

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 26, 2022

Came So Far for Beauty

*I Came so far for beauty
I left so much behind
My patience and my family
My masterpiece unsigned
– Leonard Cohen*

Our month-long contemplations of what it means to be a people who Nurture Beauty brings us to consider how far we've come – as individuals, community, and congregation – and how far we are yet willing to go on our quest for beauty. This Sunday, May 29, 2022, we ask – what has this quest shaped our hearts and minds and bodies, and how may it yet transform us in the new world before us? We'll have the music of Leonard Cohen, and Rev. Amy Carol Webb, and the poetry of Maggie Smith, with moments to reflect and encourage one another for the days ahead.

We will also offer remembrance in honor of Memorial Day and those who have given their lives in service to us all.

Come as you and join us in Zoom at the link below or on our Facebook page live at 10:30 am, May 29, 2022.

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Came So Far for Beauty: Memorial Day - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development: There are no Faith Development classes for kids on Sunday. We look forward to worshipping together next Sunday, under the pavilion, when we will look back on our school year, thank our teachers, bless our newest young friends and share in a flower communion. For more information about our Faith Development Program for Kids and Teens, contact our Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverOfGrassUU.org.

8TH PRINCIPLE TEAM MESSAGE

8th Principle Adopted at River of Grass!!

8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism

*“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.”*



riverofgrassuu.org

We did it! The 165th Congregation to adopt the 8th Principle! Thank you to the 8th Principle Team for your hard work and passion and the congregation who agreed by vote at our Annual Meeting, May 15, 2022.

Over many months the Team provided opportunities for group discussions over lunch and dinner in Members' homes, film and book discussions, as well as written and spoken testimonials weekly identifying the issues and examples of harm toward of black and brown people and other marginalized groups. We will transition over the Summer to set action goals our congregation will pursue in the next congregational year to fulfill our ongoing commitment to dismantle racism and other oppressions.

8th Principle Team: Lou De Santis, Rita Cherubini, Tanya Gustafson and Steve Jens-Rochow.

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/>

River Drum Circle – We will be drumming live in person tomorrow evening, Friday, May 27 at 7:00 pm! Address below. Please be masked as we are indoors in enclosed space and our COVID numbers have been rising. As always, if you're unvaccinated/can't be vaccinated or at risk for any reason, please consider. We will be signing in for contact tracing should any of us turn up COVID positive in the next week. Come drum with us! 4431 SW 64th Ave, Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. Email minister@riverofgrassuu.org for details, and we'll be watching for you!

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

Bonus May 31

Welcome Table Communion Circle – Our Welcome Table will be via Zoom only this evening.

4th Thursdays, 7pm

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!

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 Jun 2nd 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 – We will discuss "In the Heat of the Night" on Wednesday, Jun 22nd at 7pm. **June Discussion: "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, Jun 22nd 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/84418593114>



***SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Use recycled paper and reduce printing whenever you can. Ask yourself if you really need a hard copy. Print double-sided whenever your printer allows. The trees will thank you!*

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 May 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**.

Based upon the updated CDC guidelines and the Broward County risk levels, the following measures are recommended to the Board.

Community Level High: Follow our previous guidelines, listed below.

In person Worship services - inside

- Masks required for all, with possible exception of speakers (see below). Masks should be KN-95 if possible.
- If the Minister and/or other speakers wish to be unmasked, they must take a rapid test the night before the service. They must maintain social distancing at all times while unmasked.
- Singing transmits more aerosols than speaking. At this time, no singing except the Minister. Humming OK!
- Maintain social distancing between household groups while indoors.
- No food or drinks inside.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

After service - outside

- Maintain social distancing.

Meetings and Small Groups - inside and outside.

- Group/meeting leader should determine if all attendees are vaccinated and comfortable with disclosing status. This may require some quick private conversations prior to the meeting! If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks: up to the group. Be mindful of crowding.
- All attendees should sign in with current contact information in the event that contact tracing is required.

Community Level Medium: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Medium

Community Level Low: Individuals should follow CDC Guidelines for Low

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.