

Announcements

Rev. Amy's Election Respite Zoom Room – and other community opportunities

River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation will be hosting an open Zoom room with Rev. Amy for community support on Nov 3rd, and 4th – where we will share music, readings, and hold open sharing time to help sustain ourselves and one another in this highly anxious time. Times and links below. Other on-line gatherings are also noted, and more may be coming as need arises. Stay tuned to our River of Grass Facebook page.

River of Grass UU Congregation Election Respite Space

Nov 3rd, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Time: Nov 3, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 820 1019 374; Passcode: 939091

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,82010193743# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82010193743>

River of Grass UU Congregation Election Respite Space

Nov 4th, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Time: Nov 4, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 896 5453 109; Passcode: 349034

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,89654531092# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654531092>

In addition, here are other opportunities to connect and share courage and care on Election Day and in its wake:

Nov 3rd, 10:00 am – 10:00 pm EST Spiritual Grounding for Election Day

UU ministers are gathering from around the country to offer a space for respite, positive energy, peace and spiritual practice on Election Day, hosted by ChaliceUU.org; Rev. Patrice Curtis, UUA; Rev. Florence Caplow, UU Church of Urbana-Champaign – [Zoom](#) and Facebook live (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/728150507736666/>)

Meeting ID: 995 5323 1971; Passcode: 954636

One tap mobile: +16468769923,,99553231971#,,,,,0#,,954636# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99553231971>

You may join us at any time during that day to find a peaceful space for reflection, prayer, meditation and spiritual practice. Different UU ministers will be leading every 15 minutes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nov 4th, 6:30 EST -- Sanctuary Boston –

If you could use some spiritual grounding the day after the election, Sanctuary Boston is hosting a special worship gathering on Wednesday. Join us for some deep breathing, some

great music, and some connection for weary souls.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/822539115181482/>

Nov 4th, 8:00 pm – 9:15 pm EST – Unitarian Universalist Association Post Election Vigil and Gathering

No matter the results of the election this year, we know we will want to gather in community. Please save the date and join the UUA, UU the Vote, Side with Love, and UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray for this event. Hosted on Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube.

https://www.facebook.com/events/3713971198666868/?active_tab=about

Faith Development: 5:00 pm Family Vespers

This Sunday being the first Sunday of the month, in place of regular afternoon FD classes, we'll be gathering at 5:00pm for a Family Vespers service. Ms. Karen will share a story and light some candles, and Rev. Amy will sing and talk with us. We'll learn how much better the world can seem when we remember to share our gratitude. Saying, "thank you" can be a kind of a healing prayer. So, what better way to begin our month-long focus on healing, than to begin with, "thank you"?! Parents, look for the link for this Family worship in an email from Ms. Karen. If you are not a parent, but would like to join us, please reach out to Karen Gonzalez at ReligiousEducator@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Faith Development - Trick or Treating for UNICEF This month our children will be raising money to help needy children around the world through an online UNICEF campaign. It's easy to contribute! [Connect through this link](#) or use the QR code. A pandemic only increases their need. Please give if you are able.



Faith Development - Zoom Halloween Party - Families, This Halloween will be like no other! Typically, this time of year, kiddos are brimming with excitement about their costume choices and the chance to wander door to door, in the dark, collecting treats. I imagine most of you won't be doing that this year. Luckily, Bruce and Tanya Gustafson-Ngo are inviting your kids to a fun Zoom Halloween party, complete with costumes and treats! You will need to pre-register for this event, so that they know just who to deliver treats to. Look for an email from Karen or reach out to her at religiuseducator@riverofgrassuu.org.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, Nov 3rd 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.

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.insightinstitutellc.com>.

The River of Grass Men's Group is open to all men. The Men's Group Men's Group meets via Zoom every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. **Thursday, Nov 5th at 7:00 pm we**

will meet on Zoom and discuss our topic: "The Road Not Taken." Do you ever think about this? At each session we launch into a topic that is designed to encourage personal sharing. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/670022402> The Meeting Room opens up at 6:30 pm before the Host arrives. For more info, please contact Kip Barkley mensgroup@riverofgrassuu.org. Please let us know if you plan to try to make it.

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, Nov 8th 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.

FUTURE HOME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2020-2023! Sep 27th - Nov 1st 2020 Capital Campaign Pledge Drive *56 Pledges and \$556,991 Toward the \$750,000 goal*****

If you haven't made your pledge to the Future Home Capital Campaign, you can still join with any amount that fits your budget. Building a home comes in many forms as we all have experienced. It takes planning and saving and finding just the right space that will nourish and sustain us as we move through our search in West Broward County. Your gifts will make it happen!

If you need further information, everything you need to know is on our website. Our [Capital Campaign 2020-2023 page](#) is where you will find the Capital Campaign brochure and the online pledge card. Our [Future Home page](#) has all of our Future home documents from our feasibility study and planning documents. On our [online payment portal page](#) you can set up recurring payments for your Capital Campaign pledge payments. Please note, you can also Text To Give a dollar amount followed by the code "CC" (without the quotation marks), example 150.00 CC, to our texting number, (844) 948-1153! **Kathy Jens-Rochow, is available to answer your questions, CapitalCampaign@riverofgrassuu.org.** Be well, be safe and we will see you on Sunday!

LifeNet4Families:

Throughout the pandemic, LifeNet4Families continues to serve hot meals to over 250 hungry people each day, as well as provide showers, mail services, clothing, and food box delivery. To minimize risk, the staff is providing all services. So if you miss volunteering at LifeNet, consider a donation of food items, mens clothing, or even a [monetary donation](#). Every donation helps!

Opportunities at the River:

Reopening Task Force

Plan? Who needs a plan? Uh. . . we do

Even though we are facing uncertainty for the future, I think we all agree this separation will end and we need to make plans for the transition. Preparedness will make our life much



easier.

There are actually two possibilities of where we will go once we have agreed to return to meeting face to face. One, of course, and probably the one we would most like to happen, is that we have found our permanent home and can move our stuff there and begin our new future there. The other is that we will not have found our permanent home and will need to find a temporary location using our experience from our “church in a box.”

So at this point, can you guess what we need? A Task Force, of course.

This Task Force will be charged with

1. Making recommendations as to when this congregation can resume face to face services and meetings. We have a diverse demographic of members, ranging from the very young to our most senior members. Following the UUA and CDC guidelines and to best serve our whole community. We do have some planning tools so you won't be totally reinventing the wheel.
2. Planning the move into our new home.
3. Finding a temporary facility (school, party room, park, etc.) to hold our services, if necessary.

So, we need a few good people with facilities experience, logistical planning or who just want to be a part of this exciting phase in our continuing saga.

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org to discuss.

Team on Ministry

A committee or team on ministry is an important part of the health of any congregation. To this objective, the Board has determined to establish a Team on Ministry. The Team will serve to provide support to our minister and to periodically check on how the congregation is functioning. In other words, the ministry is not just the minister but the ministry of our beloved community.

The Team on Ministry shall consist of 3-4 people. At least one member from the Board. The team's responsibilities consist of, but not limited to:

1. providing feedback to the minister regarding difficult situations between the minister and our member(s).
2. Liaising between Minister and members for conflict resolution.
3. Providing ministerial support
4. Completing an annual ministerial evaluation.
5. Upon request from the Board, conducting an evaluation of the congregation's ministries for the Board review

The Board and the Minister will collaborate to reach a consensus about team members each year.

If you are interested in serving on this critical team at the heart of the River, please contact Kathy Jens-Rochow at president@riverofgrassuu.org.

Planned Giving Task Force

What with everything else going on, Kip Barkley is part of Planned Giving at the River. Just as you are calming your reaction to COVID, he asks, do you have a Will?

There is no time like the present to ask yourself: "Where is all my stuff, and who should get it if I am not around?" Your will should be written by a professional, and that is not Kip. Before you find yourself sitting in someone's office with their meter running, ask yourself, "Who gets my portrait of Elvis on Black Velvet? Is my ex still the beneficiary of my IRA? Who could live with my children?" Yes, figure out all of those "details" in advance.

You can bounce ideas off Kip, Zoom works, but Kip does not write Wills, Trusts, Deeds, and/or Legal Designations. It all starts with a conversation. If you have any questions or want to start a conversation, contact Kip, The Planned Giving Guy at PlannedGiving@RiverofGrassUU.org.

Did you vote using a Vote-By-Mail (VBM) Ballot? What you need to know

If you voted using a VBM Ballot—whether you mailed it or put it in a dropbox—**there's one more VERY important step to make sure your vote is counted:**

Go to the [Florida Department of State Voter Information Lookup](#) page to verify that your VBM ballot was:

1. Received
2. Accepted

Ballots may be rejected for reasons such as a missing signature, signature not matching signature on file, etc.

What do I do if my VBM ballot wasn't received?

If you mailed in your VBM ballot but by Election Day it has not yet been received according to the Florida Voter Information Lookup page, you can still go to the polls and vote in person. Poll workers will verify that your ballot was not yet received and cancel your VBM ballot, and you can vote a regular ballot.

(If there's a question about your VBM ballot's receipt status, you can vote a provisional ballot.)

What do I do if my VBM ballot was rejected?

If your VBM ballot was rejected because it was unsigned, or the signature did not match the signature on file, you can "cure" your ballot, by following these instructions:

- Print a [Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit](#) and fill it out.
- Make a copy of your driver's license or other acceptable form of ID.
- Submit the form and the copy of your ID to your county's Supervisor of Elections by 5 pm on Thursday, Nov 5th.
 - To ensure it arrives on time, you can email, fax, or deliver it in person.

If your ballot was rejected for some other reason, contact your Supervisor of Elections' office for instructions on how to proceed. (See below for contact information.)

Haven't voted yet?

If you have a VBM ballot but haven't voted yet, there's still time to fill it out and drop it off at your county's Supervisor of Elections office, or in one of the county's secure drop boxes. Or you can vote in person during Early Voting hours or on Election Day.

Check the Broward County Supervisor of Elections website for dropbox and Early Voting locations, dates, and times: <https://www.browardsoe.org>

Even at this late date, you have choices—don't let not voting be one of them!

Have other voting questions?

Call the Broward County Supervisor of Elections at 954-357-7050 or visit their website at: <https://www.browardsoe.org>

Don't live in Broward County? [Click here for your county Supervisor of Elections phone number and website.](#)

Not sure what county your town is in? It's easy to check! [Click here to find what county your town or city is in.](#)

Your vote is your voice—use your voice in 2020! 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.

SE Cluster Virtual Annual Meeting on Nov 14 - Starting at the conclusion of the exciting and informative Southern Region "Turn, Turn, Turn" Assembly, the SE FL Cluster will have its Virtual Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov 14th at about 3 pm.

SE Florida Cluster presents its virtual Annual Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#): Meeting ID: 825 8027 8403 Passcode: 780761

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,82580278403# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82580278403>

Incentive to Register for "Turn, Turn, Turn" on Saturday, Nov 14th. Your SE Florida Cluster is offering an incentive for you to attend the ***Turn, Turn, Turn—A Day of Companionship, Collaboration, and Learning***, a virtual webinar, hosted by the Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) on Saturday, Nov. 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern time.

In lieu of holding our customary Annual Fall Program, the SE Florida Cluster ***will cover the cost for forty (40) individuals*** (\$20@each) to attend this online regional assembly. So register today!

This pay option is open to all, ***and*** we encourage those who are most able and willing to pay their own way to do so—the conference will certainly be worth it.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, will offer the keynote address and workshops offered by Southern Region staff include:

- "Where Do We Go From Here?": Rev. Nato Hollister and Kathy McGowan
- "To Every Season": Co-Leads Connie Goodbread and Natalie Briscoe
- "A Time To Build Up": Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick

[Click here to register for Turn Turn Turn: A Virtual Regional Assembly of the Southern Region UUA.](#)

1. To access the SE Cluster option: register and click out when the system takes you to PayPal.

2. To pay your own way, register and proceed to PayPal.

Please email Kathy Charles kcharles@uua.org or Jessica Curran sr@uua.org for any questions about the Southern Region Assembly.

River of Grass - Fundraising Mask - Would you like a River of Grass Side with Love Mask?

[Click here to purchase](#) your River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation Fundraising Mask! Orders will be shipped right to your door without any additional shipping charges! This face mask is machine



washable, double ply, and made up of 60% Polyester, 40% Cotton. They cost \$15 each with 3 different sizes available: Adult, Youth 9-15, and Child 3-8.

(<https://www.fundraisingmasks.org/product-page/river-of-grass-fundraiser>)

Faith Forward Inquirers Series is back! The Faith Forward Inquirers Series meets on Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom, see the updated 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 **Nov 4th and is FF Inquirers #2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources.** For more information, email Zena Tucker, membership@riverofgrassuu.org. Zoom link for our session is: [ZOOM Link for RoG Inquirers.](#)

Date	Time	Event
11/4/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#2: Unitarian Universalist History, Principles and Sources
11/11/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#4: Faith Development for Children and Adults
12/2/20	7:30 - 8:30 pm	FF Inquirers#5: Worship & Liturgical Year
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

SSJGT, Service and Social Justice Green Team, Green Tip of the Week: Want a cooler home? Have your AC ducts inspected to ensure you are cooling your home and not your attic. Over time, the tape covering ductwork connections can lose its stickiness and fall off, exposing gaps for the AC to escape. Sometimes even small affordable repairs can significantly reduce your electric bill, and help the environment!

River of Grass New Mailing Address - We have 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