

Announcements

River of Grass New Mailing Address - We opened our post office box and are forwarding all of our mail there now. Our new mailing address is listed on our website as a footer on each page and in the [contact us page](#) if you need to look it up.

River of Grass UU Congregation, 3225 N Hiatus Rd, Unit 452485, Sunrise, Florida 33345

Summer Pastoral Care at River of Grass: Our minister, Rev. Amy's is on her summer study leave until Labor Day in September. The care and support of this Beloved Community carries on through Rev. Amy's Summer leave time, with professional counselors and loving lay-leaders on hand should the need arise. For care and support, please contact the River of Grass Pastoral Care Team at pastoralcare@riverofgrassuu.org.

Faith Development: 12:30: Pre-K - 1st graders; **1:30 pm:** 2nd - 6th graders. Our first source from which our tradition draws reminds us that wonder is a central source of renewal. "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." So what's one of the ways our faith guides us into becoming a people of renewal? It tells us to "Let wonder wash over you!" Join our Faith Development classes this Sunday as we wonder about things big and small. Contact Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org for more information.

Transgender Inclusion Discussion - The Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team is hosting a discussion about Transgender Inclusion in our Congregation this **Sunday, Aug 9th, at 4:00 pm**. River of Grass UU Congregation has made a commitment to be welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This is a vital part of our Welcoming Congregation renewal process. Yes, we are already pretty welcoming, but with increased awareness of the multi-layers of identity, we can make critical and subtle changes to improve our welcome to all. We will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality and faith community. To join the discussion, please email Steve Jens-Rochow Welcoming@Riverofgrassuu.org for the Zoom link.

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, Aug 9th at 6:30 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.

Free "Mindfulness for Today's World" weekly online sessions - Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm for adults; [Zoom link for 6pm](#) For more info contact Carolyn@InsightInstituteLLC.com or Scott@InsightInstituteLLC.com, or visit <https://www.insightinstitute.com>.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, Aug 11th 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.

Faith Development – Parents Having Coffee Online - Parents will join together to share their woes, joys and ahas in a Zoom Room on **Saturday morning, Aug 15th at 10:00 am**. Look for an email from Karen Gonzalez religiouseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

Auction 2020! With our current situation with COVID19, you may have thought we couldn't have an auction this year. Well, with the miracle of technology, we can. (I know, to us old people, tech is a miracle. All you young people, tech is just a matter of fact). We can have an on-line auction! There are several platforms that we can choose from. And, we can create all kinds of things people can bid on. And we are creative! Like on-line games, "contactless" services can be offered (like oil changes, a special dessert, a special meal for the family), on-line concerts, jewelry, baskets of goodies. We are getting together a team to make this happen. If you would like to be part of this new version of our old tradition, please contact Kathy at president@riverofgrassuu.org. And you don't have to be especially tech savvy. We need your creativity and energy.

Transgender Inclusion in Congregations is a module for everyone for our Welcoming Congregation Renewal. 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 on June 4, 2002. Throughout this past congregational year, the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Team has taken intentional steps to renew our commitment of being welcoming.

The Welcoming Congregation Team is now offering the module "Transgender Inclusion in Congregations." 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.

All members of River of Grass are invited to participate in this vital part of our Welcoming Congregation Renewal Process. Each of this course's six sessions includes a 45- to 60-minute pre-recorded lecture from trans activists Mykal and Alex, a number of resources that help take the learning deeper, reflection questions, and a quiz. 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 is a vital part of our renewal process and we need participation by our members in order to make an impact on our congregational life. Yes, we are already pretty welcoming, but with awareness of the multi-layers of identity we can make critical and subtle changes to improve our welcome to all.

This module is very deeply moving. Many people will like to process and discuss what they have learned. We will be scheduling Zoom sessions for anyone who wishes to participate. You can participate even if you have only done one or two sessions.

Instructions to register, email Welcoming@riverofgrassuu.org and Steve Jens-Rochow will send you the details on how to enroll!

Vote by Mail Primary Deadline: Put your Vote By Mail (VBM) ballot in the mail today! If you haven't already mailed your VBM ballot for the Aug 18th primary -- please locate it, fill it out, and drop it in the mail today. (Make sure to sign the envelope -- your ballot won't be accepted without your signature.) Ballots for the primary must be RECEIVED (not postmarked) by 7:00 pm on Aug 18th. It may seem like there's still plenty of time, but given COVID-19, voters are voting by mail in unprecedented numbers. That's really important for public health, but has given our Supervisor of Elections (SOE) a huge additional workload. Please help them manage the flow by getting in your ballot as soon as possible. Even better, to avoid a possible delay in the mail and to guarantee your ballot gets to the polls on time, you can drop it off to your County SOE's office until 7:00 pm on Aug 18th -- [look up the address for your county's SOE here](#). Please mail or drop off your VBM ballot today to make sure that you don't miss out on having your voice heard. To be involved in promoting safe and fair elections in 2020, contact the Elders Stand for Fair Elections Florida team at FairElections-FL@eldersaction.org.

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Use recycled paper and reduce printing whenever you can. Ask yourself if you really need a hard copy. Print double-sided whenever your printer allows. The trees will thank you!