



Sunday, March 8, 2020

Welcome!

Make yourself at home!

To learn more about this congregation, please contact us at

11850 W State Road 84, Suite 1, Davie, Florida 33325

954-723-7877, office@riverofgrassuu.org

Also, visit our web site at www.riverofgrassuu.org

River of Grass – March 8, 2020
THE FABULOUS DESTINY OF AN ABUNDANT HEART
BEYSSA BUIL, STUDENT MINISTER

“Love every leaf, every ray of light.

Love the animals, the plants, love everything.

If you love everything, you will perceive the Mystery of God in all...

You will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love”

-- Fyodor Dostoevsky

Today's Musicians: Gayle Giese, piano;

The River of Grass Choir, Gayle Giese, Dir.

GATHERING

Gathering Song

“Oh, Let Us Gather”

Words & Music: Amy Carol Webb

Community Connections and We Give Thanks

Prelude

“There Were No Mirrors In My Nana’s House”

Words & Music: Ysaye Barnwell

River of Grass Choir, Gayle Giese, Dir.

CENTERING

Opening Words

Singing Together #1010

“We Give Thanks”

Words & Music: Wendy Luella Perkins

Chalice Lighting

Alex Ngo

As we light this Chalice in Community

may the fires of courageous love

be kindled within us

to fuel our work of alleviating the suffering of other’s

and transform our own suffering and give back.

- Beyssa Buil

SHARING

Covenant

Love is the spirit of this congregation and service is its law.

This is our great covenant:

to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love,

and to help one another.

El Amor es el espíritu de esta congregación y el servicio su ley principal.

Esta es nuestra gran promesa:

*vivir juntos en paz, buscar la verdad a través del amor,
y ayudarnos mutuamente.*

Singing Together #1009

“Meditation on Breathing”

Words & Music: Sarah Dan Jones

Candles of Community

Pastoral Response

Heritage and Hope

Sharing of Responsibility & Offertory

Wisdom Story

“The Wise Sailimai, A Muslim Tale from Ayat Jamilah”

Beautiful Signs, A Treasury of Islamic Wisdom for Children and Parents

Adapted by Sarah Conover and Freda Crane

Retold by: Beyssa Buil

Singing the Youth to Class

“We Love You and Bless You”

Words & Music: Amy Carol Webb

DEEPENING

Testimonial

Brit & Maureen Lundell

Responsive Reading

“We Speak The Language Of Love”

Rev Erika Hewitt

Interlude

“La Valse d’Amelie”

by: Yann Yierson

Message

“The Fabulous Destiny of an Abundant Heart”

Beyssa Buil, Student Minister

GOING FORTH

Singing Together #118

“This Little Light of Mine”

Words & Music: African-American spiritual

Extinguishing the Chalice

Carrying the Flame

Greeting of Peace

Reprise

One Good Thing: *Ways to expand an abundant heart is to look around and see whom or what is need and engage in a random act of kindness. See a stray dog in the middle of the street, find a way to help. See a parent struggling with a screaming toddler in the grocery line, offer kind words and patiently wait. You will soon witness the fabulous journeys you will embark upon.*

“Love is the spirit of this congregation, and service is its law.” Unitarian Universalist congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and practice their faith by making our world a better place. We are glad to have you with us this morning and invite you to join us for our social time following the service. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our guest book located near the entrance door and pick up a copy of our current newsletter from the literature table. We welcome your participation in all congregational events that interest you.

River of Grass is a Unitarian Universalist congregation serving the communities of Western Broward County. Membership is open to all who find our emphasis on personal religious integrity and commitment meaningful. If you would like more information about Unitarian Universalism or our River of Grass Congregation, members of our Board of Trustees or any congregational member would welcome your questions. Additionally, we have a wide variety of materials on the literature table located near the entrance door.

~ Members of River of Grass

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Service Leader – Beyssa Buil

Service Host – Rita Cherubini

Faith Development Teachers – Ahysa Boutron, Louis DeSantis,
Monica Dyer, Diane Lade, Gary Gonzalez, Corinne Mann,
Geri Mikulski, and Edgar Navarro

River Guide – Linda Lathroum

Flag Raisers – Janet & Roy Schwartz

Power Point – Steve Jens-Rochow

A/V Tech – Kip Barkley

Ushers – Kathy Jens-Rochow and Kristine Barkley

Hospitality – London Lott and Elyse Reyes

Welcome Table – Zena Tucker and Lori Loiola

For more information on Unitarian Universalism
Visit the association's web site at www.uua.org

Announcements

Family Park Picnic – Faith Development Families can meet at Robbin's Park, **after service on Sunday, Mar 8th**. Bring a picnic basket for sharing and wear your sneakers! This park has an amazing playground and lots of room to run. Best of all, it's just around the corner from The River. Bring a blanket or camp chairs in case the picnic tables are taken.

Finance Committee Meeting - The Finance Committee will meet at River of Grass on **Monday, Mar 9th starting at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome. RSVP to finance@riverofgrassuu.org.

En-Roads Climate Workshop Monday, Mar 9th 7:30 pm at River of Grass.

The exciting, interactive En-Roads climate workshop will be offered again at River of Grass on Monday, Mar 9th at 7:30 pm. If you could not make it last Monday this workshop will give you the tool that uses the best available current science and systems technology to create a tool that anyone can use to create major solution scenarios to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

We are excited to have Linda Chung, a developer of the En-Roads Climate Workshop at MIT and Elaine Franklin, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Hollywood with us to facilitate this Climate Workshop.

In the workshop, participants propose climate solutions such as energy efficiency, carbon pricing, fossil fuel taxes, reducing deforestation, and carbon dioxide removal. The facilitator then tests these approaches using the En-ROADS Simulator so that participants can see the impact on global temperature. This new, interactive, climate workshop uses the best available current science and systems technology to create a tool that anyone can use to create major solution scenarios to limit global warming to 1.5°C. www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads

Leaders and Presenters: Linda Cheung, Before It's Too Late; Jeff Dorian, Broward Citizens Climate Lobby; Elaine Franklin, Hollywood's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator; and Steve Jens-Rochow, Broward Climate Alliance SSJGT@riverofgrassuu.org.

Flowing River Sangha – We meet Tuesdays, Mar 10th at 7:30 pm. This is an open-ended, drop-in group for all levels of meditation experience. Gary Gonzalez meditation@riverofgrassuu.org.

Mindful Meditation Group - Announcing a new daytime meditation opportunity at River of Grass! The Mindful Meditation Group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. We will have guided meditation in the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction tradition followed by silent meditation. This group is welcome to all seeking support in their practice. Our next session is **Wednesday, Mar 11th at 3:30 pm**. For more information see Lucy Harty or Zena Tucker or email membership@riverofgrassuu.org.

bUUKies March into Spring – **Wednesday, Mar 11th at 7:15 pm**

Ladies, do you vote? Do you take it for granted? If you read our March selection, you will never do so again! “The Women’s Hour” by Elaine Weiss details the how the final vote for the 19th Amendment was obtained. Join us and be educated and entertained in so many different ways! bUUKies meet on the second Wednesdays at 7:15 pm at River of Grass. bUUKies@riverofgrassuu.com for more information.

March 11: “The Women’s Hour” by Elaine Weiss

April 8: “The Water Dancer” by Ta-Nahisi Coates

May 13: “Blowout” by Rachel Maddow

June 10: “Red, White and Royal Blue” by Casey McQuiston

Volunteering at the LifeNet4Families Pantry - Join us at our next LifeNet4Families Saturday Volunteer morning on **Mar 13th from 9:00-11:00am**. Sign up at the Service and Social Justice corner at the back of the River of Grass sanctuary or email us at ssjgt@riverofgrassuu.org. Our upcoming Saturday LifeNet4Families volunteer days are: Apr 11th, May 9th – Postal Food Drive, Jun 13th

The Faith Forward Inquirers Series will meet at 12:00 pm, on Sunday, Mar 15th. The series is a rotation of 8 conversations about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. It is designed for visitors and newcomers who are looking for a general introduction, and yet the sessions are appealing to

Capital Campaign/Annual Prosperity Drive (CC/APD)

Rita Cherubini and Kathy Jens-Rochow, Co-Chairs

(Stewardship@RiverofGrassUU.org)

“So what are your values? What is important to you? Your church? Your children? Black Lives Matter? Fracking? Climate Change? It’s a huge responsibility, isn’t it – deciding where to put your wealth, especially when that wealth is money. In this capitalist, free market world of ours, money is power and with great power comes great responsibility. The power and responsibility of being a Unitarian Universalist is about discerning your values and then living them. Every dollar you spend is a deliberate choice. And you get to choose how to spend it. So spend it as a Unitarian Universalist...”

Michelle Ma, Student Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA

I chose these words to share with you. We all have wealth, some more, some less. But, in the thoughtful processes we go through in our home budgeting, we now come to the “Capital Campaign and the Annual Prosperity Drive 2020-2021”. Last week we focused on finding those extra funds for the Capital Campaign. And, this week, it’s having an intentional plan for the Annual Prosperity Drive.

Every year we have chosen by vote at our Annual Meeting that staff and programs mean something. And, they cost something... something we hold dear. Might you consider an intentional plan to reduce our dependence on our dwindling reserves? That means the number to shoot for this year, one third of the way to a balanced budget, is \$238,000. It’s the year of being even more creative in your personal financial planning.

This would mean upping your APD gift perhaps a bit more than you did last year... working closer to a 10% increase overall in congregational giving. Could you work at getting to that level as your personal goal over three years?

- The \$1000 pledge you gave last year would only be \$8 per month additional.
- Increasing last year’s \$1800 pledge by 10% is only an additional \$15 per month. Sounds pretty possible.
- And if you pledged \$5000, your 10% additional would just be \$62 per month or \$20 extra a month!

Could you give up two Starbucks coffees a month? Or maybe one less dinner out? If we all increased our pledges by more, we would be one third of the way to this goal. Hooray to that!