

# 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 – April 14, 2022

## Hope In The Dark - Easter Sunday

In this season of rebirth and resurrection, we gather to celebrate Christianity's most holy day this Easter Sunday. But we do well to remember that before the dawn of Easter morning, there was first the dark when those who loved and followed Jesus of Nazareth found their world torn asunder, their dreams of a new world bloodied and beaten, their hearts broken, their hopes shattered in fragments beneath their feet. It is said that hope is a thing with feathers, but no, beloveds – hope is a thing with muscle and sinew and the sheer tenacity to keep getting back up again every time she's knocked back. Hope is what waits in the dark and leads us to morning. This ... this is the kind of hope we'll find together this Easter Sunday. This kind of hope that never dies.

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.

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

#### **Sunday, April 17, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Hope In The Dark – Easter Sunday - Rev. Amy Carol Webb -

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

### **Faith Development:**

There are no Faith Development classes for children and youth on Sunday. Classes will resume on 4/24.

This coming Saturday, families will celebrate Earth Day with a gathering at Long Key Nature Center for a picnic lunch and guided walking tour. Families can still RSVP with Karen at [ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org).

### *Virtual Service Watch Pods*

Tired of watching our virtual service alone? Want to share the joy of being together while watching the virtual service? Invite a couple of your River friends (or other friends) to your patio and watch the service together, on each person's own device. Or on your big screen tv. And enjoy hospitality together.

### **The Worship Team has a number of opportunities that might interest YOU!**

Without volunteers we cannot do what we do on Sunday morning!! Volunteer positions are typically once a month for 2.5 hours on a rotation! That's it! Please inquire as your dynamic ministry may just be an email or phone call away!! We cannot do what we do without everyone doing their part. Training is available. Here are the positions and a little about what is involved.



- **Tech Runner** - Run the Pre-recorded services every Sunday morning with the Tech Team. **Duties:** After all pre-recorded segments are completed, they are sent to the Runner for Sunday morning. An ethernet connection and some basic skills taught to you by our professional, Rebecca Rice, and you are on the Team! **Time Commitment: Two hours a month!**
- **Media Librarian** - **Duties:** We have a media library chock full of music, stories, Chalice Lightings. New music and recorded items are put into the Library for use at a later time. Familiarity with Excel is helpful. **Time commitment: 1/2 hour a week, sometimes less than that. Judi Oltmans will be leaving at the end of June and is a wonderful trainer.**
- **Host Scheduler** - **Duties:** Assists Worship Chair scheduling Service hosts for upcoming services. Sends emails, schedules on the Sunday Morning Volunteer spreadsheet. **Time commitment: One hour a month.**
- **Zoom Host** - After two years, we have all gotten familiar with Zoom! **Duties:** The Zoom Host helps on Friday evening with our Facebook Promo to invite all to the service on Sunday; then on Sunday morning from 10:00 to Noon helps Spotlight Live speakers, puts notes into the Chat for the congregation and sets up breakout rooms. **Time commitment: 2.5 hours a month.**
- **Co-Chair for Worship** - Worship needs a co-chair to assist and support Rev Amy in all aspects of putting services together weekly. **Duties:** Scheduling and training of Service Leaders, building Sunday scripts and OOS, scheduling Storytellers and Zoom Hosts; keeping our services inclusive; and responsibility for all lay worship services. Member of the Sunday Experience Team. **Time commitment: 3 - 5 hours a week. With two people, the schedule would be less demanding! I would love to share what I've learned with YOU!**

Please consider how you support River of Grass with your efforts. This is your spiritual home. We value and truly need the gifts you bring! Inquiries to Rita Cherubini, Worship Chair, 781.856.2335 or [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org).

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

#### **WHAT IS BELOVED COMMUNITY IF IT DOSEN'T INCLUDE EVERYONE?**

*The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle states, "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."*

#### **Resources For The Week:**

1. **Jon Talks White Resentment w/ Isabel Wilkerson | The Problem With Jon Stewart Podcast | Apple TV+ | Watch on YouTube:** [https://youtu.be/hKw6k4\\_fUFs](https://youtu.be/hKw6k4_fUFs)
2. **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration By Isabel Wilkerson**  
**Buy:** <https://www.amazon.com/Warmth-Other-Suns-Americas-Migration/dp/0679763880/>  
**Or**  
**Borrow:** <https://www.overdrive.com/media/457558/the-warmth-of-other-suns>

NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER •

In this beautifully written masterwork, the Pulitzer Prize-winner and bestselling author of *Caste* chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.

Don't forget 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 and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? [8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:8thPrincipleTeam@RiverofGrassUU.org).

### **Other Events:**

#### **Free "Mindfulness for Today's World" weekly online sessions:**

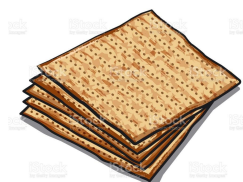
Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults, [zoom link for Thursday night at 6 pm](#)

For more information or to register contact [Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**Celebration of Life – Patricia Ann McCrary.** River of Grass member, Patricia McCrary, passed away on January 21, 2022. There will be a celebration of her life for her beloved S. Florida spiritual family and friends (and via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person). **Where: Center for Spiritual Living Ft. Lauderdale; 4849 North Dixie Highway, Oakland Park, FL 33334. When: Sunday, Apr 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM ET.** Please indicate on your RSVP if you will be joining via Zoom or in-person: <http://evite.me/5j769vHyUf>



**Rev. Amy to Speak and Sing at Interfaith Earth Seder on Apr 20<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Amy will talk and sing protest songs at the interfaith Earth Seder on **Wednesday, Apr 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 4:30 pm in downtown Ft. Lauderdale at the Chase Bank, 720 East Broward Blvd.** At the beginning of the Seder we will deliver a letter to the manager at the Chase Bank, asking that they divest from fossil fuel investments.



Our press release says, "we will assemble in front of the Chase Bank at 4:30 pm, Apr 20<sup>th</sup>.

Protestors will proclaim the plagues that fossil fuel Pharaohs – coal, oil and gas companies – have wreaked, raise matzah as a symbol of urgency, and demand that Chase Bank – one of the largest global investors in oil, gas, and coal – ‘move their dough’ by leaving behind polluting fossil fuel projects and fulfilling their zero emissions commitments."

#### **BUUKies April Read – "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah. We will meet on Wednesday, Apr 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

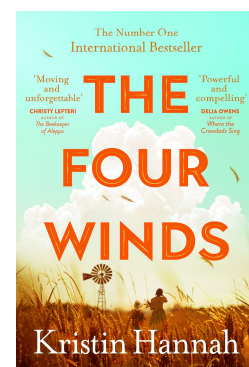
[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

"The Four Winds seems eerily prescient in 2021 . . . Its message is galvanizing and hopeful: We are a nation of scrappy survivors. We've been in dire straits before; we will be again. Hold your people close." – The New York Times

"Through one woman's survival during the harsh and haunting Dust Bowl, master storyteller, Kristin Hannah, reminds us that the human heart and our Earth are as tough, yet as fragile, as a change in the wind." – Delia Owens, author of "Where the Crawdads Sing".

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

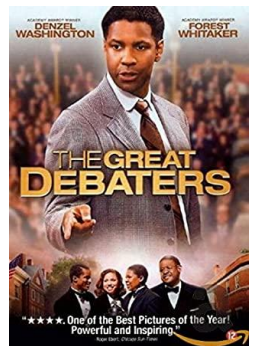


**RoG Men's Group: We meet the first and third Thursday each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** We will meet on [Zoom at Meeting ID 670 022 402](#) for the foreseeable future. We gather and do check-in where we share our day. Then a discussion topic is presented. We read aloud the premise and questions and then discuss it all until 8:30 pm. The goal is that the sharing moves from head to heart. **The Apr 21<sup>st</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.

**8<sup>TH</sup> Principle Dinner Conversations** – If you missed the Lunch and Dinner Conversations offered in March by the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Team, please join Steve and Kathy Jens-Rochow at their home in Ft Lauderdale on **Apr 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm!** Please respond to [8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:8thprincipleteam@riverofgrassuu.org) to secure your space or for further information. We look forward to your participation as we plan to vote on this principle at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting!



**HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM** – The Black Film group will discuss “The Great Debaters” on **Wednesday, Apr 27<sup>th</sup>**, at 7pm. It is a docudrama based on the true story of a young James Farmer Jr. (who went on to found the Congress of Racial Equality), a 14 year old attending an all-Black college in Texas in the 1930's. He is selected to be on the debate team. The team was the first black debate team to compete against a White University (Oklahoma City University) but then went on to challenge Harvard (although in the real life story it was University of Southern California, the number 1 debate school at that time). Directed by Denzel Washington [black]. Great cast Denzel Washington, Denzel Whitaker, Forest Whitaker. [all black]



Watch the movie “The Great Debaters” on your own (available on Amazon). We will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, Apr 27<sup>th</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/j/84418593114>

**The SE UU Cluster and UU Justice Florida present – Justice Saturday 2022 – Environmental Justice: Big Money, Sugar Cane, and Racism – Saturday, Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm**

Other countries have effectively banned sugar cane burning and found better ways to harvest sugar cane. While in Florida, Big Sugar continues to burn sugar cane fields despite the environmental and health issues of surrounding BIPOC communities.



Join us as Rev. David Lawlor, Co-Chair of UU Ministry for Earth, and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Rashid Shaikh, Co-Chair of UU BIPOC Caucus for Climate Justice, and a panel of activists discuss the issue and what we can do to stop this injustice.

**Free: Pre-register for the zoom link: [vicepresident@SEUUcluster.org](mailto:vicepresident@SEUUcluster.org)**

Panelists:

- **Colin Walkes**, former mayor of Pahokee, representing Sierra Club's “Stop the Burn” Campaign
- **Robert C. Mitcherll**, Friends of the Everglades
- **Dr. Arkush Banzal**, Clinicians for Climate Action
- **Aliki Moncrief**, Executive Director of Florida Conservation Voters
- **Rep Anna V. Eskamani**, District 47, Orange County, Florida House

**POSTAL FOOD DRIVE – On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, River of Grass needs 30 volunteers for the Postal Food Drive. We got the Post Office we had 3 years ago: Plantation Post Office, 7580 NW 5 St, Plantation, FL 33317. This Drive is where we sort and pack food coming in during the Postal Food Drive for LifeNet4Families, the feeding program we support. This is a family friendly event. Children and youth can help by sorting and packing food for LifeNet4Families. We will have two shifts: **4 to 6 pm and 6 to 8 pm**. Please sign up by replying to Steve Jens-Rochow, [SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org).



**SUUSI 2022, "Gratitude," will be held in-person on the campus of Western Carolina University, from July 17-23. Registration has opened!** If you haven't been to SUUSI before, the SUUSI website has a [page of helpful information to help you get oriented](#). From the webpage, use the menus at the top to navigate to practical information about SUUSI (the "join us!" menu), programs for various age groups (the "by age" menu), and our planned events (the "by interest" menu).



Click on the [2022 catalog link](#) to see the listing of all planned events for SUUSI or to search by event type. You can also view [workshops](#), [nature trips](#), and [sports & games](#) events on the pages devoted to those programs.

**To register for SUUSI, you will need to have an account in SOLIS, the SUUSI Online Information System.** Click [here](#) to create an account or to log in and register for SUUSI on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We're so excited! We hope you are too.

**SUUSI Job Listings!** We are always looking for folks to join our SUUSI staff family. While everyone at SUUSI is encouraged to volunteer to help out in some way, SUUSI Staff make a formal commitment to work a set number of hours in one (or more) SUUSI departments. In exchange, they receive credit towards the cost of registration, meals, and housing. [Staff applications are available in SOLIS](#). Considering applying for staff? Our current openings are on the SUUSI website, [information on staff positions](#).

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Join your fellow UUs who avoid buying items that use styrofoam. Styrofoam is not biodegradable, so it stays in the landfill undissolved for generations! Luckily most major fast food chains stopped using styrofoam years ago. Join the no-styrofoam movement and know you are making a difference.

**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 March 24, 2022**

*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. 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.

When risk levels are very high or severe, for over two weeks, in person gathering may be canceled.

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 tests are 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.

It is highly recommended that persons attending in person gathering be vaccinated.

In person service leaders, hosts and singers may wish to be unmasked. If so desired, the individual shall have tested negative within the last 24 hours.

The meeting space shall be well ventilated. Air purifiers or fans may be utilized within the meeting space.

Chairs shall be arranged utilizing social distancing (6 ft).

Food may be shared outdoors only, provided people remain socially distanced while unmasked.

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.*