

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 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 – March 10, 2022

### **Holding History - The Roots of Memory**

Remembering who we want to be is tied up with remembering where we've come from. Holding on to our roots keeps us rooted. It also keeps us connected to gratitude and humility. To remember where you've come from is to remember that you didn't create yourself or earn your successes all on your own. Remembering where you've come from is also a way to celebrate your uniqueness. This Sunday, the Moonlight Owls Covenant Group will expand, through memory and verse, their roots, their families, their experiences, the unique roots that made them who they are. Please join us for this unique trip through memories and a new way to hold personal history.

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!

We'll be live on Zoom at the link below, as well as on our facebook page.

Virtually at:

**Topic: Worship March 13, 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/ab3E9IRtb9>

***Rev. Amy's upcoming sabbatical:***

Rev. Amy's sabbatical will begin this coming Saturday, March 12, 2022 and end Monday, April 11, 2022. She will be back in the pulpit on April 17, for the Season of Renewal - Easter, Passover, and Earthly. For more information about her sabbatical, please read the information that Rev. Amy prepared. It is listed on our website: [Rev. Amy's Sabbatical Page](#).

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

**Sunday, March 13, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Holding History - The Roots of Memory - Moonlight Owls Covenant Group - <https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

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

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, we'll "Renew Our Faith in Simple Things". This session is about how we can renew our trust in life's goodness and simple gifts. Consumer society and social media tell us we are not enough and don't have enough. Our faith disagrees. It calls us to notice the many everyday joys and gifts that we already and always possess. Our faith reminds us we are already "rich" and life is already abundant. We'll be making chalice snowglobes to give us something to meditate on as we attempt to slow down. For more information about our Faith Development program for kids and teens, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org).

### **Monthly Family Fun, Outdoors!**

Mark your calendars for another fun events for families -

**Saturday, Mar 19<sup>th</sup>** - gather at Bergeron Park for playground fun

Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org) for more information.

### ***From the River of Grass UU Congregation Capital Fund Board:***

The River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Capital Fund manages the money set aside for our new church home. It also manages our Legacy Fund of planned giving. The Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) corporation owned by the membership of River of Grass. At the May 15 Congregational Meeting, the membership will elect three to the six members to this Board.

The current Board is :

- President & Trustee: Kip Barkley '22
- Secretary & Trustee: Melissa Buehler '22
- Treasurer & Trustee: Corey L. Fleming '23
- Trustee: Ahysa Boutron '23
- Trustee: Roy Schwartz '23
- Trustee: Jacquie Velazquez '22

Melissa Buehler will be stepping down from the Board. Jacquie Velazquez and Kip Barkley are seeking re-election. The Foundation Board has nominated them and Rita Cherubini to serve 2-year terms July 2022-June 2024.

Additional nominations may be submitted to [Foundation@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:Foundation@RiverOfGrassUU.org) via email by April 25. See more about the Foundation at [RiverOfGrassUU.org/foundation](http://RiverOfGrassUU.org/foundation).

### ***From the River of Grass Board of Trustees:***

Every year at our Annual Meeting we elect new members to the Board. The officers and trustees serve 2-year terms. Our Nominating Committee is charged with building a slate for the elections. I am so very pleased to announce the following slate:

- President – 2-year term – Kathy Jens-Rochow
- Treasurer – 2-year term – Rob Giblin-Davis
- Trustee – Bev Kaufman
- Trustee – Kechi Mourer

The Nominating Committee is also charged with creating the slate for the next year's Nominating Committee. Per our bylaws – the congregation elects 3 people and the Board then appoints an additional three. The candidates for the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee are:

- Linda Lathroum
- Lucy Harty
- Kip Barkley

We share a very big thank you to the current Nominating Committee – Scott May, Linda Lathrum and Kat Holland. Due to extenuating circumstances, three other members had to resign from the committee. The committee did a superlative job in creating the slate and in a timely manner!

Per our bylaws, other nominations may also be made by written petition signed by at least two members, delivered to an officer or Board member at least 20 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting in order to be included on the final written slate. Members may nominate themselves. With the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, 20 days prior would be April 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, Kathy Jens-Rochow at [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org).

### **River of Grass Policies & Procedures update:**

In accordance to our Policy on Policies, the following is a notification and a request for feedback on the following amendment:

Part I, Section 3

#### 3. River of Grass Fund Raising

A. All fundraising events must first receive Board approval.

#### B. Capital Campaign Funding

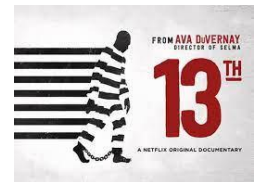
##### 1. Capital Campaign 2020-2023

a. Members and Friends may make contributions to the fund at any time.

b. Members and friends have the option to receive, upon request, a refund of their Capital Campaign donation should a home (or equivalent or via a partnership) not be purchased within 4 years of the end of the Capital Campaign (March 31, 2027).

### **Black Film Group - The film for Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> is "13<sup>th</sup>"**

The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for a crime. It details how the prison industrial complex has continued to negatively impact black and brown citizens since the end of the Civil War. It is available on Netflix.



Dr. Kitty Oliver will join us for our discussion. She is a friend of the River. She is an award winning Black scholar, race relations oral historian, inspirational speaker, author and veteran journalist.



Watch the movie "13<sup>th</sup>" on your own. We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow [blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:blackfilms@riverofgrassuu.org) if you are coming.

For Discussion join Zoom Meeting at 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>  
Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile +13017158592,,84418593114# US (Washington DC). Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kvL0D4l8Y>

### **8<sup>th</sup> PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE**

#### **What Does It Mean to Be Accountable?**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle is: *"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."*

We, white UUs, are accountable; we are required or expected to be responsible for actions to dismantle racism. We can't just sit back and do nothing. To make sure whites do what they say they promised, white UUs need to hold themselves accountable to communities of color. In practice, that means having a People of Color Caucus within congregations, Regions, etc., to discern and express needs and concerns to the rest of the community.

Black UUs hold each other accountable and help each other see and dismantle signs of racism. We need an effective mechanism or structure to ensure this, like a People of Color Caucus. More than the language of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle itself, we are moved by the ongoing conversations about what it means to be accountable to each other,

and how we must—through our actions—take on the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression as an inextricable part of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

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

### 8<sup>TH</sup> Principle Dinner Conversations

In preparation for the vote of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle at the Annual Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we are 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.

All members have received an invitation ("Evite") by email to join a discussion group in March about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in a safe outdoor space at a Member's home to listen and think deeply. Please RSVP to this Evite. If you do not believe you received an Evite, please email us at [8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org). If you cannot make it in person, a Zoom link will be provided. If you need a different date, please let us know so we can try to accommodate that. We hope you will join each other in building the world we dream about! See Q&A about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle on our website at [RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html](http://RiverofGrassUU.org/8thPrinciple.html).

8<sup>th</sup> Principle Team: Lou DeSantis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson, Vernon Allen and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? [8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:8thPrincipleTeam@riverofgrassuu.org).

### *Heritage and Hope:*

#### **Heritage – Margaret Mosley (1901-1997)**

UU Margaret Moseley was denied entrance to every nursing program in Boston because of her race, so instead she became a civil rights activist. She founded a consumer cooperative and served on the board of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts as well as founding member of Freedom House, a leader of the anti-McCarthyism movement in the 1950s. She also helped form NAACP chapters throughout Cape Cod.

Source: Article by Lauren Walleser

**Hope - Jade Sylvan (born September 9, 1982, Chicago, Illinois)** is an American poet, author, performer, producer, performing artist and Unitarian Universalist minister. They are heavily rooted in the literary and performance community of Cambridge and Somerville, Massachusetts. They were called a "risque queer icon" by the Boston Globe.

They published an open letter to Mark Zuckerberg in the Washington Post in 2014, which addressed concerns of gender equality. It focused on concerns regarding damages to the LGBT community brought about by Facebook policies regarding real-name assignments, as the policies limit authentic self-expression and endanger those who maintain multiple identities for safety reasons.

Before pursuing their call to ministry, Jade found fulfillment and success as a writer, producer, performing artist, and teacher. Jade is the author of *Kissing Oscar Wilde* and the play *Spider Cult: the Musical*. Jade has additionally produced and performed in numerous live stage shows and events at The American Repertory Theater's Oberon stage in Cambridge over the past seven years.



### *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/>

**Combating Anti-Trans Legislation 101 with the Trevor Project** – Last year’s spring legislative season was the worst on record for anti-trans bills, with more than 100 proposed in state legislatures; nine states ended up passing bills. This year is even worse: approximately 150 anti-trans bills are currently moving through state legislatures, seeking to criminalize life-saving health care, legislate bathrooms, block trans youth from playing sports, and more.

In June, the UUA General Assembly passed an [Action of Immediate Witness](#) that calls on UUs to work to block and repeal these bills and laws and support trans, nonbinary, and intersex members of our congregations and communities in concrete ways. We know you have already made this commitment, and this webinar will resource you in new ways!

**The webinar will be held at 5pm Pacific / 8pm Eastern next Tuesday March 15.** [Learn more and sign up here](#), and please spread the word.

P.S. Don’t forget that your congregation has lifetime access to our program Trans Inclusion in Congregations!

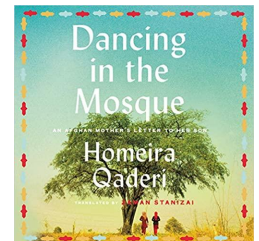
**BUUKies March Read – Dancing in the Mosque, An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son, by Homeira Qaderi.**  
**We will meet on Wednesday, Mar 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

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

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

An exquisite and inspiring memoir about one mother’s unimaginable choice in the face of oppression and abuse in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

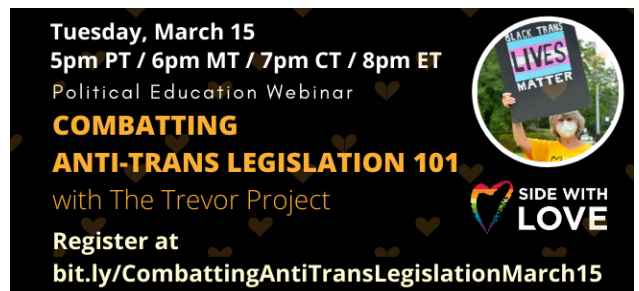
No ordinary Afghan woman, Homeira refused to cower under the strictures of a misogynistic social order. Defying the law, she risked her freedom to teach children reading and writing and fought for women’s rights in her theocratic and patriarchal society. Devastating in its power, *Dancing in the Mosque* is a mother’s searing letter to a son she was forced to leave behind. In telling her story—and that of Afghan women—Homeira challenges you to reconsider the meaning of motherhood, sacrifice, and survival. Her story asks you to consider the lengths you would go to protect yourself, your family, and your dignity.



Steve Jens-Rochow [BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:BUUKies@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 Mar 17<sup>th</sup> topic is: TBD.** The Topic Description is 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.

**SUUSI 2022, “Gratitude,” will be held in-person on the campus of Western Carolina University, from July 17-23.** What to expect from SUUSI 2022? We’re anticipating a smaller and more intimate event, both in terms of the number of attendees and in the amount of space we take up on the WCU campus. We’ll all need to be on our toes, because events and locations may be a bit different from when we last gathered in-person in 2019. The 2022 Catalog will go live **on our website** on **March 20**, with **registration opening April 1 at 7pm.** We will continue to use the new web-based interactive format we debuted last year. Beginning on March 15,



the SUUSI website will be packed with up-to-date information about SUUSI 2022 programs and events. You'll be able to search by type of activity (for example, Workshops) or by day. We understand that not everyone is ready to gather in person, so SUUSI 2022 will offer a few events in a multiplatform format. Worship services and concert hours will be streamed online, and we're also developing plans for an informal daily time for online socializing. If you prefer not to travel to Cullowhee, these online options will be available for a small per-family fee.

Everyone who attends SUUSI in person must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 if vaccines are available for their age group. In addition, participants under the age of 18 must be up-to-date with all of the vaccines listed in the CDC's Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, and staff and volunteers working with children must be up-to-date on MMR and Tdap or Td vaccines. Documented medical contraindications will be accepted. SUUSI has a new Vaccination Coordinator position to help implement this new policy, and Sarah Gonzalez will be serving in this role. She is available to help with questions and concerns at [vaccination@suusi.org](mailto:vaccination@suusi.org).

**Apply for Staff!** SUUSI is built exclusively through the contributions and efforts of its volunteers. All departments are currently seeking staff members! Please consider sharing your gifts with SUUSI by applying for a staff position. Staff are compensated by receiving a credit for a percentage of their SUUSI registration and housing, up to 100% for full-time staffers. Apply now in [SOLIS, the SUUSI Online Information System](#).

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Visit [OptoutPrescreen.com](http://OptoutPrescreen.com) to stop unsolicited credit card offers. This website is run by the 3 credit agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion) and is supported by the Federal Trade Commission. In just 3 minutes you can stop this junk mail, saving you hassle and reducing landfill waste.

**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).

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 <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:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@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 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.*