



The Spark

March 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

March 28th Palm Sunday— 2021 Palm Processional!!!!

OK - We know that we will not be having the traditional Palm Sunday again this year.



In past years, we all enjoyed meeting out on the church steps and getting the largest palm branches we could find. We enjoyed waving them as we marched into the church sanctuary to the organ music playing as we sang our loud hosannas. And... alas, not this year.....

But, as we have found, being online does offer new possibilities. So.... we would like to make a video of your palms for Palm Sunday. Write a prayer on the palm of your hand and send in a photo of it or a video of your waving your palm and your palm prayer in the air. Please send in these photos and videos by March 21st.

Palm Sunday is coming AND we will have a palm processional!

A very unique and different one for a very different time in our world.



Mission Statement

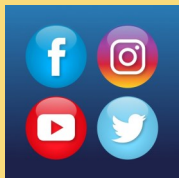
Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

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

Rev. Martha Shiverick
Pastor
marthashiverick@gmail.com

Dr. Walter Busse
Director of Music
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

Anna E. Rosas
Youth Education and Outreach Assistant
rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

Barbara Prieto
Certified Church Administrator
rivierachurch@gmail.com

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.



March, 2021

Dear Riviera Family,

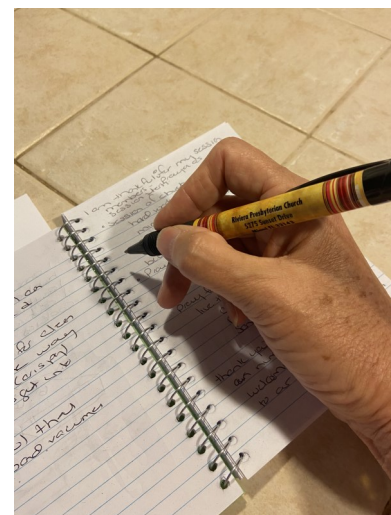
March finds us working our way through Lent. It also marks the one year anniversary that we have been worshipping online due to the COVID pandemic. AND, even though it is not our preferred way to be a community of faith, we have learned how to worship, care for, and enjoy the company of each other in a new way.

One of our Lenten disciplines was to keep a journal where we write down things for which we are grateful. I hope you are trying to do this (and if you have not begun, it is never too late.) I find that I have begun to look forward to and enjoy the practice of writing in my journal. Although some of my entries are humorous (I sometimes write things about Bo for which I am thankful so that I can read them to him), I have begun to look at the world, find blessings, and think.... 'That would be good in my journal.' Perhaps you are finding that as well. I am noticing the sound of birds, the warmth of the sun, and the dance of the palm trees in the Florida breeze and know that God is in each beautiful aspect of nature.

And my guess is that each of you, like me, have written something about being thankful for being a part of the Riviera community. We are a loving community who cares for each other and the world in which we live. We enjoy each other but also feel called by God to look outside our homes and church to serve all of God's creation. I love the fact that even in this time of uncertainty and anxiety, we are attending an online seminar on racism, are cleaning up the trash on the beach, and having an educational series on creating a sustainable world. We worship together, we have fellowship in ZOOM Holy Grounds Coffee Hour, we care for those who need a prayer and the knowledge that they are not alone, we have a glass of wine together at the weekly choir ZOOM meeting.... AND we are committed to be the church, to be Christ's body, and to bring God's realm here on earth.


If you feel comfortable doing so, I would love it if you would share any of your gratitude journal entries with me about the church, its community, and/or its missions.

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



My gratitude journal.

Engage With Us - Sundays at 11:00am **Lent 2021—A Season of Confession**



**Gathering with the Choir-
Thursdays at 6:30pm**
**If you would like to
participate please email
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com**



**Ukulele Rehearsals
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays
of the month @12:30pm.**
**If you want to be added
to the Zoom rehearsals
Please email
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com**



We received an email from Riviera's previous pastor Flash Gordon.

He thanked us for the sacrament of communion and the fellowship with old friends and that he was able to meet those who are new to (as he said) 'the wonderful congregation at Riviera. Not often, lately, have I seen such a joyful congregation.'

We asked him to send us the benediction he used each Sunday.

Here it is:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the presence of the Holy spirit,
be with you and those whom you love,
now and for evermore.
Go out into the world fearing
neither people, nor institutions, nor life itself
for you are free people in Jesus Christ.

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...

MISSION:SDG

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

DATE:
Wed. March 24th

TIME:
6:30 P.M.

REGISTER:
<http://bit.ly/missionsdg>



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 next virtual will be on March 25. Please register via the Eventbrite link above even if you have attended before, by registering you will be

Child Care Center

at Riviera Presbyterian Church



Riviera Church and our Child Care Center partnered up to reduce Styrofoam use at the CCC by replacing disposable plates with reusable metal ones. The kids love having lunch on these new plates - - and we love the huge reduction in Styrofoam.

BECAUSE FOOD IS LIFE



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



MATTHEW 25



The pandemic has stretched the Church in many ways — but we are still very much ... *here*. Although it was surely hard at first, we have expanded our thinking, and our doing, in new and innovative ways to close the distance, and be together. We have continued to worship. We have continued to build and shape community; we have continued to take care of one another. And on top of all that, we have continued to come together to serve those in need; both here in our own community and all over the world through our participation in special offerings and in the spirit of shared mission. Despite the difficulty, struggle and loss, the Church continues to declare its presence in the world, through different means, certainly, but toward the same purpose.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The 3 programs supported by OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) – PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, PHP Presbyterian Hunger Program, and SDOP (Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

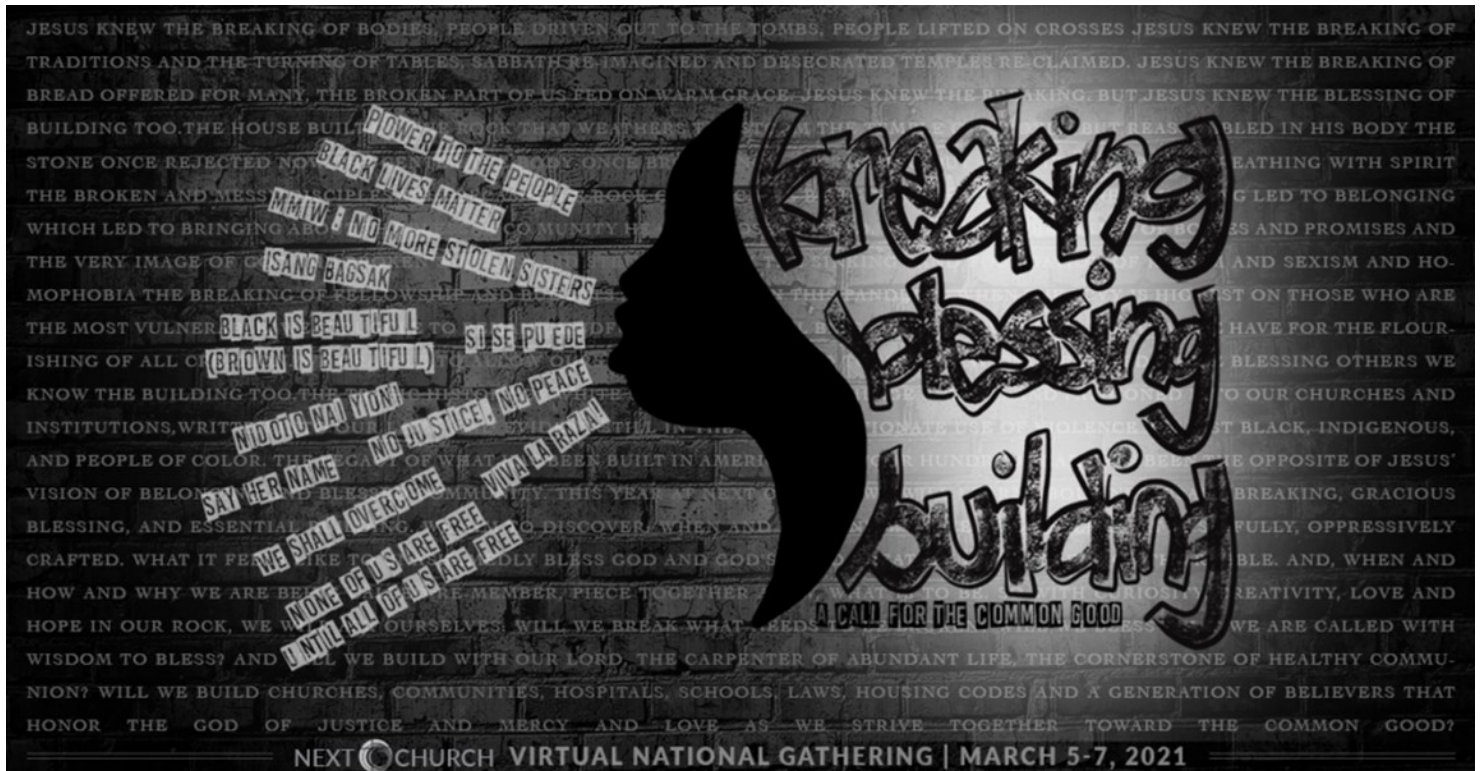
The Mission Committee has set a challenge goal of \$400 for the 2021 OGHS Offering and in light of the challenges we have witnessed over the past year they encourage you give strong consideration of participating in this offering; if you are able.

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



tacklehunger.org

Donations are still coming in! Thank you!
Our current total is \$610.00



BREAKING, BLESSING, BUILDING

A Call for The Common Good

A FREE Live-Streamed Gathering for ALL Church Leaders

March 5-7, 2021

COVID-19, a pandemic of racism in the United States, economic distress. Our reality right now helps us know that things need to change for the good of us all.

What if people like you and me could gather together from all over the world, from all kinds of different churches and denominations, from all different walks of life?

What if church leaders (YOU, not just your pastor) could connect with other church leaders to learn together, be inspired by one another, and be challenged to grow?

What if we gathered together in such a way that inspired us to act so the Church and the world were never the same again?

Despite the physical space that separates us these days, we believe our virtual togetherness can make all the difference. Will you join us March 5-7 for the 2021 NEXT Church National Gathering as we Break, Bless, and Build: A Call for the Common Good?

Register: <https://nextchurch.net/product/national-gathering-registration/>

Schedule: <https://nextchurch.net/gathering/2021-national-gathering/#schedule>

Discipleship News...

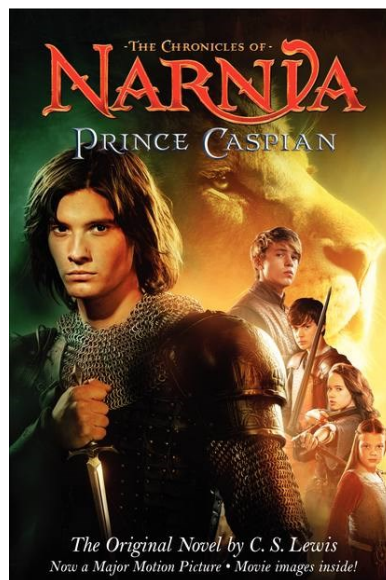
News from Anna



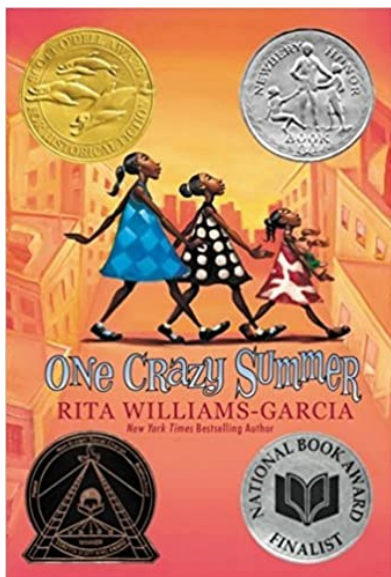
If you are interested in getting information on the confirmation class, please contact me at

rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

Children's Sunday School 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

March 17th 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 cleanup
on
**March 13th from 9:00am -
11:00 am.**

RSVP

rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

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>

Spiritual practices during Lent

As we enter into Lent, Riviera is inviting you to join us for 6 classes on different spiritual practices. Each spiritual practice explores a different way to reflect with God and to pray. Some practices will be more contemplative and others will use your creative side. In the first half of the class, we will define the practice and learn more about it. For the second half, we will do the practice together, as a community.

Our goal is that these spiritual practices will help you reflect on this season and will help you on your journey with God. You don't need to come to every class each spiritual practice is self-contained! These practices are also suited for kids and adults with different modifications.

We will be meeting over Zoom very Thursday at 6:30 starting on February 18th and we will conclude on March 25th. If you have any questions or want to RSVP please email Anna at rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

***If this day of the week doesn't work for you but you're still interested please email Anna to let her know!

Pastoral Care News...



Happy Birthday March Babies

Jim C—3
Robertson A—6
Doreen R—8
Robert F—13
Fabian C—15
Raymond K—23
Missy S—24

Session News...

The Session of Riviera met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 for their stated monthly meeting. Below are some of the items discussed.

- Communion will be served at the Maundy Thursday service. There will be no communion on Easter Sunday.
- Session is monitoring the Covid-19 situation in Miami Dade County.

Stewardship News...

The Stewardship/Property/Finance Committee would like to keep you informed of the work happening at the church.

- ◇ Property has been treated for wood eating organisms.
- ◇ Repairs to the organ will soon occur.—Stay tune for pictures of the project.
- ◇ 1st Quarter of 2021 contribution statements will be sent out mid-April. Please review and notify our church bookkeeper of any discrepancies.
- ◇ Reminder that Per Capita is \$37 per member.
- ◇ A new avenue to send in your donations will soon be available via GiveButter for those who use Venmo. Stay tuned for details.