

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 17, 2022

Thresholds of Change: No Hands but Ours A Hunger Communion

*Each threshold offers an opportunity
for change, for renewal, for transformation,
from what we were and what we are
to what we can be.*

~ Arlen Goff

Come all who hunger in body, in spirit, in want of community and need of nourishment for the spirit. Gather with us for our annual Hunger Communion as we consider the thresholds of change we find ourselves upon – remembering that we hold the powers of transformation, that we are the builders of the world we dream of, that the forces for good have no hands but ours.

Come as you are – either in-person at University of Florida IFAS Satellite Building or virtually on Zoom. We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

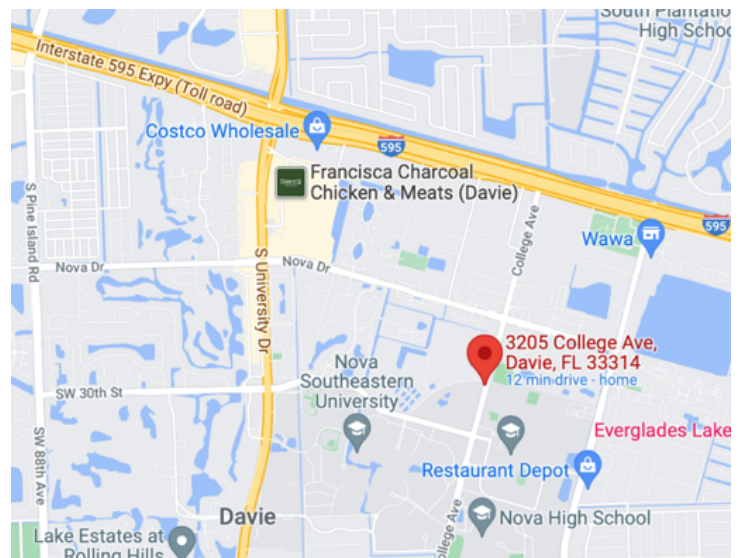
University of Florida - IFAS (Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center)

3205 College Avenue, Davie, FL 33314;

Directions: <https://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/about-us/>

If you Are arriving via University Drive:

- Turn east at Nova Drive (SW 24th Street), which would be a right turn if driving from the south and a left turn if driving from the north.
- Drive east on Nova Drive to the first stoplight, which is College Avenue.
- Turn right onto College Avenue and drive south ¼ mile to the first entrance on the right side of the street. Look for a large blue monument sign with University of Florida on it. The entrance is 600 feet past this monument sign.



Use the Zoom link below to gather with us virtually in Zoom. Catch us on Facebook live on our [facebook page](#).

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 In-Person or Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, November 20, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Thresholds of Change: No Hands but Ours – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development - This Sunday's worship service is Multi-age Worship. Families will be worshipping together. During the service, we will be inviting the congregation to take part in a project titled, Threshold Conversations, the work of religious educators from several UU institutions including the UUA, LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association), The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard, and Starr King School for the Ministry. Threshold Conversations seeks to lift up and promote the essential work of religious education as the learning process through which we grow in faith; ideally as a lifelong endeavor, for all UUs. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about the most essential topics that we teach and learn here at The River. If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for children, contact our Director of FD, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Annual Holiday Gathering - Faith Development is excited to again be holding our Annual Holiday Gathering for families and teachers on **December 10th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm**. We will be doing holiday crafts and might even have a visit from Santa! Bring a dish to share if you can. Families should have received an Evite recently with directions and details. Any questions, please email faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org.

Looking for Help:

Love babies? You're in luck! The River has been attracting quite a few, lately. Our new location in January will include a paid staff position for the nursery. If you know someone who might be interested in caring for our babies and kids for 3 hours each Sunday, please contact our Faith Development Director, Karen at religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org. We are also looking for some items to fill this space. Let Karen know if you can contribute any of the following: extra-large baby gate, high chair, and play items such as stacking blocks, cars and puzzles.

River of Grass Deepening Connection Opportunities:

- **Want to deepen your River connections? Join a covenant group!** Now is a great time, as we begin our brand new congregational year, to check out covenant groups at River of Grass. Members, usually no more than eight per group, gather once or twice monthly, building bonds that go behind hospitality hour conversations through personal sharing and spiritual reflection. A new group is forming this fall, giving you a chance to join other newcomers. And some existing groups have openings for new members as well. Meeting times and days vary. Some groups offer virtual gatherings, or a combination of in-person and virtual. For more information, email: sharedministry@riverofgrassuu.org.
- **90 minutes every 4-5 weeks:** The Worship Team needs **three new Zoom Hosts** to rotate with two other volunteers running our Worship Service through Zoom on Sunday mornings. It also includes a FB promo at 5:00 pm when Rev. Amy and Faith Development tell our FB friends about the upcoming service! Training is provided. Once every four or five weeks is the commitment for 1-1/2 hours. If you want to jump into volunteering, here is an opportunity! Please contact Rita Cherubini at worship@riverofgrassuu.org for more information.

Membership Events for this week, if you have any questions please contact Leana Bresnahan at membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

- Thanks to everyone who attended our fall picnic last Sunday...**we had about 50 people in attendance!** Our deep gratitude to Liz and John Perez (and Buddy!) for opening their lovely home to all of us.
- Please join us for the sixth session of the Faith Forward Inquirers' Sessions, which will be held on November 20th (TODAY) after **WORSHIP SERVICE** from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm. The discussion will focus on SMALL GROUP CONNECTIONS AND STEWARDSHIP, led by our Small Group Ministry co-lead, Janet Schwartz, and by our Finance Chair, Brit Lundell, and our Treasurer, Rob Gib-Davis. It will be Multi-Platform (In-Person + Zoom). [Click here for the Zoom link for the Inquirers' Session](#). Please join us!
- Our next New Member Ceremony will take place during worship service on **December 4th**. Please contact Leana Bresnahan as soon as possible at membership@riverofgrassuu.org or at 954-258-6315 if you wish to become a member and sign the membership book that day!

8th principle Action Team announcement:

Bold Justice is an organization of 22 religious congregations from different racial/ethnic and religious backgrounds. Their mission is to “powerfully address community issues in Broward County through a self-sustaining, interfaith, interracial, proactive organization rooted in religious congregations.”

They have won victories related to Affordable Housing, Dental Care, Juvenile Arrests, Jobs, Unemployment, and Education. Currently, they are working to end the criminalization of poverty. One example of this is to encourage the State Attorney to support a program for civil citations instead of arrests for adults with misdemeanor offenses, such as driving with an expired tag or failure to pay a fine. They are also working on climate change with a focus on extreme heat in Broward County.

The work of this group is in line with our recently adopted 8th principle - *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*. For more information, check out their website at boldjustice.org.

The Mountain Retreat

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical Place and Experience

[Youth CONferences](#) – Elementary Dec 2 - 4; High School Dec 9 - 11.

[Songwriting Retreat](#) – December 1 - 4. Join Christine Stay and Aidan Quinn of Friction Farm, a modern folk duo, to be mentored in creating songs from your own life story or other events.

[Music Week](#) – April 23-28 2023. Surround yourself with music and enjoy opportunities for music appreciation, concerts, group and individual participation and instruction in songwriting, guitar, voice, ukulele and more.

Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

To contribute toward our \$50,000 November match or buy something off our wishlist, click here: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/granting-wishes>

For more information: themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838

WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 28 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org Questions: whalecoastak@gmail.com.



A Seat at the table this Thanksgiving (LifeNet4Families):

This year may be different for food-insecure families in Broward. Some people won't have food, some won't have a table. But with your help, we can make sure everyone has a seat at the table with a nutritious holiday meal. Here are some of the ways you can help feed one senior, one person, or one family.

Ways to help Food-insecure Families this Thanksgiving:

- \$75 provides a fully-cooked traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings to families living in their car this season
- \$50 provided a holiday food box so undr-employed, food-insecure families can prepare a delicious holiday meal at home.
- \$25 surprises an isolated senior living alone with a traditional holiday dinner delivered to their home this Thanksgiving.
- \$25 gives five homeless patrons a seat at the table in our Community Cafe, a special holiday meal, and a sense of hope.
- Consider a one-time gift to feed as many people as possible this Thanksgiving Day.
- Set up a recurring monthly gift to help feed families this holiday season and beyond.



[COUNT ME IN! – Click here to donate to LifeNet4Families](#)

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](#)

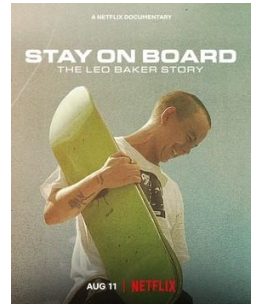
For more information or to register contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <http://www.insightinstitutellc.com/>

RoG Men’s Group: We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We are now meeting in person as well as via [Zoom Meeting](#). Our meeting location is at The Transformation Project: 4431 SW 64th Ave Ste 109, Davie, FL 33314. All who are able can meet early for dinner at 5:00 pm at Uncle Al’s, 8200 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33328. (If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken, group facilitator, so he can coordinate space. All who identify male are invited to join.

Our Nov 17th topic: A Space to Sit: Processing the Midterms. 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 Zoom Meeting Room will open up at 7:00 pm and we will begin at 7:15 pm. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bresnahan; mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org; RoG Men’s Group Facilitator.

MUUVies for Change December viewing is "Stay on Board"

Starring Leo Baker, this movie is a documentary available on Netflix. This is a candid look at one person's experience with coming out, a humane film that shows the bravery and resilience of queer people who seek relief from the categories that are imposed on them. Leo Baker was a champion skateboarder who left the US 2020 Olympic Team to come out as trans.



We will discuss this film on **Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm**. Please reply to Steve Jens-Rochow muuvies@riverofgrassuu.org if you are coming for the Discussion. Join our Zoom Meeting at 7pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84418593114>. Meeting ID: 844 1859 3114; One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84418593114# US (New York); Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kvL0D418Y>.

BUUKies December Read - "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie. We will meet on Wednesday, December 21st at 7pm.

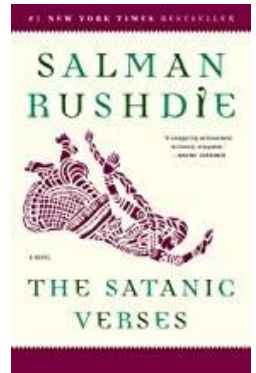
[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

One tap mobile +13017158592,,92657017488#,,,,*746613# US (Washington DC)

"A torrent of endlessly inventive prose, by turns comic and enraged, embracing life in all its contradictions. In this spectacular novel, verbal pyrotechnics barely outshine its psychological truths."

One of the most controversial and acclaimed novels ever written, "The Satanic Verses" is Salman Rushdie's best-known and most galvanizing book. Set in a modern world filled with both mayhem and miracles, the story begins with a bang: the terrorist bombing of a London-bound jet in midflight. Two Indian actors of opposing sensibilities fall to earth, transformed into living symbols of what is angelic and evil. This is just the initial act in a magnificent odyssey that seamlessly merges the actual with the imagined.

Steve Jens-Rochow BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org.



Please remember to **Smile when you shop at Amazon.com**. When you use the River of Grass link while shopping on Amazon, our community receives a .5% donation as one of their eligible charitable organizations. The direct River of Grass Amazon link is: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0791653>. River of Grass has received \$2,079.50 since we signed up with AmazonSmile. This holiday season you can help support River of Grass while online shopping with Amazon.



SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Change your car's air filter the next time you change the oil. Over time, air filters get clogged causing your engine to work harder - creating more greenhouse gas emissions and lowering your fuel economy. Save money on gas by spending money on a new air filter.

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

Team: 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 October 16, 2022

This is a living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated.

COVID-19 is moving from pandemic to endemic status – it is always circulating in the community but the number of infected people varies from community to community. Individuals should take appropriate precautions based on their personal risk. River of Grass will follow the following measures for community gatherings based on CDC Guidelines and the Broward County risk levels.

Remember, you may choose to wear a mask and maintain social distancing at any time. If you have symptoms, a positive test or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should wear a mask.

Our COVID Team is monitoring the Broward County status weekly and will promptly advise if the status changes.

Community Level LOW: Current Broward County Status

- Individuals may elect to wear masks and socially distance at all times.

Community Level MEDIUM:

- Wear face masks for indoor gatherings.
- Choir will wear singing masks.
- Unmasked speakers and the Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening.

Community Level HIGH:

In person Worship Services – Inside

- Masks required for all, special requirements for speakers
- Masks should be KN-95
- Unmasked speakers and Minister must test negative with a rapid test the previous evening
- No singing except the Minister (humming OK!)
- Social distancing between family groups
- No food or drinks
- All attendees sign in

After service Hospitality – Outside

- Maintain social distancing

Meetings – inside and outside

- Group leader will inquire if anyone in the group wants the meeting to be masked. If everyone is not comfortable, masking and social distancing should be maintained.
- Food and drinks – determined by the group.
- All attendees sign in.

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.