



# The Spark

April 2020

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

## Holy Week

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**

**Maundy Thursday**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**[Passover Seder](#)**

**Good Friday**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon**

**Joint service online at [Coral Gables United Church of Christ](#)**

**Easter Sunday**

**April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**

**Sunday worship services will be on our website [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)**

### **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

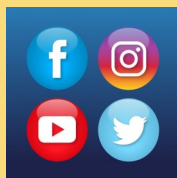
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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

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



April, 2020

Dear Riviera Family,

We are indeed living in a new age. This is one of those pivotal moments in history, as 9/11 was, which will be remembered throughout history as life and culturally changing. We are asked to do our part by social distancing, by working from home, and by being our children's teachers as their lessons are sent on line. Some of you are feeling isolated and some are feeling that they could use a little down time from their 'family togetherness'. It is affecting all aspects of society and it will take a while to recover from the social, economic, and personal losses we will have.

But one thing I have absolute confidence in is that God is with us. God never abandons us in times of trial but holds us and carries us through the uncertainties of life.

Add we are learning how to be the church through cyber technology that did not exist a generation ago. Our learning curb is huge but we are trying to be Christ's body in this age.

I thank you for participating in worship. I thank you for being liturgists and sending the videos in to Robertson Adams so that we can make a worship service with you present at worship. It is a visual representation of our community being with and for each other.

I also thank you for remembering that we have an important mission to keep open. With more people feeling the economic impact of the virus, our food pantry is needed now more than ever. We will post what is needed in the pantry, and the times to drop off food to the church. The church will also post times when the food pantry in open for people to get groceries.

And, I miss our old normal as I know you do as well. But, please know that the Love of God which embraces us all and binds us together as a church is stronger now than ever.

Easter will come. Easter always comes. That is the good news! In faith and in love,

Missy



## A Little About Rev. Dr. David Welton, Parish Associate for Visitation



Singing has been a big part of my life since my college days, when I joined a music fraternity and all the guys would sing together in harmony! It was a time of joy in making good choral music and also a time of developing lifelong friendships. Since then, wherever I have lived, I have been part of a choral group: the Naples Philharmonic Choir, the North Carolina Master Chorale, the Collegium Musicum in Miami, and most importantly, the Riviera Presbyterian Church Choir. Singing has always helped me to feel connected to others and create something beautiful in the world.

We came to Riviera church because of the progressive Christianity that was thriving here, and the great music, and our long-time friend Bryan Page! Music is so integral a part of worship here that it expresses the experience of our hearts that could not be expressed in words alone. Our fellowship with the members of the choir gives us great happiness and we feel supported when going through the ups and downs of life. The choir community is a wonderful melting pot of people of all traditions, mixed together to make something amazing. Thank you to Walter and Missy for all they give to us!

Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays

Emails will be sent with  
Zoom information



Ukulele Rehearsals

Emails will be sent with  
Zoom information





## Worship News...



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Riviera's Mission Committee is thrilled to announce that Dr. Neddy Astudillo will join our virtual worship Sunday, April 26, as a guest liturgist. Dr. Neddy will offer a homily addressing earth care in these trying times. She will also join us during our Zoom Holy Grounds!

The Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo, a Venezuelan-American, is an eco-theologian and Presbyterian pastor who coordinates GreenFaith's outreach to Latin American faith communities and to the US Latino faith community. Neddy earned her Doctor of Ministry in "Greening the Church" from Drew University and co-founded, with her husband, the Angelic Organics Learning Center, a farm-based nonprofit in Northern Illinois, where people connect with food, farming and caring for the earth. She has taught eco-theology courses at seminaries in Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia and the US, served as editor of the Presbyterians for Earth Care newsletter, been published in Working Preacher and Earth and Word: Classic Sermons on Saving the Planet, and is co-author of God's Earth is Sacred: Essays on Eco-Justice. In 2017, she coordinated GreenFaith's Convergence in Rio de Janeiro with Latin American multi-faith partners, where 60 emerging faith leaders from 18 Latin American countries and 7 different religious and spiritual traditions participated in a 5-day religious- environmental training program.



## Mission News...



**Riviera's Food Pantry Ministry** will be distributing food on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am – 12:00noon at the east entrance of the sanctuary.

If you would like to shop for the food pantry the following items are needed: **paper bags, peanut butter, tuna, rice 1lb bags, dried beans, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soup, crackers, pasta sauce and pasta.** Please, NO condiments at this time.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Fellowship Hall doors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. If you are ordering the food to be delivered please schedule them for Tuesdays or Thursdays. -- Thank you.

# Discipleship News...



Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings. Stay tuned for online information.

## Christian Education for children



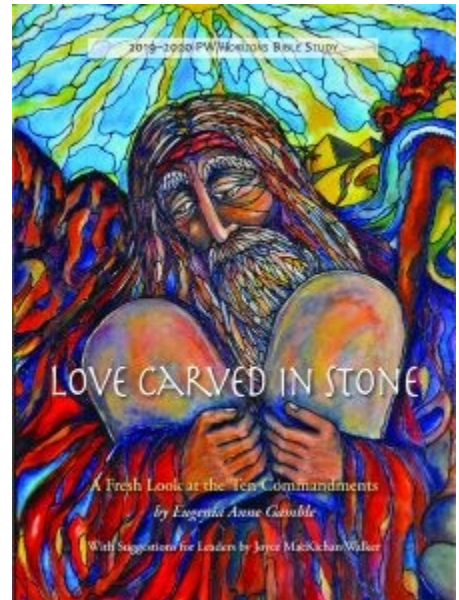
### The Deep Blue Mission:

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. Stay tuned for online information

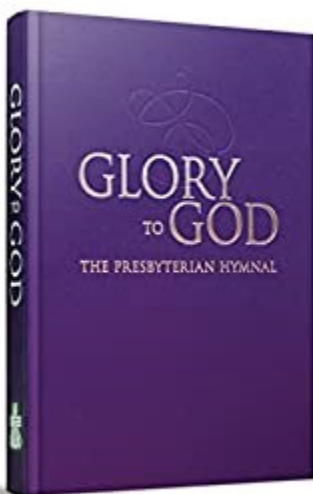
### **Women's Study Group**

Love Carved in Stone -  
A Fresh Look at  
the Ten Commandments

Stay tuned for online information.



If you would like to borrow a copy of the Glory to God hymnal to use at home not only as a hymnal but as a devotion resource, please contact the church office via email.





## Holy Grounds

Holy Grounds is the time after worship where we gather for refreshments and fellowship time after worship.

Please join us via Zoom on Sundays after worship to share fellowship time with one another.

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### Matzah Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour for dusting\*
  - 1 cup all-purpose flour\*
  - 1/3 cup water, or more if needed
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- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, or as needed (optional)
- 1 teaspoon olive oil, or as needed (optional)**

### 1Directions

1. Move an oven rack near the top of oven and preheat oven to 475 degrees F (245 degrees C). Preheat a heavy baking sheet in the oven.
2. Dust a clean work surface and a rolling pin with 1 teaspoon flour, or as needed. Place 1 cup of flour into a mixing bowl; set a timer for about 16 minutes (18 minutes maximum). Start the timer; pour the water, about 1 tablespoon at a time, into the flour. Stir the water and flour together with a fork until the dough forms a rough ball, remove the dough to the prepared work surface, knead rapidly and firmly until smooth, about 30 seconds to 1 minute.
3. Divide the dough into four equal pieces; cut each piece in half again to get 8 pieces total. Swiftly roll each piece into a ball. Roll each piece of dough out into a 5-inch pancake, dusting the top and rolling pin with flour as needed. Gradually roll the pancakes out to a size of about 8 inches, increasing the size of each by about 1 inch, then letting the dough rest for a few seconds before rolling again to the finished size. Roll from the center out. The bread rounds should be very thin. Using a fork, quickly pierce each bread about 25 times, all over, to prevent rising. The holes should go completely through the bread. Flip the bread over, and pierce each piece another 25 times with the fork.
4. With at least 5 minutes left on the timer, remove the hot baking sheet from the preheated oven, and place the rounds onto the baking sheet. Place the baking sheet onto the rack near the top of the oven, and bake for 2 minutes; turn the breads over and bake an additional 2 minutes, until the matzot are lightly browned and crisp. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Lightly anoint each matzah with olive oil, using a brush, and sprinkle generously with salt.



# Congregational Care News...



April 1 - Jackie F.  
April 2 - Valerie D.  
          - Shane S.  
April 5 - Laura F.  
April 7 - Gavin H.  
April 9 - Brandon B.  
          -Ella L.  
April 11 - Dustin D.  
April 15 - Claire L.  
April 20 - Niklas S.  
April 24 - Mimi S.  
April 25 - Alex V.

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



Dear Riviera Family,

I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest words of gratitude to all of you for the simple yet profound detail of sharing words of encouragement and comfort to my family and I on the loss of my father. Danny and I are eternally grateful for your gesture of kindness. My dad's passing has left a deep and painful void in our hearts, yet thoughtful gifts of love such as what your card has done for me, comfort and remind me of how wonderful and great a man he was. These small acts of kindness reaffirm in my heart, that the love and goodwill of people always reaches the hearts of others.

Please know that your kindness and love is appreciated very, very much.

With deep fondness and love,  
Ebert and Danny



# Taking a look back at March 2020

