



The Spark

JUNE 2020

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

What's In the Book of Acts?

There is suspense!

There is intrigue!

There are power challenges!

A bit of violence!

And religious persecution!

The Book of Acts is the second volume of a two volume set sometimes referred to as Luke/Acts which is written to Theophilus (or the Lover of God).

This book begins with Jesus ascending into heaven and leaving his (then) 11 disciples to take over the mission of spreading his message of love and acceptance to the ends of the earth.

And the story then gets wild and fast paced. They move from being a small Jewish sect whose numbers are so small they can fit in a room to a worldwide religion.

We meet Saul, who persecutes the Christians for a living and who then has a radical conversion to be a follower of Christ. He then becomes the greatest evangelist of all time.

It is going to be a great summer sermon series!

I think you will love and relate to the characters in Acts and the issues through which they must work.

Happy Summer Riviera family!!!!!!

**Love,
Missy**

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

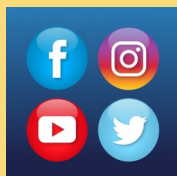
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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

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
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



June 2020

Dear Riviera Family,

I don't know if you felt like I did as the month of June began and the news showed a tropical disturbance developing..... what I thought was, well, of course, it will be an active hurricane season too....

After all, this year keeps on coming at us.

We are not physically together but we must support each other in our mutual fear of the COVID-19 Virus. We worship online and have Zoom meetings while the jobless rate in our country grows and while the economy in some areas has tanked. We must maintain physical distancing from each other, while we watch God's children in pain and filled with anger because of the growing racial unrest and hate crimes in our country.

So my sarcasm screams to me, of course it will be an active hurricane season as well.

But, it is also exactly the time the church and the church community is most needed. The mission of the church has never been more poignant and needed. We are the community that speaks truth in love and points out the inequalities in our society. We are the community which responds to human needs providing food. And we are the people of faith that believe that love wins, that non-violence is stronger than violence, and that together we can change the world and make it a better place. We are the community that will reach out to each other and make sure we weather any storm that comes through.

This summer, we are studying the Book of Acts. Through the Bible Study held at 10am before church and through the sermons, we will learn about the early Christians after Christ's death becoming the church. They knew community was an essential part of it, but had to learn what that meant. And I feel we are in that same position. We know that community is the essential part of our church and faith, but need to live into what that means in this age and time. We will continue to be God's heart and Christ's body called Riviera Church.

In Christ and with love,

Missy

The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Worship News...



What's Your Favorite Church Hymn?

Send us your favorite church hymn and if we have the license for it we will do our best to incorporate it into a worship service during the summer. Submit your hymns to our Music Director, Dr. Walter Busse at <https://bit.ly/36G4iVc>

Cocktails with the Choir-
Thursdays at 6:30pm

If you would like to
participate please contact the
church office

Ukulele Rehearsals

Emails will be sent with
Zoom information

Worship News...

Summer Sermon Series

*June 7 - Acts 3-4 Speaking God's Truth in Politically Charged Environments --
Rev. Martha Shiverick*

June 14 - Acts 5-6 - "Hellenists, Hebrews and Priests, Oh My!" - Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton

June 21 - Acts 7 - Stephen's Story

*June 28 - Acts 8 - The Church Begins to Grow - Phillip's Story -- Rev. Geoffrey McLean,
Presbytery of Tropical Florida Associate General Presbyter*

Join us online Sundays at 11:00am

www.rivierachurch.org or [www.Facebook@RivieraChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RivieraChurch)

Mission News...

**89 food
bags
Given out in
the month
of May**

The Riviera Food Pantry

Will be open for distribution of food

ONLY on

Mondays and Wednesdays

from 9:00am - 12:00 noon

Will be open for receiving food donations ONLY on

Tuesdays and Thursdays

from 9:00am - 12:00 noon

You may leave your donated items outside the Fellowship Hall doors. They will be picked up by a staff member.

Here are some stores where we have found the best deals:

Aldi: Saltine crackers, peanut butter, granola bars, family size cereal, applesauce, ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese

Dollar Tree: Pasta sauce, ramen noodles, rice, dried beans, soup

Target: Rice, dried beans, pasta, canned vegetables

BJ's or Costco: Tuna, soup, ramen noodles

You may also send monetary donations via our [online service](#), via your bank's bill pay, or mail a check to the church.

--Thank you.

Mission News...



In 2013, 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed in Chicago. After her death, her friends and family wore orange to honor Hadiya and the hundreds of Americans killed and wounded by gun violence every day. Every year since then, to coincide with Hadiya's birthday on June 2, we've joined in their efforts by wearing orange on the first Friday of June and the entirety of that weekend.

So, on Sunday, June 7th please #WearOrange to draw our nation's attention to gun violence.

Join us for Sunday worship at 11:00am www.rivierachurch.org

MISSION@theMOVIES - The Effect of Gun Violence

Documentary *"Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence"*

June 24, 2020 - 6:30- 7:30pm EDT Discussion Group

Participant: Deanna Hollas, Gun Violence Ministry Coordinator
With Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Zoom link will be sent to attendees.

Watch the movie on your own before the discussion.
It's available on Amazon Prime. <https://tinyurl.com/RivTriggerMovie>

Click on link to register

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/missionthemovies-the-effect-of-gun-violence-tickets-107259712688>

This documentary frames gun violence as both a disaster and a public health issue. It addresses the critical issue of gun violence prevention by moving the conversation away from the polarizing extremes that have long dominated the debate and lifting up the voice and experiences of those who seek common ground and a new way forward. We will discuss the movie and action plan a response as people of faith.

MISSION@THEMOVIES

Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence

JUNE 24 | 6:30 PM
VIA ZOOM - RSVP NEEDED

WATCH ON YOUR OWN VIA AMAZON PRIME BEFORE THE MEETING

PRESBYTERIAN PEACE FELLOWSHIP
1945-2020

Mission News...

Pentecost Offering to Support Frances Tucker Elementary incoming 5th Grade Class.

Riviera will be collecting the Pentecost Offering during the month of June.

The Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

40% of the Pentecost offering will be retained by Riviera and used to purchase backpacks and classroom supplies for our adopted class at Frances Tucker Elementary.

Please give generously.

Please give generously.

- 1. You may donate today via credit/debit card by visiting our website at www.rivierachurch.org and clicking on the GIVE button. Please memo your donation 2020 Pentecost Offering.**
- 2. You may download the free Give+ app (iOS & Android)**
- 3. You may send your online donation via your bank bill pay program.**
- 4. You may also mail in your check to the church at Riviera Presbyterian Church at 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami FL 33143**

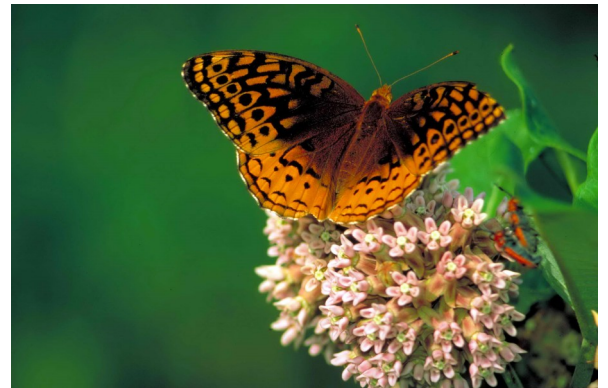


Discipleship News...

As we work through the Book of Acts this summer, there are two opportunities that we, God's children of ALL ages, can make its message come to life for us.



#1 Everyone will be sent a milkweed seed packet in the next week. This is the only plant in which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs. After we plant them in pots or in our yards, we can show them in our worship videos, in our Zoom Holy Ground coffee hours, and in Zoom church fellowship opportunities and church meetings.

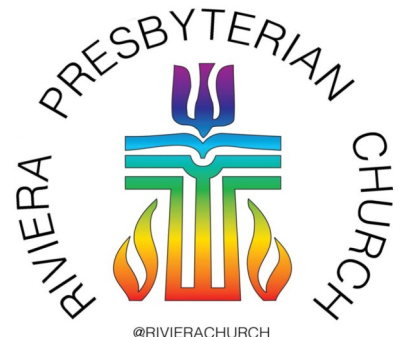


We, God's people are commissioned to grow the church. Just like a garden, we use fertile soil, we seed and feed it and we tend it when it grows, blossoms, and gives fruit.

And just like our milkweed plants, we grow the church and harvest it, not for ourselves but for others. SO... Lets have fun and see what we can grow!

#2 No.... It's not Flat Jesus or Flat Moses, BUT a Presbyterian Cross!!!!

Because we realize now, more than ever, that we the people not the building are the church, our 'flat Jesus' project this summer will be a cut out of our cross. So, use the cross you find in our newsletter, online, or in a Worship Bulletin on Sunday and decorate it... color it or personalize it in a way that is meaningful to you.... And then take photos of you with the cross in places you see God at work this summer. God is at work in our world today! Through your photos, we can witness it to the world!





For those who are artistically inclined here is a sample of the PCUSA cross that you can use as a template, for others not so gifted you may use this cross for your Summer Picture - places you see God at work this summer. You can send pictures to rivierachurch@bellsouth.net or post them on social media using the #RPCGODATWORK

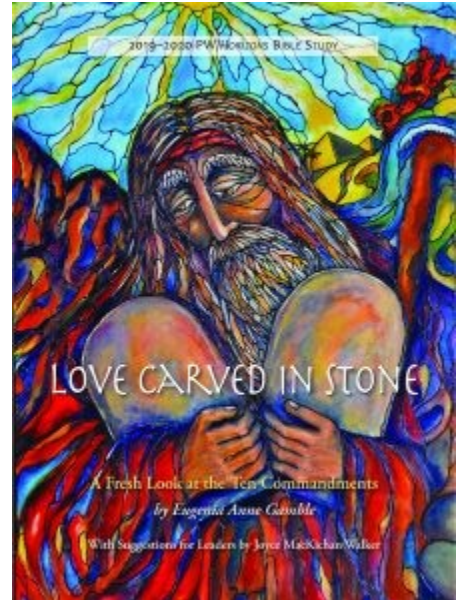
Discipleship News...



Visitors and church members (of any age) are welcome and encouraged to join Theology Over Morning Java on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Join us via Zoom 860-148-3445 ID 2708

Women's Study Group Love Carved in Stone - A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments June 17 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



Congregational Care News...



June Birthdays

Bo S. June 10
Dylan V. June 14
Kyle D. June 15
Jordan A. June 26

**We have exciting news
coming your way soon!**

Stay tuned!

Discipleship News...



Holy Grounds

Grab a cup of coffee and join us after the worship service every Sunday for Zoom Holy Grounds at 11:45am to connect with others in the Riviera church family.
Meeting ID: 931-409-506
Password: 5275

Stewardship News...

Riviera Presbyterian Church recently closed on the sale of a portion of the west parking lot (closest to the Women's Club) to the City of Coral Gables for a new firehouse and a park. The purchase price was approximately \$2 million. The proceeds will be invested and used to fund and enhance our missions and programs. The Church retained most of the west parking lot for use by Church and Child Care Center needs.



Pictured: Gil Acevedo, Barbara Overton, Michele Ready.