



September 2019

The Spark

Riviera Presbyterian Church embracing all God's children

SEPTEMBER 8

11:00AM



Open
house
sunday

You are invited to be a part of this "Open House". Come to start your faith journey or continue your journey, and join others in service that make a difference to others.

'Come and incarnate God's love and grace right here, right now. *In this place...*'

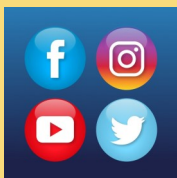
Mission Statement

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
Connect with us on social media



@RivieraChurch

Rev. Martha Shiverick
Pastor
marthashiverick@gmail.com

Walter Busse
Director of Music
waltbusse@aol.com

Barbara Prieto
Certified Church Administrator
rivierachurch@gmail.com

Kathy Stults
Clerk of Session
Session Members
Karen Collier
Kyle Dettloff
Vivian German
Susan Mazzola
Barbara Overton
Bryan Page
Karen Picciano
Rey Prieto
Michele Ready
Kathy Stults
Mimi Sutherland
Cris Sweeny

Riviera's Mission Statement

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



September 2019

Dear Riviera Family,

Spiritual energy and excitement is bubbling up as September begins at Riviera. We are aware of all the blessings we enjoy as a church community and are thankful for all that we are able to give in God's name to promote God's realm on earth.

The session will be reading a book together this fall *'Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission'*. The authors challenge the church to see the abundance they have been given instead of the scarcities and to use that abundance to meet the missional needs in their communities. One of my favorite messages in the book is that the gift of a church's missions, whether they are serving a meal in Homestead, giving a gift of a food bag to a homeless person in our neighborhood, advocating for gun reform, working on immigration issues or environmental concerns, is not to those who are on the receiving end but to those on the giving end. The giver is changed, made better because of the ministry. In other words, our missions turn us into better people. Several years ago, when I asked you what the missions of Riviera Church were, several members were not sure. Today, I believe all members could name a few. We are a missional church and that is to be celebrated!

And we will celebrate! Open House Sunday is September 8th when we finish up the summer series on Exodus and turn to the Gospel of Luke in the lectionary readings for the next few months. We will have an indoor picnic lunch that day and have games for kids of all ages.

We will Commission the Revds. Rosemary Noga Welton and David Welton as our Parish Associates for Visitation on September 15th. Rosemary and David have been visiting members since they came to Riviera, but we are going to recognize and affirm their ministry. The Committee on Ministry of our Presbytery will also recognize them as our Parish Associates.

Our Ukulele Ensemble will have its first meeting of the new season on September 22nd. We hope that new people will join as we push the restart button. From personal experience, I can tell you that you do not need to read music or consider yourself musical to play the Ukulele. It is just tons of fun!

September is also when we ordain and install a new class of officers to the session. We have two people who will be ordained as Ruling Elders and two others, already ordained, who will be installed with them. Ordination and Installation is a celebration as well.

And...I celebrated my 38th anniversary of my ordination on August 30th... Sometimes anniversaries are times to look backward and be thankful for what has been BUT this year I am excited about what is to be.... about all that is happening and will happen in the months ahead.... and once again, I want you to know how grateful and happy I am to serve as your pastor.

In Love and In Christ,
Missy

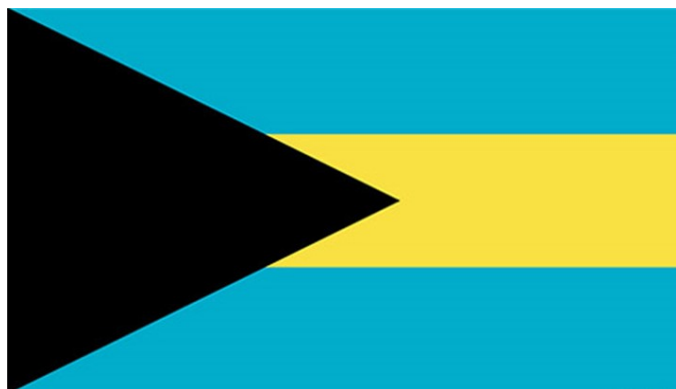
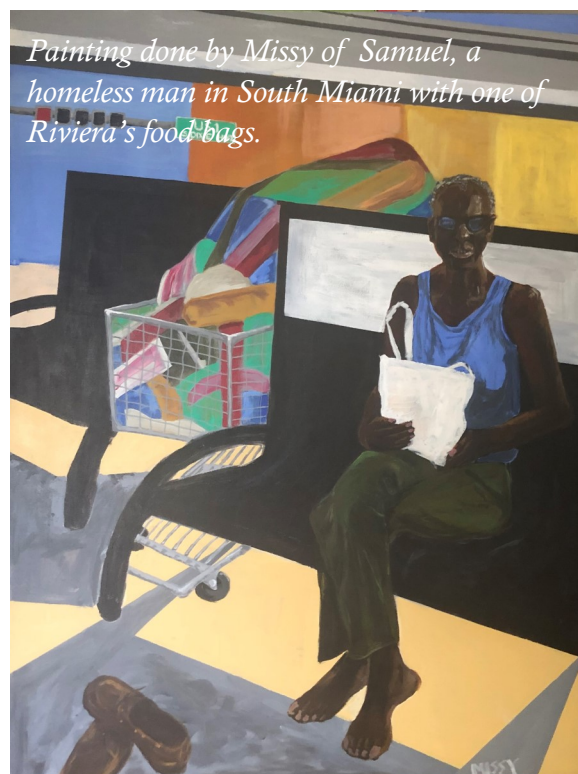
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Mission News...

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 - memo Food Pantry



We all want to help with hurricane relief to the Bahamas, at printing time of this newsletter we are waiting to here further news of where goods and monetary donations will be best sent.

We will keep you informed via emails and social media posts on our website and Facebook page—RivieraChurch.

Sunday, September 8, 2019 12:00 pm—2:30pm





**‘Four
for
Four’
Churches
Feel
Connected**

Giving to all Presbyterian offerings is important

Have you noticed the ‘Four for Four’ certificate hanging on our Mission Board outside the church offices? Every time you walk by it, it should be a reminder of our commitment as a congregation to participate in the life of the church -- and not just outside our community.

As a Four for Four congregation we receive each of the PC (USA)’s four churchwide special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing(OGHS), the Pentecost Offering, the Peace and Global Witness Offering and the Christmas Joy Offering as a way of honoring our Presbyterian identity and connection.

By giving to all four offerings, we join other congregations in a broad range of ministries, so far this year YOU have donated:

OGHS \$505.05

- 32% goes to restoring hope in communities recovering from disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- 36% goes toward alleviating hunger through sustainable food systems and addressing the causes of poverty through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
- 32% goes to Self-Development of People, which helps oppressed and disadvantaged communities.

Pentecost Offering \$417.09

- 10% goes to the Educate a Child national initiative.
- 25% goes to ministries with youth.
- 25% goes to the Young Adult Volunteer program.
- 40% is retained by local congregations for children, youth and young adult ministries.

Peace & Global Witness

- 50% goes toward advocating for peacemaking and justice.
- 25% supports regional ministries of peace and reconciliation, through midcouncil peace initiatives.
- 25% is retained by local congregations for ministries of justice.

September - October

Christmas Joy Offering

- 50% helps provide financial support and funds grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.
- 50% goes toward leadership development for people of color and educational support at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

December

Worship News...

Attn: ALL MUSIC LOVERS... If you (or your older children) love to sing, already play an instrument, or want to learn ukulele (no experience necessary), please reach out to our Director of Music Dr. Walter Busse after worship service on Sundays or email him at rivierapresmusic@gmail.com.

We would love to have you participate in our music program as choir member, in the uke ensemble, or even possibly perform during a Sunday service. Our Choir meets every Thursday evening at 6:30pm for dinner and fellowship with practice beginning at 7:30pm. Our Ukulele ensemble meets every 2nd, 4th, (and occasional 5th) Sunday of the month (after the worship service).

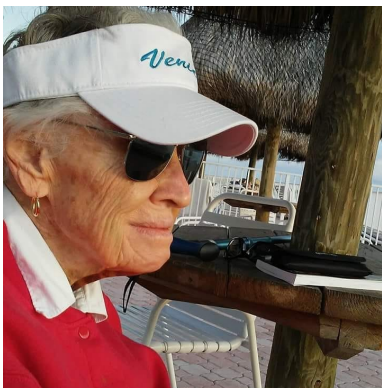
There's also tons of other opportunities to serve in our many outreach ministries. More info at www.rivierachurch.org Contact us at 305-666-8586 or rivierachurch@bellsouth.net

FYI - Riviera Church is truly a warm and welcoming family, accepting and embracing of all God's children, no matter who you are, or wherever you may be on your faith journey. Come check us out! Bring your entire family. Tell all your friends and neighbors. We guarantee you will be welcomed and feel at home! Hope to see you THIS Sunday at 11am.

---Walter



Pastoral Care News...



Our condolences to the Kunce Family on the passing of Avon Kunce on August 8th. A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, November 3rd after the 11am worship service.

Discipleship News...



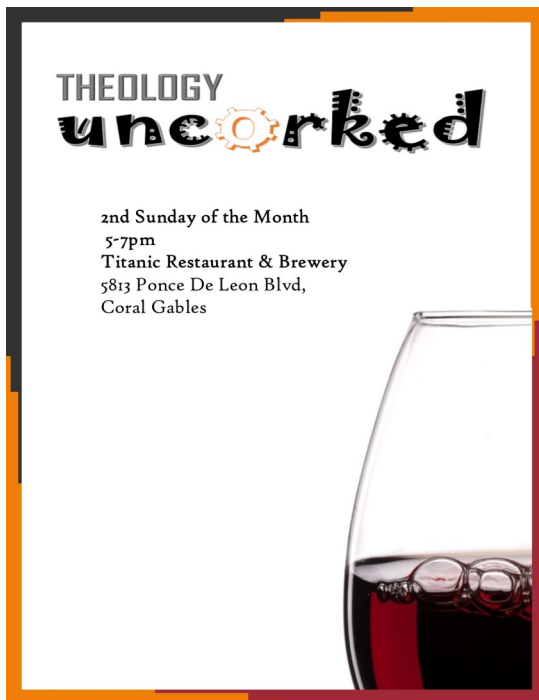
Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings, at 9:30am in the church library.

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 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. The 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month children are invited to attend worship.



THEOLOGY UNCORKED

Theology Uncorked will meet on Sunday, September 8th 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!

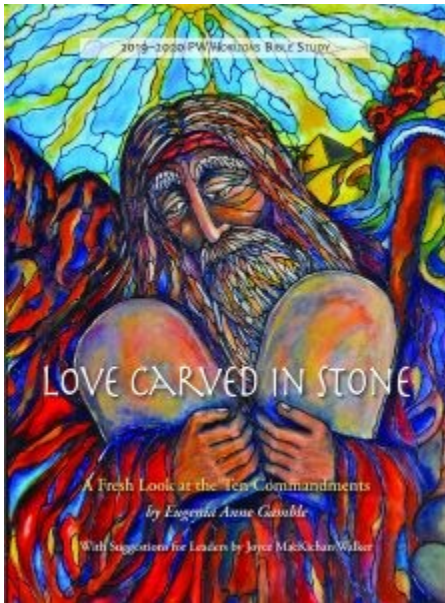
Food and beverages for purchase.

Holy Grounds - Volunteers needed 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.

Holy Grounds

Discipleship News...



Welcome to the 2019–2020 Presbyterian Women/*Horizons* Bible study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a “love letter” from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. “Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community.” *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

Why the Ten Words? The author notes that nowhere in the Hebrew text does the word for “commandment” appear. She says, “In the Bible, these utterances are called just what they are: ‘words.’ I’ve chosen to use the term ‘Ten Words’ because it is the biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh ways.”

Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there we consider a moment from Jesus’ life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts.

Please join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Counseling Office. To purchase a book please contact Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com.

Session

The Session of Riviera and staff met on Saturday, August 17th for a planning retreat and as a result you might have noticed a few new committee names. Based on new church planning models we have consolidated committees. Below is the new structure which we encourage you to look at and see where you would like to volunteer your time and talents.

WORSHIP

Evangelism
Liturgical Art
Music

Marketing

DISCIPLESHIP

Christian Education
Fellowship Event

MISSION

Outreach

STEWARDSHIP

Finance
Property
Stewardship Campaign

PASTORAL CARE

Providing care to members
and friends.

Elders

Michele Ready
Rey Prieto
Cris Sweeny

Elders

Kathy Stults
Susan Mazzola

Elders

Barbara Overton
Vivian German

Elders

Kyle Dettloff
Karen Picciano

Elders

Karen Collier
Mimi Sutherland

Opportunities for volunteering will be available during Open House Sunday on September 8th.



SAVE THE DATE

75th Anniversary

Reunion Weekend
Celebrating the
Past | Present | Future
February 7 - 9, 2020 starting at 7pm
5275 Sunset Drive Miami, FL 33143

Stay tuned for further details

AS A PART OF OUR CELEBRATION WE ARE MAKING AN ART INSTALLATION.

Theological Framework: Being called to the table is a part of being the people of God. From the Hebrew Shabbat meal, the Passover Seder, and our Holy Communion meal, we break bread together and share in fellowship and love. The plates represent our mystic communion with God and also the community and liturgical meals we share together.

The Art Installation will be hand painted ceramic plates representing the Rivera Church membership. The goal is to have a plate representing each person or family. The project will start in September. During the months of September- November people with painting skills or a desire to paint will help paint the borders of the plates. During the month of December, each Riviera member or family will be asked to paint a center of a plate with a symbol which represents Riviera Church to them (ideas for symbols will be given) and sign their names on the plate.

In January the plates will be glazed and fired in a kiln. The installation will be in place for our 75th Anniversary Reunion Weekend in February.

Anyone who would like to help paint the borders of the plates should contact Missy-marthashiverick@gmail.com