

# River of Grass

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
11850 W State Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325

---

WELCOME TO OUR RIVER OF GRASS FAMILY. WELCOME TO OUR WARMTH. WELCOME HOME!

---

## River of Grass Weekly Update – December 14, 2023

### Entering Into the Christmas Story: We All Have a Role to Play

Let us search our hearts for our place in the Christmas story that never ends.

Let us choose again our role in the incarnation of love.

- Rev. Shari Woodbury

Bring your goodwill, cooperation, and joy as we all play our part bringing the Christmas story to life before our very eyes. Are you one of our stars? A manger animal? An angel? A wise person or one of their assistants? Come experience this familiar, beloved story as if it were happening right here and right now!

Come as you are – either in-person at the Old Davie Schoolhouse Auditorium 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... We'll be watching for you!

In person at:

- Our Sunday morning rental space is located at the Old Davie Schoolhouse
- 6650 Griffin Road, Davie, FL 33314 ([Click for Directions](#))
- Service will begin at **10:30 AM**
- Childcare will be provided.

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 17, 2023 - 10:30 AM**

**River of Grass UU Congregation** – Entering Into the Christmas Story: We All Have a Role to Play– Rev. Amy Carol

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

#### *Faith Development for Kids and Youth:*

This Sunday, our kids will join us in the sanctuary and help us to retell the Christmas story. There will be no classes for the next two Sundays, resuming on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information about our programming for children and youth, contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org).

#### *Holiday Gathering*

We will ring in the holidays in classic River of Grass fashion with music, crafts and a special visitor during an extended hospitality time on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Sign up on Sunday to host a craft table or bring a savory lunch item to share. See Karen Gonzalez or Diane Lade for more information.

### ***Flowing River Sangha:***

**The Flowing River Sangha is back!** We'll meet **Sunday mornings at 8:30 am** under the Old Davie Schoolhouse pavilion while our new space is being renovated. Come learn and practice the cultivation of present-moment awareness with an experienced meditator and group facilitator, Gary Gonzalez, who has been leading mindfulness meditation groups since 2014. There will be cool air provided by a portable misting fan. It's a BYOC event (bring your own cushion or chair) every Sunday morning at 8:30. You are also welcome to join via Zoom at the following link: [Flowing River Sangha Zoom Link](#).

### ***Membership Matters:***

**NEW MEMBER CEREMONY** – River of Grass will again open its Membership Book to welcome New Members during worship service **this Sunday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you have found your spiritual home at River of Grass and want to be fully part of building the future of this beloved community and its good works in the world, please contact Leana at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) or call 954-258-6315. There is still time to be part of this joyous event!

**CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY** – Did you know that River of Grass will celebrate its 25th Anniversary in February 2024? We are planning a big multi-day inspirational and celebratory bash that focuses on where we have been (heritage) and where we will go next (hope). We will include our annual auction as part of the celebration, live music by our fabulous musicians, AND an envisioning meeting to chart the future course of The River together. **Please put Feb 16<sup>th</sup> (Friday), Feb 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and Feb 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) on your calendars!** Many more details will follow and there are many ways to get involved. Please email Leana at [membership@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:membership@riverofgrassuu.org) or call 954-258-6315 if you would like to be part of the planning team.

### ***Message from our Treasurer, Ahysa Boutron:***

As we strive to create a thriving community at the River of Grass, we kindly request each member to take a moment and review their pledge promise. Your prompt attention to bringing your pledges up to date is invaluable in sustaining the vital programs and services that define our shared spiritual journey. For any assistance or inquiries regarding your pledge, please reach out to Rita Cherubini at (781) 856-2335 or [rcherubini12@gmail.com](mailto:rcherubini12@gmail.com).

### ***Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat***

**April 5 – 7, 2024; DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center; Parrish, Florida; Ancient Feminine Voices**

You are invited to a weekend gathering of UU women to explore the words and wisdom of our ancient female ancestors. Featuring Shelley Graff leading us in Singing in Sacred Circle.

- Cost is \$238 per woman for two nights in a semi-private room (2 twin beds and bathroom with shower). Each clean, air-conditioned cottage has 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, screened porch, kitchenette, and comfortable seating area. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$310 each.
- 6 meals (plus Friday evening wine & cheese) are included: Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch. Arrangements can be made for dietary needs and preferences.

Register by Dec 15<sup>th</sup> for an early reservation discount of \$15. *Several River of Grass women will be going.* Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at [womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:womensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org) for more info.



**Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and Experience near Highlands, NC**

- Join a passionate Mountain team and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! Available positions and application at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> - competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.
- The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center welcomes your year-end [donations](#) in any form (check, credit card, stock distribution, etc), so we can achieve our matching goal of \$55,000. Mountain staff are planning an exciting year of values-based programming. Thank you for your support.
- Apply now to be a YouthCON youth leader in the Spring. Planning weekend Jan 19-21: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/pal-application>
- Register today for Spring Youth CONferences. Gather with youth from around the southeast. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>
- Early bird pricing is now available for Music Week April 18-23 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/music-week>
- [Personal Retreats](#) -- Join us in the cool mountain air, combine a personal retreat with a farm or other event and local explorations.

We look forward to seeing you at The Mountain soon! [themountainrlc.org](http://www.themountainrlc.org) or 828.526.5838

**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/>

**Full Moon Daughters WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY AND POTLUCK: 3 pm, Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** – Celebrate the peace of the winter season with yummy food to share, music, activities and laughter. The gathering will be at the west Plantation home of member Andy Perez, sign up to receive the address. All women and girls, those who identify as female or are non-binary are welcome. To let us know you are coming, please email [fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:fullmoondaughters@riverofgrassuu.org).

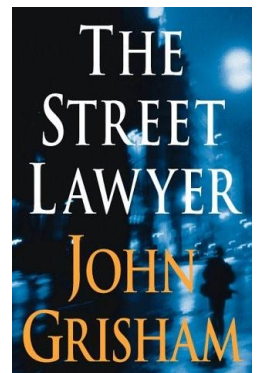
**BUUKies December Read – "The Street Lawyer" by John Grisham. We will meet on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to discuss this bUUK.** [River BUUKies Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 5701 7488; Passcode: 746613

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

Michael Brock is billing the hours, making the money, rushing relentlessly to the top of Drake & Sweeney, a giant D.C. law firm. One step away from partnership, Michael has it all. Then, in an instant, it all comes undone. A homeless man takes nine lawyers hostage in the firm's plush offices. When it is all over, the man's blood is splattered on Michael's face—and suddenly Michael is willing to do the unthinkable. Rediscovering a conscience he lost long ago, Michael leaves the big time for the streets where his attacker once lived—and where society's powerless need an advocate for justice.

Steve Jens-Rochow [BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:BUUKies@riverofgrassuu.org).



**RoG Men's Group** – We will continue to meet **in person at 7:00 pm in Suite A9, 595 Park of Commerce:** official address is 11850 SR 84, Suite A9, Davie, FL 33325 (GPS will get you to the 4-building complex. We're in the 1st Building, middle suite.) Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at our own **Lester's Diner: 1393 NW 136th Ave, Sunrise, FL 33323.** We'll meet there at 5:30pm. We are a lay-led group that looks to our members for discussion topics. **Next week's topic: TBD.** All who identify male are invited to join us! Our next meeting is **Thursday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30 PM,** in person or via [Zoom Meeting](#). If you're joining for dinner, please email Ken Bresnahan,

group facilitator, so he can coordinate space.) The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 7:00 pm. Questions: contact Ken; [mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org).



**SWIM, the Southeast UU Winter institute. Will meet in Tampa from Dec 27, 2023 to Jan 2, 2024** – SWIM, an intentional community of Unitarian Universalists and friends, meets between Christmas & New Year's for fun & fellowship. SWIM 2023 is in Tampa, Florida at the Franciscan Center, an 8-acre urban oasis on the Hillsborough River. SWIM (Southeast Winter Institute Mid-florida) begins December 27<sup>th</sup> and ends January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Choose workshops, outdoor and indoor adventures and concerts or create your own. Registration is now open, please visit <https://swimuu.org/home/> for further details Hope you join us! Registration opens Tuesday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SWUWCon24 (South West UU Women) – February 9-11, 2024 – "Nurturing Creative Spirit" – Join us for the**

SouthWest UU Women annual conference in Navasota, TX. The conference begins with an opening on Friday and continues through Sunday. Your registration and Camp Allen lodging choice include access to all the workshops and vendors, dinner on Friday, three meals on Saturday including the Gala dinner Saturday night and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Single day registration without lodging is also available.

Space is limited. Single rooms are sold out and only double rooms (with a roommate) are available. **Scholarships are also available. Early Bird Registration is \$160 plus the room (\$227) per person for a double room. January 1 - January 22, registration is \$185 plus the room (\$227) per person for a double room. Early bird Registration ends December 31, and January 22 is the last day to register.** The Keynote Speaker and Conference Musician will be Reverend Kiya Heartwood from UU Church of the Brazos Valley, TX. Register soon at <https://swuuw.org/swuuwcon-2024/>; Workshops: <https://swuuw.org/workshops2024/>



Established in 1921 Camp Allen is a year-round facility located one hour northwest of Houston near Navasota, Texas. Their 1,100 beautiful acres features a hotel and conference center, two lakes, miles of trails, and much more. We invite you to explore and awaken your spirit in their piney woods!

SWUW is a non-profit organization that supports social justice issues, leadership development and learning; explores feminist theology, promotes friendships and celebrates the diversities that make us unique women on our individual spiritual paths.

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Purchase green products, such as green cleaners, green laundry detergent, products made from recycled materials, low-energy appliances, fuel-efficient cars, and compact fluorescent or led light bulbs. Use your buying power to be green! Help the environment with your wallet!

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 to [WeeklyEmail@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto: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.*

**River of Grass UU Congregation**

**6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL 33314 (Sunday Morning Service Location)**  
**11850 W St Rd 84, Ste A9, Davie, FL 33325 (Office & Mailing Location)**  
**954.723.7877 - [office@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:office@riverofgrassuu.org)**