



# The Spark

MARCH 2020

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

## Invitation to Holy Lent

Sin   Atonement   Forgiveness   Grace

Lent is meant to be introspective and contemplative.  
You are encouraged to use the various  
Lenten Devotionals available at Riviera  
or Online to help heal the brokenness in our lives.  
Knowing that when we offer that brokenness to God it is in  
preparation for the celebration of Easter.

### Lent Worship Schedule - Sundays at 11:00am

March 1 - Stories of Sin and Temptation

March 8 - Stories of Atonement

March 15 - Stories of Being Blind to Sin

March 22 - Stories of Faith and Grace

March 29 - Stories of Being Raised to Life

#### **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

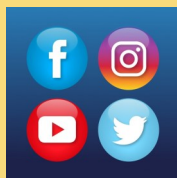
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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  
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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

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



March, 2020

Dear Riviera Family,

As March begins, we enter the Season of Lent. This is the time in our Christian Year where we traditionally study theology and we recommit ourselves to living a life of faith. Where other holidays in the church calendar are celebratory, Lent is meant to be introspective and contemplative.

The Gospel lessons in the Lectionary for this year provided the Lenten theme for this year. It is difficult to talk about sin, atonement, forgiveness, and grace, but these topics are central to our Christian faith. It is my hope that in struggling together with these concepts we will understand in greater fullness God's gift of unconditional love which is so freely offered to us.

(and as an aside - All adults in the church are invited to watch the award winning movie Atonement on March 14th with pizza and discussion, and we will have a movie and pizza for younger members of our church family at the same time.)

As most of you know, I give up sarcasm each year for Lent. I do so as I am aware that what we say has so much power and that a humor I frequently use can be hurtful and lead to misunderstandings. Funny, the outcome of each Lent has never stopped me completely from using sarcasm but it makes me very aware of what I say and the importance of honest and direct communication. In our society's climate of polarization and miscommunication, real and respectful dialogue is of critical importance.

I look forward to hearing what Lenten discipline you are taking on this season.

In Love and in Faith,  
Missy

# Worship News...



## *Meet Amparo Hernandez "Ampy"*



My name is Ampy. I used to be Fiora Amparo Margarita Hernandez Ramirez. I have also been known by Miss Ampy Lou, but I ended up with Amparo Hernandez. In the beginning there was Cuba, beautiful island where I was born. I spent 12 years of my youth at Buena Vista School, a Methodist Missionary School. Then came the revolution and I left on my own aided by the Church World Service Organization, through what was then called the Peter Pan Operation. For the first time in my life I was away from my family. After several foster homes I ended at the home of the Broadway Family. Through them I came to Riviera, where I have been for the past thirty five years. I have been in this country for nearly sixty years and my life has been blessed by many people, including the Riviera Family.

### Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays

6:30pm Gathering

7:00 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Rehearsal



### Ukulele Rehearsals

12:30 pm

2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday  
of the month

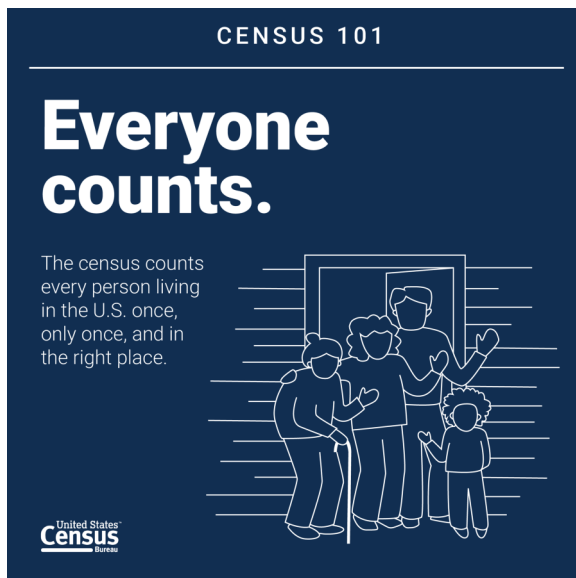




# Mission News...



Thank you for your generosity we raised \$405.00 for the Riviera Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



Your Census invitation is arriving soon. The 2020 Census helps determine how many representatives each state has in Congress. It informs how billions of dollars in federal funding will be allocated to states and communities. Be sure to be counted. Get more information at <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

There will be a presentation during the potluck lunch on Sunday, March 1.



Church members and friends gathered at Bill Baggs State Park for a Beach Clean Up during the Riviera's 75th Anniversary Weekend.

# Discipleship News...



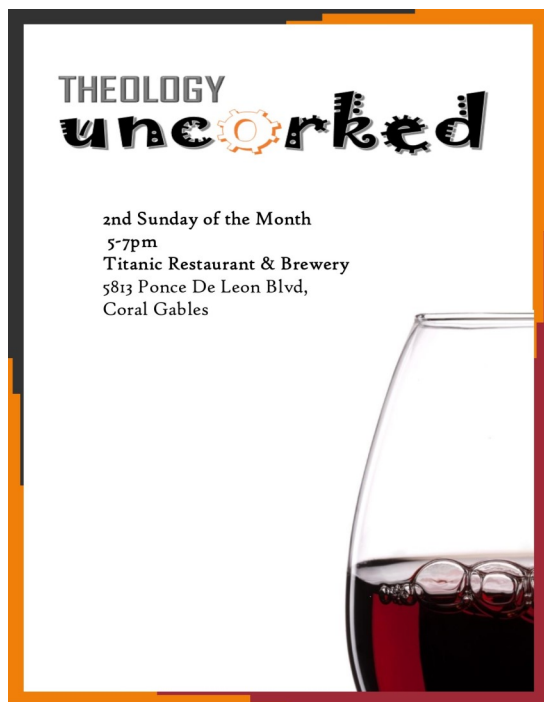
Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings, at 9:30am in the church library.

## 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.

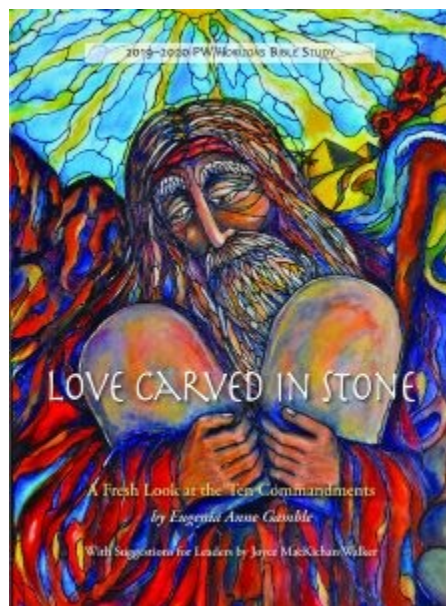


## THEOLOGY UNCORKED

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, March 8th at 5pm at Titanic.

**Women's Study Group**  
**Wednesday, March 18th 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.

## Spiritual Viewing for Lent



**Saturday, March 14**

**6:00 pm Gathering**

**6:30 pm Viewing**

**Adults will be watching the movie "Atonement"**

**Children will be watching the movie "Babe"  
in the Fellowship Hall**

**Children may wear their pajamas and bring sleeping bags  
Pizza, Popcorn and Beverages will be served**



# Congregational Care News...

**Memorial Service for Chuck Hannemann**  
**Saturday, February 29th at 1:00pm**



**Memorial Service for Henry Barrow**  
**Saturday, March 14 at 1:00pm**



**Services will be held at Riviera Presbyterian Church**



A very Happy Birthday to all:

3/3 - Jim C.

3/6 - Robbie A.

3/13 - Robert F.

3/15 - Fabian C.

3/23 - Raymond K.

*If we missed your birthday, please contact the church office to update our records.*



# Taking a look back at February 2020

