



The Spark

MAY 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World



RECONCILIATION

May 2021 Sermon Series

RECONCILIATION - Defines the DNA of Riviera Presbyterian Church.

With the help of our members and leaders, we have built a vital congregation that has pledged to work towards dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

But we should never rest on our laurels as these issues are issues of our day and the ones to which we are called as members of this community of faith.

Join us in worship available on the church website, and may be watched at any other time convenient for you.

**Come and explore the subject of reconciliation during May
on Sundays at 11 am.**



Mission Statement

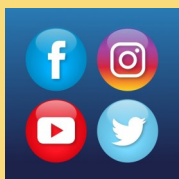
Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

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, CCA
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 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.



May 2021

Dear Riviera Family,

It is my hope that everyone 16 years and over who is reading this letter is vaccinated. Vaccinations are readily available, and we wait for the day when 'herd immunity' is reached and we can meet without the many COVID precautions that must still be in place. It is not a political statement but the responsible and loving thing to do to ensure that not just you and your loved ones, but all of God's children, can be healthy. As of now there are not vaccinations for the youngest children, so it is even more imperative that we vaccinate ourselves to protect them.

I remember as a child my mother getting all six of us kids in the car and driving us down to the location where the sugar cubes with the polio vaccine were being given out. I thank God my mother and your parents and grandparents knew that despite a small risk of any vaccination, it was the right and responsible thing to do. They grew up with the anxiety of contracting polio and did not want us to live with the same fear or actuality of it. We must do the same.

And, because the vaccine is now readily available, the Session can begin to think about how and when the in-person component to worship will return. As I write this letter, the sanctuary is being prepared for that day. Not just the organ repair is going on BUT television screens and cameras are being installed so that we will be able to worship together as an on-line and in-person congregation. Whether your presence is on-line or in-person, we will even be able to interact with each other throughout the worship service, at Holy Grounds, during Bible Study and other Christian Educational offerings, and even during all our fellowship events. It might take us a while to learn to use all this technology and equipment in a seamless manner, but we learned to be an on-line church and now we will learn to be this new hybrid model. The worship committee is taking the task of preparing for a return to the in-person option seriously and will have COVID precautions in place for the safety of those who do physically want to be at the building.

I hope you have noticed how carefully I am writing this. When I speak of worship and the church, I am trying not to use 'physical space words' that create boundaries. We have learned this past year that church is not a building and that whatever mixture of ways we are together, we are the church. Christ has called us to be an open and inclusive church and to break down the barriers which have separated us before. And we have worked hard at being inclusive. And now God has challenged us to break down the barrier of space using new technologies that have developed in the past decade.

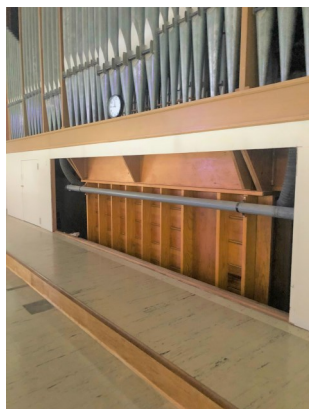
It is an exciting challenge. God continues to call us and together as the Riviera Family and together we will be the embodiment of Christ.

Embodying Love, Demanding Justice, and Transforming the World.

In peace and love,

Missy
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick

Getting Ready to Make a Joyful Noise Once Again!



After a long wait, repairs to our organ have commenced! It's quite a process, where a part of the wall had to be removed in order to access the inner workings of the pipe organ.

The first major repair was an air reservoir which is a large rectangular box that was leaking profusely (see picture).



The next phase includes replacing leather stripping for each note on all three keyboard manuals plus the foot pedal mechanism. These leather seals also all need to be air tight for the organ to operate correctly. Even though this is a tremendous and costly undertaking, we are blessed that a portion of revenue from the land sale will help fund the restoration.

The whole process will take several months and so we are hopeful, that we can celebrate not only the organ repair, but also the milestone of once again worshiping together in person... God willing.

We will be sure to keep you posted with regular updates and photos of the progress. As always, keep this, and all other concerns of the church in your prayers,

Thank you for your support!!

Walter Busse, Director of Music.

Thank you to Guzowski & Steppe Organ Builders for working with us



Mission:SDG



PC(USA) Representative Sue Rheem and Mission Specialist Ivy Lopedito joined Riviera for Mission:SDG, an exploration of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and our response as a faith community.

The Presbyterian Ministry at the UN is the hands, heart and voice of Presbyterians at the UN. Riviera's commitment as a Matthew 25 Congregation compels us to work towards completion of the SDGs, including #2 No Hunger, #10 Reduced Inequalities, and #13 Climate Action.

Join us for the next Mission:SDG on May 26 @ 6:30pm by registering on Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/missionsdg>



Together,
we are building
the household
of God with
children, youth
and young adults.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



MATTHEW 25



SCAN ME

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Discipleship News... from Anna

Guess Who Is Having A Birthday?

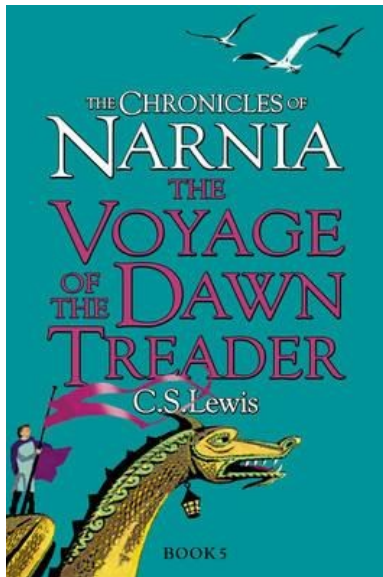


This year's Pentecost bags went out to the kiddos on May 1st. The bags contained party favors to celebrate the birthday of the church which is Pentecost!

Also included in the bag was a cool coloring Mosaic for kids and family to color.



Show off your Mosaic! Take a picture and mail it to rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com



Sunday Book Club @3:45 pm

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

The quest continues to find the seven lost Lords of Telmar, whose swords will save Narnia from an evil green mist that enslaves men's minds and bodies.

What will our heroes do next? Email Anna for the Zoom link and find out on Sunday afternoons.

Discipleship News...

**Begin Your Sunday Morning
with**

Zoom Adult Bible Study

10:00 am - 10:30 am

**This is a great opportunity
to dig deeper into the Bible**

Meeting 860-148-3445

Password 2708

Women's Study Group

**How to maintain
spiritual & emotional
health in 2021**

May 19th at 7:00pm

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

Pastoral Care News...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nicole P....3
Cheryl E....11
Janet P....16
David W....16
Nancy S....17
Sofia V....23
Belinda V....28

Session News...

Session received into membership Carol and James T. at the April Session Meeting. Carol has been an active participant in the virtual choir, adult bible study and is a member of the Discipleship Committee.

City of Coral Gables has started working on the west parking lot modifications. In addition to the bike rack located outside the south patio we will have another bike rack located in the west parking lot. The parking lot will have new led lights installed, new landscaping and new entrance/exit. We are excited to be a part of helping the community by facilitating for a new Fire House in the area.

2021 Per Capita is \$37 per member

This year the amount we contribute toward the work of the denomination at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly level will total \$37 per member.

Per capita is one way our members annually support the work of the whole church as that church also supports us in our ministry in this place. Your separate contribution of this amount is appreciated, as it keeps this expense from impacting our spending plan for 2021.

Please mark your contribution as "per capita."

