



# The Spark

APRIL 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

We extend an invitation to you to connect with us during Holy Week starting with Thursday, April 1 at 7:00pm for Maundy Thursday Communion Service

You are encouraged to create a sacred space to focus on how the events of Holy Week could happen.

It is important for us to make Jesus's betrayal and death our own story so that we can experience the true meaning of Easter.

## HOLY WEEK @RIVIERA



## His Betrayal. Our Story. Easter

You are invited to connect and experience Holy Week online  
Thursday . April 1 @ 7:00pm - [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)  
Friday . April 2 @ 12 noon - [www.gablesucc.org](http://www.gablesucc.org)  
Friday . April 2 @ 2pm - [HTTP://bit.ly/FPCAPAGoodFriday](http://bit.ly/FPCAPAGoodFriday)  
Sunday . April 4 @ 11:00am - [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)



### 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

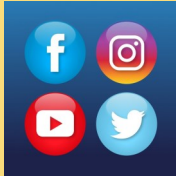
Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586

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  
Pastor  
[marthashiverick@gmail.com](mailto:marthashiverick@gmail.com)

Dr. Walter Busse  
Director of Music  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

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Youth Education and Outreach Assistant  
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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 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.



April 2021

Dear Riviera family,

Happy Easter!... We are an easter people! But not quite yet. How quickly we want to move to Easter. But before we do, we must spend the first few days of this month observing Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

And in this time of COVID, when we are exhausted and so ready for our lives to return to some semblance of what it was 13 months ago.... we really do not want to take the emotional dive that these two days in the Christian calendar force us to make. We want to focus instead on the joy and promise of Easter. But it is also important for us to really understand in our hearts the whole Jesus story... it is important for us to focus on how the events of Holy Week could happen .... and important for us to make Jesus's betrayal and death our own story so that we can experience the true meaning of Easter.

I have told some of you that, for me, Maundy Thursday is enough. I can't quite get past the horror of it. This is the day when Jesus' inner circle, ....the people who gave up their former lives to follow him.... and celebrated him just a few days earlier in a parade..... then abandoned him denied him and betrayed him. Their actions on Maundy Thursday led to his crucifixion and death of the next afternoon. Could I be like them? Am I like them? And deep down I know that I am.... and I also know that I am forgiven just as they were. Love and forgiveness like that is powerful stuff!

Happy Easter!.... We are an Easter people! We live with the knowledge that we are loved and are God's both now and in life everlasting. We live with the promise that death is not the final word. We can live with that joy and assurance.

And we will celebrate Easter together. We have learned that even in this pandemic, when we must only worship online, we are still only a screen apart. The power of Easter cannot be diminished by a virus.

And our ministry at Riviera continues! This month we will also celebrate Earth Day and our call to earth care ministries. The Child Care Center will have their yearly food drive for the Food Pantry. And we will continue to be Christ's body, doing Christ's ministry and spreading the message of love. Happy Easter! We are an Easter people!

In Faith and Love,  
Missy  
The Rev. Martha. M. Shiverick



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

**Our Worship Service—find us on YouTube/RivieraChurch  
Subscribe to our channel to receive notifications when a  
new video is premiering.**

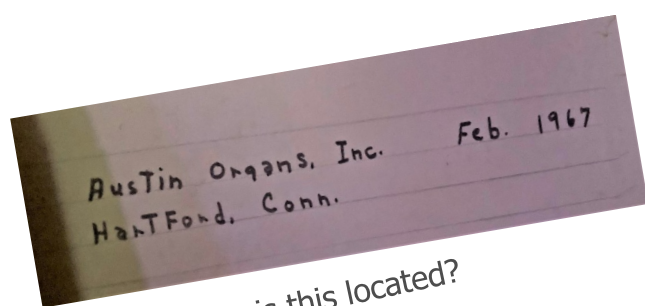
**Gathering with the Choir-  
Thursdays at 6:30pm**

**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**

## Riviera's Austin Organ Repairs

The repairs on the organ will start on Tuesday, April 6th. We are so excited that we are able to get this beautiful musical instrument repaired and breathe new life to it with the help of Guzowski & Steppe Organ Builders.



Where is this located?



# Mission News...

## MISSION:SDG

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

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: April 28th

JOIN via **Eventbrite:**  
[bit.ly/missionsdg](https://bit.ly/missionsdg)

 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

  
RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
@RivieraChurch



You never know where the conversation at Mission:SDG will go! In March, our zoom group looked at the Sustainable Development Goals related to the Planet. These SDGs recognize that tackling climate change is essential for sustainable development and poverty reduction. They are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin – sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action. We looked at issues related to water and energy. We talked about the role our church investments can play in climate action. And we had a good time along the way. Please join us for the next session on April 28 at 6:30 pm. Our special guest will be [Sue Rheem, the UN Representative for the PC\(USA\) Ministry to the United Nations.](#)

Please remember that you must register via [Eventbrite](#) each month in order to get your zoom login information and materials.





# Mission News...



Thank you to all who graciously donated.  
Our final total was \$740!!!

Thank you to Publix for their donation of a \$100 gift card to purchase food for the Riviera Food Pantry, Barbara Overton for sending the request and Ellen Anderson for doing the shopping.



## Call To Action

- ☐ Later
- ☐ Tomorrow
- ☐ Today
- ☒ **NOW**

House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 484, will silence and criminalize everyday Floridians who want to exercise their First Amendment right to peacefully protest.

Peaceful protest is an important way for everyday people to influence how our state leaders make decisions about our lives. The right to peacefully assemble and protest is protected by the First Amendment and has been a profoundly important way for generation after generation to effect positive change throughout the history of our country.

Let your leaders know that we DO NOT need legislation that criminalizes peaceful protests.

Florida Senators: <https://bit.ly/3syj2O6>

Florida House of Representatives: <https://bit.ly/2PkVQXd>



Riviera was re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2022.

This honor speaks to the great commitment that we have made to care for God's earth. As an Earth Care Congregation, we affirmed the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into our worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life.

The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

Riviera is proud to be one of the 276 churches that have been certified.

# Mission News...



Click Here  
To  
[Schedule](#)  
Your  
Appointment

Saturday, April 16 from 11:00 am — 4:00 pm

Our last blood drive was during the November General Elections and it was a successful day.

Please come out and support your local community by donating blood, if you are able.

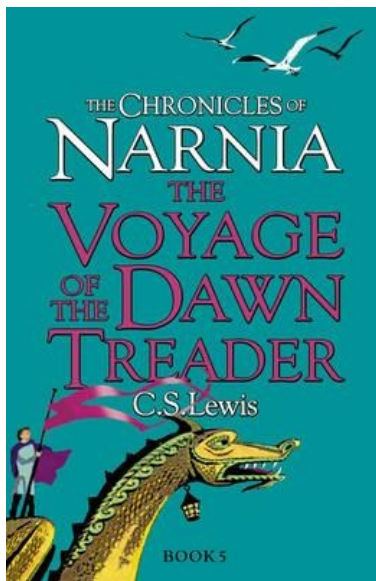
Due to social distancing measures that OneBlood has in place, please make an appointment by clicking on the box above.

Please share this event with friends and families. You will also be given a free Covid-19 antibodies test.



# Discipleship News...

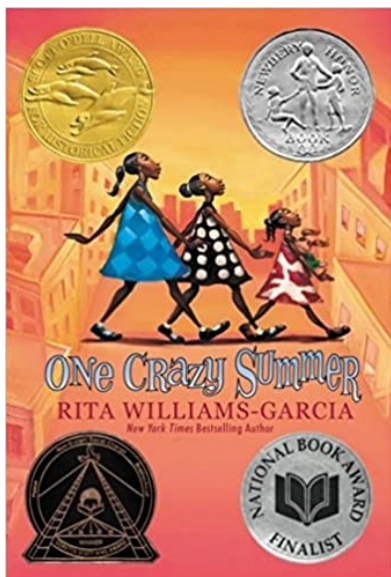
## News from Anna



## Children's Sunday School Book Club

Sundays @ 3:45

Email Anna [rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com)  
for the Zoom link.



Amy 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  
April 21st at 7:00pm

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



# Discipleship News...

**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**

BEGIN.

**Sundays after worship**

**HOLY GROUNDS**

<https://bit.ly/rpcsunday>

# Pastoral Care News...



## Happy Birthday

### April Babies

Jackie F	1
Valerie D	2
Laura F	5
Gavin H	7
Ella L	9
Dustin D	11
Claire L	15
Mimi S	24
Alex V	25

We have an active prayer ministry and encourage you to send us your prayers concerns, and joys by filling out the Friendship Form

<https://rivierachurch.org/contact/form/>