

# 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 – June 16, 2022

## The Complex Feelings of Father's Day

*“May we be grateful for the nurturing we have received in our lives, from sources both hidden and obvious. May we heal from the losses highlighted by Father’s Day. May we nurture each other and the generations to come. May the friendship and love we have in our lives today ease the pain and amplify the positive memories of our past. May this be a day of reconciliation and peace.”*

-Rev. Lyn Cox

Sunday’s worship service focuses on exploring and celebrating Father’s Day, with all the complex emotions it brings.

Holidays are complicated, especially the ones named after roles. Human relationships are messy, including relationships with people who are honored by holidays.

For a lot of people, Father’s Day brings up feelings of grief for fathers who were lost, or who couldn’t be there, or who chose not to be there.

Father’s Day might bring up feelings of sorrow or regret for people who want(ed) to be fathers and haven’t been able to, or who haven’t been able to be the fathers they wanted to be for their kids.

On the other hand, Father’s Day can be joyful and sweet, remembering the times when dads or granddads or role models were there for us.

We will come together to recognize all the complex feelings of Father’s Day and to find reconciliation and peace.

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!

Use 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>.

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

**Sunday, June 19, 2022**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – The Complex Feelings of Father's Day -Rob Giblin-Davis

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

### *Rev. Amy Summer Vacation & Study Leave*

My Beloveds, as of June 11, I'll be heading out for both my Summer Adventures 2022, as well as my work in service to the greater Unitarian Universalist community with conferences with the UU Minister's Association, General Assembly, SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute), and as the UU minister in residence for week seven at the historic Chautauqua Institute. The business meetings of the UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association) and UUA GA (Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly) are already underway. In between I'll have some vacation time and study time to rest, renew, and prepare for this most crucial coming congregational year as we build a new way. I'll see you back in the office in mid-August, and back in the pulpit to launch our 11th year together on the first Sunday in September for Labor Day! If you have a pastoral care emergency that may require professional ministry, please contact the President of the Board, Kathy Jens-Rochow [president@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:president@riverofgrassuu.org), or our Pastoral Care Team [PastoralCare@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:PastoralCare@riverofgrassuu.org).

### *Summer Journeys*

To give our many volunteers who have been bringing virtual services to our congregation for the last 30 months, we have elected to take the Summer off and give the Worship team a break! If you remember, we did this on a smaller scale last summer.

We will be providing a schedule of congregations to visit weekly and the links to their services as well as a "Sunday Noon Zoom Get-together" after services from 12:00 to 1:30 so we all can meet, greet and feel connected!

On Aug 7<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting on Zoom and in-person at the University of Florida campus as we have on the past first Sundays of the month.

The schedule will be coming out shortly and will be posted on the website and in the weekly email. The first service on our journey will be the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ft Lauderdale on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00A.

Hope to see you there! Questions, please contact [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org).



## Juneteenth, Sunday, June 19th

Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.



Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House two months earlier in Virginia, but slavery had remained relatively unaffected in Texas—until U.S. General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and read General Orders No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free.”

### 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/>

**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 16<sup>th</sup> topic is: "Optimism."** 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.

**HI LOVERS OF BLACK FILM** – We will discuss “In the Heat of the Night” on Wednesday, Jun 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Black Film Group will discuss "In the Heat of the Night" on **Wednesday, Jun 22<sup>nd</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>

### Good Grief Group – Summer!

Marilisa Lawless – an LMFT, with certificates in Grief, Addiction, and Trauma Therapy (LMFT, MCAP, LCH), member of the River of Grass Pastoral Care team, and queen of our current office space -- has offered to gather the group monthly in June and July before RevAmy returns in mid-August. The dates are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month: **June 28, July 26**. Email [pastoralcare@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@riverofgrassuu.org) for details, and we’ll be watching for you!

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Check the air pressure in your car tires -- it just takes a minute! Properly inflated tires will improve fuel economy, using less gas and reducing air pollution. Plus it will extend tire life, saving you \$\$\$!

### *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: 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.*

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

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.*