

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 – November 5, 2020

Building With Love AKA “What Now?”

“What if we lose,” the young girl asked her mother.

“Then we keep fighting for the rights of all people,” her mother replies.

“And what if we win,” the girl asks.”

“Oh dear girl,” her mother responds gently, “it’s the same answer.”



As of this writing, the 2020 election results remain unclear. But the work of hope and healing before us grows more clear with each passing moment. We don’t know yet, all we will learn from this election season. We do know our mission holds either way. And for those moments so many say they didn’t know this could be even close, our beloveds who remain on the margins of privilege know better.

Gather with us this Sunday to breathe, to bear witness to and with one another, to rest and reflect and restore ourselves for the days to come, assured that love always wins -- when we make it so.

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 November 8, 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, November 8, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb - **Building With Love: AKA “What Now?”**

<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

This coming Sunday, our class' focus will be on following not only the Golden Rule, but also the Platinum Rule (Treat others *as they would like* to be treated.) As we continue looking toward healing, it's helpful to know just what people feel they need to be healed. With that in mind, we'll be creating holiday cards for our Angel Tree kids, to go with the gifts they have asked for. For more information contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Young Adults are now meeting on the 2nd and 4th 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, Nov 8th 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 if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

Project Angel Tree:

This year, River of Grass has adopted 75 foster care kids for this holiday season. We are trying to stay safe and yet still be generous and loving with our most vulnerable population. We are asking you to choose a child and then purchase one of the requested gift cards and an age appropriate plush toy. Our Faith Development children will be creating holiday postcards that we will attach to the toy. The gift cards and plush toys can be delivered to Marilisa Lawless's home as she is the lead on this project. Marilisa's address is 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL 33324. They can be mailed or delivered. She has a covered porch and they can be left out front whether she's home or not. We are asking that these are at her home by **Saturday, Dec 5th**. A Google doc will be sent out in an email, please add your name to the green column to the right of the child(ren) you choose. Thank you for always stepping up for River of Grass!

The Auction Alternative

Missing our Annual Auction? What fun we had! But... we can still do an auction. Just online. The Auction Team is working hard to find the best way to set this up but it will happen. Kickoff is scheduled for Dec 5th. We will have gift items, services, online game parties, and more. Bidding will be online and continue for a week. Please start thinking about what you can donate. Gift cards, parties like a game night (Poker, Words with Friends, You Don't Know Jack, Monopoly), no contact services like oil changes, dinner delivered to your door, jewelry, etc. We are not accepting donations yet. But we will be shortly. Stayed tuned for more information. Contact auction@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.

How well do you know your UUs:

Ysaye Maria Barnwell is an American singer and composer. Barnwell was a member of the African American a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock from 1979 to 2013. In addition to writing many of the group's songs, Barnwell has been commissioned to create music for dance, choral, film, and stage productions. She is also known for being a female bass. Barnwell conducts music workshops around the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, including a workshop she created called "Building a Vocal Community: Singing in the African American Tradition". In 1977, she founded the Jubilee Singers, a choir at All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC. Barnwell has also written a children's book with CD, *No Mirrors in My Nana's House*. A second children's book and CD set was released in March 2008: *We Are One*.



Barnwell was named after the great Belgian violinist, Eugène Ysaÿe. Dr. Barnwell appears as a vocalist and/or instrumentalist on more than thirty recordings with Sweet Honey In The Rock as well as other artists. She has, for the past thirty years, spent much of her time off stage working as a master teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance. Her workshop "Building a Vocal Community®: Singing in the African American Tradition" has during the past twenty-eight years, been conducted on three continents, making her work in the field a

significant source of inspiration for both singers and non-singers, a model of pedagogy for educators, and cultural activists and historians.

“We are our grandmother's prayers, our grandfather's dreamings, and the breath of our ancestors. We are filled with imagination and hope, big dreams and endless possibilities. We are different, yet we are all the same. We are one.”

Source: [Wikipedia](#) & [ymbarnwell.com](#)

River of Grass - Fundraising Mask

Would you like a River of Grass Side with Love Mask? [Click here to purchase](#) your River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Fundraising Mask! Orders will be shipped right to your door without any additional shipping charges! This face mask is machine washable, double ply, and made up of 60% Polyester, 40% Cotton. They cost \$15 each with 3 different sizes available:



Adult, Youth 9-15, and Child 3-8.

(<https://www.fundraisingmasks.org/product-page/river-of-grass-fundraiser>)

Opportunities at the River:

Reopening Task Force

Plan? Who needs a plan? Uh. . . we do

Even though we are facing uncertainty for the future, I think we all agree this separation will end and we need to make plans for the transition. Preparedness will make our life much easier.

There are actually two possibilities of where we will go once we have agreed to return to meeting face to face. One, of course, and probably the one we would most like to happen, is that we have found our permanent home and can move our stuff there and begin our new future there. The other is that we will not have found our permanent home and will need to find a temporary location using our experience from our “church in a box.”

So at this point, can you guess what we need? A Task Force, of course.

This Task Force will be charged with

1. Making recommendations as to when this congregation can resume face to face services and meetings. We have a diverse demographic of members, ranging from the very young to our most senior members. Following the UUA and CDC guidelines and to best serve our whole community. We do have some planning tools so you won't be totally reinventing the wheel.
2. Planning the move into our new home.
3. Finding a temporary facility (school, party room, park, etc.) to hold our services, if necessary.

So, we need a few good people with facilities experience, logistical planning or who just want to be a part of this exciting phase in our continuing saga.

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org to discuss.

Team on Ministry

A committee or team on ministry is an important part of the health of any congregation To this objective, the Board has determined to establish a Team on Ministry. The Team will serve to provide support to our minister and to periodically check on how the congregation is functioning. In other words, the ministry is not just the minister but the ministry of our beloved community.

The Team on Ministry shall consist of 3-4 people. At least one member from the Board. The team's responsibilities consist of, but not limited to:

1. Providing feedback to the minister regarding difficult situations between the minister and our member(s).
 2. Liaising between Minister and members for conflict resolution.
 3. Providing ministerial support
 4. Completing an annual ministerial evaluation.
 5. Upon request from the Board, conducting an evaluation of the congregation's ministries for the Board review
- The Board and the Minister will collaborate to reach a consensus about team members each year.

If you are interested in serving on this critical team at the heart of the River, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

Planned Giving Task Force

What with everything else going on, Kip Barkley is part of Planned Giving at the River. Just as you are calming your reaction to COVID, he asks, do you have a Will?

There is no time like the present to ask yourself: "Where is all my stuff, and who should get it if I am not around?" Your will should be written by a professional, and that is not Kip. Before you find yourself sitting in someone's office with their meter running, ask yourself, "Who gets my portrait of Elvis on Black Velvet? Is my ex still the beneficiary of my IRA? Who could live with my children?" Yes, figure out all of those "details" in advance.

You can bounce ideas off Kip, Zoom works, but Kip does not write Wills, Trusts, Deeds, and/or Legal Designations. It all starts with a conversation. If you have any questions or want to start a conversation, contact Kip, The Planned Giving Guy at PlannedGiving@RiverofGrassUU.org.

LifeNet4Families:

Throughout the pandemic, LifeNet4Families continues to serve hot meals to over 250 hungry people each day, as well as provide showers, mail services, clothing, and food box delivery. To minimize risk, the staff is providing all services. So if you miss volunteering at LifeNet, consider a donation of food items, mens clothing, or even a [monetary donation](#). Every donation helps!



SE Cluster Virtual Annual Meeting on Nov 14

Starting at the conclusion of the exciting and informative Southern Region "Turn, Turn, Turn" Assembly, the SE FL Cluster will have its Virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov 14th at about 3 pm.

SE Florida Cluster presents its virtual Annual Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#): Meeting ID: 825 8027 8403 Passcode: 780761

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,82580278403# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kPMzwRF2E>

Incentive to Register for "Turn, Turn, Turn" on Saturday, Nov 14th. Your SE Florida Cluster is offering an incentive for you to attend the **Turn, Turn, Turn—A Day of Companionship, Collaboration, and Learning**, a virtual webinar, hosted by the Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on Saturday, Nov. 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern time.

In lieu of holding our customary Annual Fall Program, the SE Florida Cluster **will cover the cost for forty (40) individuals** (\$20@each) to attend this online regional assembly. So register today!

This pay option is open to all, **and** we encourage those who are most able and willing to pay their own way to do so—the conference will certainly be worth it.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will offer the keynote address and workshops offered by Southern Region staff include:

- "Where Do We Go From Here?": Rev. Nato Hollister and Kathy McGowan
- "To Every Season": Co-Leads Connie Goodbread and Natalie Briscoe
- "A Time To Build Up": Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick

[Click here to register for Turn Turn Turn: A Virtual Regional Assembly of the Southern Region UUA.](#)

1. To access the SE Cluster option: register and click out when the system takes you to PayPal.

2. To pay your own way, register and proceed to PayPal.

Please email Kathy Charles kcharles@uua.org or Jessica Curran sr@uua.org for any questions about the Southern Region Assembly.

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/>

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Tonight, Thursday, Nov 5th at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "The Road Not Taken." When we males reach a "certain age," perhaps we muse over past choices. We can smile or get depressed. It's all how we do the math. At each session we launch into a topic that is designed to encourage personal sharing. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Kip Barkley mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org. Please let us know if you plan to try to make it.

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Nov 10th 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.

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the 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 **Nov 11th and is FF Inquirers #4: Faith Development for Children and Adults**. For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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
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
1/27/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
2/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
2/10/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
2/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
3/3/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
3/24/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
3/31/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
4/7/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life
4/28/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
5/5/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
5/12/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#1: Q&A with Minister
5/26/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#6: Social Action & Community Service
6/2/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups
6/9/21	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#8: Membership 101 & Congregational Life

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!

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.

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 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.