

# 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 – October 8, 2020

## Celebrating our Diversity: The Latinx Community

Come join us this second Sunday of October to continue our month-long exploration of the meanings and ways of Deep Listening. This week we will share our personal story on the joy we have experienced as adopted members of the greater Latinx family. We'll reflect on the value of diversity and of listening to the perspectives of those of Latin heritage, and on how we might open our hearts even wider to express our UU principles based on love and respect. Oh! and there will be new music by some of our seriously awesome River of Grass musicians that will touch your heart, we promise.

Come as you are to gather with us for this Sunday's love-streamed service, remembering only the medium is virtual; the connections, the love, the spirit are real. Following the service, we will share virtual Hospitality time with a live chat and small groups where we can relish each other's beautiful faces and voices together once again.

Follow the link below to join us in Zoom – or if you'd like, we'll be simulcasting on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverofgrassuu/>. Tune in there for the service, then log onto our Zoom link for hospitality time afterward. And now that we have a larger Zoom space ready to welcome all who will join us from over this world – who will we meet this week?

Sunday morning, gather with us at the River – on your computer, your tablet, your phone (with video or only audio if you like, we'll miss your face!) -- just click or dial into our River of Grass Meeting Room at the link or numbers below. We'll be watching for you!

### Topic: Worship October 11, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 961 564 350

Password: 873805

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab3E9JRtb9>

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

#### **Sunday, October 11, 2020**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Ken & Leana Bresnahan - **Celebrating our Diversity: The Latinx Community**

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

**Faith Development: 12:30:** Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders; **3:00 pm:** teens

Our Second Principle asks us to practice compassion. During this month of Deep Listening, we'll begin finding compassion by Listening with our Hearts. This will be the focus for all of our class sessions on Sunday. We'll share that compassion with children from around the world as we also begin our unicef campaign. Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for more information.

**Young Adults are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, at 7:30 pm virtually on Zoom** – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**. Our

purpose is to foster an inclusive, diverse and intentional community that inspires spiritual growth and connection. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

### UPDATE ON FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023

Sep 27<sup>th</sup> - Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive

The Capital Campaign to fund our Future Home has three weeks left!!

**\$505,340 Currently Pledged toward our Capital Campaign Goal \$750,000**

The Capital Campaign has had a great start! By now you should have heard from your Steward who will discuss with you your plans for Future Home giving. Please welcome the information they have to share with you and ask lots of questions!

Members of the ROG community have been commenting on why they are giving to the Campaign. You've heard from Marjie and Esther, long time members of the congregation; Deb & Melissa Buehler-Ely and their children Emme and Everett on what this congregation means to them and their children; and this Sunday, Barbara Ratchford, will share her journey from her prior congregation to River of Grass. All of them speak with love and connection. We hope you, too, can state your own testimonial and how The River speaks to you and how you visualize our Future Home... the Sanctuary, the classrooms, the kitchen and play space for our kids! It's an exciting time and please know your participation is needed to make this dream our reality.

During these uncertain days, you may feel unable to make a generous gift to this Campaign; but, you can be part of it in any way that is financially comfortable. Remember, this is a three year financial plan in addition to your Annual Pledge. Your gift will be accepted in any amount that feels right. Even if you cannot start payments to the Campaign this year, next year might be your best time to start! [Filling out your pledge card online](#) will make it easy. Go to our website [riverofgrassuu.org](http://riverofgrassuu.org) under the tab "Future Home" for lots of information. You can set up recurring payments online or even Text-to-Give by texting a dollar amount followed by the code "CC" (without the quotation marks), example 150.00 CC, to our texting number, (844) 948-1153! Kathy Jens-Rochow is available to answer your questions, at [CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org). Be well, be safe, and see you on Sunday!

### Next Steps in Your Voting Plan: The Answers You Need

You made your voting plan and you chose your preferred voting method, but you may still have questions about how to put it into action. Now is the time to make sure you know exactly what you need to do.

#### Using a Vote-by-Mail Ballot?

- **I haven't received my VBM ballot yet. What should I do?** Contact the Broward County Supervisor of Elections office at 954-357-7050, to ask if you were sent a VBM ballot and when. (VBM ballots were mailed out starting September 24.)

Have a backup plan: If you still haven't received your ballot by the time Early Voting starts in your county (see dates below), there is still the option to vote in person if that is possible for you.

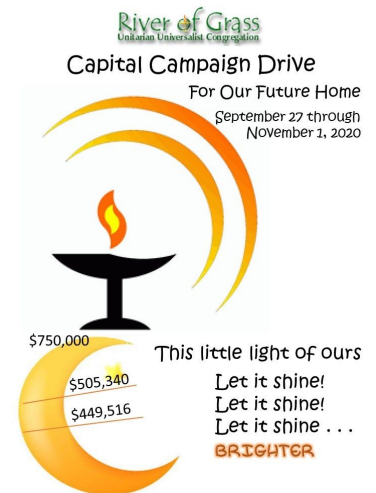
- **I received it, but I've got plenty of time to return it, right? Not so much!** With the much larger than usual number of VBM Ballots used this year, it's super important to return your VBM ballot as early as possible. Fill it out and put it in the mail right away or, even better, avoid possible postal delays by putting it directly in a secure dropbox instead. Check the Broward County website to find out if there's a dropbox location near you:

<https://www.browardsoe.org>

- **I've already mailed in my VBM ballot or dropped it in a dropbox. I'm done, right?** Almost—you just need to take one more step! Keep tabs on your ballot to make sure it was received and accepted. You can check online here: <https://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>

#### Planning on Voting during Early Voting Days?

- When and where can I vote early? Early Voting for Broward County is Monday, Oct. 19-Sunday, Nov. 1 (7 am-7 pm). You can check your Early Voting location options here: <https://www.browardsoe.org>.



Don't live in Broward County? Check your county's Supervisor of Elections website: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors>

**Your vote is your voice – use your voice in 2020!** (Note: Early voting dates, times, and locations subject to change; check back at the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website to confirm the latest information.) To be involved in promoting safe and fair elections in 2020, contact the Elders Stand for Fair Elections Florida team at [FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org](mailto:FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org).

### ***Faith Development - Trick or Treating for UNICEF***

This month our children will be raising money to help needy children around the world through an online unicef campaign. It's easy to contribute! [Connect through this link](#) or use the QR code. A pandemic only increases their need. Please give if you are able.



### ***From our Welcoming Congregation Team***

October 10<sup>th</sup> is National Coming Out Day! This day celebrates lesbian, gay, transgender, queer, non-binary people's coming out journey and experiences. First celebrated in the United States in 1988, the initial idea was grounded in the feminist and gay liberation spirit of the personal being political, and the emphasis on the most basic form of activism being coming out to family, friends and colleagues, and living life as an openly lesbian or gay person.

The first decades of observances were marked by private and public people coming out, often in the media, to raise awareness and let the mainstream know that everyone knows at least one person who is lesbian or gay. Participants often wear pride symbols such as pink triangles and rainbow flags.

### ***Smile.Amazon.com***

Did you know that **River of Grass has received \$1,187.18 in donations from AmazonSmile** as of August 2020? You can make a difference while you shop Amazon Prime Day deals on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Simply shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0791653](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0791653) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app and AmazonSmile donates to River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Inc.



**Did you know you can now use AmazonSmile in the Amazon mobile app?** Here is how to turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app. 1. Join AmazonSmile. If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, [sign up](#) on your web browser. Simply select your favorite charity (River of Grass 65-0791653) to start generating donations, at no cost to you. 2. Get the app. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android. 3. Turn on AmazonSmile. Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

### ***Microsoft Rewards - Donate to River of Grass***

Do you use Bing for your internet browser? If so, you can designate a non-Profit to receive rewards points for your searches. To be able to make your browser **"Give with Bing"**, [click on this link](#), sign into your Microsoft account and change your Nonprofit to "River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Inc." Donations will be distributed to non-profits roughly six weeks after the month end of when the points were donated. Microsoft Rewards will send you an email detailing your monthly impact even though the actual donation may lag. For example, members will receive an April monthly activity statement in early May and the donation will be paid to the designated non-profit in mid-June. Your Give Mode balance will reset to zero when the donation is made and you can start earning points again at the start of the new month. You can also visit [give.bing.com](https://give.bing.com) to see your total contributions.



### 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](#)

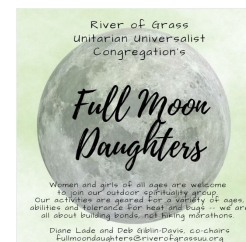
For more information or to register contact [Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com), or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

**River of Grass UU Congregation Service, Social Justice and Green Team (SSJGT) presents Decision 2020 Friday, Oct 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** The League of Women Voters of Broward County will bring useful and critical information about the 2020 elections to Broward residents via live online presentation on [Zoom](#).

#### Full Moon Daughters Virtual Brand New Year Brunch Oct 10<sup>th</sup>

The Full Moon Daughters, the River of Grass nature spirituality group for women and girls of all ages, will be holding its annual fall Brand New Year Brunch – virtual style! We invite you to join us from 12:00 - 2:00 pm on Saturday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. We will gather by Zoom, catch up with a special check-in, and plan our new CO-VID safe 2020-21 year. Bring your favorite brunch snack and beverage, and let's get creative on how we can still enjoy nature and each other's company. It's very important that we get your feedback. YOU MUST REGISTER in order to receive the Zoom link.

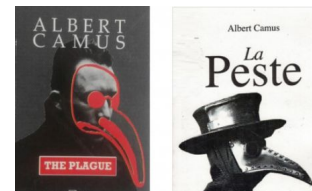
But it's easy: Just email [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org). Give us your name, current email and (optional) phone/text number. Blessings from your co-coordinators, Deb Giblin-Davis and Diane Lade



**Flowing River Sangha** – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. Every Tuesday night we will meet via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/201911385>. We will meet from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. For more information, please email Gary Gonzalez at [meditation@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

#### bUUKies Go Olde Skool with Camus - Oct 14<sup>th</sup>

What could possibly make life more interesting as we remain COVID-quarantined? Why, reading about a fictional plague and contemplating the parallels. So that's what the bUUKies are doing for the October read – the 1947 classic "The Plague" by Albert Camus. This book shot back onto the bestseller lists earlier this year, but it's not necessarily about an illness. Reviewer Liesl Schillinger notes that "the bacillus under the author's lens is not so much physiological as sociological, and philosophical...he addresses any contagion that might overtake any society; from a disease...to a corrosive ideology". This is deep stuff, folks. But don't worry – we're reading it in English, not the original French!



Our remaining selections for the fall are:

**November** - "Rodham" by Curtis Sittenfeld – what if Hillary had not married Bill?

**December** - "American Spy" by Lauren Wilkinson – a black woman CIA agent and American adventurism in the 1980s? Oh, yes.

Buukies meet by Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month, so the next meeting is Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. A link will be sent to the regular bUUKies. If not on our list, e-mail [bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org) and a link will be sent!

**UU Womenspirit Virtual Event Fall 2020** - Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit is hosting its first virtual weekend gathering Oct 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Registration for Everyday Sacred is now open! To view details of our virtual weekend gathering, check out our [brochure](#), or visit the UUWomenspirit [website](#). When you are ready to register for the event, here is the link for [Campwise](#). Contact our event registrar at [uuwomenspirit@gmail.com](mailto:uuwomenspirit@gmail.com) for assistance with registration. Blessed be! Melissa Christopher, Scribe, Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit

**New Member Ceremony, Sunday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, during service.** At our New Member Ceremony, we celebrate those who have found a new home in this Beloved Community. If you are interested in becoming a member at this ceremony, please RSVP by Oct 12<sup>th</sup> via email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). For more information see our website: [Becoming a Member](#).

**Light the way for others by facilitating our Inquirers Series!** Make new friends, share your story and enthusiasm for our beloved community. We need UU to shine a light, make a way and support those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and River of Grass. The series is on Wednesday evenings. Training is available. See Zena Tucker or email [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) to sign up.

**Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back! The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the updated schedule below!** Faith Forward Inquirers Series is a rotation of seven conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. The series is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to veteran members who want more information about our beloved community. New members and inquirers are encouraged to attend. Classes are not mandatory for membership but are highly recommended! Our next class is scheduled for **Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and is FF Inquirers #8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life.** For more info, email Zena Tucker, [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org). Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
10/14/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
10/28/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
11/4/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
11/11/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
12/2/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
12/9/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
1/6/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
1/13/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

### *Proposed Change in Policies and Procedures*

The Board reviewed and approved a proposed change in our Policies & Procedures, adding the following paragraph. In accordance with our Policy on Policies, we need to have a congregational review before making the change.

**Proposed Change in red and articles following this change will be renumbered.**

#### **9. Membership**

- A. The Minister is the only person authorized to sign up new members in the membership book except for person(s) specifically authorized by the Minister, or in the absence of the Minister, the Board President.
- B. In the absence of the Minister for a prolonged period, the President or Vice-president will have the responsibility of signing up new members.
- C. A signed new member document, approved by the Minister, is a suitable substitute for signing the membership book. Name(s) and date of membership will be annotated in the membership book as the date the form was received by the Office Administrator.**

Please review and send any recommendations for change to [Board@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Board@riverofgrassuu.org) by Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.

*SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Give away unneeded useful stuff to places like LifeNet, Goodwill, ARC Broward, and Faith Farm, rather than putting it in the trash. Let someone else make use of it and help save the planet!*

### *COVID-19 Response Update*

Our River of Grass faithful is actively responding to COVID-19. All face-to-face gatherings of any kind are suspended or moved on-line, and we have left our building. Numerous meetings and gatherings have transitioned online via Zoom. Welcome to our new norm!

We are grateful that many many members and friends are in self-quarantine, doing their part to protect themselves as well as reduce the spread of the virus, and only venturing outside when absolutely necessary.

Our extended Caring Team has coordinated a 'network of contacting' to help ensure our community has communication and is cared for..... and our Covenant Groups are a large part of this.

There is deep gratitude for the way our community cares for each other, remains flexible, and is diligent in responding to this unprecedented situation!

Take a deep breath. Allow any feelings and thoughts to be as they are. Know you are supported. Stay safe!

### ***Basic Protective Measures Against the New Coronavirus***

Your leadership at River of Grass are taking every precaution against the new coronavirus here at River of Grass and in the wider community we share. River of Grass is adhering to the following recommendations from the World Health Organizations.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Be aware of those in our midst with compromised immune systems.

### **Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:**

1. Regularly and thoroughly CLEAN YOUR HANDS with an alcohol-based hand-rub or washing with soap and water, especially – after coughing/sneezing; when caring for the sick; before, during, and after you prepare food; before eating; after toilet use; when hands are visibly dirty – and when they are not; after handling animals or animal waste.
2. Maintain social distancing – 6 feet between yourself and anyone.
3. Even if well, try to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others and when greeting, instead of elbow and fist bumps (no handshakes or hugs), consider placing your hand over your heart as a gesture of welcome and hello.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to avoid transfer of viruses from contaminated surfaces.
5. Practice respiratory hygiene: 1) Cough/sneeze into your elbow, 2) If you use tissues, dispose of them immediately, then clean your hands.
6. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care promptly.
7. If you feel unwell, stay home, even with mild symptoms like headache and runny nose.
8. Stay informed, and follow any guidelines from your healthcare advisor.

### **How to cope with stress during this coronavirus outbreak:**

1. It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared, or angry during any crisis.
2. Talk to people you trust, and contact your friends and family.
3. If you must stay home, maintain a healthy lifestyle with proper diet, sleep, exercise, and social contact with loved ones via email, phone, etc.
4. Avoid smoking or using alcohol and other drugs to deal with your emotions.
5. Get the facts from credible sources such as the Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, or local/state health agencies.
6. Limit worry and agitation through lessening time you spend watching media and the internet.
7. Draw on coping skills that have helped you in the past.
8. If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor, and have a plan to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

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 or called into the congregation's office 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.*