The Spark
BEING THE LIGHT OF GOD

Worship: Sundays 11am

SEPTEMBER 2017

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586
11:00am Sunday Service

rivierachurch@bellsouth.net
Visit us on the web at www.rivierachurch.org
Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/RivieraChurch

Rev. Martha Shiverick
Pastor

Dr. Warren Broome
Director of Music

Barbara Prieto
Certified Church Administrator

Valerie Deville
Sunday School Superintendent

Kathy Stults
Clerk of Session

Session Members
Henry Barrow
Karen Collier
Vivian German
Chuck Hannemann
Christian Mazzola
Barbara Overton
Steve Padilla
Bryan Page
Karen Picciano
Doreen Ruggiero
Kathy Stults
Cris Sweeny

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All are Invited to Kick Off Sunday - Rally Day September 10

Sunday, September 10 Riviera will start the Church Fall Program. You are invited to come and explore worship and opportunities for all ages.

After worship you are invited to a church picnic with burgers, hot dogs, fried chicken and vegan choices.
Plus waterslide and games.

Please bring a side dish to share.

9:30am Theology Over Morning Java - Bible Study
10:00am Conversations About Membership
11:00am Worship Service
11:15am Children Sunday School
12:00Noon Church Picnic

RSVP: Facebook/RivieraChurch
or

September, 2017

Dear Riviera Family,

The Session and Staff of Riviera had a retreat in August. The purpose was to identify the mission of the church and to make priorities in our ministries this next year. It is good to periodically wrestle with these concepts and change or update our mission statement to match the gifts of our congregation with the needs of God's creation. Using the remarks from the all church conversations that took place during worship last spring and summer, we wrestled with our overall mission and future directions.

We affirmed a growing Spiritual energy in our church. We do worship well and our congregation is bold in its statements and actions in social justice. We feel God's close presence with us, continuing to call us to model love and acceptance to the world and work for justice and equality in our missions. The importance of this ministry and our living out our statement of inclusivity was made evident in the horrendous parade of hatred and bigotry and violence in Charlottesville last month.

We identified that we must also work to build our body. Last year, we took on a marketing campaign to tell the community about us and with an updated website, the use of cyber-communications, we are not the hidden jewel we used to be. Now we must build up our programs in Christian Education and Youth Ministries. We want to have attractive dedicated space for both these groups and build a ministry that teaches and models our progressive faith and missional activity. Our children and youth are the future and we must make them our priority.

But the session cannot do all this themselves. On Rally Day September 10th, you will be called upon to join a committee of the church. It is our hope that all members will find a ministry that matches their gifts and goals.

I am so excited about what God has in store for us this year!
In Christ and love,
Missy

The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

UKIRK@RPC MINISTRIES

Greetings and welcome to Academic Year 2017-18 Riviera family and friends. The new academic year officially started a few weeks ago on August 21st. The very next day, we kicked off the academic year with our Fall Taizé Tuesdays, offering students an opportunity to take a pause in their day for songs, prayer and contemplative meditation. Our Taizé Tuesday program will take us through early November this year … and please know you are all invited to join us every Tuesday evening at the Chapel of The Venerable Bede, located at 1150 Stanford Drive, starting at 6:00pm.

This new academic year brings us many great opportunities to offer University of Miami Students and Faculty an opportunity to witness the love and fellowship of our ministry. Conversations are underway in partnership with the Episcopal Student Center, Wesley Foundation and Hillel Student Center to host interfaith conversational luncheons. In addition, the Chaplain's Association of UM is working together to sponsor a pre-Thanksgiving meal for students.

Something new we are working on for this year, is a closer partnership with Fr. Frank Corbishley and the Episcopal Student Center. One of the ways we're looking at doing this is by offering students a monthly joint worship service (stay tuned for exact dates). We are also looking to collaborate with LGBTQ Student Center to host a "Queer Spirituality" conversational series throughout the academic year.

In addition, as of September 1st, I began my work as Interim Program Director for DOOR Miami, continuing to challenge all those who engage in our program to *"See the Face of God in the City."*

As I embark on this work both at UM and with DOOR, I look for the many ways in which I continue to serve and be a part of the worship life at Riviera, for it is in community that we are strengthened for journey.

I desire your prayers and support, for as in the times of Isaiah, God is still asking … "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" … and like Isaiah, I have chosen to answer, "Here I am Lord. Send Me."

God's grace and peace

Danny Morales

Mission News

Thank you to all who participated in the Adopt-A-Backpack hands on project. This is our third year of providing students at Frances S. Tucker Elementary School with school supplies and backpacks for the start of the new school year. With your help we provided $2000 worth of school supplies to 50 Second Graders and paper for the teachers. Some of the children remembered us from last year when they were first graders.

Stay tuned for additional hands on projects that we are exploring.

Opportunities for Ministries For All Ages…

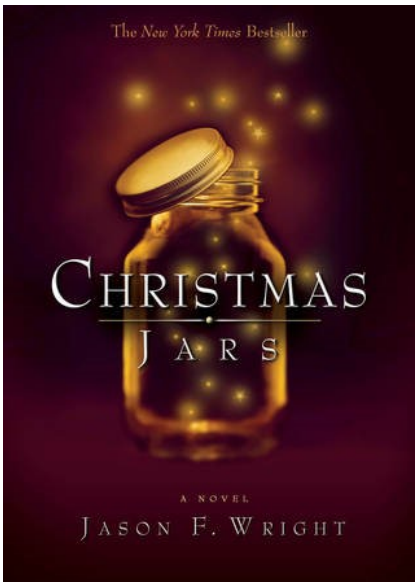
During Kick Off Sunday, September 10 there will be opportunities for you to sign up to be a hands on active member of Riviera no matter your age. We will have areas of ministries for all abilities. Our goal is to have 100% participation. We have ministries that YOU can pray for others, send cards, pull weeds, be a liturgist, put together food bags, give the children's sermon, etc.

Look in your bulletin on Sunday, September 10th.

Mission News

Do you have old electronics collecting dust somewhere in your closets, garage or attics?

You can bring them to Riviera and place in the electronic recycling bin outside of Fellowship Hall.



There are still Christmas Jars available for you to pickup in the Welcome Area/Narthex.

We provide you the jar/s and you provide the coins the rest of the year and during the week before Christmas you select someone to give it to anonymously.

http://christmasjars.com/

Christian Education News

Want to get a glimpse into the sermon on Sunday morning? Come to Theology Over Morning Java Sundays at 9:30am in the church library.

Theology Uncorked will meet on Sunday, September 10th at 5pm at Titanic Restaurant and Brewery.

All Are Invited

Food and beverages are available for you to purchase.

We kick off the Church Sunday School Year with the theme - Learn and Serve - A weekly adventure through the Bible, Sunday, September 10.

Kids will learn about God and what it means to be a follower of Jesus through Bible stories and opportunities to serve as disciples in the classroom, the local community, and the world! Kids will explore Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska, and Armenia throughout the year as they dive deep into God's Word together.

Parents you are encouraged to download the app Deep Blue Adventures in the app store to help your child reinforce what they learned on Sunday. This is a free app filled with games, biblical stories and lessons.

YES INSTITUTE.

THE SOURCE FOR KNOWLEDGE ON GENDER & ORIENTATION

Communication is key in all aspects of your life. Communication can be easy when you interact with those that think like you, but not so easy when you interact with someone who has opposing views.

You are invited to register for the Communication Solutions Course being offered by the YES Institute - September 9 & 10

http://yesinstitute.org/communications-solutions-learning-objectives/

To register : https://yesinstitute.org/register/

Congregational Care News ...

- If you or a family member are hospitalized, please notify the church office, Steve Padilla or Bonnie Hannemann. Even if you give the name of the church upon admission, the hospital will NOT notify us. Church Office 305-666-8586 x 2 Rev. Martha Shiverick; 305-666-8586 x 3 Barbara Prieto; Steve Padilla 305-753-5442 Bonnie Hannemann 305-323-7678
- Hurricane Preparedness Forms - if you are new member to Riviera or need to update your form. Forms will be available at the information table. Please fill out and return to the church office.

Conversations About Membership

If you are interested in being an active member of Riviera you are invited to attend The Conversations about Membership on Sunday, September 10 and 17 at 10am. Come and learn about the Presbyterian Church and what does it mean to be an active member in the life of Riviera. Those deciding to join will meet with the Session on Sunday, September 24 at 10am and will be welcomed into membership at the worship service.

Stewardship News

Please remember to look at your contribution statement received in July month to see if you paid your Per Capita. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our operating budget for the work of our congregation in this community. Per Capita is $33 per active member.

Fellowship & Community News

September Birthdays

Ellie Rochet - 28
Sage Sweeny - 28

If your birthday is not listed please let us know in the church office.

Worship & Music News

Exciting things are coming into the musical life of Riviera

We are forming a children's musical group called The Joyful Noise which will prepare selections for presentation during our worship services as well as special biblical musicals for other occasions.

The Riviera Ding-A-Lings, our young bell choir augmented by enthusiastic adults, will continue to present special music for services during the year.

Continuing a long tradition, our annual Cabaret show is on the calendar as well as several special concerts during the year.

All are invited to participate in the musical life of Riviera by joining the choirs, or raising your voices in joyous song in the liturgy of our worship services.

Warren Broome
Director of Music

Riviera Presbyterian Church is open to all who want to be part of a community of faith seeking to reflect the path of Christ. God makes no distinction among people and neither do we. If you are interested in inquiring about membership at Riviera please call the Rev. Martha Shiverick at 305-666-8586 or email at marthashiverick@gmail.com

Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community engaged in joyful worship, transformative education, and active service reflecting the path of Christ.