

The Spark

AUGUST 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

Join us on Sunday, August 8 when we will be writing notes of encouragement to the first graders at Frances Tucker Elementary in the worship service.

For our last Super Sunday Spectacular, August 15 we are doing a giant art project! This intergenerational activity will bless us and the community by using our God-given creativity.

A Month of Blessings

Children and students of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks to on Sunday, August 22 for the Blessing of the Backpacks

Save
the
Date

40th Anniversary
of Ordination
and
Upcoming Retirement

Come and Celebrate
The Rev. Martha Shiverick

Sunday, August 29, 2021
11:00 am Worship
Celebration Luncheon
to Follow

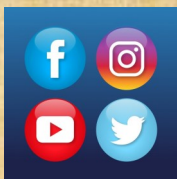
Mission Statement

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
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Barbara Prieto, CCA
Certified Church Administrator
rivierachurch@gmail.com

Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton
Rev. Dr. David Welton
Parish Associates for Visitation

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



August 2021

Dear Riviera family,

So, it's August and the countdown begins until we say goodbye. Someone asked me in church last Sunday if I was excited about retiring and the answer is that it is really truly an emotionally mixed bag for me. And I know it is for you too and I am very aware that we need to work

through our feelings for the health and future of our church which we all love.

When I first talked to the search committee about coming to Riviera, committee member Christian Mazzola asked what my retirement plans were. And, I honestly had never really thought about them. So... I asked him how he knew it was time to retire and he said that there comes a time when you just know.

And at that time, there was no question in my mind that God was calling me to Riviera. I made a list of the needs of the church, what the skills and Spiritual gifts I would bring to the church, and what I hoped to accomplish as your pastor. Together we have accomplished them all! And we have had a really great time while doing it. Riviera is a solid and healthy congregation with a powerful sense of call, mission, and commitment. We are not closing our doors anytime soon and all members of the church know the mission to which God calls Riviera. AND....You are all strong leaders which makes me realize that the future of the church is positive and exciting.

So..... the question in my mind was, do I now sit back and enjoy where we are and all that we have done or is it time for a new leader with new gifts and skills to be called by God to be your pastor. And, what I came to understand is that in asking that question was my retirement.

So, I have this last month with you. We will say our goodbyes and celebrate what God has done through us in the years I have been your pastor. And we will grieve. But most of all, I hope you will be thankful to God, as I am, for having called me to be your pastor for this period in the life and history of Riviera Presbyterian Church.

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

Worship News...

The Epistles Riviera's Summer Sermon Series



We continue with Riviera's Summer Sermon Series on The Epistles with Paul's letters to Titus and Philemon, the Hebrews, as well as James, Peter's and John's letters. We continue our exploration Sundays at 11:00am.

From Dr. Walter Busse...



Love to sing? Come join the choir!! We meet in person every Thursday in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm for potluck dinner, followed by rehearsal. No experience necessary.



Do you love music and want to learn an instrument? Join the ukulele ensemble!! No experience necessary. We will even provide an instrument for you. We meet in person (AND by ZOOM!!) every 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month right after 11am worship. As pastor Missy always says, "Once you can play a C chord, you can join in the fun!!"

For more info, contact Dr. Walter Busse, rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

Mission News...

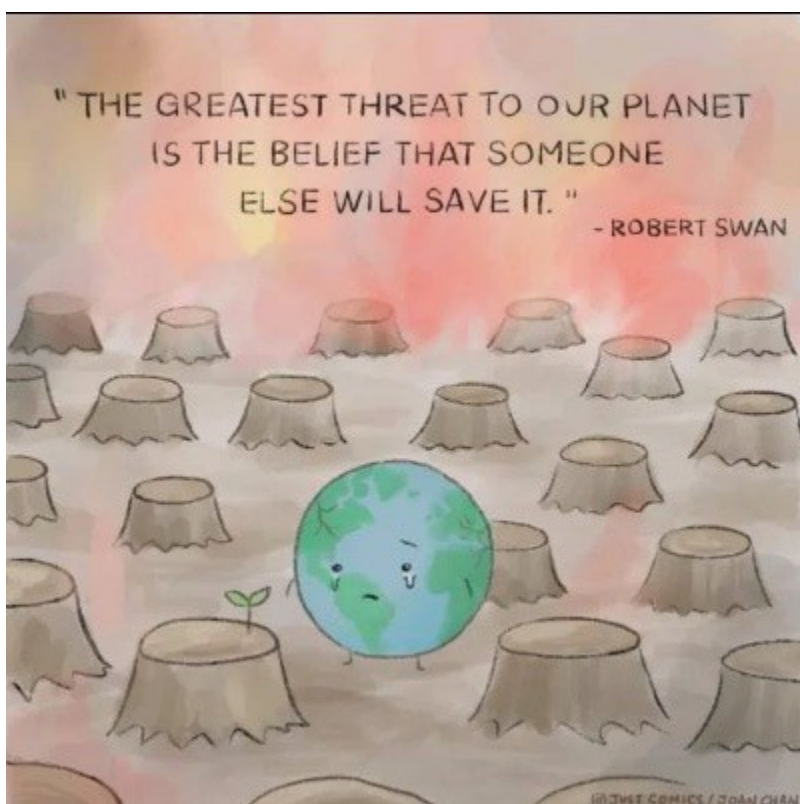
School Backpacks for 1st Graders

@Frances Tucker Elementary School

Going to 1st grade can be scary and exciting at the same time and we want to make sure that the 1st graders at Frances Tucker Elementary and their parents have a great start.

Please pick up a backpack or several with the supply list and fill it. All backpacks need to be returned by August 15th to the church.

You may also donate funds and we will purchase the supplies for you. Average donation \$30-\$40 per backpack



Mindful of the record-breaking heatwaves and forest fires in the West and Northwest USA, the NOAA predictions of more hurricanes in the Gulf and East Coast, the massive flooding in Europe and China, we all need to take informed actions to counter the Climate Crisis.

We hope everyone will be part of this church-wide effort for education and action for today's greatest moral issue.

Please share this invitation for an important series of gatherings by Presbyterians for Earth Care on Sundays, August 1, 8, and 15.

Details (conference schedule, workshops descriptions and leaders' bios, registration) can be found on the Presbyterians for Earth Care website: presbyearth-care.org and on Facebook: [Presbyterians for Earth Care](https://www.facebook.com/PresbyteriansforEarthCare)

Discipleship News...

For our last Super Sunday Spectacular, August 15th we are doing a giant art project! This intergenerational activity will bless us and the community by using our God-given creativity. Five of the tables in the sanctuary will contain a canvas of Jesus which we will color-in and add our own flourishes to. Each canvas will be a different theme such as creation care and diversity, all things that Jesus holds dear. Our hope is that this will be a blessing as we use our creativity to create but also that it will always be a blessing in the long term since hope to display the canvases in the church. We hope you can make it!



What My Grandmothers Taught Me

Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus

By Merry Blair

With Suggestions for Leaders by Magdalena I. Garcia

We will be starting a new Women's Study on Wednesday, August 18th at 7:00 pm.

What My Grandmothers Taught Me—Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.

To reserve your book please contact Karen at kc33134@aol.com.

The group will meet in-person and on Zoom.

Hope you can join! This is a great opportunity for learning and fellowship.

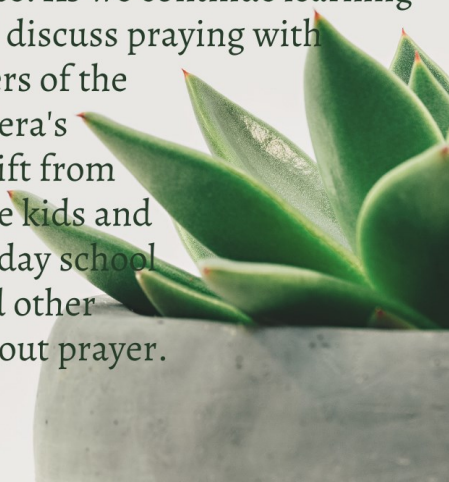
The Adult Bible Study Class provides you with a deeper understanding of each Sunday's Epistles in our Summer Sermon Series

**Join on Zoom or In Person
10:00 am - 10:30 am
Meeting 860-148-3445
Password 2708**



Discipleship News...

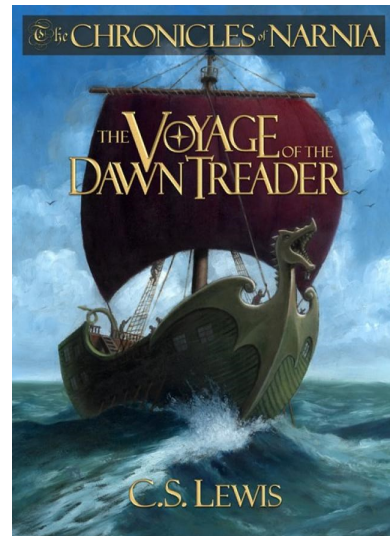
This Summer during the children's Sunday School we have been discussing different ways to talk and listen to God. One Sunday we made a prayer box where we can put letters we write to God. We've talked about praying in nature and praying in silence. As we continue learning about prayer we will discuss praying with others and the prayers of the people found in Riviera's liturgy. Prayer is a gift from God and together the kids and adults who lead Sunday school are learning this and other wonderful things about prayer.



Sunday Book Club Resumes on August 8

@4:00 pm

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



Pastoral Care News...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jose P—August 3

Morgan A—August 6

Susan M—August 14

Joanne R—August 18

Ethan L—August 21

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 or 305-666-8586 x2

Stewardship News...

- 2nd Quarter Contribution Statements will be in the mail soon, please review and let us know if you see a discrepancy—email Freddy via the church office rivierachurch@bellsouth.net

Session News...

The Session of Riviera met on July 13th here are the highlights

- Took into membership Anna Rosas who will be under our care as an inquirer in preparation for ministry.
- The Rev. Dr. David Welton and the Rev. Rosemary Welton will continue with Riviera as Parish Associates for Visitation to provide continuity.
- The hybrid model of church worship is still a work in progress, but working.
- The Session and Staff will be gathering for a retreat on Saturday, August 14th.



One More Thing...



We are looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of church life.
Please contact the church office if you are willing to volunteer:

Tuesday, August 17th starting at 9:00 AM. - Church Kitchen Organization

Open to volunteers of all ages, opportunity to earn school community service hours. Speak to Ellen or email her at rivierafoodpantry@gmail.com

- Sunday Greeters—Inperson and Digital
- Ushers-Inperson
- Audio/Video Tech Team—be a part of this team—will train
- Communion Elements Preparer

If you are interesting in finding out more about these volunteer opportunities please contact Barbie in the church office at rivierachurch@bellsouth.net