

# 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 – August 18, 2022

This summer we are excited to be offering a way for our members and friends to explore the variety of experiences that our UU faith has to offer and to meet other amazing congregations and ministers that Rev. Amy admires and wants us to get to know. Thanks to technology, we can visit congregations all across the country from our couch! This will also give our own volunteers a much needed break. We have put together a list of congregations that we can join each Sunday that is posted with the links on our website. Find it at <https://riverofgrassuu.org/index.html>. This will run from July 3rd to August 28th. This **Sunday August 21st, we will journey back to the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, NY at 10:30 am;** Passcode: WELCOME;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8121374673?pwd=aGRsM3RPZ1FlaWw5L3dHZVBtb2FUUT09>.

### Proceed from a Place of Unknowing

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman will lead this service. [Click here](#) for the weekly Order of Service.

After service Kathy Jens-Rochow will host a "**Sunday Noon Zoom Get-together**" from 12:00 to 1:30 so we all can meet, greet and feel connected! Grab your favorite beverage and join us! Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96108106093>; Meeting ID: 961 0810 6093.

### **GIVING**

Even as we focus our attention away from our own congregation, on travel and visiting other UU congregations, and just taking a rest, we still need your contributions to sustain and strengthen this beloved community and its mission in our world. Each Sunday half of our undesignated offerings go to LifeNet4Families, which provides hot meals 365 days a year as well as clothing and support here in Broward county. The other half supports the mission and ministry at River of Grass.

To give, please go to: [Our Donation Page](#)

or Text to Donate at 844-948-1153

Simply text an amount (no dollar sign needed) on your smartphone, and the key word "plate" to the number above, example: 10.00 plate. Please give generously and joyfully so that we may feed and fortify this congregation and its good work in the world that needs it, now more than ever.

### **Upcoming In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:**

#### **Sunday, August 21, 2022**

**UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, NY at 10:30 am** – Proceed from a Place of Unknowing

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8121374673?pwd=aGRsM3RPZ1FlaWw5L3dHZVBtb2FUUT09>

***Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders*** – The UUA's Our Whole Lives (OWL) program is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that is led by trained facilitators and open to youth outside of our congregation. We're excited to welcome soon-to-be-trained Sam Alva as a new facilitator for our 7-9th grade class

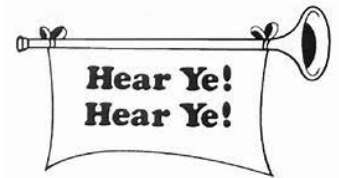
this year. If you know a family who might be interested in enrolling their child in this class, please have them contact Faith Development Director, Karen Gonzalez at [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org). You can learn more about [OWL at this link](#).

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

My Beloveds, I have headed 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 Ministers 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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).

### **New Worship Schedule with more in person services:**

Beginning Sep 4<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at University of Florida's IFAS Building in person twice monthly! The schedule from Sep 4<sup>th</sup> through Dec 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) includes **meeting in-person on the FIRST AND THIRD Sundays of the month**. In January, we will be meeting **EVERY WEEK at our new location at the Old Davie Schoolhouse** in Davie at 2:00 p.m. As we settle back into our fall routine, please join us. We will be looking for you! If you have any questions, please email the Worship team at [worship@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:worship@riverofgrassuu.org).



### **Volunteer opportunities:**

**Office** – Have some free time on your hands and want to help out the River of Grass office? Here is your opportunity. Our office administrator, Sandy, is going on a vacation and will be out of the office starting **Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup> and back in the office the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup>**. All work is done from your computer, no need to come into the office. Training will be based on your schedule. If needed, live practice can be early next week. Then on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, you take over. What needs to be covered?



- **Weekly email and Order of Service** - this takes about 2-3 hours per week in formatting then another 30 mins to send out the email containing both items. This weekly email is sent out every Thursday afternoon.
- **Email blasts** - 15-30 mins to format and send the email to all in our congregation per blast. This is an as needed activity and not scheduled.
- **Phone coverage** - checking voicemail through an app on your smartphone and being able to send the digital audio message to a team lead, if needed. 15-30 mins per day checking periodically.
- **Updating the calendar and sending out zoom links** - 15 mins per event. This is an as needed activity and not scheduled.

Please contact Sandy in the office ([office@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:office@RiverofGrassUU.org)) and let her know if you are able to cover any of these items. Training and instructions will be included.

**Faith Development** – Our children's Faith Development program is looking for people who would like to assist with activities, games and crafts to support the elementary group lessons. We will need two assistants each time we meet in person and we hope to have enough helpers that you will only be needed once or twice a month.

Do you think this is a way that you'd like to serve our River of Grass community? We promise, you'll learn something! Contact our FD Director, Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) to volunteer or ask questions.

### **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/>

*SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Invest green! Most 401Ks and IRAs offer "sustainable" or "social" investment options - which avoid petroleum, coal, guns, etc. One example is Vanguard Social Index. Align your money with your values!*

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

**Team:** 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.*