

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – March 5, 2020

Greetings from River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Here are this week's upcoming events and opportunities. Our hope is that you will find something that interests you and helps you make a connection with the congregation beyond what is possible on a Sunday morning.

Unsubscribe - If you do not wish to receive this weekly email, please send an e-mail and we will remove you from the mailing list, office@riverofgrassuu.org.

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



Upcoming Events -This Sunday:

Sunday, March 8, 2020 – Change your clocks at 2am

Choir Rehearsal at 9:00 am – Gayle Giese ChoirDirector@riverofgrassuu.org

Teen Faith Development at 10:00 am – Karen Gonzalez, ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org

Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Beyssa Buil, Student Minister

“The Fabulous Destiny Of An Abundant Heart”

Faith Development at 11:00 am – Karen Gonzalez, ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org

2nd Sunday Covenant Group at 12:30 pm – Janet Schwartz, CovenantGroups@RiverofGrassUU.org

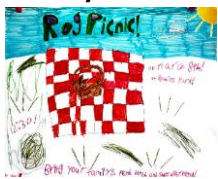
Playground Picnic at 12:30 pm – Karen Gonzalez, ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org

Focus Initiative Feeding the Soul at 12:30 pm – Beyssa Buil, BBuil@meadville.edu

Auction Event at 2:00 pm – Auction@RiverofGrassUU.org

Outside Rental 6:30 pm-8:15 pm – Ken Bresnahan, Rentals@RiverofGrassUU.org

Family Park Picnic – Faith Development Families can meet at Robbin's Park, after service on Sunday, Mar 8th. Bring a picnic basket for sharing and wear your sneakers! This park has an amazing playground and lots of room to run. Best of all, it's just around the corner from The River. Bring a blanket or camp chairs in case the picnic tables are taken. RSVP to Karen (religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org).



Request for Help – Yard Sale on Apr 4th:

Face Painters and Balloon Animal Artists Wanted - See Karen Gonzalez if you have what it takes to share this fun at our Yard Sale on Apr 4th (ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

Other Events:

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group will meet TONIGHT, Mar 5th at 7:00 pm in the multi-purpose room (pre meeting dinner at Lester's Diner at 5:45 pm - 1393 NW 136th Ave, Sunrise, FL 33323). Tonight we will continue discussing *On Being Helpful*. For more info, please contact Ken Bresnahan mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

MEN'S
GROUP

Basic Protective Measures Against the New Coronavirus

River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against the new 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, which is still affecting mostly people in China with some outbreaks in other countries. 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 -- 3 feet between yourself and anyone coughing or sneezing.
3. Even if well, consider precautionary elbow and fist bumps instead of handshakes and hugs.
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 healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid use smoking, alcohol, and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the World Health Organization or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and 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.

Capital Campaign/Annual Prosperity Drive (CC/APD) – What amount is right for you?

Rita Cherubini and Kathy Jens-Rochow, CC/APD co-chairs stewardship@riverofgrassuu.org.

"So what are your values? What is important to you? Your church? Your children? Black Lives Matter? Fracking? Climate Change? It's a huge responsibility, isn't it – deciding where to put your wealth, especially when that wealth is money. In this capitalist, free market world of ours, money is power and with great power comes great responsibility. The power and responsibility of being a Unitarian Universalist is about discerning your values and then living them. Every dollar you spend is a deliberate choice. And you get to choose how to spend it. So spend it as a Unitarian Universalist..."

Michelle Ma, Student Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA

I chose these words to share with you. We all have wealth, some more, some less. But, in the thoughtful processes we go through in our home budgeting, we now come to the "Capital Campaign and the Annual Prosperity Drive 2020-2021". Last week we focused on finding those extra funds for the Capital Campaign. And, this week, it's having an intentional plan for the Annual Prosperity Drive.

Every year we have chosen by vote at our Annual Meeting that staff and programs mean something. And, they cost something... something we hold dear. Might you consider an intentional plan to reduce our dependence on our dwindling reserves? That means the number to shoot for this year, one third of the way to a balanced budget, is \$238,000. It's the year of being even more creative in your personal financial planning.

This would mean upping your APD gift perhaps a bit more than you did last year... working closer to a 10% increase overall in congregational giving. Could you work at getting to that level as your personal goal over three years?

- The \$1000 pledge you gave last year would only be \$8 per month additional.
- Increasing last year's \$1800 pledge by 10% is only an additional \$15 per month. Sounds pretty possible.
- And if you pledged \$5000, your 10% additional would just be \$62 per month or \$20 extra a month!

Could you give up two Starbucks coffees a month? Or maybe one less dinner out? If we all increased our pledges by more, we would be one third of the way to this goal. Hooray to that!

Kick-off is right around the corner on Mar 29th.

Capital Foundation Doings:

On Wednesday Feb 19th your Capital Foundation Board (*Not the Capital Campaign*) met and voted to move all of the Capital Fund investment into very short term bonds and commercial paper. On Monday Feb 24th, World Financial Markets investors began growing increasingly concerned about a global economic slowdown from the impact of the Coronavirus. By the end of trading Friday Feb 28th, US markets had dropped 12.75%. The value of our Capital Fund on Feb 19th = \$788,376. If these changes were not made, the value on Feb 28th would have been \$792.67. Dumb Luck beats planning every time. If you have questions, please contact Kip Barkley, Foundation Treasurer.

Other Events (cont.):

Poetry Service - Mar 22nd Members are invited to submit a poem for our annual poetry reading service, which will be held on Sunday, Mar 22nd. The theme is "Abundance". Poems must be brief (no more than 4 minutes reading time) and in keeping with our UU principles. For questions or submissions see Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Please submit your poems by tomorrow, Friday Mar 6th.



Congregational Work Day on Saturday, Mar 7th at 9:00 am – There are many small projects around River of Grass that are in need of help from our community. Please meet at River of Grass and let's work together to get our congregation fixed up. If you have any questions please see your Facilities Chair Riley Cothran or email facilities@riverofgrassuu.org.



Finance Committee Meeting - The Finance Committee will meet at River of Grass on **Monday, Mar 9th starting at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome. RSVP to finance@riverofgrassuu.org



The En-Roads Climate Workshop - Monday, Mar 9th, 7:30 pm at River of Grass



The exciting, interactive En-Roads climate workshop will be offered again at River of Grass on Monday, Mar 9th at 7:30 pm. If you could not make it last Monday this workshop will give you the tool that uses the best available current science and systems technology to create a tool that anyone can use to create major solution scenarios to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

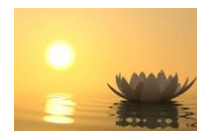
We are excited to have Linda Chung, a developer of the En-Roads Climate Workshop at MIT and Elaine Franklin, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Hollywood with us to facilitate this Climate Workshop.

In the workshop, participants propose climate solutions such as energy efficiency, carbon pricing, fossil fuel taxes, reducing deforestation, and carbon dioxide removal. The facilitator then tests these approaches using the En-ROADS Simulator so that participants can see the impact on global temperature. This new, interactive, climate workshop uses the best available current science and systems technology to create a tool that anyone can use to create major solution scenarios to limit global warming to 1.5°C. www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads

Buckminster Fuller, UU Visionary said, *"If you want to teach people a new way of thinking, don't bother trying to teach them. Instead, give them a tool, the use of which will lead to new ways of thinking."* With En-Roads, you will discover scenarios to deal effectively with Climate Change.

Leaders and Presenters: Linda Cheung, Before It's Too Late; Jeff Dorian, Broward Citizens Climate Lobby; Elaine Franklin, Hollywood's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator; and Steve Jens-Rochow, Broward Climate Alliance SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet on **Tuesday, Mar 10th at 7:30 pm**. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For further information, please contact Gary Gonzalez at meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.



Mindful Meditation Group - Announcing a new daytime meditation opportunity at River of Grass! The



Mindful Meditation Group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. We will have guided meditation in the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction tradition followed by silent meditation. This group is welcome to all seeking support in their practice. Our next session is **Wednesday, Mar 11th at 3:30 pm**. For more information see Lucy Harty or Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

bUUKies March into Spring – Wednesday, Mar 11th at 7:15 pm

Ladies, do you vote? Do you take it for granted? If you read our March selection, you will never do so again! "The Women's Hour" by Elaine Weiss details the how the final vote for the 19th Amendment was obtained.

Nashville, August 1920. Thirty-five states have ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, twelve have rejected or refused to vote, and one last state is needed. It all comes down to Tennessee, the moment of truth for the suffragists, after a seven-decade crusade. The opposing forces include politicians with careers at stake, liquor companies, railroad magnates, and a lot of racists who don't want black women voting. And then there are the "Antis"—women who oppose their own enfranchisement, fearing suffrage will bring about the moral collapse of the nation. They all converge in a boiling hot summer for a vicious face-off replete with dirty tricks, betrayals and bribes, bigotry, Jack Daniel's, and the Bible.



Join us and be educated and entertained in so many different ways! bUUkies meet on the second Wednesdays at 7:15 at River of Grass. bUUkies@riverofgrassuu.com for more information.

March 11: "The Women's Hour" by Elaine Weiss

April 8: "The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nahisi Coates

May 13: "Blowout" by Rachel Maddow

June 10: "Red, White and Royal Blue" by Casey McQuiston

Volunteering at the LifeNet4Families Pantry – Saturday, Mar 14th – Making a difference and healing



LifeNet4Families

injustice in our community is part of our River of Grass Mission, and volunteering at LifeNet4Families is one way to put that mission into action. LifeNet4Families serves approximately 5,000 individuals and families, and provides 1.4 million meals annually. We help by volunteering in their pantry, dining room, clothing and toiletries area, and kitchen doing a variety of tasks. There's something for everyone to do!

Join us at our next **LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer morning on Mar 14th from 9:00-11:00am**. Sign up at the Service and Social Justice corner at the back of the River of Grass sanctuary or email us at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org. Our upcoming Saturday LifeNet4Families volunteer days are: Apr 11th, May 9th (Postal Drive), and Jun 13th.

Can't make it to LifeNet? Every Sunday you can bring canned foods for LifeNet4Families to River of Grass and place them in the basket at the SSJC corner. They are always in need of peanut butter and canned meats such as tuna, chicken or beef.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series will meet at 12:00 pm on Sunday, Mar 15th. The series is a rotation of 8 conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. It 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. Attend 5 classes and win a chalice pin! Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our class topic is **FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service** .



River of Grass Café presents Kiya Heartwood – Saturday, Mar 21st the concert will begin at 8:00 PM



and the doors open at 7:00 PM for food and drink. Suggested donation is \$19 in advance when you purchase on our website: <http://riverofgrassuu.org/river-of-grass-cafe.html> by Mar 19th, or \$25 at the door. Kiya Heartwood is an award winning singer-songwriter who has just returned from touring her one woman show, Song Tales from the American Edge, in Ireland and the UK. The UK's Broadway Baby describes Kiya Heartwood (Stealin Horses, Wishing Chair) as "an award-winning American singer-songwriter who writes smart, funny and poignant songs about the famous and not-so-famous legends of America."

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".

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Service is one of the pillars of our congregational life.

A special thank you this week for the Worship Service Participants

SERVICE LEADER – BEYSSA BUIL, STUDENT MINISTER

SERVICE HOST – RITA CHERUBINI

MUSICIANS – GAYLE GIESE, PIANO; THE RIVER OF GRASS CHOIR, GAYLE GIESE, DIR.

CHALICE LIGHTER – ALEX NGO

STORY TELLER – KAREN GONZALEZ

FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEACHERS – AHYSA BOUTRON, LOUIS DESANTIS, MONICA DYER, DIANE LADE,
GARY GONZALEZ, CORINNE MANN, GERI MIKULSKI, AND EDGAR NAVARRO

RIVER GUIDE – LINDA LATHROUM

FLAG RAISERS – JANET & ROY SCHWARTZ

POWER POINT – STEVE JENS-ROCHOW

A/V TECH – KIP BARKLEY

USHERS – KATHY JENS-ROCHOW AND KRISTINE BARKLEY

HOSPITALITY – ELYSE REYES

WELCOME TABLE – ZENA TUCKER AND LORI LOIOLA

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.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets at 12:00 pm on Sunday mornings in the Multi-Purpose Room.



INQUIRERS SERIES

It is a rotation of 8 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 also 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! For more information see Zena Tucker, Membership Committee Chairperson, membership@riverofgrassuu.org

We currently have the following classes scheduled:

Date	Event
3/15/2020	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
4/5/2020	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/19/2020	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
5/17/2020	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/24/2020	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
6/7/2020	FF Inquirers#3: Campus Tour & Orientation
6/21/2020	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults

For more info see Zena Tucker or call 954.663.4628 or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org