



December 2019

The Spark

Riviera Presbyterian Church embracing all God's children


@RivieraChurch

5275 Sunset Drive.
Miami FL 33143
305-666-8586
www.rivierachurch.org

ADVENT 2019

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

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

Traditionally Advent has been a time to prepare for Jesus' birth, to talk about Christ entering our lives and our world again. It is when we yearn for peace to come to earth and love and joy fills the air. God knows that the living Christ can not enter our hearts a moment too soon. This year when we sing 'O Come, O Come Emanuel' it is also our prayer and we don't mean for God to wait to be with us on December 25th but to come right now. Because, as a people of faith, we know that even though we might feel that we are in a time of darkness now, it will be overcome by the light, the love, and the peace of God. So, let's bring on the Christmas this year as it really can't come a moment too soon!



1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1 - 11:00am Worship with Communion and Lighting the Candle of Hope
First Sunday Potluck Lunch

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8 - 11:00am Worship
Lighting the Candle of Peace
All Church Nativity Pageant - the whole congregation is invited to don costumes of characters in the nativity story.
4:00 pm Christmas Concert - Collegium Musicum featuring Vivaldi's Gloria
5:30pm Christmas Dinner & Caroling

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15 - 11:00am Worship
Lighting the Candle of Joy
Choral Cantata - 'We Were There' sung by the Riviera Choir and Directed by Dr. Walter Busse

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22 - 11:00am Worship
Blue Sunday
Lighting the Candle of Love
Remembering those for whom this Season is difficult.

**We await the
promise of
Immanuel...of
God being
with us**

We look forward to sharing
the gift of this season with
you!

December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service of Lessons and
Carols
6:00pm

December 29 - 11:00am
The retelling of
Leo Tolstoy's
Papa Panov's Special Day

Missy's Message

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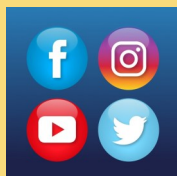
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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](#)



December 2019

Dear Riviera Family,

Are you excited about the Christmas season? Many of you might have conflicting emotions about what is referred to as '*The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*'. I have shared with you that I used to feel blue during the holidays

and was able to finally experience the joy of the season when I separated society's Xmas Holiday from the holy season of Advent and Christmas. I now find myself enjoying December at church and decide how much of the secular whirlwind I want to be involved. I love Christmas carols and Christmas stories throughout the season of Advent as we await the promise of Immanuel.....of God being with us. And I love the mystery and wonder of Christmas Eve as we light our candles and hold them up and sing *Silent Night* together. I look forward to sharing the gift of this season with you! There are exciting mission and fellowship opportunities throughout this newsletter that will make this the most wonderful time of the year for you too!

In this season where we look for peace on earth and wish good will toward all, let us be aware of others. Our country is in a time of unrest as Congress continues impeachment hearings and as I write this we have been warned not to travel to Israel because of unrest in what we refer to as our Holy Land. Just as Auntie Mame sang in the musical, '*We Need a Little Christmas!*' So let's model the peace and good will of the season by being beacons of kindness in our actions and a models of civility in our behaviors and attitudes. This is the first Christmas Bo and I will not have either of our children with us on Christmas morning. But, I have always told them that it is such a busy season for me that it is alright if they visit at a different time when I can devote more of my time to and with them. But realizing this has made me even more aware of people who are alone at Christmas. So, as our personal calendars fill up, let's reach out to others and invite them to participate in church holiday events with us. We are a church family and the best gift we can give is to offer community to another.

Merry Christmas to all!

Love, Missy

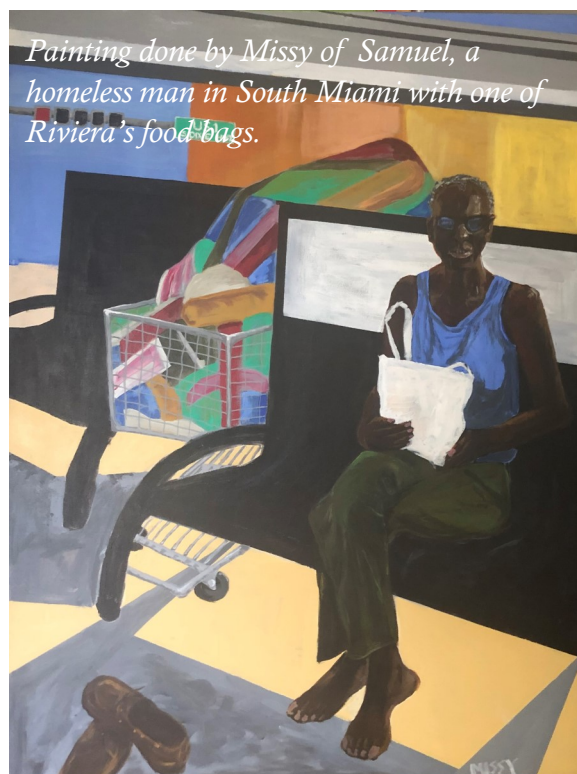
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Mission News...

RIVIERA'S FOOD PANTRY **CURRENT NEEDS**

Tuna
Peanut Butter
Canned veggies
Leftover Hurricane Supplies

If you would like to make a donation to the food pantry please go to www.rivierachurch.org - memo Food Pantry



FOOD ACTION WEEK UPDATE --During our recent lunch and learn about the 10 Commandments of Food, we talked about ways to avoid food waste. Here's a tasty suggestion - sign up for a "misfit box" at

<https://www.misfitsmarket.com/collections/the-misfits-boxes>

Misfits sends you fresh produce that might not check all the boxes for perfection. Every box of Misfits produce benefits farmers, helps prevent food waste, and ultimately helps save our environment. Here is a picture of a recent box (courtesy of Robinson Adams).



Mission News...



Sunday, December 1 you will be able to pick up an About Me form from our adopted fourth grade classes at Frances Tucker Elementary and go Christmas shopping! All gifts need to be wrapped and with the About Me form attached to the gift when you return them to the church by December 16th. If you are not able to shop but would like to purchase a gift for a child you may make a donation of \$20 per child and we will purchase the gift for you.

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!

---Walter

Discipleship News...



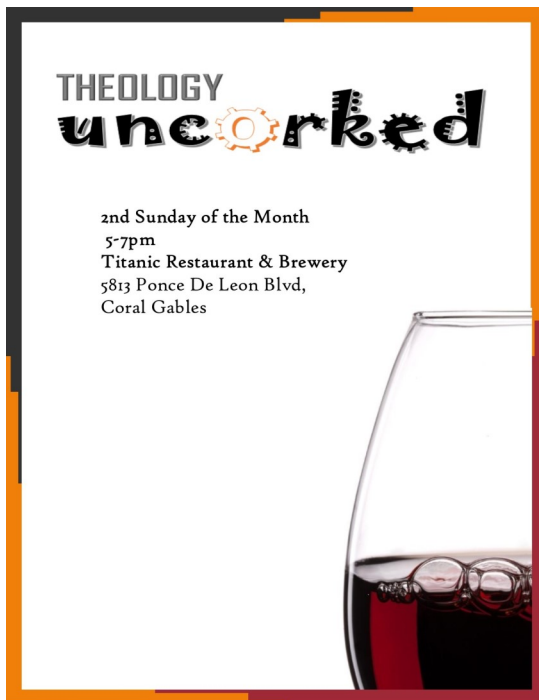
Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings, at 9:30am in the church library.

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

There will be no Theology Uncorked in December. We will resume our conversations on January 12, 2020.

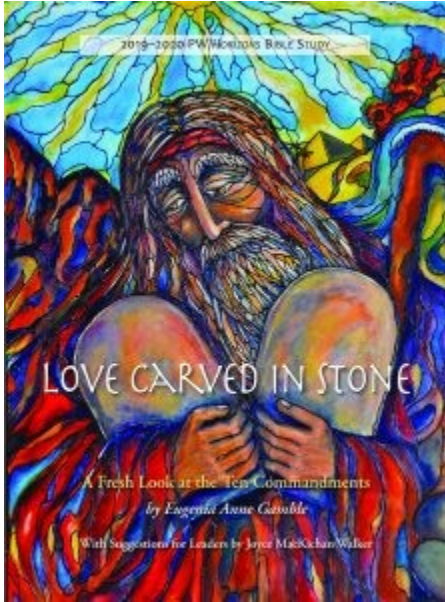
Join us on December 8th at 5:00pm for the Riviera Christmas Dinner.

Holy Grounds - Volunteers needed November

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...



Women's Study Group

Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 pm

To purchase a book please contact Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com.

Please join us.

Session News

- January- changing Communion & Sunday lunch to the 2nd Sunday, Jan 12, 2020.
- Voted to continue participating in all the 4 special offerings of the denomination - OGHS, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, Joy Gift Offering in 2020

Pastoral Care News...

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

Taking a look back at November



Riviera Ukulele Ensemble Performance



**Couples Married at Riviera
through the decades**



Hanging of the Greens

For more pictures follow us on Facebook at RivieraChurch