



AUGUST 2020

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

# The Spark

## Frances Tucker Elementary School Backpacks

Riviera Presbyterian Church started a ministry in 2016 filling and distributing backpacks to the first grade at Frances Tucker Elementary at the start of the school year. We continued that ministry every year following the original class. This year the children are starting the fifth grade.

Frances Tucker Elementary is a Title One school where the majority of the children come from economically disadvantaged homes or are in foster care. Currently there are 52 children registered for the fifth grade so the need is greater than ever.

In the past we would have distributed backpacks to the congregation and asked them to be filled according to the list provided by the school. This year, because of the pandemic, that is not possible. The Mission committee has been collecting the supplies on the current fifth grade list when they are either available or on sale.

Each backpack costs about \$50 to assemble.



There is currently a donation line on the [GIVE](#) page for backpacks. Please consider giving \$50 per each bag that you would normally fill or whatever you are able to give towards the expense.

On behalf of the children at Frances Tucker Elementary, thank you.



### Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

**We are a Matthew 25 Church**

# Missy's Message

Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586

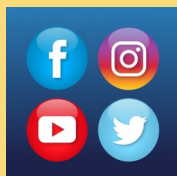
11:00am Sunday Worship Service

Office Hours M - F 9:00-5:00

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

Connect with us on social media

@RivieraChurch



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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](#)



August 2020

Dear Riviera Family.

Let's face it.... things are different at the church!

I do not know if you were aware but our worship services during this time when we must be physically distanced from each other have more people 'attending' than when our services were in the church.

AND, two Sundays ago Robbie Adams controlled the Zoom Holy Grounds Coffee Hour while he was in a car with his family driving on the highway outside of Atlanta, Walter Busse was with his family in Boston while he synthesized the voices of the individual choir members singing from their homes together to create the anthem for the day, and Elder Karen Collier preached her sermon from her desk at home. Members and visitors joined in our worship service from across the country. And at our coffee hour, people are no longer just staring at the ZOOM screen (OK - some of us still to it) but everyone is now comfortable talking and sharing how they are holding up in this pandemic over their computers.

Church is very, very different!

After worship I sent out a text to Barbie, Walter, and Robbie, that said: (with apologies to Dr. Seuss)  
We can have church in a car!  
We can have church from afar!  
We can have church here or there!  
We can have church anywhere!

20 weeks into this new way of worshipping and we have come to realize that this virus will not kill the church, but it will change it. We have had to adapt to our new reality. We have changed the way we worship, involved many many more people, and have worked very hard to keep that what is special about Riviera.... its sense of community. We had communion and it felt like we were in community with each other. We have a Youth Coordinator to bring programs to our children. Our prayer ministry, our pastoral care team, and our mission programs are all busy and we are answering where God calls us in this day and at this time!

I miss our potluck dinners.... our face-to-face talks.... being physically with each other.... and I look forward to when those simple things I once took for granted will take place. But for now, we are doing much better than OK. We are Christ's body and are bringing the love of God to the world.

In Christ and with Love,  
Missy

The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick



# Worship News...

## Summer Sermon Series

# THE BOOK OF Acts

Join us online Sundays at 11:00am

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

Cocktails with the Choir-  
Thursdays at 6:30pm

If you would like to  
participate please contact the  
church office

Ukulele Rehearsals

2nd & 4th Sundays of the  
month

If you want to be added to  
the Zoom rehearsals

Please email  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

## August Worship Celebrations@11:00am

**August 2nd - Communion Sunday**

**August 9th - Prayer for College Students**

**August 16th - Dog Days of Summer**

**Have your pet/s worship with you and show them off during Zoom Holy Grounds**

**August 23rd - Blessing of the Backpacks- Prayers for School Children**

**August 30th - TBA**



# Mission News...



## 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.

## Current Needs

Canned Veggies, fruits, soups, and tuna, pasta sauce, peanut butter and granola bars

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.



On July 22nd, we had a zoom event to discuss the movie 13th. We had a great turnout and a meaningful discussion. Part of our discussion dealt with where we go from here with a knowledge that we now have regarding racism. We are in the process of formulating ideas for Riviera to move forward in dealing with these social issues.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this great event!

Karen Collier

Ruling Elder



# Mission News...

Mission@TheMovies

August 26, 2020 @ 6:30 pm



The fates and futures of South Florida's ocean and Everglades environments are deeply intertwined. We cannot save one without the other. Ocean Conservancy has released a three-part documentary film series telling this story.

On Earth Day 2019 in Miami, as the official Ocean Partner of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee, Ocean Conservancy joined the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee and Everglades Foundation to launch a new initiative to tell the story of the connections between South Florida's ocean and Everglades environments: Ocean to Everglades.

Watch as Ocean Conservancy's J.P. Brooker explores South Florida while discussing the region's unique environmental challenges with local advocates and leaders like former Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Frost Science Museum Curator of Aquarium Content & Marine Science Rivah Winters, Florida Bay fishing guide and host of *Guiding Flow TV* Benny Blanco, and others.

**We Watch Separately**

**<https://bit.ly/3125YWK>**

**We Reflect Together - Register Here on EventBrite**

**<https://bit.ly/39HThnP>**

*Upon registration a Zoom Link will be sent.*

**Then We Act**

*Actions will be driven by the reflection meeting*



## **RECYCLE YOUR USED ELECTRONICS AT RIVIERA CHURCH**

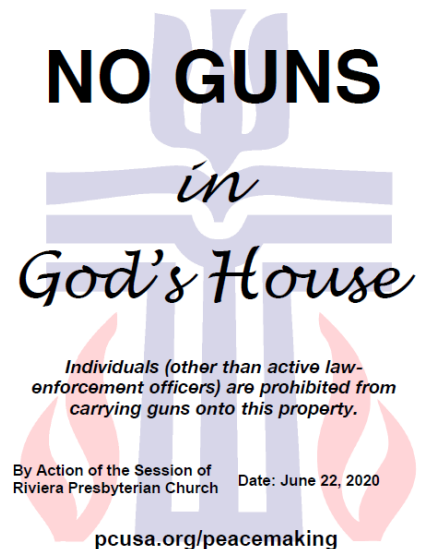
Used electronic equipment like computers, cell phones, video games, printers and copiers contain hazardous materials including lead, mercury and arsenic. Putting these items in your regular trash means hazardous materials will leak into our soil, water and air. The solution? Bring them to Riviera Church for recycling!

**Deposit your used electronics in the recycling bin located outside the Fellowship Hall on the Sunset side of the building.**

Riviera Church provides this recycling opportunity as part of its work as an Earth Care Congregation. We are committed to caring for God's earth.

## **NORMALIZING GUN SAFETY**

Even as we maintain our "Safer at Home" social distancing, your Session is upgrading our church signage to include notices at the entrances that proclaim "No Guns in God's House" in an effort to promote gun safety. As we recently learned from PCUSA's Rev. Deanna Hollis (the first-known Minister of Gun Violence Prevention) in a Zoom discussion of the film Trigger, normalizing a culture of gun safety is one form of gun violence prevention. It is with the hope that the signs will be posted at the entrances to the church property.





# Discipleship News...

**Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, Blessing of the Backpacks!**

**Kiddos of all ages, have your backpack nearby during online Worship on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to get your backpack blessed! Then afterwards during the Zoom call you can show off your backpack to your church family.**



## **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.

<https://bit.ly/rpcsunday>

Dear Lord,  
For Riviera Presbyterian Church, we give you thanks  
For all that "dwell within" to keep things going, we give you thanks  
For visitors who become friends who become members, we give thanks  
For members who give comfort to those in need, we give you thanks  
For prayers of concern and caring, we give you thanks  
For daily meditations of faith and renewal, we give you thanks.

---Butch Sorenson



## Discipleship News...



### Join us Sunday Mornings for Online Adult Bible Study Class

Via ZOOM

10:00 am - 10:30 am

This is a great opportunity to study Sunday's  
sermon passage with Pastor Missy.

Meeting 860-148-3445



### Women's Study Group - New Program Starts August 19th@7pm

The Women of Riviera are kicking off their study group this month with a new twist.  
Each month they will tackle a current issue looked at from a spiritual perspective.

All are invited - you do not need to be a member to join.

Discussions will be led by Ruling Elder Karen Collier and Valerie Deville.

For registration or details please contact Karen at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com)

## Congregational Care News...



### Happy Birthday August Babies!

Morgan A. 8/6

Susan M. 8/14

Joanne R. 8/18

Ethan L. 8/21