

# 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 – December 10, 2020

## Rising from Stillness

The brokenness of the world calls to us, and in our continuing desire to work for social justice stillness may seem like the antithesis of what we need to move forward. Maybe you feel like you're in the waiting room of life right now in these difficult, demanding times. But maybe you're actually being prepared for a launch into something more. Our guest speaker this Sunday, Dr. Kitty Oliver, continues our theme for December with her talk entitled "Rising from Stillness." She is a noted race and ethnic relations author, oral historian, TV and radio producer, and performer, and also a familiar face at River of Grass with her husband Art Musson. Dr. Oliver has received national media attention for her Race and Change work collecting and sharing race and ethnic relations stories across cultures and generations for the historical archives and in public programs. Her work has been featured on CNN and PBS and she has taken her presentations to a wide range of audiences nationally, including UU congregations. She continues to build bridges across cultures with hopeful dialogues, virtually, and we can look forward to an inspiring, entertaining message in words and music.

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 13, 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](mailto:minister@riverofgrassuu.org) by Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:**

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Dr. Kitty Oliver -- “Rising from Stillness”

<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

In this Sunday's classes, our kids will learn about the stillness that comes by waiting, specifically waiting for Freedom. They'll learn how our siblings in the AME denomination honor Watch Night or Freedom's Eve on December 31st, commemorating that night in 1862 as Black slaves and free Blacks awaited Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. I had not heard of Watch Night before and am grateful that our kids get the opportunity to fill in some of the gaps in our collective American history! Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for links to join a class, or for more information about our Faith Development program.

The pandemic is not enough to keep our kids from our annual tradition of a holiday pageant! **Join us on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>** to see our woodland animals perform, "**The Snow Tree**" to welcome in the Winter Solstice.

**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, Dec 13<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.

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT RIVER OF GRASS**

**“Comfort and Joy”**

**\*\*December 24 at 5:30 p.m.\*\***

Come Join Our Christmas Eve Service of Music and Celebration of Light!

New Musical Renditions of your favorites to Celebrate the Season,  
with Virtual Choir, Ensembles, Instrumentalists, Singers & Soloists, and the Band!

Be sure to bring a candle to the screen for our traditional candle-lighting.

**\*\*\*Come One. Come All. Bring Friends and Family!\*\*\***

**Auction 2020-2021: Pick 'N Click River Givers Virtual Auction:**



**Drum roll please!!!!!!!!!! Announcing our first ever... “Pick N Click” River Givers Virtual Auction**

We have moved our annual auction online! What you need to know:

- The virtual auction will begin **Saturday Jan 16 beginning at 7:00 pm EST. Please put it on your calendar.**
- We will have a live auction, raffles and lots of parties, services and wonderful gift items. It is a family event!
- Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of January.
- Online bidding will continue through January 31. And of course, you can bid from your smart phone, too!
- Bidders will get notifications when there is a higher bid, so they can adjust their bid.

But... it takes a whole bunch of people to make this happen seamlessly. Since this is virtual. We are not constrained by our 4 walls, and you can participate whether you are in Davie, Maine, Arizona, or Paris. As always, we are requesting donations from our beloved community, which is generous beyond compare!

We are gratefully accepting donations – parties, baskets, gift cards and certificates for service. Ask your favorite restaurant, your hair stylist, your masseuse to donate something, and. If applicable, be sure to get details about current social distancing procedures etc. We are also looking for a few big-ticket items, like a vacation stay at a condo or cabin, or a long weekend stay at a timeshare, for our live auction. Other ideas for donations (always with social distancing in mind if it is not virtual):

- A party via Zoom - poker party, wine tasting, beer tasting, live concert etc.
- Online game night (contact auction team to confirm date)
- Cooking lesson (contact auction team to confirm date)
- Craft lesson (contact auction team to confirm date)
- Food Delivery subscription
- Virtual Play or game night
- Gift cards – Trader Joe’s, Whole Foods, Amazon, Instacart, restaurants
- New household items (delivery negotiated)
- Antiques (delivery negotiated)
- Gift Baskets (wine, coffee, tea, etc.)
- Toys (delivery negotiated)
- Master Class subscription

Email the details of your donation and a contact # to [auction@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:auction@riverofgrassuu.org). Thank you for your support by attending the auction and of course with your generous donations of items and services. We are so looking forward to an exciting evening with you! More to come as this event unfolds before our eyes!

### *Guest At Your Table 2020*



The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights worldwide through collaboration with grassroots organizations. Let’s help build our movement for systemic change with partners around the world by



giving online to our annual Guest at Your Table program. Just put [UUSC.org](http://UUSC.org) in your browser. Gifts of \$150 or more are doubled. Or go to <https://www.uusc.org/>. **River of Grass's Congregation ID is 3019.** There is an attachment in this email for the Template for a homemade GAYT box for 2020-2021 in pdf format.

### **Money Matters**

As 2020 draws to a close, everyone's situation is different. If you are looking to make a gift of securities that are now worth more than you paid, give the securities directly. If they have gone down, sell them, claim the tax loss, and give the cash. If you are giving from an IRA, 2020 is a year of special opportunities. If you claim the Standard Deduction, check if you are eligible to deduct an extra \$300 given to charity. Always consult your tax advisor before acting in this tricky world of finance. A dollar you don't pay in taxes is a dollar you get to keep.

### **Project Angel Tree supporting ChildNet:**

**Reminder, please mail or deliver any of the children's items to Marilisa's home by Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.** 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 from ChildNet for this holiday season. We are trying to stay safe and yet still be generous and loving with our most vulnerable population. Marilisa's address is 1975 SW 101st Ave, Davie, FL 33324. The gifts can be mailed or delivered. She has a covered porch and they can be left out front whether she is home or not. 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.

### **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/>

**Flowing River Sangha** – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Dec 15<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).

### **Mind/Body Skills Group**

Scott May and Kallie LeFever will be teaching a free mindfulness program called Mind/Body Skills. Info about the Introductory Workshop and Program are listed below. For additional details please contact Kallie or Scott directly.

#### **MIND/BODY SKILLS - Introductory Workshop**

- Free 90-Minute Live Online Event
  - Experience an introduction to mind/body skills of self-awareness, self-care, and self-expression.
- **Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 4-5:30pm**

#### **MIND/BODY SKILLS GROUP**

- Free 8-Week Live Online Program

**MIND/BODY SKILLS GROUP (ONLINE)**  
LEARN EVIDENCE-BASED SKILLS OF SELF-AWARENESS, SELF-CARE,  
AND SELF-EXPRESSION ENABLING YOU TO BE MORE BALANCED  
AND RESILIENT TO MEET LIFE'S CHALLENGES....

**Free Introductory Workshop**  
Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 4-5:30pm Eastern

**Free Mind/Body Skills Group (8 Weeks)**  
Wednesdays January 13<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4-6pm Eastern

Contact: [Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com](mailto:Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](mailto:Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com)

- Learn evidence-based skills of self-awareness, self-care, and self-expression enabling you to be more balanced and resilient to meet life's challenges. The program was created by the Center for Mind Body Medicine.

● **Wednesdays January 13<sup>th</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4-6pm**

**Information and registration contact:** [Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com](mailto:Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com) or [Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com](http://Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com).

**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 6<sup>th</sup> and is FF Inquirers #7: Pastoral Care and Small Groups** 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
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

### **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](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org).

<b>Monetary Donations</b>		
<b>Method</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Processing fees paid by River of Grass</b>
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 <a href="#">Donations page</a> . Designate on the Capital Campaign line	\$0.45 per transaction plus processing fee 1%
Credit Card via Vanco	Set up payment on our <a href="#">Donations page</a> . 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	<a href="https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile">https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/my/profile</a> In the notes write "Capital Campaign"	Varies based on method of payment
Zelle	Use your bank to set up \$ transfer. Send Zelle payment to <a href="mailto:CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a> .	\$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 <b>#0188 - TD Ameritrade Institutional</b> <b>A/C #944110334</b></p> <p><b>RIVER OF GRASS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, INC.</b></p> <p>The donor should notify the CC Team and the Office Administrator of the details of the donation by emailing <a href="mailto:CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org">CapitalCapaign@riverofgrassuu.org</a>.</p>	

*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.*

### **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.*