

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 8, 2022

Schrödinger's Sermon: the Paradox of Wonder

*We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity,
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

A cat, a box, a bottle of poison, quantum theory, paradox.

A congregation, a world in turmoil, a pandemic, Unitarian Universalism, wonder.

Should we even be here? Yet here we are. Does what we do here even matter? Sometimes we have evidence it does, sometimes we don't. Isn't it the very definition of "faith" -- that we are still here in spite of it all, holding out for hope in a world wracked with fear, siding with love in the face of rising hate, riding this river steadfastly and intentionally "together" while so much around us is comes apart.

Join us this Sunday to share fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, and the paradox of wonder.

Come as you are – we'll be watching for you! We welcome you on Sunday morning at 10:30. Come a bit before and we can Chat prior to the service... See you then!

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, December 11, 2022

River of Grass UU Congregation – Schrödinger's Sermon: the Paradox of Wonder – Rev. Amy Carol Webb

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

Faith Development - Continuing our theme of Wonder, Sunday's online class session will encourage our children to notice the wonder around them. We can easily go numb to the ordinariness of things around us, but when we use the Magic Wand of Notice, we see how miraculous everything is - even the ordinary - when looked at with eyes of

wonder. In this way, we'll nurture our spirits! If you'd like more information about our Faith Development program for children and youth, contact our Director, Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrass.org.

Membership – New Members: First, some great news.... this past Sunday, we welcomed Andrew Meit, Sigrid Macdonald, and Tobey Pearl and her son Cooper as brand-new members of River of Grass. Welcome to all of you!!! River of Grass will be enriched by your commitment and membership in our beloved community of faith! We hope in 2023 to welcome more new folks to become members as River of Grass always seeks to expand our circle of love, compassion and commitment to/effectiveness in building the world we dream about. One more time....WELCOME ANDREW, SIGRID, TOBEY AND COOPER!!!

Membership – Inquirers After this Sunday's Service, on Dec 11th, we will host a Zoom-only session with Rev. Amy, for an informative and inspirational discussion on the meaning and contours of worship for Unitarian Universalists and about what our liturgical year looks like at River of Grass. SPOILER ALERT: We joyfully celebrate holidays from various faith traditions, as well as our own UU rituals.

We will meet after worship service from **11:45 am to 1:00 pm**, zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480603146?pwd=NllRYzJ4MG9lVk11MHA5djIwZHc0Zz09>. If you can let Leana know you plan to attend....but drop-ins are ALWAYS welcome! membership@riverofgrassuu.org

Future Home Search Team

Wait, wait, what is that I see in the distance?

Could it be a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel?

The Future Home Search Team has identified a religious property to purchase, partnering with Temple Adath Or. We are in the very, very beginning of the process, but we wanted you all to know, there's something in the air! I promise updates as we go along.

Kathy Jens-Rochow, President

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 religiouseducator@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.

Chalica - December 7th - 14th

Chalica begins every year on the first Monday of December and runs for 7 nights. Each night, the chalice is lit and one of our Unitarian Universalist Principles is honored. This can include chalice lighting words, a reading, discussion or journaling, a special meal, and particular actions that bring that Principle to life.

- The first night honors our first principle, where we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Tonight's meal could include everyone's favorite food – no judgment, just enjoy! Take some time to let the people you love be reminded of that. Then, find some common ground with someone whose ideas challenge you.
- Night two, an orange candle can represent offering fair and kind treatment. Is there a neighbor or friend who could use a meal tonight? Maybe a waiter needs an extra tip. Decide as a family what charity could use your help. Still need to choose a child from our angel tree? Tonight's the night!
- On the third night, we light a yellow candle and seek to gain new understandings. Find a religious service online from another faith or take a virtual tour of the Vatican. Try a new food tonight – perhaps from an ethnicity you haven't tried before.

- Our fourth night, our candle is lit to remind us that our spiritual growth is our responsibility. Try a new spiritual practice – like yoga, or join Carolyn and Scott for meditation.
- Night five, we light a candle to affirm democracy. Take a vote for tonight’s dinner, then play a game to see who can name the most elected officials.
- The sixth night is a good night for leftovers. We light our sixth candle to remind us to work for a fair and peaceful world. This would be a good night to visit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s website and learn about the good work that you can support.
- We light our seventh candle to show our respect for our interdependent web – a good night for a vegetarian meal and stargazing! Find green ways to wrap your presents on this day – dish towels, brown paper or recycled wrapping can help.
- And, finally on the eighth night, we light a candle to remind us that we still have much work to do to dismantle oppressive systems. We can add to our understanding tonight, by watching a movie that highlights ways our country has caused harm to people in the past or shares a perspective we’re not familiar with.

The possibilities here are endless! However, you decide to bring Chalica to life in your home this year, I hope it provides you with a connection to your faith and a connection to each other.

Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet: (to members and friends)

This year, River of Grass has adopted 50 foster care kids for this holiday season. We are trying to still be generous and loving with our most vulnerable population. **There are 5 children left!**

- We are asking you to choose a child and then purchase one of the requested gifts and an age appropriate plush toy.
- The gifts and plush toys can be delivered to Marilisa Lawless's home, as she is the lead on this project.
- **Please include the child’s ID# on the gift.**
- 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 **Monday, Dec 12th**.
- [The Google Sheet can be viewed by clicking here.](#) Please add your name and contact information to the purple column to the right of the child (ren) you choose.
- ChildNet has included shopping lists for Target, Walmart, and Amazon.
 - **Target** - [Target Link](#)
 - **Walmart** - [Walmart Link](#)
 - **Amazon** - [Amazon Link](#)

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.

Help Get Banks to Divest from Fossil Fuels

Banks, particularly the big 4 [Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and CitiBank] remain, despite their vague pledges, among the biggest investors in fossil fuels. Bank of America has over 200 Billion Dollars worth of investments in them. A good way to nudge the banks into divesting from global warming investments is to go into your bank with one or two other people, present a letter asking for divestment, and talk to the branch manager. Scott Lewis of Third Act's [Banking on Our Future](#) Campaign will be presenting a training on Tuesday, Dec 13th, at 7:00 pm. He will show us how to meet with bank managers. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtceisqDksHtCka9ICJ0u02DDgUBLaQ_7W

The big 4 banks have been giving significant financial support to the fossil fuel industry for new fossil fuel infrastructure since the Paris Agreement – new extraction construction that scientists say we cannot afford if we are to stay within a target of 1.5 degree celsius increase.

Steve Jens-Rochow will be there at the training, and is eager to go to his bank and urge them to divest. If you have questions email Steve Jens-Rochow SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Be part of the greater UU Community Go to General Assembly!

In person in Pittsburg or virtually

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us **Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania** and/or online for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!



Anyone can attend. Even just register for programs/worship and not sit through the business meetings.

But, you too can represent our community by being a delegate and vote on important issues, including the election of a new UUA president. The River will pay our delegate's registration fee. For more information, contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

8th Principle Action Team Learning Community

The 8th principle Action Team would like to invite you to this month's 8th principle Learning Community meeting on Dec. 14th: **White supremacy and the foundational flaw of the "New Deal Order" – Presented by David Slavin, historian and activist**

In the seventy years from 1896 to 1966, the Democratic Party coalesced around a symbiotic relationship between the Southern, Dixiecrat ruling elite and the big-city party machines in the Northeast and Midwest. The foundations of the New Deal and Great Society rested on this tandem relationship. As the party's demographic composition and internal power dynamics shifted in those 60 years, they set the stage for the "great transposition" of the Republican and Democratic parties, reversing and reconfiguring the two-party system.

Against that backdrop, he will be honing in on the Social Security Act, signed into law by FDR on 14 August 1935, and I'll show you all how it was the worst alternative available at the time. One of the great ironies of the left is how progressives have been put on the defensive to "save" and "protect" Social Security when it is steeped in class, race and gender discrimination and results in the net transfer of wealth from poor to the rich.

Date: Dec 14, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

7:00 – 8:00 PM 2022: The Year in Review

8:00 – 9:30 PM Guest Speaker

You must register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdeihqDljHdUerv8vkWpGOTB6W9YhEQY2>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

8th Principle Action Team – Be The Change

Our 8th Principle Action Team wants YOU to take action in your committee or small group! See the links below for more information about microaggressions and white supremacy culture and then identify one thing you can do or one change you can make to be more inclusive and anti-racist or more of an ally to BIPOC and other oppressed groups. As a key part of keeping the River going, growing and flowing, we need YOU to make our 8th principle a real part of our congregational life. Please include what you have done or changed in your committee in your January or February Board Report, or for small groups, send a note to the board (board@riverofgrassuu.org) in January. We look forward to hearing from you!

https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/m/microaggressions_by_derald_wing_sue_ph.d..pdf

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yk411vUztwA47x6kYpNL5sC6_WBpNFHB/view

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/>

Leadership Roundtable on Dec 10th - All leaders of Committees, Teams and Small Groups are asked to share all your group is doing at a Leadership Round Table Saturday, December 10 from 1 - 2:30 PM via Zoom. It will be a check-in of our entire community with crosstalk allowed. Let's get a sense of all that's going on. For more information, please contact Maureen Lundell at vicepresident@riverofgrassuu.org

Faith Development 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.

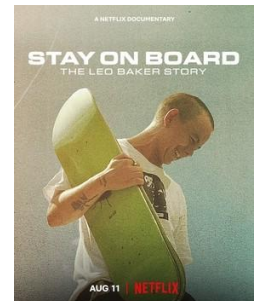
MUUVies for Change December viewing is "Stay on Board"

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/j/84418593114>



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 Dec 15th topic: Will be announced next week.** 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.

The annual Full Moon Daughters Solstice Party is here!

Good food and drink, Good company, Lots of sharing and joy. FMD, which includes females, female children and female identifying people, will gather **Saturday, December 17th, at Kathy Jens-Rochow's home at 5:30 PM-9:00 PM** for potluck dinner, \$10 gift exchange (optional) and the sharing of annual blessings. This is one of our favorite gatherings. We will be outside around the pool for safety and request all to be vaccinated. For directions and RSVP to Kathy Jens-Rochow at fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org so we can count people.

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

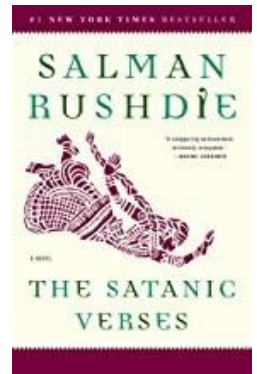
[River BUUKies Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0791653>. River of Grass has received \$2,135.76 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: Use efficient LED light bulbs. Resist the temptation to buy "old fashion" light bulbs, and instead replace bulbs with LEDs. They barely cost more, and they use 1/7 the electricity, produce less heat, reduce your electric bill, and last for 20 years.

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.