



# The Spark

February 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

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.



## 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

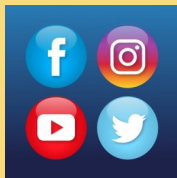
Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586

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

Rev. Martha Shiverick  
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Susan Mazzola  
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 Sweeny

## 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.



February 2021

Dear Riviera Family,

Wow! We are a month into 2021 and God is at work!

No.... we are still in a pandemic and God's realm is not on earth, but there is so much for which we can be grateful.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 17th this year. On Ash Wednesday Christians are asked to take up a Lenten Discipline that they will commit to until Easter. Some people have traditionally 'given up something.' The idea is that you prepare for Easter by sacrificing something you enjoy. And for many this is a meaningful spiritual exercise. This year, where we have had to go without so many things that are enjoyable and meaningful to us, so I challenge you not to give up something for Lent, but to take on something instead.

On February 6th, those of you who are in the Miami area will be getting a delivery from the church. (People living outside of Miami will have the materials sent to you.) In the bag will be the bread for the communion service the next day and a package of soup which is our Souper Bowl Fundraiser for hunger and the supplies you will need for Lent.

And in the Lenten Supplies will be two things I hope you will use as you take on a Lenten Discipline.

\*First - there is a little olive wood cross. This pocket cross is for you to take with you throughout the day as a reminder of your commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We, people of faith, look at the world through the lenses of the teachings of Jesus.... and our crosses will help us to see love where others see hate, to see commonality where others only see differences, and to see possibility and a call to make God's realm on earth where others only see the problems.

\*Second - there is a journal. This is a gratitude journal where you are to write, draw, or list things for which you are grateful for each day during Lent. In study after study, psychologists have found that gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. It has even proven to change your brain! And for the person of faith who believes all things come from our Creator God, it is appropriate to address this gratitude to God.

I challenge you to join me in following these two disciplines for our Lenten Season. And I look forward to seeing what happens to each of us and our community as a whole when we do. I think it will be transformational!

In faith and love,  
Missy  
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick



## Engage With Us - Sundays at 11:00am

### **Lent 2021—A Season of Confession**

**February 21—1st Sunday of Lent  
The Nicene Creed**

**February 28—2nd Sunday of Lent  
The Apostle's Creed**

**Gathering with the Choir-  
Thursdays at 6:30pm**

**If you would like to  
participate please email  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)**

**Ukulele Rehearsals  
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays  
of the month @12:45pm.  
If you want to be added  
to the Zoom rehearsals  
Please email  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)**

**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

February 17th



Engage with us for  
Worship every  
Sunday at  
11:00am  
[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)  
but if you missed it you  
may still watch the  
service on our social  
media channels  
[@RivieraChurch](https://twitter.com/RivieraChurch)

Begin Lent with this special meditative prayer service with Taize music. Worship video will premiere at 7:00 am on our website, [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org), you may watch any time after the premiere. Please join us for Zoom Fellowship Gathering at 7:30pm - <https://bit.ly/rpcsunday>



# Mission News...



Mission: SDG!, our new monthly program looking at the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals through the lens of our faith, is off to a lively and informative start. The first virtual gathering looked at Matthew 25 and gained a general overview of the SDGs. Join us on February 25 as we tackle the goals related to people.

## MISSION:SDG

We continue our informative and faith-based look at the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WHEN:

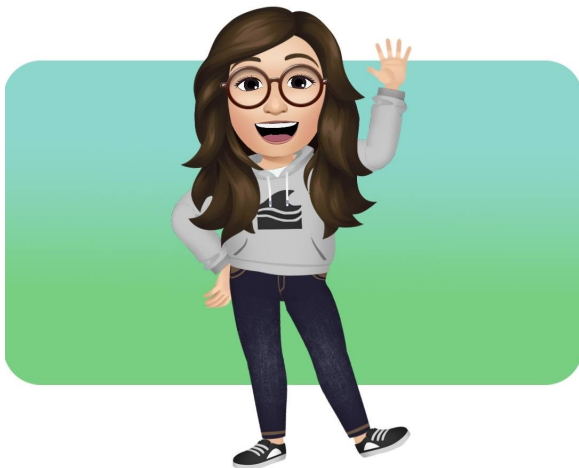
**Wed. February 24th  
at 6:30 P.M.**

REGISTER on  
Eventbrite:  
[bit.ly/missionsdg](https://bit.ly/missionsdg)



# Discipleship News...

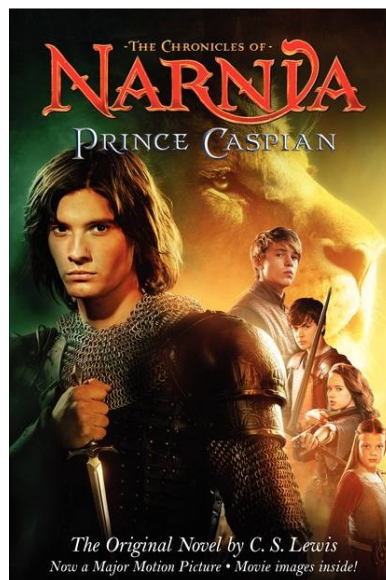
## News from Anna



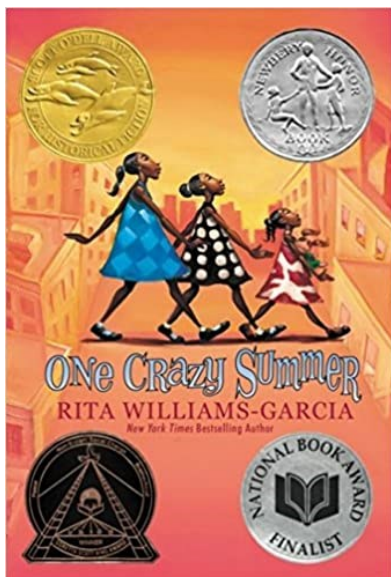
If you are interested in getting information on the confirmation class, please contact me at

[rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com)

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



Email Anna [rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:abogardus@gmail.com).



## Women's Study Group

How to maintain  
Spiritual & emotional health in  
2021

February 17th at 7:00pm

Contact Karen Collier at  
[kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) for Zoom link.



# Discipleship News...



# Stewardship News...

The Stewardship/Property/Finance Committee is happy to report that building maintenance projects are underway for 2021:

- Roofing repairs have been completed.
- Termite treatment contract has been signed.
- Bids have been obtained for painting the church buildings.
- Various repairs will be taking place while the church is closed to the public due to Covid.
- 2020 Contribution statements will be mailed out by Feb. 8th.



## **Happy Birthday February Babies**

Feb. 4—Becky F.

Feb. 9—Amy B.

Feb. 13—Diana I.

Feb. 18—Michele R.

Feb. 20—Barbara O.



Sunday, February 7, 2021  
will bring Riviera's 75th Anniversary Celebration  
to a conclusion.

We are extending an invitation to all current and former members to please join us at 11:00am for the Communion Worship Service followed by a Zoom Holy Grounds Gathering where we will share the events of 2020 and celebrate the possibilities of what's ahead for this community of faith.

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

Communion and Holy Grounds Link: <https://bit.ly/rpcsunday>

## Per Capita—The History

The origin story of Per Capita takes us back to the earliest Presbyterian General Assembly meetings in the U.S. In those days, the Assembly met annually, always in Philadelphia. As the church expanded into far-off places like Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri, attendance at the Assembly became prohibitively expensive to frontier commissioners.

So in 1806, the Assembly began development of a "Commissioner Travel Expense Fund," which over the years came to be known as Per Capita. Today nearly all the expense of a General Assembly is paid by Per Capita with nearly half of that paying for travel, housing and feeding of the 800-900 commissioners and advisory delegates who attend.

What is an Assembly? It is the one place where the whole church gathers. Commissioners and youth from every presbytery are in attendance. Representative students from the seminaries, ecumenical partners from all over the world, and mission co-workers make up a significant number of advisory delegates. Thousand more gather as observers or supporters.

They are there first of all to worship, and also to do business. An idea which may have begun at a local church's session meeting passes through presbyteries to become Assembly business as overtures. There are Moderators to elect and mission initiatives to form at Assemblies. It is also the place where the larger church can adopt statements which speak to the Church and sometimes to those outside the Church about issues of theology, justice and peacemaking.

At an Assembly everyone's voice is valued, every part of the Church is brought into the light of the Spirit and together the people seek to discern the will of Christ.

When you read stories of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance out in the field or pick up a new Glory to God hymnal, you are engaging in the work of an Assembly. When pastors are trained and ruling elders study the Book of Order, they are resourced by the work of an Assembly. When mission co-worker enters a new field or a Young Adult Volunteer holds the hand of a hungry child, they are continuing the work of an Assembly.

The 2021 Per Capita is \$37.00 per member. Each church is asked to pay this annual apportionment. If you would like to help us defray the cost we welcome your donation. You may donate online <https://www.rivierachurch.org/give/> under Per Capita.

*All Presbyterians are called to take part in the whole church's ecclesiastical and administrative work through per capita giving. The annual rate is a per-member apportionment that is assessed biennially by the General Assembly. (Book of Order, G-3.0106)*

**"Per Capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church."**

— J. Herbert Nelson, II,  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA)