

River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

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

River of Grass Weekly Update – May 12, 2022

Beauty for Ashes

... [we are] sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. To comfort all that mourn ...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. (Isaiah 61:1-4)

As we continue our May considerations of what it means to be A People of Beauty, this Sunday we gather to ask ourselves how such a broken world -- war-torn, grieving, falling to ash before our eyes – can also offer us such beauty? The better question is, how are we called to bring beauty to such a world? How we shall be “trees of righteousness?” How shall we begin to repair the desolations of many generations?

Join with us this Sunday at River of Grass to lift up these questions posed in every age as we consider our way forward through the changes to hand as individuals and families, as congregation and community. Come, let us offer you beauty for ashes.

Then stay for our River of Grass Annual Meeting as we engage the beauty of our 5th Principle (Democratic Process) to chart our way through the new world before us and celebrate the opportunities it brings.

Follow the [Zoom link](#) below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu>.

Come as you are – we’ll be watching for you! 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, May 15, 2022

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Beauty for Ashes - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development for children of all ages 9:30am on Zoom

On Sunday morning in our Faith Development class for children, we'll reflect on Appreciating and Celebrating Beauty in Others. Our diversity is what makes us all so beautiful, including our diverse ways of thinking and working. Just as there's no such thing as "normal", there's no definitive idea of what beauty is! Our afternoon classes are canceled so that parents may attend our Annual Meeting. For more information about our Faith

Development Program for Kids and Teens, contact our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

The Worship Team has a number of opportunities STILL OPEN!

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!**
- **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.**
- **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.

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

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

The 8th 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."

95th ANNIVERSARY OF DELRAY LYNCHING RECALLS LINGERING INJUSTICE

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie

September 20, 2021

"LYNCHING BEE REPORTED NEAR DELRAY CANAL; Official Report of Negro's Death Not Received."

"NEGRO TAKEN FROM JAIL AND LYNCHED BY MOB AT DELRAY"

"NEGRO TAKEN FROM DELRAY JAIL AND LYNCHED."

These lurid headlines, from the Pensacola Journal (front page), Tampa Tribune (page 13-B), and Palm Beach Post (page 6-A) respectively, of Sunday, October 17, 1926, all introduced the same, and apparently the only reporting, by the Associated Press, of a lynching murder had that had occurred fully three weeks earlier, in the article below, which raises many more questions than answers as to what actually occurred:

MIAMI, Oct. 16 - (AP) - Sam Nelson, alias Joseph Johnson, negro [sic], was taken from the jail at Delray and lynched near the city by unidentified persons on September 26, according to reports from reliable sources reaching here tonight.

No official announcement of the incident has been made, although a coroner's jury was said to have investigated the affair and to have rendered a verdict that Nelson suffered "death at the hands of parties unknown."

The negro was said to have been charged with attempted criminal assault on a white woman in Miami. On the afternoon of September 26, he was arrested by authorities in Delray, sixty miles north. The following morning the steel

door of the jail was found battered open, and the negro gone. A short time later the body of Nelson, riddled with bullets, was found on the bank of a canal near the Military Trail, four miles west of Delray.

A jury was declared to have been empanelled, and to have returned its verdict to an unnamed justice of the peace. Miami police said tonight they did not recall an assault case of this kind, nor had they been informed of the lynching.

This incident takes its place in the grisly catalogue of that singularly American custom of human sacrifice known as lynching, which claimed more than 4,400 reported African American lives -that-mattered alone between 1877 and 1950, an average of more than one per week in the nation for 73 years.

This statistic, be It noted for the record, does not even include all those of other ethnicities, nor the thousands of victims of anti-Black "race riots" and wanton massacres, nor the untold number of "racially" motivated murders that have not been recorded, nor the lasting impact of these incidents on the families and communities of victim and their subsequent generations, nor the numberless cases of terror and violence that produced injuries of varying degrees of seriousness that happened not to end in death.

Don't forget the adoption vote of the 8th Principle will be held on May 15, 2022 at the Congregational Annual Meeting! 8th Principle Team: Lou De Santis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson and Steve Jens-Rochow. Questions? 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 or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE – On Saturday, May 14th, 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.



Gatherings Beginning and Beginning Anew!

As our COVID stats remain low-to-manageable at this time, we're bringing back some of our favorite ways to gather, and beginning another way we have profound need of in these still-difficult days. We aim for each group to meet twice before the Summer arrives, then monthly, and each group will decide whether to meet during the Summer or reconvene in September. Mark your calendars with these dates for the remainder of this Congregational Year, and email minister@riverofgrassuu.org for details.

Good Grief Bereavement Group --

3rd Tuesdays, 7pm

May 17, plus bonus May 31

Welcome Table Communion Circle --

4th Thursdays, 7pm

May 19, plus bonus June 9

Drum Circle --

4th Fridays, 7pm

May 27, plus bonus June 10

Email minister@riverofgrassuu.org for details, and we'll be watching for you!

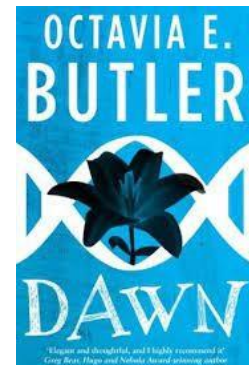
BUUKies May Read – "Dawn" by Octavia E. Butler. We will meet on Wednesday, May 18th at 7pm.

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

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

An alien race calls on one woman to revive mankind after Earth's apocalypse in this science fiction classic.

Lilith Iyapo has just lost her husband and son when atomic fire consumes Earth—the last stage of the planet's final war. Hundreds of years later Lilith awakes, deep in the hold of a massive alien spacecraft piloted by the Oankali—who arrived just in time to save humanity from extinction. They have kept Lilith and other survivors asleep for centuries, as they learned whatever they could about Earth. Now it is time for Lilith to lead them back to her home world, but life among the Oankali on the newly resettled planet will be nothing like it was before. For the first time since the nuclear holocaust, Earth will be inhabited. Grass will grow, animals will run, and people will learn to survive the planet's untamed wilderness. But their children will not be human. Not exactly.



Steve Jens-Rochow 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 May 19th topic is: "TBD."** The Topic Description is online at 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; RoG Men's Group Facilitator.

HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM – The Black Film group will discuss **"In the Heat of the Night"**. A black Philadelphia police detective [Sidney Poitier] is mistakenly suspected of a local murder while coming back to his racially hostile Mississippi hometown, and after being cleared is reluctantly asked by the police chief [Rod Steiger] to investigate the case. The film explores the rampant racism of the police and townspeople. The film won five Oscars including Best Picture and Best Actor for Steiger.

The 8th Principle Black Film Group will discuss "In the Heat of the Night" on **Wednesday, May 25th at 7pm**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow 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/kvL0D418Y>



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: AVOID BEEF! Avoiding beef is most likely the #1 thing each of us can do to help the environment. Compared to other meats, beef generates 5 times the greenhouse gasses, uses 11 times the water, and 28 times the land, according to the National Academy of Sciences. Skip the beef, save the planet.

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

Team: Deb Buehler Ely, 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/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. **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.