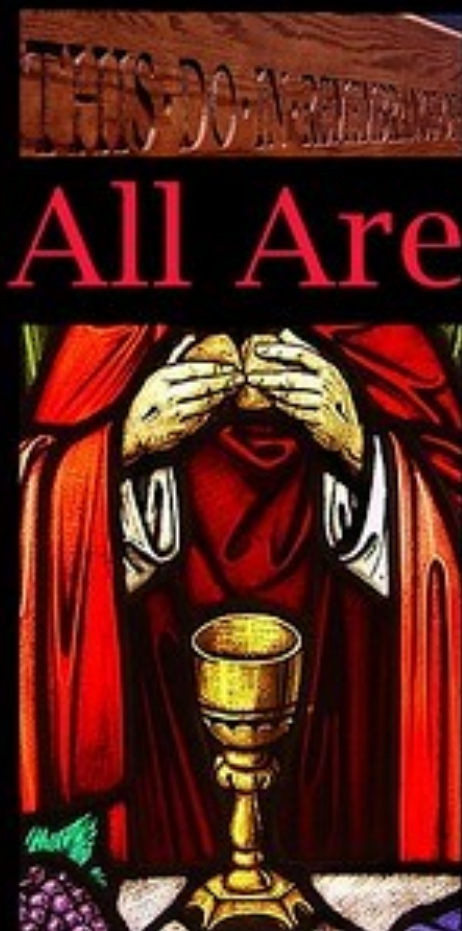




The Spark

October 2019

Riviera Presbyterian Church embracing all God's children



Welcome



At Christ's Table

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. On this day, Christians from around the world gather at the table, one family sharing one meal.

Please join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 6th, for worship and communion!

Followed by an international potluck luncheon.

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

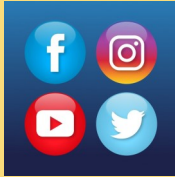
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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

Dr. Walter Busse
Director of Music
rivierapresmusic@gmail.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 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](#)



October 2019

Dear Riviera Family,

Missional Churches are vibrant churches. The Mission Committee, under the leadership of Elders Barbara Overton and Vivian German, has worked hard this past year so that we regain our sense of identity.... our mission.... and involve the whole congregation in it. Ask long time Riviera members what the church means to them and they will inevitably talk with pride about our history of working in issues of justice and racial equality. It is a part of the DNA of our church. Since the 1960's when Sam Houck was the minister here, the congregation has felt called to speak on behalf of school desegregation and equality in education and the church has not been afraid to take Christ's message of love outside our sanctuary walls. During Flash Gordon's era the Child Care Center was built by members of Riviera to answer the need for good child care for working mothers and this same call the members felt to social justice issues continued when Norman Stanton was pastor. During the era that Rick Neale and Laurie Kraus were your pastors, Riviera folk moved further in their call to be inclusive and the church modeled God's unconditional love by being at the forefront of the More Light Movement. The Riviera Congregation consciously welcomed the GLBTQ community into full membership, leadership, and fellowship. Riviera is what it is because of the saints that came before us and each member's ministries help define our corporate identity.

Today we are proud to be a More Light Church and of our continued commitment to the inclusivity of all God's children. We are proud of our ministries to feed the hungry and to be named a Presbyterian Hunger Action Congregation. We continue our commitment to education through the Child Care Center and our partnership with Francis Tucker Elementary School. And we are proud to be an Earth Care Congregation since 2013. We have made a commitment to be a sanctuary church concerned for the rights of the immigrants among us and also a church who prays for peace and who is an advocate in ways to end gun violence. These ministries are what make our church alive and make the Gospel relevant to our world. These ministries are where God is calling Riviera.

And this year, the Mission Committee is feeling the call to what might be the most important mission of our day. Located in what might be 'ground zero' in the climate change of our country, we will work to educate ourselves and others and take action in ways we can be good stewards of God's environment. Our faith calls us to respond to this global crisis we are facing. As a people who believe in the God of Creation, it is a mandate of our faith. I can feel the Spirit moving us forward.

God has called us in the past and continues to call us, dear Riviera family, to be a witness to the world. And, once again, Riviera will answer as you always have using the phrase from Isaiah, "Here I am, Send Me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

In Love and Faith,
Missy

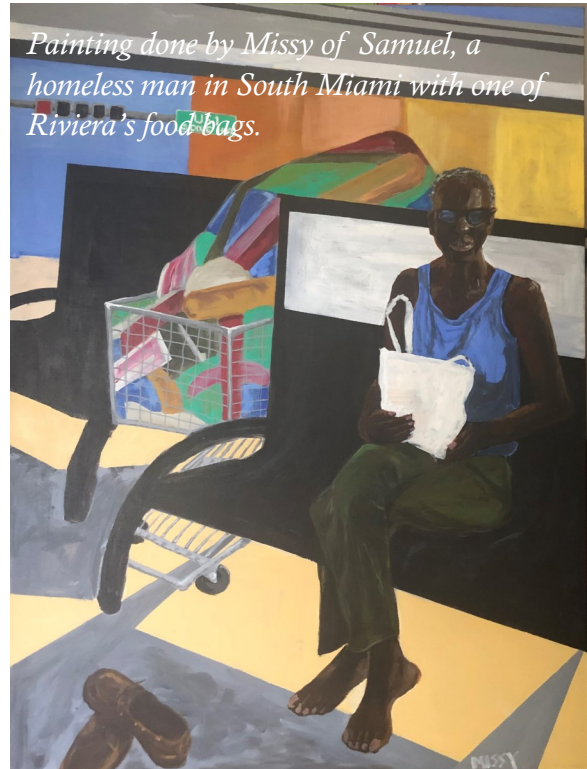
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

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



You cannot follow Christ from a comfortable distance. You have been given the privilege of continuing his ministries here in your community with the gifts of grace, energy, intelligence, imagination and love to fulfill this calling. Join the Mission Committee, Sunday, October 20 following worship, in the church library.



RECYCLE YOUR USED ELECTRONICS AT RIVIERA CHURCH.

Used electronic equipment like computers, cell phones, video games, printers and copiers contain hazardous materials including lead, mercury and arsenic. Putting these items in your regular trash means hazardous materials will leak into our soil, water and air. The solution? Bring them to Riviera Church for recycling!

Deposit your used electronics in the recycling bin located outside the Fellowship Hall on the Sunset side of the building.

Riviera Church provides this recycling opportunity as part of its work as an Earth Care Congregation. We are committed to caring for God's earth.

Mission News...



Throughout the month of October
the Mission Committee of Riviera Presbyterian Church
challenges the congregation of Riviera and its Mission Partners to
[collect 400 pairs of white cotton socks](#)
by October 31

These socks will be distributed to homeless individuals in
Miami Dade County via the Medical Team at Camillus House and
through The Riviera Food Pantry

Socks are one of the greatest needs of our neighbors who spend
their days walking around the city without shelter.

You Can Help!

Challenge your friends, family members and co-workers ask them
to donate one pair per family member in their household.

Together we can all make a difference in someone's life with a
small act of kindness.

Socks can be delivered to Riviera Presbyterian Church at
5275 Sunset Dr. Miami | rivierachurch.org

Mission News...



MATTHEW 25

Riviera Presbyterian Church has accepted the PC(USA) invitation to become a Matthew 25 Church! We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. Our missions include early childhood education, promoting creation care (Earth Care Congregation), feeding the hungry (Hunger Action Congregation) and supporting immigrants and refugees. We are called to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned and poor. When we practice justice, love and kindness, we are a living translation of Jesus Christ.

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

Discipleship News...



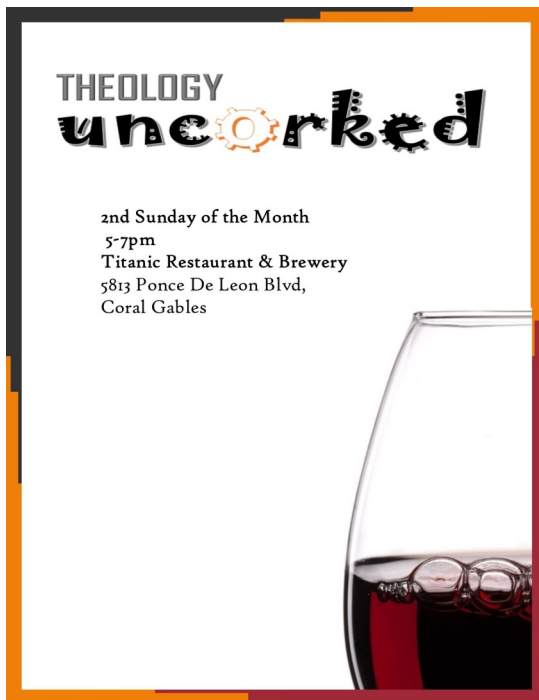
Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings, at 9:30am in the church library.

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, October 13th 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!

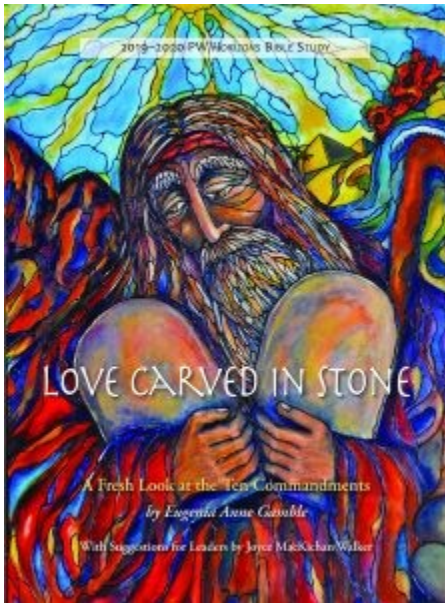
Food and beverages for purchase.

Holy Grounds - Volunteers needed October

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 News...

During the September Session meeting the elders rejoiced about the addition of the Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton and the Rev. Dr. David P. Welton as Parish Associates for Visitation. Session also approved continuing serving Communion the first Sunday of the month and during Maundy Thursday/Seder service. The curriculum Deep Blue Kids for children and the women’s study *Love Carved in Stone* were also approved. Session voted to become a [Matthew 25 congregation](#) and noted that the Presbytery of Tropical Florida agreed to join the Miami Climate Alliance. Grant application is being submitted to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida for a new sound system.

Pastoral Care News...

I feel so blessed to serve on the Pastoral Care committee here at Riviera with elder Mimi Sutherland and other members of the congregation. Many thanks to all who have been available to help with the many needs of our congregation. Over the past months we have visited those in the hospital, provided breaks and meals for caregivers. We are also grateful for the Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton and the Rev. Dr. David Welton, who are now serving as Parish Associates for Visitations and are a vital part of our ministry.

If you have need of care, please feel free to contact the church at rivierachurch@bellsouth.net or me at kc33134@aol.com

Karen Collier, Ruling Elder at Riviera

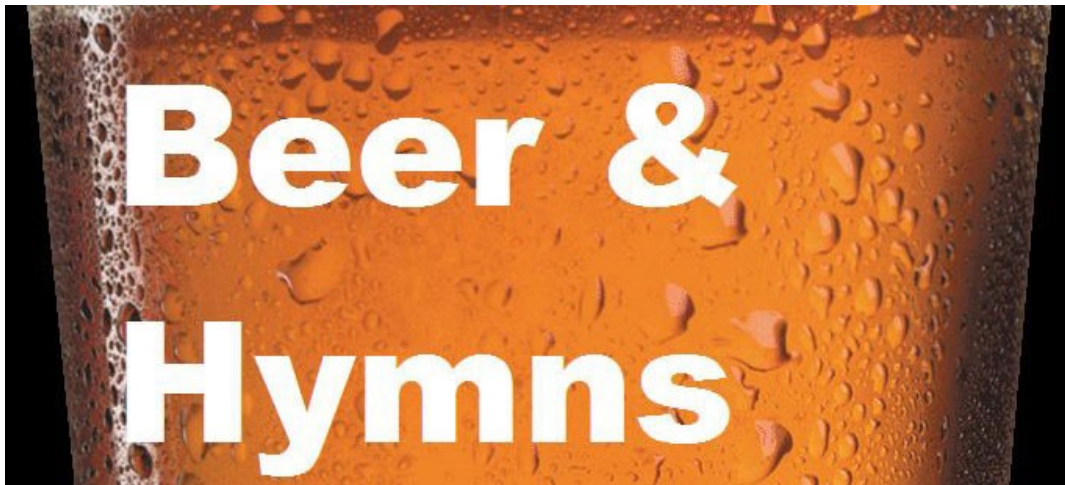


SAVE THE DATE

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



We will gather with our neighbors from Coral Gables United Church of Christ as we commemorate Reformation Sunday with **Beers and Hymns**.

Join us as we sing together some of the great music, chorales, and sung responses. Please bring cash for the purchase of beverages (and/or available food) from Duffy's. Please note: Duffy's does not take credit cards.

Sunday, October 27th
4 - 5 pm
Duffy's Tavern
2108 SW 57 AVE