

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 27, 2022

Church of the Larger Fellowship Worthy Now – Prison Ministry

The CLF provides a ministry to isolated Unitarian Universalists. Its mission also includes growing Unitarian Universalism by supporting small congregations and new UUs around the world. The CLF also offers resources to Unitarian Universalists active in local congregations. This year marks the 78th anniversary of what is now known simply as the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), the UUA's largest congregation.

Come as you are to gather with us in our 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 30, 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/ab3E9lRtb9>

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, January 30, 2021

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am –

Church of the Larger Fellowship - Gary Gonzalez -

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

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

This Sunday, our children and youth we'll learn about how Buddhist monks pause and meditate using mandalas and they'll take some time to color their own. We'll talk about this and other spiritual practices that help us to pause and reflect on our intentions so that we can discern if we're staying on track. For more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact Karen at. ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day February 2, 2022

2022 Black HIV Awareness Day The first National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was marked in 1999 as a grassroots-education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in communities of color. It is the same year that the Black AIDS Institute was created to end HIV in Black communities.



This initiative aims to create awareness — and eventually sustainable change — around the misalignment between who holds power and resources in HIV organizations and the epidemic's disproportionate impact on Black Americans.

After 22 years, we know now what we knew then – you cannot end HIV without addressing racial injustice, investing in Black communities, expediting biomedical information and advancements, and uplifting Black leadership.

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 if you are coming.

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

Paula Cole Jones, one of the authors of the Eight Principle, realized after working with congregations on multiculturalism for over 15 years that a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions. Most UU congregations are primarily white in membership, culture (especially music), and leadership, even when located near diverse communities. She realized that an 8th Principle was needed to correct this, so she and Bruce Pollack-Johnson wrote the Eight Principle:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

The adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting. 8th Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org.

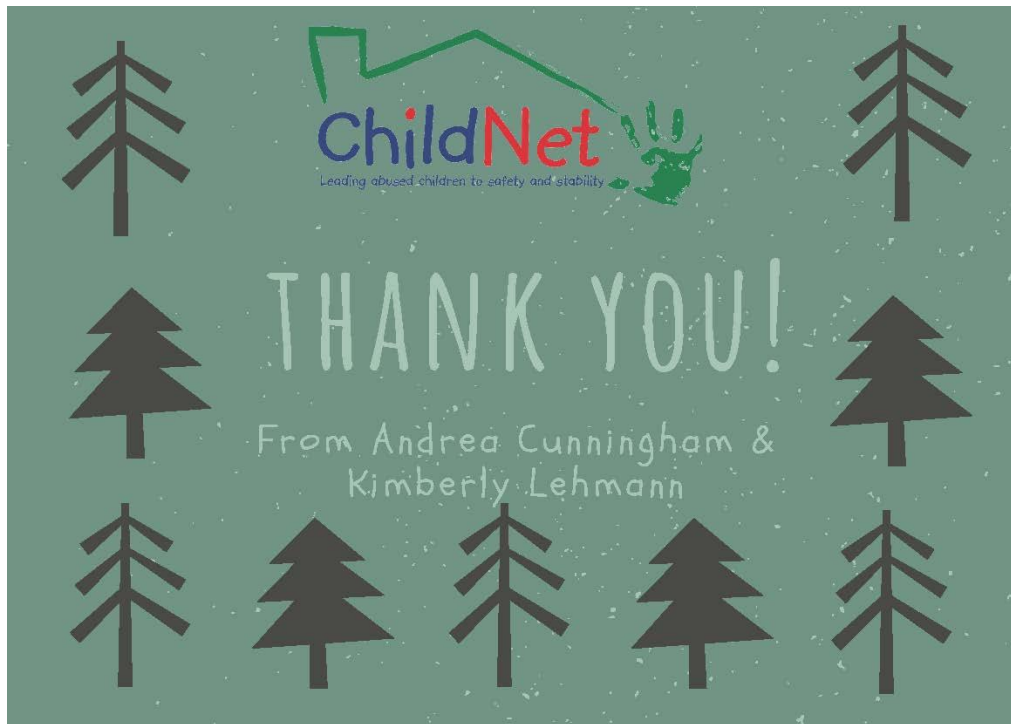
8TH Principle Potluck Conversations

In preparation for the vote of the 8th Principle at the Annual Meeting on May 15, we will be providing opportunities for members of the congregation to have some nourishment and conversations at Members' homes to discuss the many faces of racial disparity that we have been raised in and may not even recognize. We are on this journey as Unitarian Universalists to raise awareness and openness by doing this work together. We start by looking within ourselves for answers to questions we never thought to ask.

Members will be receiving invitations by email to join a discussion group in March about the 8th Principle in a safe outdoor space at a Member's home to listen and think deeply. We hope you will join each other in building the world we dream about! See Q&A about the 8th Principle [on our website](#).

8th Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org.

Thank you from Child Net:



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/>

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 Feb 3rd topic is: "TBD."** The Topic Description will be online at 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; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

Support Local Justice Work

A portion of Davie Blvd. will be getting a new name, as the City of Fort Lauderdale honors the life of a young black man who was lynched here in 1935. Ruben Stacy Memorial Blvd. will stretch from I-95 to US-441. This memorial highway is thanks to the work of local activists bringing the [Community Remembrance Project Equal Justice Initiative](#) to fruition here in Broward County. Their work continues and there is opportunity for us to become more involved. The unveiling ceremony will take place on **February 8th at the St. Thomas Aquinas Bienes Center for the Arts at 1:00pm**. See additional information in the flyer below and please let Karen Gonzalez know if you plan

to attend. Let's have a strong contingency from River of Grass to show our support of this good work for justice by the City of Fort Lauderdale!



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**RUBIN STACY MEMORIAL BOULEVARD
UNVEILING CEREMONY**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022 | 1:00 PM

St. Thomas Aquinas Bienes Center For The Arts
2812 SW 12 Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Join the City of Fort Lauderdale and our neighbors as we gather to honor the life of Rubin Stacy and unveil Rubin Stacy Memorial Boulevard. It is now the secondary name of Davie Boulevard between I-95 and US-411.

The historical record shows that Rubin Stacy, a Black man who was about 29 years old, was lynched in Fort Lauderdale without ever being allowed to have legal counsel or a trial after a white woman alleged that he had threatened her life. Ever since the accusation and subsequent murder, a plethora of sensationalized news reports have offered conflicting accounts of the incident.

The City of Fort Lauderdale seeks to memorialize this injustice and bring awareness to the negative impacts of systemic racism on our society.



If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call (954) 828-4255 or email strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Use recycled paper and reduce printing whenever you can. Ask yourself if you really need a hard copy. Print double-sided whenever your printer allows. The trees will thank you!

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, scroll down to the [click on the link to make your pledge](#).

With gratitude and hope, Your Capital Campaign Team, 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.

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>	

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

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, Karen Gonzalez, Susan Juncosa, Jeanne Masten (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. **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.