout for your contribution statement in the mail if it was not in your inbox (or junk/spam folder). If you wish to designate just one email address, to update your email contact information, or to opt out, please send an email to office@riverofgrassuu.org at any time.

bUUKies Announce UUA Common Read Discussion

Every year the UUA selects a book to be shared by all UU congregations. A "Common Read" invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. The River of Grass conversation will be on a date to be announced later.



This year's Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. The UUA says:

“Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* “an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent’s unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children’s right simply to be possible.”

This book may be purchased in hardcover from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). The e-book and audio book (CD or MP3) are available from [Bookshop.org](#). Hardback, audio and e-books are also available at [Amazon.com](#).

WhaleCoast Alaska 2021

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2021 is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program this summer, when it will be safe to travel again. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

Additional contact information:

David Frey, WhaleCoast Alaska Tour Director, (907) 322-4966, dfrey@whalecoastak.org
www.WhaleCoastAK.org

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 or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Today, Thursday, Jan 21st at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "Patriotism." Given the events of the past week plus, we dusted off and updated this oldy-but-a-goody topic. At each session, we launch into a topic that is designed to encourage personal sharing.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Ken Bresnahan mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org. Please let us know if you plan to try to make it.

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Jan 26th at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the schedule below! Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Jan 27th and is FF Inquirers #6: Social Action & Community Service**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
1/27/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
2/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
2/10/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
2/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
3/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

Full Moon Daughters are heading back to the great outdoors. All women and girls are invited to join our group for a camping weekend at **Collier-Seminole State Park, near Naples, on the weekend of Feb 19th through Feb 21st**. We will kayak, take nature hikes and explore the beautiful ecosystem of the western Everglades. Full Moon Daughters is an outdoors spirituality group dedicated to honoring our 7th UU Principle, respecting the interdependent web of life. If you are interested in the Collier-Seminole trip, please email Diane Lade and Deb Giblin-Davis at fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org. Space is limited and all attendees must follow our COVID protocols.

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.

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
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 Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . 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	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$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>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334</p> <p>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Report smoking vehicles, as one problem car can pollute more than 100 times a standard car. Call 954-519-1499 or visit Broward.org/air and click "Smoking Vehicles".

COVID-19 Response Update

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. All face-to-face gatherings of any kind are suspended or moved on-line, and we have left our building. Numerous meetings and gatherings have transitioned online via Zoom. Welcome to our new norm!

We are grateful that many many members and friends are in self-quarantine, doing their part to protect themselves as well as reduce the spread of the virus, and only venturing outside when absolutely necessary.

Our extended Caring Team has coordinated a 'network of contacting' to help ensure our community has communication and is cared for..... and our Covenant Groups are a large part of this.

There is deep gratitude for the way our community cares for each other, remains flexible, and is diligent in responding to this unprecedented situation!

Take a deep breath. Allow any feelings and thoughts to be as they are. Know you are supported. Stay safe!

Basic Protective Measures Against Coronavirus

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against coronavirus here at River of Grass and in the wider community we share. River of Grass is adhering to the following recommendations from the World Health Organizations.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Be aware of those in our midst with compromised immune systems.

Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

1. Regularly and thoroughly CLEAN YOUR HANDS with an alcohol-based hand-rub or washing with soap and water, especially – after coughing/sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during, and after you prepare food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty – and when they are not; after handling animals or animal waste.
2. Maintain social distancing – 6 feet between yourself and anyone.
3. Even if well, try to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and when greeting, instead of elbow and fist bumps (no handshakes or hugs), consider placing your hand over your heart as a gesture of welcome and hello.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid transfer of viruses from contaminated surfaces.
5. Practice respiratory hygiene: 1) Cough/sneeze into your elbow, 2) If you use tissues, dispose of them immediately, then clean your hands.
6. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care promptly.
7. If you feel unwell, stay home, even with mild symptoms like headache and runny nose.
8. Stay informed, and follow any guidelines from your healthcare advisor.

How to cope with stress during this coronavirus outbreak:

1. It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during any crisis.
2. Talk to people you trust, and contact your friends and family.
3. If you must stay home, maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid smoking or using alcohol and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and the internet.
7. Draw on coping skills that have helped you in the past.
8. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor, and have a plan to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

To see all of the upcoming events at River of Grass, please visit the calendar on our website at 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.

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.

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.