

# The Spark

OCTOBER 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

## FAITHS 4 CLIMATE JUSTICE

A Global Multi-Religious Call To Action

Sunday, October 17 @ 11:00 am

Riviera has invited Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo, noted eco-theologian, to preach on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Being an Earth Care congregation, we are committed to eco-justice and to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and urge the U.S. to make COP26 the success, for the sake of all creation.



Join us as we welcome The Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo as our guest preacher. Dr. Astudillo is GreenFaith's Florida Organizer. A Venezuelan-American eco-theologian and Presbyterian pastor, she has taught eco-theology at theological seminaries in Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, México, and the USA. Neddy co-founded the Angelic Organics Learning Center in Illinois, a farm-based nonprofit where people learned to connect food, farming, and caring for Earth.



### Mission Statement

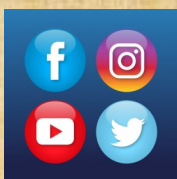
Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

**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](http://www.rivierachurch.org)  
Connect with us on social media



@RivieraChurch

All The People  
Ministers

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

Anna E. Rosas  
Youth Education and Outreach Assistant  
[rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com)

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



## October 2021 Autumn

When did 'fall' become the way to express the season of burnished leaves, pumpkins, mums, and cooling temperatures? And, when did we drop capitalizing the seasons? If you write fall without capitalization, the word loses the ability to evoke the smell of the cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamom in a baked apple pie. The changes from "Autumn" to "fall" evolved several years ago. Fall isn't the same season in Miami as it is in say, Springwater, New York.

However, in every part of the country, it presents yet another opportunity to decorate our homes and offices (though those are one and the same now in many cases). Just walk into any Michaels, Hobby Lobby or Target for a seasonal cornucopia of the possible and endless decorations. I won't even mention Halloween – oh, I just did!

### **Autumn at Riviera Presbyterian Church**

There's lots going on in our church and out in the community with you, the members, reaching going beyond our church walls. While I'm not physically in church, it is heartwarming to 'see' you at the service via zoom. Autumn means that Anna Rosas, Youth Education & Outreach Assistant and a member of the Discipleship (Fellowship) and Christian Education Committee is busy mailing care packages to our college students, planning a beach clean-up for Saturday, October 16 and introducing a new book, *A Wrinkle in Time*, into the youth curriculum as they read together on Sunday afternoons.

### **Autumn at Riviera Presbyterian Church**

SOCKTOBER ! The Mission Committee will again carry on this tradition. Ellen Anderson manages the collection of much needed socks from October 1 – 31 to distribute to those in need. Riviera usually collects scads of socks – thank you in advance to trying to beat last year's number.

### **Autumn at Riviera Presbyterian Church**

Ellen also works with a wonderful nonprofit, LEAP (Ladies Empowerment and Action Program). Check out them out here: <https://leapforladies.org/>



*Continue on Page 3*



# Clerk's Corner Continues...

## ***Clerk Corner Continues...***

Founded in 2009, LEAP is dedicated to helping incarcerated women transcend their past. They are the only nonprofit agency in Florida to focus on women in prison using a holistic entrepreneurship model. Their prison education program teaches practical employment, entrepreneurship, and essential life skills. LEAP has a wonderful second-hand shop called, Dragonfly Thrift Boutique, which is supported by contributions of gently worn clothing, shoes, handbags, furniture and lots of other items. The boutique is located at 3141 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami 33135, with parking available around the back. Image my surprise to find an Ethan Allen bookcase there that was one I have at home! Take a friend, visit and shop. Riviera is providing much needed Winn-Dixie gift cards to a group of women in the LEAP program. At Christmas, they'll be presented with Target gift cards and their mentors will receive gift cards as well.

## ***Autumn at Riviera Presbyterian Church***

Faced with the challenge of "pulpit supply" while we power through the process to call a Transitional Pastor, the Worship Committee has had some nice successes recently. We look forward to seeing new guests, old friends, and several members lead worship and preach at Riviera in the near future.

## ***Autumn At Riviera Presbyterian Church***

We should all feel like we're wrapped in a warm cocoon knowing Riviera has a loving, attentive and caring Congregational Care Committee. Karen Collier, Mimi Sutherland, Bonnie Hanneman, David Welton and Rosemary Noga-Welton look out for us as we navigate the ups and downs, and bumps and grinds of everyday life, especially now in this precarious time as we navigate life during a pandemic and work to keep life near normal. Thank you to the committee members for being there.

Keep reading *The Spark* and the weekly *One More Thing*. There's more happening in the Riviera community for us to continue to feel connected to one another and to our community.

Susan

## Transition to a New Pastor



### ***Update***

The Transition Team forwarded a completed Ministry Information Form (MIF) to Presbytery on Wednesday, September 14 for their review and approval. They responded with constructive input and several suggestions. So, our team met again on Monday, September 27 to review the input, the suggestions and re-submit! Presbytery responded quickly with their approval (yeah!). The Ministry Information Form was presented to Session at a Called Session meeting on Wednesday, September 29. Approved by Session, the MIF was submitted to the Presbytery COM for their approval and the matching of potential candidates for the position of Transitional Pastor will begin.

We will keep you posted about our progress. As always, if you have any specific questions, please direct them to [rivierachurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivierachurch@bellsouth.net) or contact one of the Transition Team members: Cris Sweeny, Michele Ready, Bryan Page, Susan Mazzola.

## Intergenerational Beach Clean-Up

Come join your Riviera Family as we help clean up Bill Baggs State Park on Key Biscayne on October 16th from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. It's going to be a great time of fellowship and caring for God's creation!

## Kids/Youth Fall Bags

Parents and Kiddos be on the lookout for activities, devotionals, and some other fun surprises delivered or mailed to your home in the month of October!

## A Wrinkle In Time

Starting October 17th kiddos of all ages are invited to read along as Anna reads over Zoom the classic book A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle! The book is a fantasy story that takes the reader/listener on an adventure as the main character Meg searches for her father through time and space! If you are interested in signing up, email Anna at [rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



OCTOBER 10 @ 5PM  
MEET UP @ TITANIC  
FOR A THOUGHT-PROVOKING  
UNCORKED AFTERNOON

THEOLOGY  
**uncorked**

**Zoom Meeting ID 894-7650-2156**  
**Passcode 333227**

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

**Join in person or on Zoom**

Two words come to mind when you hear the story of Rahab; spirit and spunk. This month we are learning about the young prostitute Rahab and how acting as head of her household she saved her family. Come and learn more about this interesting woman in Jesus' genealogy.

The Zoom Room is open to all women who are interested in participating in the **Women's Study Group**. Your Zoom Square awaits, Wednesday, October 20 @7:30pm. Contact Karen at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) for the Zoom Link.

## Worship News...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](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

## Congregational Care News...

In response to Christ's call to love one another, the Congregational 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 Congregational Care Team? Contact Karen at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com)

★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

Stephanie G. 10/1

Cris S. 10/3

Rey P. 10/6

Pam A. 10/12

Karen C. 10/15

John G. 10/16

Emilee G. 10/21

Vivian G. 10/23

Ruth A. 10/25

Bryan P. 10/27

If we missed your birthday or you do not want your birthday listed, please contact the church office at [rivierachurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivierachurch@bellsouth.net)

## Stewardship News...

The painting of the church buildings has begun. The Paint Selection Committee did an excellent job choosing the new paint color—Ibis White (possible homage to our UM Families or just a coincidence? We will never tell.). These crisp white walls will give us a new fresh look and help set our mindsets to see Riviera Presbyterian Church with a fresh perspective in what lies ahead.

—For more Stewardship News see page 7

## Session News...

Your elected Session is busy managing the programs, ministries, and life of our Church. Below are a few motions taken at the September Session meeting, moderating by Teaching Elder, The Rev. Dr. David Welton.

- A motion was entered by the **Discipleship committee** to approve the use of two books: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle and *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery as part of the youth curriculum for 2021-2022. **MSP**
- A motion was entered by the **Mission Committee** to amend Section 2 of the CCC Board of Directors to read: "The Board shall consist of 12 voting members, six members of the Riviera Presbyterian Church (the "Church"), which may include the minister or other staff member of the Church as determined by the Session, four parent members who each have at least one (1) child enrolled in the Center's programs, and two members of the community. Non-voting members shall consist of the Executive Director, the Associate Director, and one teacher of the Center. **MSP**
- Another motion was entered by the **Mission Committee** that Anna Rosas be elected as a board member of the Child Care Center, Inc. Riviera Presbyterian Church, to fill the seat allocated to the minister or other staff member of the Church. Ms. Rosa's term would automatically expire upon the earlier of termination of her employment by the Church or upon further action of Session. It is further moved that Elaine Lanaris be elected to fill the position previously held by Michele Ready and that Grissette Luzzi be elected to fill an open parent position. **MSP**
- **Under New Business** a motion was made that sharing dinner before choir practice will remain, and those who do not want to share dinner should plan to arrive at a later time. Additionally, the choir rehearsal portion of the evening which will be masked. **MSP**

The Session of Riviera will meet again on Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30pm via Zoom.





***Together For Joy*** - The Stewardship, Finance and Property Committee (SPF) looked past the disruption of COVID, zooming, Missy's departure, etc. in selecting this year's Stewardship Campaign theme.

Being part of Riviera means being part of a warm, welcoming community – a community Together For Joy!

You will be asked to provide a pledge card during November so that we can plan for the coming year. We encourage you to give generously in recognition of the gifts God has given to you.

Please also use this stewardship campaign season to volunteer for our many committees, groups and activities.

***What new way will you find to be Together for Joy in 2022?***



Good Morning!

I'm so happy to see you!

Welcome!

Who doesn't like to be on the receiving end of a warm greeting and smiling eyes! Yes, smiling eyes because we wear masks out of our love and care for each other. We are looking to establish a list of volunteers to be greeters on Sunday mornings.

*Greeters* serve as a necessary "first contact" for members, friends, and visitors attending in-person worship each *Sunday*.

Email the church office at [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com) to add your name and your smiling eyes to the list.

# Mission News...



## LEAP for Ladies

The Mission Committee would like to introduce you to our newest Mission, LEAP for Ladies.

Leap runs a one-of-a-kind prison re-entry program for women combining essential employability and life skills, entrepreneurship, self-love, and mentorship.

The ladies live in a house just south of Little Havana. There is room for six ladies.

LEAP empowers incarcerated women through.....

- 300+ hours of holistic in-prison education and mentorship
- Employability and life skills classes
- Trauma-informed substance abuse programming
- Post-release housing and employment support
- On-going advocacy and life-long community

Their main place of employment post-release is the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique at 3141 SW 8th Street (<https://dragonflythrift.org/>). Community members are encouraged to shop and donate gently used women's fashion, furniture, and home accessories.

Riviera started helping the ladies by providing bags of food just as we would any family group. These bags were tailored for them to be of the most assistance. We currently provide 4 Winn Dixie gift certificates per month to purchase what they need (mainly fresh fruit and vegetables).

When we started, there were four ladies in the house. This month two more ladies were released and admitted to the group. We provided Target gift certificates for the two ladies to buy shoes, underwear, etc., since they need these on release.

Housemates Dani and Nancy have both shared that they attended services at [Riviera} church and how incredibly welcoming and warm everyone was.

The Mission Committee is looking forward to working with the ladies and helping them reconnect to our community. We will keep the congregation updated.

For more information on the program, please go to <https://leapforladies.org/>.

Shalom,  
Ellen Anderson