

The Spark

SEPTEMBER 2021 Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World



Plan to Attend! Kick-Off Sunday, September 12

- Learn about the committees that manage the mission, goals, and work of Riviera
- Meet committee members
- Enjoy fellowship

When: Sunday, September 12, immediately after worship in the sanctuary

For those who are joining us online please stay tuned to our website where you will be able to see the list of committees and programs you can participate in.

Mission Statement

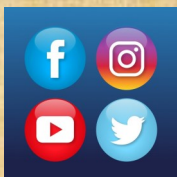
Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

We are a Matthew 25 Church

Clerk's Corner...



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

All The People
Ministers

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

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



Not So Fast!

Do you recall watching cartoons either when you were younger or some of the older cartoons still televised, where the character is yanked off their feet by a long cane with a curved end?

The ever-changing pandemic has me feeling like I've been yanked back to having to be way more careful, wear my mask while out shopping all the time, no longer eating in the restaurant, and delicately vetting the neighbors I run into as I try to find out if they've been vaccinated.

It's déjà vu all over again.

Thank goodness for Riviera Presbyterian Church. Yes, Pastor Missy Shiverick retired at the end of last month, well deserved. But securely for us, she leaves a renewed and refreshed church organization and foundation with clear goals, and our cool, calm and serene sanctuary continues to be open to socially-distanced, in-person worship. No snacks at Holy Grounds or food events in the church for now, so enjoying a late breakfast on Sundays before the 11:00 am service is a good thing!

We know about change, it's difficult, but presents opportunities. At the annual Riviera Session Retreat with Elders and Staff in August, Riviera's various committees got changed-up. This is an annual task that has to happen as several Elders go off Session and several new Elders join session. The result is an injection of energy, new insight and objectives. Here's a list of the committees:

2021 - 2022 Session Committees (Elders & Staff)

• **Worship**

Michele Ready, Laura Fothergill, Rey Prieto – co chairs, Walter Busse, Barbie Prieto

• **Mission**

Elaine Lanaris and Alejandra Rondon, co-chairs

• **Stewardship, Finance, Property**

Barbara Overton and Butch Sorenson, co-chairs; Kathy Stults, Treasurer, Barbie Prieto

• **Discipleship & Christian Education**

Susan Mazzola, Susan Admire and Karen Collier, co-chairs; Ampy Hernandez, Anna Rosas, Barbie Prieto

• **Pastoral Care**

Karen Collier and Mimi Sutherland, co-chairs; Bonnie Hanneman, Prayer Chain Coordinator; Rev. David Welton, Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton

Ad Hoc Committee

• **Investment Committee**

Christian Mazzola, chair; Kathy Stults, Treasurer; Cris Sweeny
While not noted in the above, our Pastor is on each of these committees!
Individual committee members not listed.

Closed Committees

• **Personnel**

Bryan Page, chair, Butch Sorenson

• **Nominating**

Congregation votes on a new nomination committee in January 2022 during the Annual Congregational Meeting. This committee is comprised of retiring Session members as well as several members of the congregation.

Worship News...

The **Worship Committee** seeks to create a meaningful worship experience for all members of the congregation and for visitors. The committee also oversees all communications from the Session and committees to the congregation and the general public.

The practical aspects of this committee include worship planning, communion preparation, audio/visual management, development of diverse congregational involvement in the worship service and providing communication of church ministries to name a few.

If you are interested to find out more about this committee visit the Worship Committee Table during Kick Off Sunday event on September 12 immediately following the worship service.

From Dr. Walter Busse...

Don't be shy we still have Ukulele's available for you to join the Riviera Ukulele Ensemble. We meet the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month at 12:00pm in-person and via Zoom.

If singing is more of your thing, join the choir. We meet for rehearsals at 7:30pm.

Contact me if you have any questions—rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

Mission News...



September 5 - October 3, 2021

Peace & Global Witness

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Make a donation at www.rivierachurch.org/give.

Blessing of the Backpacks



Parents/Grandparents: When Jesus was twelve, he went with his parents to Jerusalem. He stayed in the temple, listening to and asking questions of the teachers there. Many of you have started classes this week or will start tomorrow and like Jesus, you will be listening, learning, and asking questions of your teachers. As we go to school, we carry with us backpacks which contain the things we need: lunches, and sacks, books and paper, pencils and shoes.

Kiddos: God, each day you provide for all our needs and you keep us in the palm of your hand. God, we pray for children everywhere beginning school and we pray for the day when all are given an equal education and a firm foundation for life.

Parents and Grandparents: For all good things God has provided for us, let us join in praise and thanksgiving. For pens, pencils, crayons, and markers, let us give thanks. For notebooks, paper and folders, calculators and student planners, and the backpacks that hold them.

Kiddos: Thanks be to God!

Parents and Grandparents: For the children and for their many and different talents and gifts, for their insights and desire to learn and ask questions, for all teachers, custodians, principles, secretaries, cafeteria workers, and librarians; let us give thanks,

Kiddos: Thanks be to God!

Everyone: Bless, O God, these backpacks and the children who carry them. We thank you for the resources and school supplies that help children and students of all ages learn. Bless these children and the children in our extended community and persons in all places who seek to learn and grow. Amen.



SEPTEMBER 12 @ 5PM
MEET UP @ TITANIC
FOR A THOUGHT PROVOKING
MEAL & LIBATION

THEOLOGY
uncorked

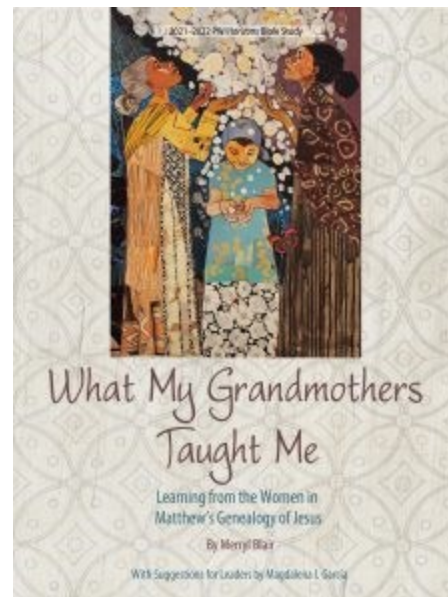
Presbyterian Women / Horizons Bible study,

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

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers?

What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

Join the Women of Riviera Bible Study Class on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. We are currently meeting on Zoom only. Please contact Karen kc33134@aol.com for Zoom login.



Discipleship News...



Youth Reading Group
Voyage of the Dawn Treader
Sundays at 4:00 pm

email Anna for Zoom
information
rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com



Zoom Meeting ID 894-7650-2156
Passcode 333227

**Sunday Bible
Study Class
10:00 am EST**

Join in person or on Zoom

Kiddo Sunday School Reminder

We can't wait to hear about your summer and how school is going so far. We are ready to create special Sunday School memories with you! Many fun activities, hands-on projects, and story time are planned for the fall. See you soon whether in person or on Zoom.

Parents: Please remember [if your child is attending in person, please make your reservation by using this link.](#)

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Pastoral Care News...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kevin F.—8

Juliana O.—14

Christian M.—19

Mary L.—20

Ellie R.—28

Sage S.—28

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

Stewardship News...

Stay tuned for a new color to the exterior of Riviera.

Session News...

- During the period of time of a vacant pulpit, the Rev. Dr. David Welton will be the Session Moderator for the September Session Meeting.
- There are many opportunities to be an active member of Riviera. There are many opportunities for you to let your talent shine, let your personality brighten someone's day, help to be Christ's hands and feet in this modern world.

Here is just a few things you can do: Sunday mornings: be an usher, a greeter, train to be a helper with our livestreaming, sing in the choir, help with communion, participate in the Riviera Ukulele Ensemble, help in the food pantry.

Other opportunities: volunteer for beach cleanup, help with special events, help delivery or make a meal for a person in need, help weed, help with food distribution on Monday and Wednesday mornings, answer the call when help is needed in the church office.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Barbie at the church office.

One More Thing...

Words of thanks from The Honorable Retired Rev. Missy Shiverick,

August 30, 2021

Dear Riviera Community,

Bo, Nonie, and I are finishing packing up and will be heading to Cleveland as soon as Hurricane Ida moves across the country. (Peaty the Puppy is with us too, but he is really no help at all in packing!)

But before I go, I wanted to let you know how special yesterday was. Yes... COVID prevented us from having a luncheon, but the celebration the planning committee put together and all of your participation in it made it so special that I can't imagine a more perfect last day as your pastor and a way to celebrate the 40th anniversary of my ordination.

I have not processed the whole day yet. It was emotional and overwhelming. AND, I want to savor the memories and each of the experiences of the whole day. But, the beauty of retirement is that I will have time in the weeks ahead to do just that.

I want each of you to know how much I love the scrap book, your notes, the framed artwork with the cross and pieces of glass (from when Kathy Stults made the chancel cross.) Thank you also for the gift cards and other wonderful gifts we are packing in the car. And also, thank you for your kind words of gratitude, love, and support which I will carry in my heart.

Riviera, you are such a very special community.

Love, Missy





Missy's Retirement Celebration!