



# The Spark

January 2020

*Celebrating 75 Years of Answering God's Call to Minister to All*



Dear Riviera Family and Friends,

We want you to be at our milestone 75th anniversary. On the weekend of February 7-9, we will celebrate the 75 years God has called us together as Christ's body called Riviera Presbyterian Church, the mission that has and is being accomplished, and the exciting future that lies ahead.

We are calling the weekend a family reunion..... SO....Whether you come to Riviera every Sunday or have not been to Miami and the church since its renovation over 10 years ago, it won't be a reunion without you being with us.

I look forward to celebrating with you!

Love,

Missy Shiverick

For those who will be needing hotel rooms please visit our website at  
<https://www.rivierachurch.org/calendar/anniversary/>

More details will soon follow...stay tuned.

## **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

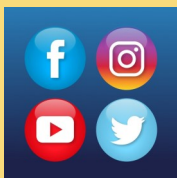
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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)

Dr. Walter Busse  
Director of Music  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

Barbara Prieto  
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Kathy Stults  
Clerk of Session  
Session Members

Karen Collier  
Kyle Dettloff  
Vivian German  
Susan Mazzola  
Barbara Overton  
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 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](http://www.rivierachurch.org)

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



January 2020

Dear Riviera Family,

There is something wonderful about a new year.... we enter it with new resolutions and new beginnings. And after listening to the Impeachment Hearings this past month, I almost feel as though we also need an emotional cleansing as well. The day after the vote was taken, I walked into the YES Institute offices and told them everyone in our country needs to take the introductory communication class they offer where they teach you to respect the other person's view and find mutuality with them, in order that communication can occur. When both sides are pushing back on each other, no one can be heard and no one can listen. So my hope and prayer for 2020 is that a trust and middle ground can be found and this societal illness of polarization can be treated.

And this year we will be celebrating the milestone 75th birthday of the church with thanksgiving for our past and its heritage and excitement that God continues to call Riviera Church to mission and ministry. The weekend of February 7-9 will start with a welcome cocktail party, an anniversary dinner (for all ages!) on Saturday, and a special worship service on Sunday. I hope that you and your family will be a part of all of it. Anniversaries are good times to remember from where we have come and to celebrate where we will be going. This one will certainly do that. To celebrate in Riviera style, there will be a mission opportunity, an art installation of dinner plates representing each family or individual in the church, and an anthem written for the occasion.

We are calling our anniversary weekend a family reunion. After 75 years, people who were a part of Riviera have moved to other parts of the country and it is our hope that many will come to celebrate the church with us. If you want to be a part of helping at the Friday night cocktail party or the Saturday dinner, please let the church office know.

Much love and many blessings in 2020!

Missy

The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

# Worship News...



## Meet Choir Members Vivian & John German



**Meet John:** I have been a member of the choir for many years and sing in the bass section. Our choir has changed over the years, but we always have a good time singing and enjoying fellowship together over a potluck meal on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. We start practice on future pieces at 7:00pm. Com join us!!!



**Meet Vivian:** Singing in the choir is a joyful commitment of worshipping God. For me, it has been an experience of spiritual growth, which often feels like a prayer. Over the years I have come to feel that the choir is my family. John and I met at Riviera's Youth Group Choir sooooo long ago and have been singing together ever since. What joy!



## Bluegrass Music Worship Service

Join us Sunday, January 19th at 11:00am when we welcome back The Forest City String Band to the worship service.



# Mission News...



Join us after worship for our January potluck lunch which will be on January 12 and will feature a presentation by Presbyterian's for Earth Care Ambassador Michele Ready on climate change and our response as Christians. Please bring a dish to share and learn what you can do to help our planet.



# Discipleship News...



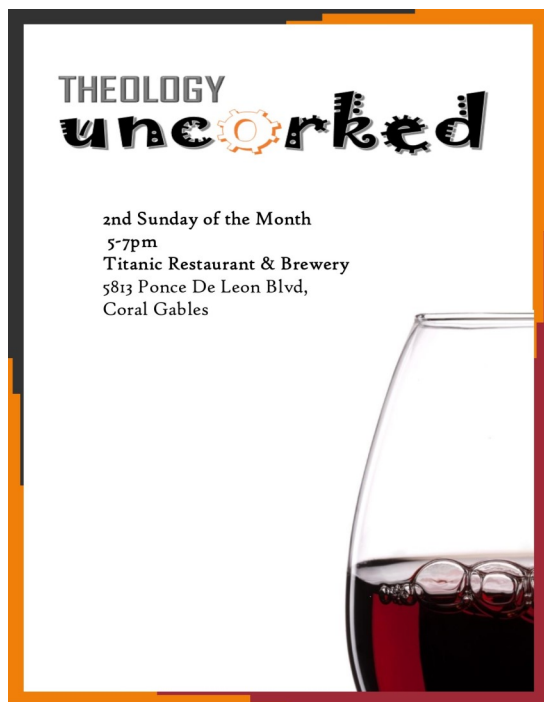
Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings, at 9:30am in the church library.

## 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 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.

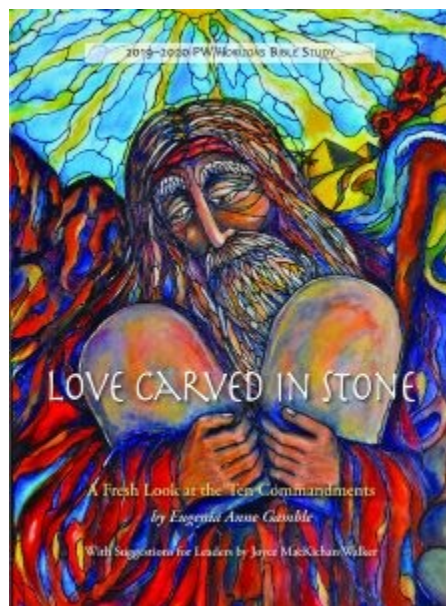


## THEOLOGY UNCORKED

Please join us monthly for topics focused on faith and contemporary issues that directly or indirectly affect our lives as progressive thinking Christians. Food and beverages are available for purchase. We hope to see you on Sunday, January 12th at 5pm at Titanic.

**Women's Study Group**  
**Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 pm**  
Love Carved in Stone - A Fresh Look at  
the Ten Commandments

To purchase a book please contact Karen Collier at  
[kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com).





## Holy Grounds



### Holy Grounds

Holy Grounds is the time after worship where we gather for refreshments and fellowship time after worship. Please see the sign up sheet in the Welcome Area 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.

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

## FREE BLUEGRASS CONCERT

PERFORMANCE BY

Forest City String Band  
from Cleveland, Ohio

SATURDAY JANUARY 18, 2020  
AT 5:00 PM  
RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5275 SUNSET DR  
MIAMI FL 33143  
[WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG)

**We Welcome Back  
Forest City String Band  
to Miami!**

**Expect high energy jams as well as  
some great old time classics. The  
music will get your toes tapping  
and your body up and moving!**

**Dancing!  
Refreshments!**

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

# Session News...

- **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held Sunday, January 26, 2020 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of receiving committee reports and voting on Pastor's 2020 Terms of Call.
- We welcomed new members to the congregation on December 15, 2019.

## **The Fouche Family and Fabian Carrera**



- **Report of the Called Congregational Meeting for December 29, 2019:** The motion *To approve the recommendation from the Session of selling 15,000 square feet of the west parking lot to the City of Coral Gables to build a firehouse to better serve the community, contingent upon the acceptance of our counter-offer of \$2,010,000.00 to the City of Coral Gables and approval of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.*  
The majority voted in favor with one opposing vote.



# Taking a look back at December 2019

