

# 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 31, 2020

## Before Behind Betwixt

*We tend to consider imagination too lightly, forgetting that the life we make,  
for ourselves individually and for the world as a whole,  
is shaped and limited only by the perimeters of our imagination.*

*Things are as we imagine them to be, as we imagine them into existence.*

*- Thomas Moore*

On the first Sunday of 2021, in the month named for the Roman god, Janus – the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, and passages – we begin a month exploring what it means for us to be a People of Imagination. Like old Janus, we look before us and behind us all the while in a place profoundly betwixt the two. In a time we truly hold the power to bring a new world into being from the leavings of the old one, what world can we, will we, must we imagine into being? For truly nothing is ever created from nothing, but for imagination leading the way.

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 January 3, 2021**

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, January 3, 2021**

**Virtual Sunday Service at 10:30 am** – Before Behind Betwixt - Rev. Amy Carol Webb

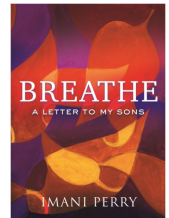
<https://zoom.us/j/961564350?pwd=cFpKY2RtRk4wVE5NbDczdTU5THViQT09>

### **Faith Development: Family Vespers 5:00pm [Zoom link here](#)**

Our Unitarian Universalist faith asks us to be ready for growing and changing in ways big and small. For many people, the start of a new year is a good time to look for ways to grow and change so that we may become happier and healthier – in a sense, to renew our spirits. We wonder what we will become and are open to the unfolding mystery. That is why our theme this month is Imagination. Our Unitarian Universalist faith tells us that who we become is only limited by our imaginations. Join us for story, song and spirit as we ring in **A New Year for a New You!** Contact Karen Gonzalez at [ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org) for more information about our Faith Development Program.

### ***bUUKies Announce UUA Common Read Discussion***

Every year the UUA selects a book to be shared by all UU congregations. A "Common Read" invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. The River of Grass conversation will be on a date to be announced later.



This year's Common Read is *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry. The UUA says:

“Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* “an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction...a parent’s unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children’s right simply to be possible.”

This book may be purchased in hardcover from [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#). The e-book and audio book (CD or MP3) are available from [Bookshop.org](#). Hardback, audio and e-books are also available at [Amazon.com](#).

### ***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](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.

### Other Events:

**Flowing River Sangha** – We will meet online on **Tuesday, Jan 5<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).

**LinkedIn Free Webinar available for ROG congregation by member Sheryl Cattell on Friday, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm ET** - With more than 30 years in digital marketing, Sheryl Cattell, MBA, CSM, MCLC is the founder of the South Florida Interactive Marketing ([sfima.com](http://sfima.com)), a digital marketing coach for the BizHack Academy and a Master Certified Life Coach. The topics that will be covered include:

1. Tips on profile enhancements you will want to make
2. Get your social selling score and compare with others in your industry and network
3. Tips on growing your network
4. How to get more mileage from your posts (from hundreds to thousands of views)

Registration is free and open to all River of Grass members and friends: [Click here to register](#), this event is sponsored by The Resort Trades Magazine. I hope you can join us. - Sheryl Cattell

**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, Jan 10<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.

### 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

**Kickstart Your New Year's Resolution**  
Learn how to update your LinkedIn Profile

Ready for something New? Announce it to the world with a LinkedIn profile tune up!

- Show up in more searches
- Increase your Social Selling Index
- Use advanced features for maximum impact

Personal Legend Coaching

**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](mailto: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: Styrofoam lasts forever, and is not biodegradable. Avoid styrofoam whenever possible. Please bring any styrofoam to Publix for recycling. It's easy. Just set aside a bag or box to keep your rinsed styrofoam. Then drop the styrofoam in the green bins in front of any Publix. Your efforts will reduce the harmful environmental impact of styrofoam, and support our 7th UU principle.*

### **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.*