

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 – December 3, 2020

Find a Stillness: This Season of Waiting

The paradox of this season is how stressful we may find it, how pressed to “hurry up and get ready” for the holidays upon us, at the same time we come into a time of waiting -- each year our Christian beloveds wait for the birth of Jesus, our Jewish beloveds wait to see if the lamp oil will last, our Pagan beloveds wait for the Sun to return, our Buddhist beloveds await new understanding, as every tradition marks the passing of mid-winter in the ways that give meaning to their lives. This year, in the midst of a pandemic running unabated and an economy teetering for some while already collapsed for others and the illness and loss of too many we love, we await so much more. To see what parts of our lives Before can be restored to us, and what can't. To finally get to that moment we can gather as Beloved Community, while we yet endure this weary and painful separation. In this midst of all this, how do we find a moment of sacred stillness? A moment to breathe and bear witness to our own lives and those we love?

Gather with us this Sunday to reflect and refresh ourselves for the days to come with new music and words of hope and courage, assured that love that prevails when we fortify one another in this faith we share.

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 December 6, 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>

WE NEED YOUR FESTIVE HOLIDAY PHOTOS!

Decking your halls? Gathering cheer in your home? Donning your gay apparel? Take a quick photo, or grab a selfie video! Show us, tell us what is bringing you comfort and joy this season and we'll share it together in our Christmas Eve service! **Send 'em along to Rev. Amy at: minister@riverofgrassuu.org by Dec 20th.**

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Rev. Amy Carol Webb -- “Find a Stillness: This Season of Waiting”

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




Faith Development: Family Vespers 5:00pm / Pageant Recording 12:30, 1:30, 2:30pm



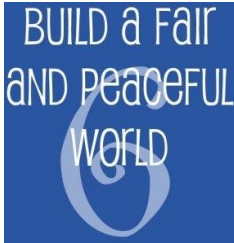

This Sunday, we will not have regular classes. Faith Development for children and youth will take place that evening at our Family Vespers service, instead. This month's theme is *Stillness*. Rev. Amy and I will share stories of angels, who have helped to bring clarity in many of the stories we tell and who may come to us in times of stillness and need. "Noticing angels" can be a metaphor for hearing an inner voice, urging us perhaps to some change or journey. [Join us at this link.](#)

Children involved in our Holiday Pageant will meet on Sunday afternoon to record the scenes for our virtual pageant. Scene One at 12:30pm, Scene Two at 1:30pm and Scene Three at 2:30pm.

Chalica

Monday, Dec 7th is the first day of Chalica, our own UU holiday that is gaining a lot of traction this year as we find ourselves spending more time in our homes. This is a week to honor and celebrate our seven Principles by spending some time each day reflecting on how we can embrace and embody them. A helpful guide is found below or come up with your own rituals. Share photos of your Chalica celebrations on our [River of Grass Facebook page](#) to inspire us all! You can find additional information on the [UUA's website](#) or any of these links: [Huffington Post article](#); [Chalica Facebook page](#); [UU World article](#).

	Chalice Lighting	Faith in Action	Benediction
	We light our chalice for people everywhere, whose inherent worth and dignity we acknowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prepare a meal that includes everyone's favorite foods. -Play a cooperative game where everyone wins. -Give everyone in your family a compliment. 	<p>May the love which overcomes all differences, which heals all wounds, which puts to flight all fears, which reconciles all who are separated, be in us and among us now and always.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">~Frederick E. Gillis</p>
	We light our chalice to remind us that all people deserve justice, equity and compassion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prepare a meal kit for a busy neighbor. -Write your teacher a thank you note. -Search your room for toys and clothes you no longer need, and donate them. 	<p>In the end it won't matter how much we have, but how generously we have given. It won't matter how much we know, but rather how well we live. And it won't matter how much we believe, but how deeply we love.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">~John C. Morgan</p>
	We light our chalice to remind us to have open minds and to respect the paths of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Try a new food. -Ask a friend to tell you all about their family's holiday. -Play a new game as a family. 	<p>If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good. Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">~Hosea Ballou</p>

	<p>We light our chalice to remind us that we are responsible for our own spiritual growth and are free to follow our own path.</p>	<p>-Eat foods from a different religious celebration. -Create a new family holiday tradition. -Try a new spiritual practice, like yoga or walking meditation.</p>	<p>Be ye lamps unto yourselves; be your own confidence. Hold to the truth within yourselves as to the only lamp. ~Buddha</p>
	<p>We light our chalice to celebrate the right to use our minds and our voices to better our communities.</p>	<p>-Vote on the night's dinner plan. -Watch a kid news show and discuss it with your family. -Hold a family meeting.</p>	<p>We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, and brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown. ~Sara Moores Campbell</p>
	<p>We light our chalice to remind us to work toward our goal of world peace with liberty and justice for all.</p>	<p>-Have leftovers to remind us not to be wasteful. -Play the alphabet game with a world map – find a country for every letter. -Create your Guest At Your Table box and make a plan to fill it.</p>	<p>Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. Those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, Being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. ~James 1</p>
	<p>We light our chalice to show respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.</p>	<p>-Eat a vegetarian meal. -Take a walk and play "I Spy". -Brainstorm "green" ways to wrap presents.</p>	<p>Take courage friends. The way is often hard, the path is never clear, and the stakes are very high. Take courage. For deep down, there is another truth: you are not alone. ~Wayne B. Arnason</p>

Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet - There are still 5 children that need to be sponsored:

We have pushed back the date to get your gifts to Marilisa by 1 week. **Please deliver these items to her home by Saturday, Dec 12th.** We extended this deadline to help make sure all of the children were able to be selected. 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 is home or not.
- We are asking that these are at her home by **Saturday, Dec 12th.**
- [The Google Sheet can be viewed by clicking here.](#) Please add your name and contact information to the green column to the right of the child (ren) you choose.

Thank you for always stepping up for River of Grass!

To find out more about ChildNet please check out their website: <https://www.childnet.us/>
ChildNet has been chosen by the Florida Department of Children & Families to serve as the Community Based Care (CBC) lead agency in both Broward and Palm Beach Counties. As such, it is the single private non-profit entity responsible for managing the local system of services and supports for the communities' most vulnerable children. Their system of care was developed with extensive input from local stakeholders and its effective implementation depends upon their continued support.

The Auction Alternative - DATE CHANGE

SAVE/CHANGE THE DATE - AUCTION ALTERNATIVE - January 16, 2021

We are still working on it, just taking the time to make it a stellar occasion.

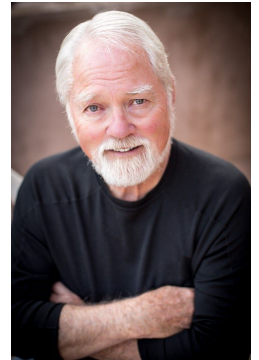
Your Auction Team, auction@riverofgrassuu.org.



How well do you know your UUs:

Robert Fulghum grew up in Waco, Texas and in 1961 and was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Fulghum served the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship in Bellingham, Washington from 1960–1964, and the Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Church in Edmonds, Washington where he is currently Minister Emeritus.

Fulghum came to prominence in the United States when his first collection of writings, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* (1988), stayed on *The New York Times* bestseller lists for nearly two years. The collection of essays is subtitled "Uncommon Thoughts on Common Things." A 25th anniversary edition of *Kindergarten* has been published – updating and revising the original text, with the addition of 25 new stories.



There are currently more than 17 million copies of his books in print, published in 27 languages in 103 countries.

“These are the things I learned (in Kindergarten):

1. Share everything.
2. Play fair.
3. Don't hit people.
4. Put things back where you found them.
5. CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.
6. Don't take things that aren't yours.
7. Say you're SORRY when you HURT somebody.
8. Wash your hands before you eat.
9. Flush.
10. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
11. Live a balanced life - learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work everyday some.
12. Take a nap every afternoon.
13. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

14. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
15. Goldfish and hamster and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup - they all die. So do we.
16. And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned - the biggest word of all - LOOK.”
— Robert Fulghum, “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten”

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. **Thursday, Dec 3rd at 7:00 pm we will meet on Zoom** and discuss our topic: "The Art of Music." Our own Wendell Abern will charm us with a musical recital. We will round out our evening with personal and philosophical sharings on music. 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, Dec 8th 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.

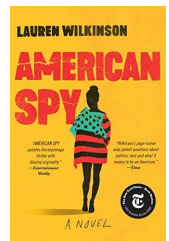
bUUKies finish up our political fall books with "American Spy" by Lauren Wilkinson – We'll be Zooming on **Wednesday, Dec 9th at 7 pm**. [The Broward library](#) has e-book and audio books available!

What if your sense of duty required you to betray the man you love?

It's 1986, the heart of the Cold War, and Marie Mitchell is an intelligence officer with the FBI. She's brilliant, but she's also a young black woman working in an old boys' club. Her career has stalled out, she's overlooked for every high-profile squad, and her days are filled with monotonous paperwork. So when she's given the opportunity to join a shadowy task force aimed at undermining Thomas Sankara, the charismatic revolutionary president of Burkina Faso whose Communist ideology has made him a target for American intervention, she says yes. Yes, even though she secretly admires the work Sankara is doing for his country. Yes, even though she is still grieving the mysterious death of her sister, whose example led Marie to this career path in the first place. Yes, even though a furious part of her suspects she's being offered the job because of her appearance and not her talent.

In the year that follows, Marie will observe Sankara, seduce him, and ultimately have a hand in the coup that will bring him down. But doing so will change everything she believes about what it means to be a spy, a lover, a sister, and a good American.

Inspired by true events—Thomas Sankara is known as “Africa’s Che Guevara”—*American Spy* knits together a gripping spy thriller, a heartbreaking family drama, and a passionate romance. This is a face of the Cold War you've never seen before, and it introduces a powerful new literary voice.



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, Dec 13th 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.

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 **Jan 6th and is FF Inquirers #7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups** For more info, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers](#).

Date	Time	Event
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: Visit OptoutPrescreen.com to stop unsolicited credit card offers. This website is run by the 3 credit agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion) and is supported by the Federal Trade Commission. In just 3 minutes, you can stop this junk mail, saving you hassle and reducing landfill waste.

Capital Campaign Contributions

We have set up several methods for you to make your pledges/contributions to the Capital Campaign. The table below details the various methods, including charges that the River accrues when this payment method is used. We are here to help with any questions you may have. Feel free to contact our office administrator, Sandy Blair Chibnick, via email at office@riverofgrassuu.org.

Monetary Donations		
Method	How	Processing fees paid by River of Grass
Check	Write CC on memo line Mail to River of Grass: 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485 Sunrise, FL 33345	\$0
Checking account via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%

Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our Donations page . Designate amount on the Capital Campaign line.	\$0.45 per transaction plus credit card processing fee: American Express: 3.5% Visa/MasterCard: 2.75%
PayPal	https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org .	\$0
Securities	<p>Any questions contact Northstar Financial Planners: <i>Allen Giese, Steve Tepper, or Stacy Saavedra at (954) 693-0030</i></p> <p>Securities should be transferred per instructions from the donor's brokerage or advisor using the following DTC and A/C numbers as the destination #0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional A/C #944110334</p> <p>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing CapitalCampaigh@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

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.