

# The Spark

JUNE 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

## A Summer of Epistles

**Epistle: a letter.**

**A very simple definition for a word that carries with it the power to embody love, demand justice, and transform the world.**

**Together we will be working towards these goals throughout the summer.**

**Together we will learn about The Epistles in the Bible. How they were written for their time and how we can apply them to our current times.**

**Together we will write epistles to those we cherish in our church community.**

**Together we will let our voices be heard by writing to our legislative representatives.**

**Together we will worship as a community of faith united in the knowledge that God will stand by us in all times and all places.**

**Preparations are underway to start in-person worship on Sunday, June 6th. We have made the commitment to continue our online worship service with a twist. Our goal is to livestream our worship service, with the option that you can view it as a livestream or join us via Zoom and be an active participant in the service. You will also have the option of watching the service at a later time or day when you are ready to have personal sacred time.**

**We ask that you provide us with your grace as we grow into this new church life, because we've never done it this way before, just like 2020.**



### 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

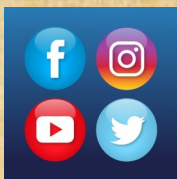
Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586

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  
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Barbara Prieto, CCA  
Certified Church Administrator  
[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

## Session Members

Susan Mazzola  
Clerk of Session

Susan Admire  
Karen Collier  
Kyle Dettloff  
Vivian German  
Amparo Hernandez  
Barbara Overton  
Bryan Page  
Rey Prieto  
Michele Ready  
Mimi Sutherland  
Cris Sweeny



June, 2021

Dear Riviera Family,

15 months ago, the world changed when we realized we were living in a world-wide pandemic. New COVID protocols were put in place and things we took for granted.... worshipping together in the sanctuary of our church, Thursday Night Choir Dinners, First Sunday Lunches, Theology Uncorked at the Titanic Restaurant.... were all put on hold. We were frightened. Were we safe? Were we living in some funky chapter of Revelation? We needed the church to be there in our time of uncertainty. How would we keep our community together and care for each other and continue our missions given the restraints combating the spread of the virus put on us?

We developed a model of including as many people as possible in videos for Sunday so we all felt a part of the church and well, it worked! New members joined (some from out of town!), we learned to create a worship service by sending Robbie Adams videos of ourselves leading worship and singing and even playing the Ukulele. We also learned that we could do things over the internet that we could not do in person and it allowed all ages of people from all over our country to actively participate in both Christian Education and worship. We even found a way that the Sacrament of Communion could be the spiritual community meal it is intended to be. And, no one had to travel to an evening meeting as ZOOM became a way of life.

And then we began to realize that when the physical distancing guidelines were eased, we never were going to return to what was.... the freedom that the internet provided us was here to stay. So... even when we say with SUCH GREAT JOY that we are going back to in-person worship on June 6th, we will also be worshipping over the internet via ZOOM and a live streamed service. In the weeks ahead, we will morph into a hybrid model where whether you are physically in the church sanctuary or worshipping over ZOOM, you can be a liturgist and attend Holy Grounds. We will be able to still use videos but will also be able to actively participate in church and church programs and meetings on line as well. God has a new plan and a new way for us to be the church.

This is to say we are evolving. We have the equipment and capability to make our hybrid model work, it just entails a great deal of on the job training. So, first.... if you are a person who likes to work with visual and sound equipment, we have a great volunteer job for you. Please become a part of the team that will make this all happen. And, I look forward to seeing you on both ZOOM and in person in the coming weeks and to help move Riviera into the church God is now calling us to be.

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



## In-Person Worship Services Resume

As this congregation begins to resume public activities, please know that we will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

We may make mistakes along the way. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There will be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief. We will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

But there will also be blessings. There will be wonderful surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness.

Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we receive the gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

### Protocols:

We encourage those who are high-risk to continue to worship online, but as always ask that you use your best judgment.

We ask all who will be attending "in person" worship to wear a mask as a visible expression of "loving your neighbor as yourself."

**Attendees need to sign up in advance. Please sign up to attend the service each week on our church website home page—[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org).**

**Those without internet access who wish to attend may sign up by calling the church office at 305-666-8586 x3. Deadline for registration is Friday at 4:00pm.**

Seats will be assigned with social distancing measures. Based on the best current scientific research, we will initially not be having congregational singing to minimize the risk of virus transmission.

If you have any questions or concerns about our reopening process, please direct them to me (305-666-8586) or [marthashiverick@gmail.com](mailto:marthashiverick@gmail.com)

—Missy

we can  
**end gun violence**

**wear  
orange**

Wear Orange on June 6 to support sensible gun policy.

We'll be sending postcards to our Florida Senators urging them to support universal background checks.

In America, one in five guns are sold without a background check.

States that require background checks on all handgun sales have seen less than half as many mass shooting incidents as other states.

Learn more about this issue here: <https://www.bradyunited.org/our-work/policy/brady-background-checks>

# Discipleship News... from Anna

## Join us for our first-ever Super Sunday Spectacular!

This summer, in lieu of having a traditional VBS program we are going to host a monthly Intergenerational potluck after worship.

The programing will connect to our summer series on the Epistles and each potluck will have a theme based on a location from the letters.

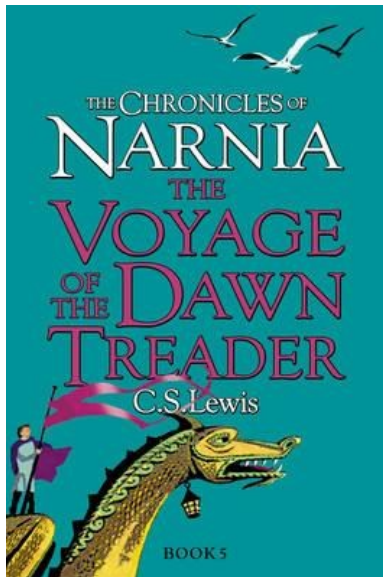
During our time together, we will learn more about the Epistles and we will translate that knowledge into care and art for our community!

Kids of all ages can enjoy the yummy food and participate in all the activities. If you have any questions contact Anna at [rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com)

June 27th. (Praying the Epistles) Potluck spotlight Greece.

July 18th (Cards and Care) Potluck spotlight Italy.

August 15th (Community Art Project) Potluck spotlight Spain.



## Sunday Book Club @3:45 pm

Email Anna [rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto: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 Morn-  
ing with  
Zoom Adult Bible Study  
&  
In Person  
10:00 am - 10:30 am**

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

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

**How might Jesus have heard the  
stories of his grandmothers; how do  
we?**

Join us the 3rd Wednesday night of every month at 7pm starting in August as we begin our Hybrid Women's Study Group.

We will be using the study guide **"What my grandmothers taught me"** It's a study of all the women in the genealogy of Jesus.

Please contact Karen C. at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) with any questions. Further details will be provided in the July issue of The Spark.

## Pastoral Care News...

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bo S.— 10  
Dylan V.— 14  
Kyle D.—15  
Ruth G.—18  
Steve P .— 21  
Jordan A.—26

In response to Christ's call to love one another, the Pastoral Care Team seeks to extend Christian caring, concern, and support to members and friends of our congregation through coordination of various ministries: prayer chain, meal preparation and delivery to those with short term special needs, transportation, cards to express our caring thoughts, and special projects as they arise. We are united in our commitment to love God, love our neighbors, and follow Christ in faithful service.

Interested in joining the Pastoral Care Team? Contact Pastor Missy at [@marthashiverick@gmail.com](mailto:@marthashiverick@gmail.com) or 305-666-8586 x2

# Stewardship News...

The Stewardship-Property-Finance (SPF) Committee has been busy:

- Please review your first quarter giving statements and notify Freddy if there are any discrepancies with your records—femonty@comcast.net
- The Ad Hoc Paint Committee is harmoniously working on the color scheme for the exterior of the church.
- Repairs are almost completed on the church steps.
- Our trusty AC unit in the church library put up a valiant effort but alas it will need to be replaced this month along with the units in the Fellowship Hall. We will have more efficient units.
- West Parking Lot renovations are almost complete. Please note that there will be new entrances into our portion of the parking lot.
- First Quarter projected pledges was \$31,250.52.  
First Quarter actual pledges received was \$31,290.00  
First Quarter non-pledged donations received \$9,470.00  
Thank you to all who contributed to the ministry of Riviera during the First Quarter of 2021!
- It is not too late to donate to the Pentecost Offering. This year the 40% of the offering that is for congregational use projects will go towards Riviera's Summer Youth Intern Program and to purchase books for the school library at Frances Tucker Elementary.  
The Pentecost Offering is one of four special offerings of the PCUSA of which Riviera participates in all four offerings every year. The goal of the Pentecost Offering is to unite 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.

You can donate now by using your camera to scan this code or  
You can send a check to Riviera Presbyterian Church  
Memo Pentecost Offering





One More Thing...



Dear Barbara O,

As we finished up our educational series on May 26th, I hope you felt the gratitude of the group for your work in organizing this great study. I believe everyone who participated one evening or all the evenings learned a lot and recognized the role of the person of faith in working towards these sustainable developmental goals.

So, congratulations on a job well done and our hearty thanks for all your work that went into making it happen!

Love, Missy

Here is a link to the study guide:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/study-devotional-guide-on-the-uns-sustainable-development-goals-expanded/>