



August 2019

# The Spark

Riviera Presbyterian Church embracing all God's children

## Blessing of the Backpacks

Please join us Sunday, August 18th  
for the blessing of the backpacks  
during our worship service at 11:00 am.  
Come celebrate the start of a new school year!

For students of all ages,  
teachers, and parents.

*No longer in  
school?  
Bring your work  
briefcase*



### Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that  
accepts and embraces all God's children.

# Missy's Message

Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586

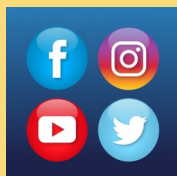
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

Office Hours M - F 9:00-5:00

[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)

Connect with us on social media

@RivieraChurch



Rev. Martha Shiverick  
Pastor  
[marthashiverick@gmail.com](mailto:marthashiverick@gmail.com)

Walter Busse  
Director of Music  
[waltbusse@aol.com](mailto:waltbusse@aol.com)

Barbara Prieto  
Certified Church Administrator  
[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

Kathy Stults  
Clerk of Session  
Session Members  
Kyle Dettloff

Vivian German  
Christian Mazzola  
Barbara Overton  
Bryan Page

Karen Picciano  
Rey Prieto  
Michele Ready  
Kathy Stults  
Cris Sweeney

## Riviera's Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

Therefore;

- We engage with each other in joyful worship and thoughtful education.
- We dedicate our resources and talents to God's work.
- And we open our hearts in active mission to others.

Donate



August, 2019

Dear Riviera Family,

I hope you have been enjoying this summer as much as I have. I love the slow journey through the Book of Exodus and the casual set up in the sanctuary for our hot summer months. I have seen both adults and children enjoying the table sandboxes with the Exodus objects in them. And communion has taken on a different feeling as we share the bread and wine 'family style' seated at a table with each other.

But in August things begin to ramp up speed a little. No... the sanctuary does not change until after Labor Day and we will finish up the Book of Exodus then, but people return from summer vacations and schedules fill up. Our meeting-less July moves into an August where we begin another program year. Planning goes into full gear. A group has formed to begin to plan for the celebration of our church 75th anniversary this program year and the session retreats for its year planning on a Saturday in August as well.

It all begins this Sunday!!! Please bring extra food for our Congregation First Sunday Lunch after church as we will be joined by members of Central Presbyterian Church, New Covenant Presbyterian Church and Pinecrest Presbyterian Church to hear a presentation on church vibrancy led by our General Presbyter Daris Bultena. Those of us who have heard Daris speak before will agree without a doubt what a powerful and wonderful speaker and motivator he is.

Children go back to school the third week in August and we have once again taken on the mission to make sure each child in the now fourth grade class at Frances Tucker Elementary School has the materials they need to start out the school year. I thank you for filling a back pack with the items on the school list. We will bless these backpacks along with our own backpacks and briefcases on August 18th during worship.

The August 18th worship service will also include the Butterfly Choir of three year olds from Riviera's Child Care Center with whom our music director Walter Busse has been working this summer.

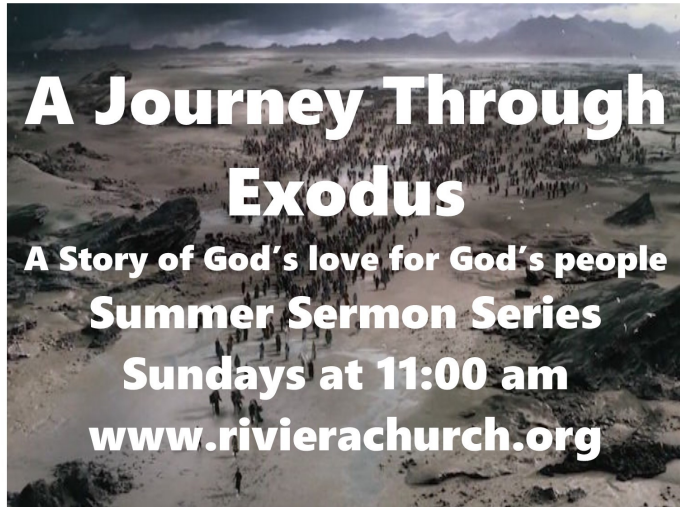
I have also invited people who enjoy a good book to join me Wednesday evening August 21st for a discussion on John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. It is a book that lends itself to thoughts on Calvin's doctrine of predestination among other theological topics.

So.... feel the energy and catch the movement as we finish out our summer with a bang which will launch us where God calls this fall and year.

In Christ and Love,  
Missy

The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

# Worship & Music



**Come worship every Sunday in August  
at 11:00 am:  
You are invited to take the journey through  
the  
Book of Exodus this summer**

August 4 - Exodus 21-23 - The Book of the Covenant

August 11 - Exodus 24 - The Blood of the Covenant

August 18 - Exodus 25-31 - Holy God, Holy People,  
Holy Space

August 25 - Exodus 32-34 - Divine Disclosure and  
Prophetic Vocation

## Flat Moses Sighting







## Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Health

Part of being a vibrant congregation is prayer. Congregations who are vibrant and healthy pray for their church members, pastors, and staff. Our General Presbyter, The Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena, encouraged daily prayer during Lent, as a spiritual practice. We encourage you to keep praying daily twice a day as we continue being in a Season of “Clarity of Identity”.

Set a reminder on your phone or if you are into apps you might be interested in the Echoprayer app.

- Pray for the physical, emotional and spiritual health for all members of Riviera and our PCUSA brothers and sisters.
- Pray for the work of the church at Riviera, as well as local, national and international churches.
- Pray for physical and emotional stamina and clarity of vision for our pastor, staff and Session members.
- Pray for your walk with God.

# Christian Education



Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings, at 9:30am in the church library.

## Christian Education for children



### The Deep Blue Mission:

Reaching, empowering, and equipping children, and those who care for them, with grace-based resources that help them on the journey. Sunday school will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month children are invited to attend worship.



The Presbyterian Outlook Magazine just published a list of good summer reads and the book editor, Roy Howard suggested rereading the book *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving.

I read it years ago when it was first published and was transformed by it. The story of Jonny Wheelwright and his friend Owen Meany contains the themes of faith, politics, war, history, and friendship.

The opening sentence of the book immediately captured me. "I am doomed to remember a boy with a wrecked voice - not because of his voice, or because he was the smallest person I ever knew, or even because he was the instrument of my mother's death, but because he is the reason I believe in God; I am a Christian because of Owen Meany."

I will be rereading this book this summer and invite any of you who would like to reread it and join me for conversations Wednesday August 21st at 7pm.

Missy

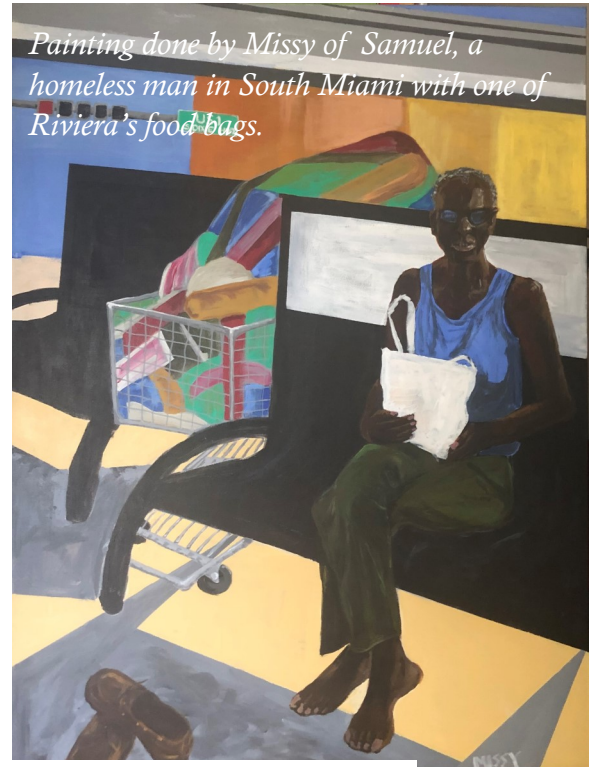
Please RSVP to the church office at 305-666-8586 x3, email [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com) or on our Facebook Event

# Mission

## RIVIERA'S FOOD PANTRY CURRENT NEEDS

crackers (1 pound)  
peanut butter  
pasta sauce  
mac and cheese  
granola bars  
rice (1 pound bag)  
dried beans (12-16 ounces)

If you would like to make a donation to the  
food pantry please go to  
[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org) - memo Food Pantry



## Child Care Center

at Riviera Presbyterian Church



Thank you to the  
City of Coral Gables Fire Department  
for teaching us about fire safety.



## THEOLOGY uncorked

2nd Sunday of the Month  
5-7pm  
Titanic Restaurant & Brewery  
5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd,  
Coral Gables



### THEOLOGY UNCORKED

Theology Uncorked will meet on Sunday, August 11th at 5:00 pm at Titanic Restaurant and Brewery, where we wrestle with issues of social concern.

Titanic is located at 5813 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Coral Gables, FL 33146. All are invited!

Food and beverages for purchase.

# Holy Grounds

## **Holy Grounds - Volunteers needed for August & September**

Holy Grounds is the time after worship where we gather for refreshments and fellowship time after worship. Currently there are several dates open. Please see the sign up sheet in the Welcome Area/Narthex or contact the church office. You may contribute \$25 and we will purchase the treats or you can bring them on your chosen date. Monetary contributions will be needed at least one week prior of chosen date.



Please bring extra food for our Congregation First Sunday Lunch after church as we will be joined by members of Central Presbyterian Church, New Covenant Presbyterian Church and Pinecrest Presbyterian Church to hear a presentation on church vibrancy led by our General Presbyter the Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena. Those of us who have heard Daris speak before will agree without a doubt what a powerful and wonderful speaker and motivator he is.

## A Mission/Vision Statement Audit Sunday, August 4th

### Clarity of Identity

All members of Riviera are asked to attend this event as part of our Clarity of Identity process. This event will be held on Sunday, August 4 starting with worship at 11:00am.

The Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena will lead the workshop during First Sunday Lunch.



All  
Members  
are  
encouraged  
to attend.

Join us Sunday, August 4th  
at 4:15pm at AMC Sunset  
Place to see Lulu Wang's  
movie

The Farewell. You may  
purchase your tickets online  
or at the theatre.

