



The Spark

January 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

CHALKING THE DOORS

An old Epiphany tradition involves using chalk to write the letters CMB and the numbers of the current year, separated by crosses (+), over the doors of congregations and Christian homes: 20 + C + M + B + 21 or CMB + 2021. The letters CMB are said to stand for the names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) or the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (Christ bless this house).



Before or after chalking the doors, the following or a similar prayer may be said:



*God of doors and homes,
bless this home this year and every
year.
Bless all who come and go through
this door,
both those who live here and those
who visit.
May all who enter through this door
come in peace and bring joy.
May all who come to this door
find welcome and love.
May the love and joy in this home
overflow
and spread into the community and
the world.
And may Jesus the Christ watch
over us all. **Amen.***



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

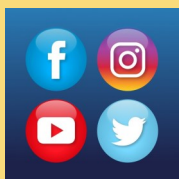
Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586

11:00am Sunday Worship Service

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

www.rivierachurch.org

Connect with us on social media



@RivieraChurch

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Pastor
marthashiverick@gmail.com

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Clerk of Session
Session Members
Susan Admire
Karen Collier
Kyle Dettloff
Vivian German
Amparo Hernandez
Susan Mazzola
Barbara Overton
Bryan Page
Rey Prieto
Michele Ready
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.

January 2021



Happy New Year Dear Riviera Family!

I remember when I turned 30. In my twenties, like many younger people I was impatient. The world needed to change and I wanted to be involved in saving it. Exploitation of the environment was causing the despoliation of God's good creation, there was a crisis in the number of unwanted pregnancies, and people were filled with bigotry and prejudice that others must suffer from the violence it creates. And, why couldn't we solve the problems of homelessness and hunger?

I wanted to be a part of the solutions and as my 30th birthday approached, I was depressed that none of these problems were solved.... I had been ordained for 4 years and they were all still there. And as I turned 30, I worried I might wallow in those feelings. But instead, on my birthday I woke up with the realization that I was still called. The fact those problems still existed gave purpose to my life. My job was not over!

And I worry that as this new year comes, we might have the same anxieties. 2020 was an awful year and we worked through it. And we hung on to the feeling that when 2020 would be over, things would be better. This pandemic brought on by COVID would be cured and life would return to normal. But the reality is, that as this New Year holiday comes, things will still be the same. We are still in a world-wide crisis. In fact, the COVID numbers are rising in parts of the planet. Yes, vaccines are being produced, but they won't get to most of us until months from now and many, many more people will die. But God calls us to be faithful in this time. We don't like wearing masks as much as the anti-maskers, but we do. And, my dear friends, we are helping others from contracting the virus when we stay home, when we don't socialize in large groups, and painfully when we still worship on line and limit our fellowship and singing via ZOOM.

Your... my... our job is not over. God still calls us to love ourselves and others and one of the ways we can do it is by following the guidelines set by the CDC. It is the faithful thing to do. And while we do, we still have to work on all those other issues that have been there since I was in my 20's.

My prayer is for you all to have a healthy and love-filled 2021.
In Christ and Love,
Missy
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

PS - As we begin a new year, I would be remiss if I did not also make a very public thank you to the staff at Riviera for their ministry to the church this past year. Last March, when the world changed, they did not waiver in their commitment to keep the church together and to continue the ministries to which God calls us. They have worked hard to ensure that we are still an active and healthy congregation called to share God's love with the community and world.

Engage With Us - Sundays at 11:00am

Jan 3—20 + C + M + B + 21
Second Sunday of Christmas
Celebration of Epiphany
Communion

Jan 10—Baptism of the Lord

Jan 17—MLK, Jr Weekend
21 Day Racial Justice Challenge

Jan 24—3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Jan 31—4th Sunday of Epiphany
Annual Congregational Meeting

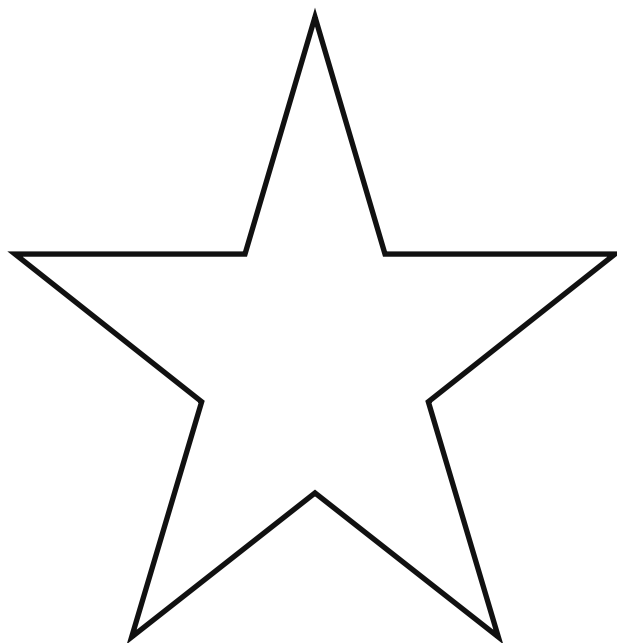
Gathering with the Choir-
Thursdays at 6:30pm

If you would like to
participate please email
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

Ukulele Rehearsals
2nd & 4th Sundays of the
month

If you want to be added
to the Zoom rehearsals
Please email
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

This star can be used during the Jan. 3rd sermon



Engage with us for
Worship every
Sunday at
11:00am

www.rivierachurch.org

but if you missed it you
may still watch the
service on our social
media channels

@RivieraChurch

Mission News...



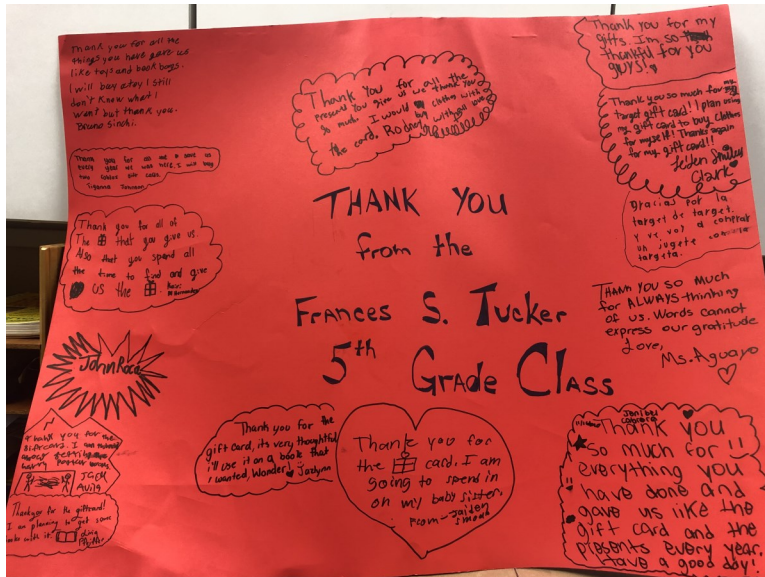
Child Care Center

at Riviera Presbyterian Church



Congratulations to our Assistant Director at The Child Care Center, Jessica Alexander, who officially graduated from the University of North Florida with a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Educational Leadership. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished!

Thank you Christmas Angels



iMessage
Today 3:26 PM

Thank you so much!!
The students loved the
gift cards 💜

You're welcome. It
makes us feel good too.
😊

Delivered

We truly appreciate it!
Definitely made their
day, they could not stop
talking about all the
great things they are
planning to do with it 🙌



iMessage



Thank you to all you wonderful donors to the Christmas Angel fund. You made a delightful group of 5th graders very happy this holiday season.



Mission News...

MISSION:SDG

Join Riviera for an informative and faith-based look at the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
Starting January 27th

THEN
Fourth Wednesday
of each month

JOIN via **Eventbrite**



Mission SDG—Join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month, starting January 27, for an informative and faith-based look at the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This program, put together by the Presbyterian Mission to the United Nations, will give us a snapshot of the SDGs, connect us with the on-going work of the Church to address each aspect of the goals, and how we as Christians can partner in this work.

We will also have a chance for fun and fellowship!

Stay tuned for registration information.

By February 6th you'll get a bag of soup mix from Riviera Church.



Did you know? Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 7th. You're in the game to end hunger!

Souper Bowl Sunday is one of the ways that Riviera tackles hunger! This year, you'll be receiving a soup kit on before the Super Bowl (February 7). Make soup for the February 7 Holy Grounds Coffee Hour or enjoy later at your convenience. As always, we'll be asking for donations for Souper Bowl Sunday. Using Henry Barrow's formula, please give \$5 if you are watching the game, \$10 if you are watching the game but don't care who wins, and \$20 if you don't know what game we are talking about. Since all the funds go to a great cause, please give generously!

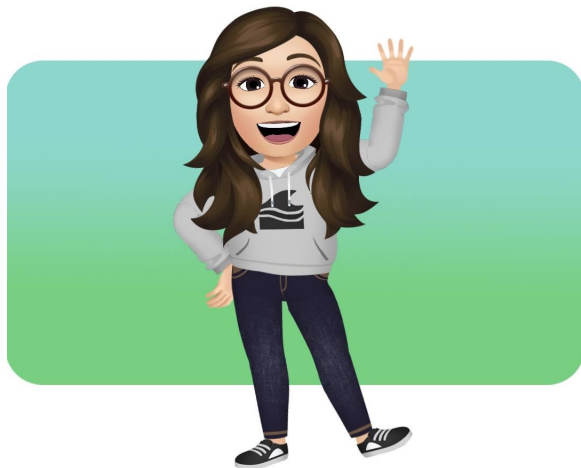
We hope you'll donate to support Souper Bowl Sunday on the Riviera Church web site.
<https://rivierachurch.org/give>



IT'S VERY EASY!! Bring 5 cups of water to a boil. Add the contents of the soup bag to the boiling water. Cover tightly and simmer over a low heat for 45 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally. It's OK to add meats, tofu, veggies - anything. Season to taste.

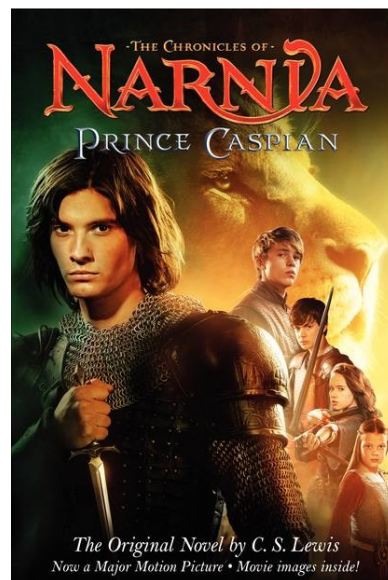
Discipleship News...

News from Anna

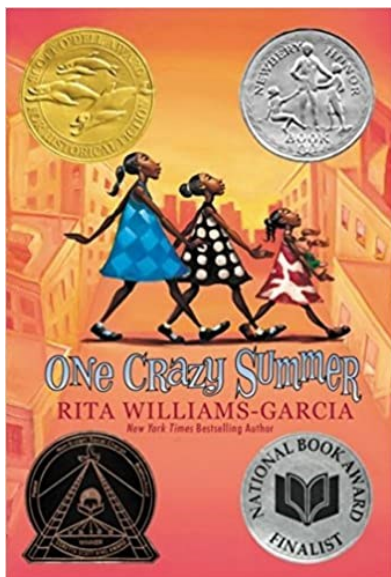


Stay tuned for information about Confirmation Classes.

Children's Sunday School New Book Club Prince Caspian Sundays @ 4pm



Email Anna rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



Amy Bogardus-Valdivia is leading a 'Book Club' of Riviera youth. They are reading, *One Crazy Summer*, a historical fiction novel by American author, Rita Williams-Garcia.

This book club meets on Saturdays via Zoom. The youth are asked to read a few chapters before meeting so they can discuss the story and characters, read aloud

important passages, and review any challenging words encountered.

Please contact Amy if you have any questions. She can be reached at abogardus@gmail.com.



Women's Study Group

How to maintain
Spiritual & emotional health in
2021
January 20th at 7:00pm

Contact Karen Collier at
kc33134@aol.com for Zoom link.

Discipleship News...

Save the Date

Bill Baggs State Park

Come join us for our intergenerational beach clean-up on **January 9th from 9:00am - 11:00 am**. RSVP coming soon!



Begin Your Sunday Morning with Zoom Online Adult Bible Study Class

10:00 am - 10:30 am

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

**Meeting 860-148-3445
Password 2708**



Sundays after worship

HOLY GROUNDS

<https://bit.ly/rpcsunday>



Stewardship News...

2021 Pledges

Thank you to all who have generously submitted their 2021 financial commitment to Riviera. If you have forgotten to submit a pledge it is never too late. Please use this link

<https://www.rivierachurch.org/give/pledge/>

Or contact the church office via email with your pledge.
rivierachurch@bellsouth.net
Thank you.



The Kunce bench has a new location. Come, sit under the shady tree and spend sometime in nature and prayer.

Session News...

Phishing, Spamming, Spoofing

Please be aware that churches, pastors and church staff email addresses are being used as a way to separate you and your money.

- Please note that we will never email you to send us gift cards.
- We will never email and ask you to transfer or wire money.
- We will never email and say you cannot reach us, but we need you to do this (whatever the this might be)
- Always check an email from us to be sure it is truly from us.

Session Business

The Session of Riviera Church continues to conduct all business via digital means. All meetings of standing committees are via Zoom video conference. The Church office remains closed for public access. It is with love for all of you and your families that we are committed as a staff and as a leadership team to be responsible and cautious as we manage the day-to-day operations of Riviera Church.

Pastoral Care News...



Happy Birthday January Babies

Karen M.—Jan. 6

Carolina F.— Jan. 18

Mary H.—Jan. 12

Luke F.—Jan. 29



Congratulations to Stephanie & Michelle on your engagement!

We are happy you chose Riviera as your location for the big ask!

