



The Spark

MAY 2020

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

#togetherwecan

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

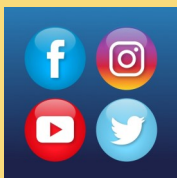
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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

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Certified Church Administrator
rivierachurch@gmail.com

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 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



May 2020

Dear Riviera Family,

As May begins, we will be having our 7th on-line worship service during this era of physical distancing as we protect ourselves and others from the Corona Virus. The question (which is the elephant in everyone's room) is how long will this last? We yearn for the old ways to return, and as we do we know that the world as we knew it... even our church.... will be a bit different when we do return to a new normal.

And we have done alright these past weeks. We keep in touch with one another. Our little church worship services have been watched and copied by churches across the country.

We chose from the beginning to engage as many of us as possible in each Sunday worship service as we try and protect what is precious about our Riviera Community: that we are a true community of love.

It is important that we see each other and mentally picture each other in our homes.

We know each of us might be a bit lonely, tired, and overwhelmed, but we also know that we have each other.

And we have maintained the social justice ministries that define us as well. Our Food Pantry has never been more needed as the unemployment rates continue to climb. We have begun to partner with New Covenant Presbyterian Church to get groceries to food insecure people in the Brownsville area of Miami. We also celebrated Earth Day and recommitted to being an Earth Care Congregation.

It is true that we do not know what the future holds. We do not know how long it will be before it is safe to gather together. But I do have faith that God is with each of us and that God has called us together to be the community and body of Christ called Riviera. God is indeed with us, Riviera family. And God will continue to walk with us through the weeks and (if needed) months ahead.

In Christ and in Love,
Missy
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Worship News...



This month we are featuring **Sandy Barrow**:

I am a lifelong member of Riviera Presbyterian Church...coming to Riviera with my family at the age of 8. Henry followed when he was at UM studying Music. We were married at RPC in 1961 and have been involved since in many ways with the music ministry.



We were involved with our daughter Tracey in Riviera's children's music programs and community theatre. I have been in the Choir (tenor) since the early 80's and over the years Henry worked closely to emcee and enhance the music related events until illness struck. Both of us always believed in music as a strong element of Riviera's worship experience.

The Riviera Choir is a group of volunteers who share the love of music and give of our time and talent in praise of God. I encourage you to consider joining the choir and sharing in the joy of music and community.

If you are enjoying the daily meditations please share with family and friends that might enjoy them as well.



Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays
Emails will be sent with
Zoom information



Ukulele Rehearsals
Emails will be sent with
Zoom information

Worship News...

Worship Services in May

Finding Nuggets of Joy in This Time of Turmoil

- May 3 - Celebrating 40th Anniversary of The Child Care Center.
- May 10 - Mother's Day
- May 17 - Graduation Sunday
- May 24 - Memorial Day
- May 21 - Pentecost Sunday

Join us Sundays online at 11:00am

www.rivierachurch.org

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: **peanut butter, pasta sauce, pasta, cereal or granola bars, crackers, tuna, mac & cheese, rice and beans each 1 lb bags, canned fruit and veggies.**

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.

Monetary donations are also welcome.

Mission News...



SIGN UP FOR VOTE BY MAIL!

Our PCUSA General Assembly has stated that “to deny anyone a fair vote is a sin.” In this time of pandemic and physical distancing, voting in person may turn into a denial of a right to a fair vote for many people. Ensure a fair vote by signing up now for vote by mail. Any Floridian who registered is eligible to vote-by-mail (VBM). [Request yours today!](#) As circum-

stances change, you may opt to [VOTE EARLY](#) or [VOTE ON ELECTION DAY](#). Requesting your VBM ballot now provides insurance that your voice will be heard, regardless of how things change.



Our work as a Hunger Action Congregation continues through this crisis. The Food Pantry at Riviera Presbyterian Church (RPC) is receiving increased requests for family food bags during the pandemic. We will also be partnering with New Covenant Church to provide food bags for delivery in their neighborhood. Each family food bag costs about \$25 to assemble and can feed a family of 4 for several days. The Presbyterian Hunger Mission has given us a grant to partially fund this work but we also rely on the assistance of our church members and friends.

There are many ways to participate:

- **Drop off peanut butter, cereal or granola bars, tuna, canned vegetables and soups outside the RPC Fellowship Hall doors on the Sunset Drive side (where the porch is) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to noon**
- **Order these food items on-line and have them delivered to the Church on a weekday at Riviera Presbyterian Church, 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143**
- **Mail a cash donation by check to the Church.**
- **Make a donation via our [online service](#)**
-

The Food Pantry is available to any RPC member in need. Distributions are made on Mondays and Wednesday from 9 AM to noon.



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



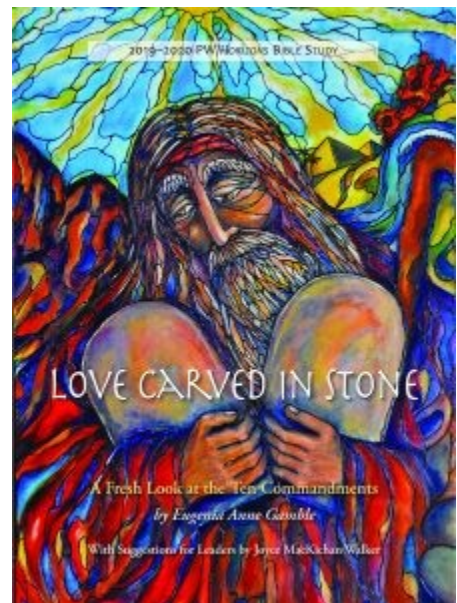
The Deep Blue Mission:

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 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. The 1st and 3rd 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
May 20 at 7:00pm

If you have not participated before please send an email to kc33134@aol.com to be included in the Zoom Women's Study Group



Don't forget that May is Mental Health Month! This year's theme, #Tools2Thrive, explores practical tools that everyone can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency. Learn more and download the free Mental Health Month toolkit at mhanational.org/may.

Discipleship News...

Holy Grounds



Holy Grounds

Grab a cup of coffee and join us after the worship service every Sunday for Zoom Holy Grounds to connect with others in the Riviera church family.

Meeting ID: 931-409-506

Password: 5275

Stewardship News...

What is

Per



Capita?

Riviera members, our per capita contribution this year is \$36.00 per member.

When Presbyterians participate in per capita, they're saying, "I'm in. I'm a part of this denomination. We are connected to it. We intend to support it."

To understand your role as a member of a PCUSA church and helping in paying your per capita we encourage you to read the article in this link.

<https://bit.ly/3biIgJM>

Congregational Care News...



May Birthdays

Nicole P - 3

Cheryl E - 11

Janet P - 16

Sofia V - 23

Justin H - 26

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



Dear Riviera Family,

Thank you for recognizing my 30th work anniversary. The time sure did fly by as I love working here and feel this is my ministry. I was deeply touched by the recognition, the party, the album with the notes and all the thoughtful and generous gifts.

In grace and gratitude,



RPC is so proud of Dylan a 2020 high school graduate!
Congratulations Dylan!