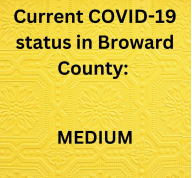


# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345



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

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River of Grass Weekly Update – February 2, 2023

## Healing: Bending the Arc Through Decriminalization

*Cornell West famously reminds us that justice is what love looks like in public. As Unitarian Universalists, our work for justice is an expression of deep belief that all people are worthy of love and liberation. Today, that work often looks like resisting the criminalization of people's identities, their bodies, and their communities.*

*As a strategy, decriminalization sets us on course to heal, to be held accountable, and to be fully human with one another. Decriminalization cultivates the conditions for wider and deeper transformation. – Nicole Pressley*

This Sunday, Feb 05, we begin our month-long deep-dive into what it means to be a people Love, while continuing our 2023 Bending the Arc Toward Justice series, along with this year's UU-wide Side With Love 30 Days of Love, "Spiritual Nourishment for the Long Haul."

Join us to deepen, widen, and strengthen our work to be the justice that love looks like in public!

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse at the Historical Auditorium or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... We'll be watching for you!

In person at:

- Our new Sunday morning rental space at the Old Davie Schoolhouse!
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

### 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 In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:*

**Sunday, February 5, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Healing: Bending the Arc Through Decriminalization – Rev. Amy Carol Webb  
<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

**Faith Development** - In our Faith Development class for kids this Sunday, we'll explore how we must love ourselves, in order to love others. We'll even make ourselves a valentine! For more information about our FD program, contact our Director, Ms. Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### *GO GA! Oops. We do love initialism. What am I talking about?*

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us **Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and/or online for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!



**The theme for General Assembly 2023 is "Faithfully Becoming."** We are at a threshold moment for our faith and will choose the next path in our journey. We will consider new articulations of Article II (including our Principles and Purpose) and elect a new President to lead our Association. These are decisions that will shape who we are and how we respond to and grow through these times. These changes offer us possibilities for becoming more connected, courageous, inclusive, generous, and continuing our ongoing journey of becoming Beloved Community.

Anyone can attend. Even just register for programs/worship and not sit through the business meetings.

**But, you too can represent our community by being a delegate and vote on important issues, including the election of a new UUA president and the proposed principles revision.** The River will pay our delegate's registration fee. For more information, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).

### *Second Helping on Sunday:*

**Need a Second Helping?** This Sunday, Our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez and Worship Co-chair, Rita Cherubini will share information about big changes coming to our Association that will impact all of the good work we do. We hope you will join us at noon, upstairs to learn about the Study Commission's presentation to the UUA Board.

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenant communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenant communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last substantially revised in 1985. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1<sup>st</sup> Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5<sup>th</sup> Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7<sup>th</sup> Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies that have come from the Board, the Commission on Appraisal and grassroots groups which encourage us to take a look at our principles, purposes, bylaws and rules. It is time for us to review and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future, a Unitarian Universalism that holds us in times of great need and ethical, moral and spiritual crises. We are in one of those times now.

In response to those discussions, the UUA Board committed to establishing this Article II Study Commission to consider possible amendments to this Article.

## ***UUA Bylaws, Article II - Small Group Study***

The Article 2 Study Commission has been [charged by the UUA Board](#) to review Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws. This section of the bylaws is better known as the home of the Principles, Purposes, and Sources. Such a review occurs every fifteen years as a practice of our living faith, to ensure that our guiding theological documents thoughtfully and clearly articulate the heart of Unitarian Universalism. Key to this effort is—in the words of the UUA Board—for the Commission to “seek to engage the active participation of UUs across all demographics, identities, and theological/philosophical beliefs.” This small group, six session ministry program seeks to engage with the Article 2 Study Commission’s set of four topics: Shared UU Values, Inspirations, Purpose, and Covenant. Each 90 minute session features activities and opportunities to reflect and share on the topics. Delegates from River of Grass will be guided by these reflections as they represent us at General Assembly this June, when the updated Article II will be voted on. If you would like to participate in these small group discussions, please use this link to register. [ARTICLE II SMALL GROUP STUDY](#)

For more information about the proposed changes, [click on this link for the UUA website section.](#)

### ***Common Read March 26<sup>th</sup> at noon:***

The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared focus for reflection and action. A Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

“Mistakes and Miracles” What lessons and inspiration can we find in *Mistakes and Miracles* to guide our striving for Beloved Community, today?

#### **Common Read 2022-23: *Mistakes and Miracles* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin**

Co-authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations’ journeys toward Beloved Community. Their book, *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*, shares the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

Today, Unitarian Universalists are grappling with a charge to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our communities, and our world. As we enter a Common Read of this book, many will bring a spirit ready to meet the urgent need for multiculturalism and antiracism work in our congregations and our movement.

Read or Listen to Mistakes and Miracles

*Mistakes and Miracles* can be purchased from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). Discounts are available on orders of 10 or more books.

You can also [listen to \*Mistakes and Miracles\* as an audiobook!](#)

If you need the book in another format, please email UUA Publications Director Mary Benard at [mbernard@uua.org](mailto:mbernard@uua.org).

Join the conversation!

**Rev. Amy will lead us in discussion about this inspiring read on March 26<sup>th</sup>, during our Second Helping series at noon.** Bring your thoughts, questions and ideas about how River of Grass can be inspired in this good work!

### ***Vote By Mail:***

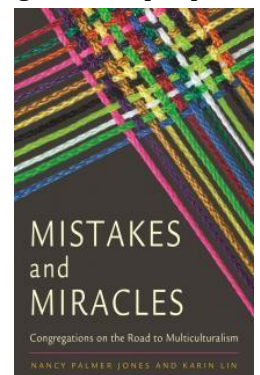
Did you know that your request to receive your ballot in the mail expired at the end of the year? If you want to continue receiving your ballot by mail, you must again request a VBM ballot for this new election cycle (two years). Here is the link to request your ballot from the Supervisor of Elections in Broward County:

<https://www.browardvotes.gov/Voter-Information/Vote-By-Mail-Voting>

### ***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/>

**RoG Men's Group - we are not meeting tonight Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> due to our facilitator not feeling well:** We'll next meet **Thursday Feb 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.** We meet in person and via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:30 PM at the Fat Stork Restaurant , 8270 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) All who identify male are invited to join. We are a lay-led group and look to our members for future topics and the direction we take. Join us! The Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 PM. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org); RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

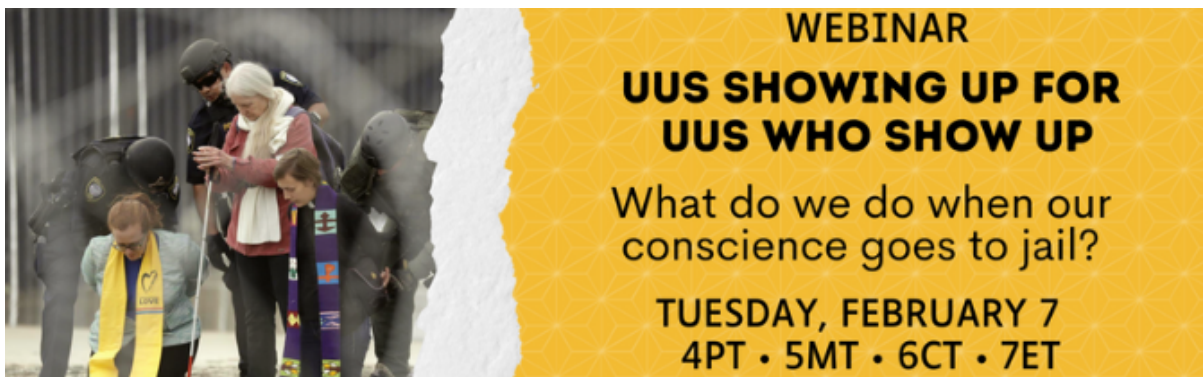
**The Broward Folk Festival** is being held at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds (4201 SW 65th Way, Davie, FL 33314) on **Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>! (Saturday and Sunday).** Here's the website for you to peruse all of that great music from the folks you love! [www.BrowardFolkClub.com](http://www.BrowardFolkClub.com) The arena is covered-(shady) with food trucks and camaraderie - but you can bring your own (friends, food, chair) Folks will gather everywhere! There'll be a place for the children, too! Lessons to be learned (workshops, jam sessions) - bring your "ax" (instruments, voices) - and mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this beloved, highly anticipated, annual engagement of delight, merriment, and music!

**8th Principle** - For generations, UUs have been jailed for our conscience in resisting systems of oppression. As our tradition becomes more justice oriented, rates of UU arrests are on the rise. How does our conscience also call us to be there for those whose bodies are on the line?

Learn how UUs are building capacity to support and share the load in the face of mass arrest. Find out more about how to organize support for those who are arrested and jailed as a conscientious form of protest.

**Join our [virtual training](#) on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm ET.** Presenters: Rev. Karen Van Fossan, Antoinette Scully, Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs, and friends.

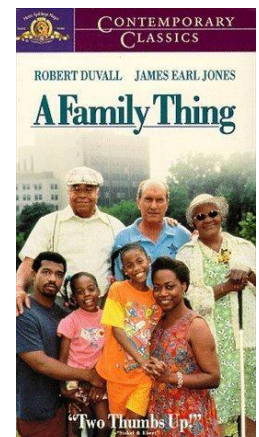
Register at this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/dFMNPHvDsUyin04iTIN83Q2?emci>



**WEBINAR**  
**UUS SHOWING UP FOR UUS WHO SHOW UP**  
What do we do when our conscience goes to jail?  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
4PT • 5MT • 6CT • 7ET

### **MUUVies for Change February viewing is "A Family Thing"**

1996 Director Richard Pearce, Stars James Earl Jones and Robert Duval. [On Amazon.](#) Following the death of the white woman he thought was his mother, a shocked Earl Pilcher Jr. (Robert Duvall) learns he is half black. Shaken to the core by this revelation of decades of lies, an impassioned Pilcher travels to Chicago to find his biological family and meets Roy Murdock (James Earl Jones), his half-brother. Unfortunately, Murdock refuses to accept the aging Southerner. Desperate for a connection, the grieving Pilcher struggles to convince Murdock to open his mind. The MUUVies for Change will discuss "A Family Thing" on **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org) if you will attend the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>. Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile:



+16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kvL0D418Y>.

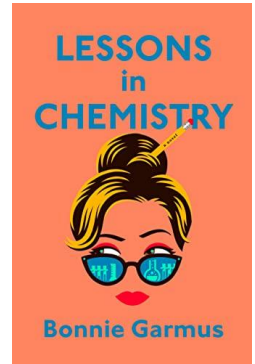
**BUUKies February Read - "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. We will meet on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

"Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus features the singular voice of Elizabeth Zott, a scientist whose career takes a detour when she becomes the star of a beloved TV cooking show. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel Prize-nominated grudge holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

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



**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Save electricity by shutting off lights when not in the room. And decide if all lights can be turned off during the night. This uses less power, lowers your electric bill, and helps the environment!

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

**Team:** 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: consider first those who are most at risk.

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

#### **Sources:**

UUA: <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/pandemics>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/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 October 16, 2022**

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

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

#### **Community Level LOW:**

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

## **Community Level MEDIUM: Current Broward County Status**

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

## **Community Level HIGH:**

### In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)
- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

### After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

### Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

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

## **River of Grass UU Congregation**

**6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)**

**4431 SW 64th Avenue, Suite 108, Davie, FL 33314 (Office Location)**

**PO Box 452485, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33345 (Mailing Address Only)**

**954.723.7877 - [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)**