

# Announcements

**Faith Development** – Faith Development classes will continue meeting this Sunday and next, as we finish out our regular school year online. Reach out to Karen at [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org) for information about joining our Zoom rooms.

**Young Adults are meeting every Sunday at 6:30 pm virtually on Zoom** – Millennials, Gen Xers, and Gen Zs, are welcome to tune in to the YUUnG Adult Virtual Coffee Hour on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. We are an intentional community of young adults that uplift and inspire each other. We seek to grow together while enjoying life to the fullest. Please email [youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:youngadults@riverofgrassuu.org) if you have any questions and to obtain the zoom details.

## **May 17<sup>th</sup> is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia**

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia was created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

The date of May 17<sup>th</sup> was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

The Day represents a major global annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, corporations, opinion leaders, local authorities, etc. to the alarming situation faced by people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics. - From the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team

**Welcoming Congregation Opportunity – Have you started it yet?** “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations” course, of course

River of Grass UU congregation has made a commitment to be welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We became a UUA recognized Welcoming Congregation June 4, 2002. Throughout this past congregational year, the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team has taken intentional steps to renew our commitment to welcoming and inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We are now offering “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations.” This module is a very important one for all of us.

This course is for congregations who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and learn how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over 6 session you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality and faith community and gain the grounding, context and skills to transform yourself and our congregation.

This module can be very deeply moving, with personal reflection. Many people may need to process what they learned. We will also talk about how the River can incorporate changes to become more naturally welcoming. We will be scheduling some Zoom sessions for anyone who wishes to participate.

Yes, we are already pretty welcoming, but awareness of the multi-layers of identity can make critical subtle changes to improve our welcome to all.

Please take advantage of this “stay at home” time to take this course. You can view the sessions at your own pace. For more information and the link to connect to the sessions, contact Kathy at [Welcoming@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:Welcoming@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Gary Gonzalez [meditation@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:meditation@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Thursday Mindfulness Drop-in 6:00 pm –** How are you doing, and are you tending to any felt anxiety or stress? Are you taking time to pause and check-in with your heart, body and mind? Consider joining tonight's community mindfulness Zoom session every Thursday at 6:00 pm. Our next gathering will be **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm on <https://zoom.us/j/551319571>.**  
**Note:** This is not a class, just a time to pause and notice, and share with others. Drop in any week. Contact: [Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Carolyn@insightinstitutellc.com) or [Scott@Insightinstitutellc.com](mailto:Scott@Insightinstitutellc.com).

**Faith Development – Parents Having Coffee Online -** Parents will join together to share their woes, joys and ahas in a Zoom Room on **Saturday morning, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am.** Look for an email from Karen Gonzalez [religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org).

**Children's Summer Fellowship -** Through the summer months, our River of Grass children will be exploring our National Zoo, virtually, with games and activities - making connections to our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle which calls us to value Earth's web of life. **If you'd like to be a part of this adventure by hosting a Sunday or two, contact Diane Lade, FD Committee Chair, [faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:faithdevelopment@riverofgrassuu.org).**

**Do You Want to Help the Search for Our Future Home for River of Grass?** The River of Grass Future Home Team welcomes additional members as we start our search for our future home. Please contact Steve Jens-Rochow if you are interested. [SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org](mailto:SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org)

**LifeNet4Families Donations needed -** As you may know LifeNet4Families has suspended their volunteer program until further notice. The staff continues to hand out about 300 hot to-go meals a day, Monday-Friday, as well as providing showers, food boxes and bags.

If you would like to help, LifeNet has provided a list of items they are in need of. The items can be dropped off outside the gate at LifeNet from 8:00am to noon, Monday-Friday. There are security guards at the gate. Let the security guards know that you have a donation and then leave it outside the gate (or security can get a staff member to come out).

Here's the list of items needed at LifeNet4Families:

- Drop off hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, soap/shower gel, razors, shaving cream, lotion, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Drop off specific menswear (t-shirts, shorts, belts, underwear, socks, sneakers)
- Drop off masks for clients (homemade or store bought)

Another option! If you would like to support them with a financial donation there is a fundraiser to provide housing assistance for LifeNet clients. Please contact Scott May at [scottmayrog@gmail.com](mailto:scottmayrog@gmail.com) for more information.

Location and Directions:

Lifenet4Families, 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

On Broward Blvd. just east of 441 on the north side of the road.

Landmark: there is a Mobil gas station at the corner of 33rd Terrace and Broward Blvd.

Stay safe! Any questions about LifeNet4Families please contact Judi Oltmans, [SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org](mailto:SSJGT@RiverofGrassUU.org).

**SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week:** Quick tips at the gas pump: Avoid spills by not topping off your gas tank. And tap the gas hose nozzle a few times and point the nozzle up before removing it from your tank to eliminate drips. Stopping even a few drips helps to protect our environment!