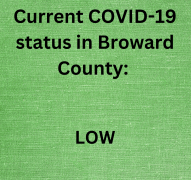


River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
PO Box 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345



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

River of Grass Weekly Update – April 27, 2023

Change Is Resistance: A Living Faith for an Evolving World

*I call that church free ...
that aims to find unity in diversity
under the promptings of the spirit
"that bloweth where it listeth ...
and maketh all things new."
- James Luther Adams*

What does it mean that Unitarian Universalism is a “living tradition?” A religion that aims to resist adherence to dogma -- especially the risk of a dogma of our own inadvertent making -- that ever evolves and embraces the possibilities of change, that “maketh all things new.” Join us this Sunday to explore how our shared faith is moving forward, to open our hearts and minds to a forever changing world, and learn once more what it means that “love is the doctrine of this faith.”

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Heritage Hall 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 Sunday morning rental space is located 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/j/ab3E9JRtb9>

Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

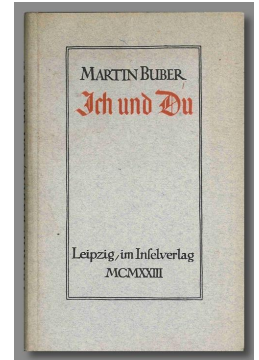
Sunday, April 30, 2023 - 10:30 AM

River of Grass UU Congregation – Change Is Resistance: A Living Faith for an Evolving World – Rev Amy Carol

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

Children’s Faith Development: As we continue the theme of Resistance, our Small Group for Children this Sunday will explore the idea that breath work helps us to resist becoming scattered and captive of the “monkey mind.” Buddhism is a powerful example of this with its emphasis on meditation, which is honored through the Buddhist holiday of Vesak, celebrating the life of Buddha on May 5th. For more information about our Faith Development program, contact Karen at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

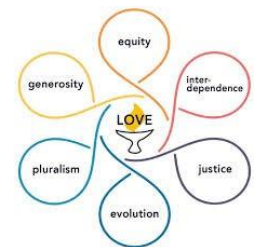
Adult Faith Development: Join member and Jewish scholar, Andrew Meit for an introduction to Martin Buber's thoughts. Buber’s thinking focuses on a theory of relationships between: each other, God/spirit/creativity, and animals. Buber wants to help us see, create, and maintain genuine relationships by understanding his famous book, Ich und Du (I and Thou). Buber’s writing has influenced many fields of study, including Unitarian Universalism. Andrew will host a 1-hour introduction to Buber, which could become a deeper dive for those interested. Reach out to our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez, to sign up for this session ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org. “When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them.” - Martin Buber



Article II Amendment Discussion Workshops: At General Assembly 2023, Unitarian Universalists will take an initial vote on proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws, which includes the current UUA purposes, principles, sources, and clauses on inclusion and freedom of belief.

The following Zoom workshops to discuss amendments to the [Article II Study Commission proposal \(PDF\)](#) are open to all Unitarian Universalists. Whether or not you submitted a suggestion or idea, we encourage you to join us for one or more of these workshops.

1. Amendment Discussion Workshop #1
Thursday, May 11 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT
[Register now for the May 11th workshop](#)
2. Amendment Discussion Workshop #2
Thursday, May 18 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT
[Register now for the May 18th workshop](#)
3. Amendment Discussion Workshop #3
Sunday, May 21 4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT
[Register now for the May 21st workshop](#)



Presidential Search Committee Nominates Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President

The Unitarian Universalist Association’s (UUA) Presidential Search Committee is pleased to announce the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for UUA President, for the 2023-2029 term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt is an experienced leader and theologian in Unitarian Universalism, including formerly serving as a professor at Starr King School for the Ministry and as Interim Co-President of the UUA in 2017. She currently serves as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The Presidential term is for 6 years. Member congregations of the UUA, through their delegates, elect the UUA President. The campaign for President will take place throughout the first half of 2023 and conclude with an election at our multiplatform [General Assembly](#), online and in Pittsburgh, PA, June 21-25.

To learn more about Rev Dr. Sofia Betancourt, please join the following Presidential Forums on any of the dates below. You must register to attend.

- **Saturday, April 29, 2023**
Unitarian Church of Evanston: 1330 Ridge Ave, Evanston, IL 60201
2pm ET / 1pm CT/12pm MT / 11am PT
[Register to attend](#)

- **Saturday, May 20, 2023**

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara: 1535 Santa Barbara St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

4pm ET / 3pm CT / 2pm MT / 1pm PT

[Register to attend](#)

- **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

First Unitarian Church of Dallas: 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas, TX 75205

2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT

[Register to attend](#)

River People are Saving Energy – Fourteen River people have taken the Low Carbon Diet, and saved 157,000 pounds of Carbon Dioxide annually in actions they have done previously. Take a look at the list below and tell me how much you have saved in previous green actions you have already done.

Pounds of CO2 Saved per Year per Household:

- 5,000 Switch from a vehicle getting 25 mpg to one getting 50 mpg
- 11,000 Switch to an electric vehicle from a gas vehicle getting 25mpg
- 175 Install an insulating blanket around your hot water heater
- 150 Set your hot water heater thermostat to 120°
- 2,500 Install solar hot water
- 800 Install hybrid hot water heater
- 2,500 Change 20 incandescent light bulbs to LEDs
- 240 Raise your AC thermostat 2°
- 600 Turn off all electrical equipment when not in use
- 800 Install low-e insulating duo pane windows
- 700 Insulate your attic
- 500 Use cold water in your washing machine [5 loads a week]
- 500 Install an Energy Star front load washer
- 125 Rinse hand washed dishes in cold water
- 125 Install an Energy Star dishwasher
- 250 Install a low flow showerhead
- 1,050 Reduce solid waste by 10 gallons weekly
- 25,000 Switch your electricity to renewable power [solar, wind]
- 800 Install an Energy Star air conditioner
- 4900 Switch from meat to vegetarian diet [per person]

If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Jens-Rochow SSIGT@ribverofgrassuu.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 or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

What's New in the Unitarian Universalist World? Plan to stay for our Second Helping program on **Sunday, April 30th** to learn about big changes coming to the UUA Bylaws. Article II of our bylaws are required to be reviewed every 15 years and some interesting recommendations have been made to update them. Just when you thought you might be able to remember all of our 8 Principles, they may be taking a back seat! Delegates from our congregation will be voting on these changes at the General Assembly in Pittsburgh this June. **This "Second Helping" gathering at noon on the 30th is an opportunity for you to learn more and give guidance to your representatives.**

RoG Men's Group - We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **Thursday May 4th, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**, in person or via Zoom Meeting. Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. Our optional pre meeting dinner is at 5:30 PM at the **Flashback Diner, 4125 Davie Road, Davie, FL 33328**. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken Bresnahan, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 7:00pm. Questions: contact Ken; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org.

MUUVies for Change May viewing is "American Son"

Director Kenny Leon, Writer Christopher Demos-Brown, Stars Kerry Washington, Steven Pasquale, Jeremy Jordan. Time passes and tension mounts in a Florida police station as an estranged interracial couple awaits news of their missing teenage son. Available on [Netflix](#). MUUVies for Change will discuss "American Son" on **Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 PM**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow 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/u/kvL0D4l8Y>.

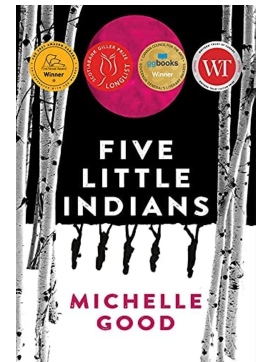


BUUKies May Read - "Five Little Indians" by Michelle Good (Cree Indian Canadian). We will meet on Wednesday, May 17th at 7pm.

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

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

BUUKies May read is about Cree Indian children in church schools. It is the story about 5 children of Native American heritage who are taken off the reservation, away from their families and sent to live in a church run "Indian School" when they are very small. Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie, and Maisie are barely out of childhood when they are finally released after years of abusive detention. Historical Fiction, based on the author's mother and grandmother's (survivors themselves) accounts. Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



Trans Life in Florida; How We Can Be Supporters and Advocates – The Sunshine Cluster, formerly the SE Cluster, will present an exciting workshop on Trans issues **on Saturday, May 20th**. How can we be supporters and advocates for Trans people in Florida? The two speakers are from Equality Florida eqfl.org : Nikole Parker, Director of Transgender Equality and Geanny Joseph Ruiz, Statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Manager. Nikole will be discussing transgender life through trans eyes, and then give a current legislative update. And Geanny will be discussing protections and issues currently facing LGBTQ youth and families here in Florida. (flier on last page of this email)

When: Saturday, May 20, 2023 FREE

Time: 1:00pm

Cost: FREE

Register: To Register email seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience:

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp counselors and leaders, capital campaign manager, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- **Homecoming, May 26-29.** Join us at The Mountain for our 43rd Annual Gathering of Members and Friends. We will have three days of renewing connections with old friends and making new connections, being immersed in

this extraordinary natural environment, learning about current projects and possibilities for the future, in addition to workshops, entertainment, and our Annual Meeting.

- **Summer Camp options for kids and for adults!**
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

For information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Use efficient LED light bulbs. Resist the temptation to buy "old fashion" light bulbs, and instead replace bulbs with LEDs. They barely cost more, and they use 1/7 the electricity, produce less heat, reduce your electric bill, and last for 20 years.

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

Team: 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: 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: Current Broward County Status

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

Community Level MEDIUM:

- 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. **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 to 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

The Sunshine Cluster Justice Saturday 2023
Formerly the SE Florida UU Cluster

Trans Life in Florida; How We Can Be Supporters and Advocates

Speakers from Equality Florida:



Nikole Parker left her job and home at 19 to begin her journey to living authentically. After 3 years of black-market hormones and unsafe lifestyle practices, she came back to Orlando to begin her next chapter. Nikole's passion is advocating for human rights, protections for all, and the importance of everyone having a seat at the table.

Nikole is the Director of Transgender Equality at Equality Florida.

Through advocacy, Nikole hopes to encourage open dialogue on gender issues, state and federal protections for all and linkage to proper transitioning resources. Her hope is to teach people that the black-market way of transitioning isn't the only way.

She will be discussing transgender life through trans eyes, and then give a current legislative update.

Geanny Joseph Ruiz serves as the Statewide Safe and Healthy Schools Manager for Equality Florida. She is an experienced social justice education practitioner, and trained facilitator. She has worked extensively within education systems and community partners throughout the state. Her professional focus has been providing education and resources to support the health, safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC students. Geanny holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communications and a Masters Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University.

She will be discussing protections and issues currently facing LGBTQ youth and families here in Florida.



Saturday, May 20, 2023 FREE

1:00pm

To Register reply to seucluster@gmail.com for Zoom link

The Workshop will feature Presentations from the Speakers,
Question and Answer times, and two Breakout Group Sessions