

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 24, 2020

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!

Your Holiday bag delivery includes the candles that we will light just like we’ve done in the past.

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

“Christmas is a sturdy holiday,” writes the Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons. “Christmas doesn’t wimp out when times are hard – it comes anyway ... shining the light of a midnight star into the darkest places of our collective lives.”

Gather with us under that star of hope for all that can be if we but will -- on Thursday evening at 5:30 pm for an hour packed with music from the traditional to the, well, not-so-traditional, from beloved River of Grass musicians and singers, along with readings from the heart, and our traditional Silent Night candle-lighting (virtual, of course). Let us gather in the comfort of beloved community and joy that shines through the hardest of times.

If you need some support getting settled after logging into our Worship Zoom Meeting, we will have folx “in the room” at 5:00p to help. Then at 5:30p, we will ring the chimes and gather in spirit if not in body, to open our hearts and minds to the spirit of Christmas. Following the service we will stay enjoy one another’s company Virtual Hospitality, greeting one another right there in our Zoom screen. If you attend the service via FaceBook Live, please join us for Hospitality at the same link as the service below.

Gather with us from your computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone with video and audio or just audio; or audio only from a basic phone at the connections below -- this information also at riverofgrassuu.org:

Topic: Christmas Eve Worship December 24, 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’ll be watching for you!

Rev. Amy Carol Webb

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Guest at Your Table (GAYT)

This Sunday's Service focuses on the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table video sermon titled, "The Meaning of Home". Rev Laura Randall takes us around the world to show how your generous donation helps advance human rights, climate justice (climate forced displacement), and migrant justice with the underlying theme of home and service to others. Please join us and see how we care for others.

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 27, 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>

Upcoming Virtual Events - This Sunday:

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am – Service and Social Justice Green Team

-- UUSC GAYT "The Meaning of Home"

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

Faith Development: This Sunday, Dec 27th, we will not have classes, but we will have our annual Holiday Gathering that evening. We may be virtual, but that won't stop the merriment! We have games and activities planned for adults and kids of all ages and interests. See the attached flyer for details and remember to RSVP to [Corinne](#) so that we can be prepared for the number of attendees.

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 27th 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.



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



It's beginning to look a lot like auction! "Pick N Click" River Givers Virtual Auction

Saturday Jan 16th beginning at 7:00 pm EST.

Plan on joining us for a lively entertainment, raffle, and extraordinary live auction, it is a family event!

We are not constrained by our 4 walls, and you can participate whether you are in Davie, Maine, Arizona, or Paris.

- Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of January.
- Free online bidding will start on Sunday, Jan 17 and continue through Jan 31. And of course, you can bid from your smartphone, 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. We have had many wonderful donations; beautiful jewelry, socially distanced dining, Tarot readings, Life Coaching, business building workshop, and more. We are gratefully more 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. Email the details of your donation and a contact # to 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 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.

Other Events:

Flowing River Sangha – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Dec 29th 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.

Mind/Body Skills Group

Scott May and Kallie LeFever will be teaching a free mindfulness program called Mind/Body Skills. For additional details please contact Kallie or Scott directly.

MIND/BODY SKILLS GROUP

- Free 8-Week Live Online Program
 - 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 13th - March 3rd, 4-6pm**

Information and registration contact: Ktrs.Lefever@gmail.com or 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 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

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</p> <p>#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 CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.</p>	

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Compost your vegetable and fruit scraps, if you can. If you can't, use your in-sink disposal rather than the landfill.

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.