

The Spark

DECEMBER 2021

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

**We have a seat for
you to these
upcoming events**

**December 12 @ 11:00am
Emmanuel: A Christmas
Cantata by Eugene Butler**

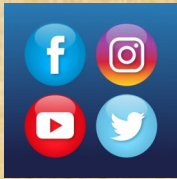
**December 19 @ 11:00am
A Magnificat Visual
Presentation**

**December 24 @6:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service**



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
Laura Fothergill
Amparo Hernandez
Elaine Lanaris
Barbara Overton
Bryan Page
Rey Prieto
Michele Ready
Alejandra Rondon
Butch Sorenson
Mimi Sutherland



December 2021

Expectant waiting and preparation. The season of Advent is here and Riviera began Advent with the lighting of the first candle on Sunday, November 28 – the candle signifying

“**Hope.**” On a day to day basis, we all hope for this and for that ... big stuff like I *hope* I get the job, a raise, I hope my car doesn’t break down; or I hope I can stay healthy during this crazy time. We hope for small stuff, too, like I hope this pizza is tasty; I hope it doesn’t rain again today; or I hope these pants still fit (too many pizzas).

Whoosh those thoughts out of your head and wrap your mind around the **hope** that the birth of Jesus will once again signify the beginning of a better time. Someone we lean on, speak to, seek out, emulate and embrace.

During the weeks of Advent, let these candles signifying **hope, peace, faith, and joy** bring back our focus on the ‘reason for the season.’ Let the warm glow-aura-halo from each singular burning flame mesmerize us each Sunday as we ready ourselves – in mind, body and spirit – for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We would all agree that physically being in the sanctuary on Sunday grounds us. When the next Advent candle is lit, let’s take a minute, be silent, and open your heart, your mind and your body to what each candle holds for us, be it **hope, peace, faith and joy.**

Like so many other places of worship, Riviera has dialed back activities in an effort to keep everyone safe. However, there are events and activities to note:

Angel Tree – please remember that toys are due on Sunday, Dec. 12th.

Cooking Baking & Decorating on Zoom – December 18 at 2:30 pm. *Start Your Ovens!* For the second time, a cookie baking and decorating session will be held on Zoom. Get your ingredients together or buy cookies to decorate. Then bring your tasty cookies to church the next day for a Cookie Exchange.

Cookie Exchange! – December 19 Bring 2 dozen cookies to church (preferably homemade—but store-bought works, too). A Christmas Fellowship Hour will be held outside after worship. You’ll be invited to select an assortment of delicious Christmas cookies to take home from the wide selection on offer!

Christmas Eve Joint Service with New Covenant Church – Friday, December 24 at 6:00pm.

Clerk's Corner Continues...



Transition to an Interim/Transitional Pastor

December Update

Your Riviera Transition Team met several times in November to continue to discuss the candidates identified including four additional since last reported. We've contacted everyone to let them know they "matched" with Riviera. Several have taken themselves out of consideration and a couple have not called back! We will be scheduling a few preliminary discussions with candidates in December and look forward to these conversations.

As always, if you have specific questions, please direct them to rivierachurch@bellsouth.net or contact one of the Transition Team members: Cris Sweeny, Michele Ready, Bryan Page, and Susan Mazzola.

Again, thanks to our colleagues at the Presbytery of Tropical Florida who continue to support and guide us in our search for a Transitional Pastor.

Discipleship News...

- ♦ **The Women's Study Group** will be continuing the story of Ruth at their December 15th meeting at 7:30pm. Please contact Karen at kc33134@aol.com for the Zoom link.
- ♦ We will not be having **Sunday morning adult Bible study** beginning 12/12. We will resume on 01/08/22.
- ♦ **Kiddo Hybrid Sunday School @ 11:15 am** Register Your Child For In-Person Sunday School at www.rivierachurch.org Email Anna (rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com) for Zoom log-in for if your child will be attending Zoom Sunday School
- ♦ **Youth Reading Group Sunday @ 4:00 pm** Join us as we read, A Wrinkle In Time by Madeline L'Engle. Email Anna (rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com) for Zoom log-in
- ♦ **Spiritual Discipline Practice Monday, December 20@ 7:00pm** Email Anna (rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com) for Zoom log-in



CHRISTMAS COOKIES
SATURDAY, DEC. 18 @ 2:30PM

Join the fun for the second annual cookie baking and decorating event via Zoom
RSVP to rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

meeting id: 897-7987-5655
passcode: 791070

Congregational Care News...

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Kathy S—December 10

Jackie J—December 14

Sandy B—December 15

Bonnie H—December 18

Walter B—December 22

Ampy H—December 22

If we missed your birthday or you do not want your birthday listed, please contact the church office at rivierachurch@bellsouth.net

Session News...

November Meeting Highlights:

Personnel Committee Report - *Bryan Page, Butch Sorenson*

Bryan reported that the Social Media/office assistant part time position was still open.

Worship Committee – *Laura Fothergill, Rey Prieto, Michele Ready*

Michele reported Anna Rosas, Rosemary Noga Welton and David Welton will assist with pulpit supply by each preaching once a month for the next several months.

Stewardship/Finance/Property Committee – *Barbara Overton, Butch Sorenson*

We will review the 2022 budget in December. Christian Mazzola resigned from the Investment Committee; the IC will seek to fill that position quickly.

Don't Miss...

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

A Holiday Cookie Exchange

AFTER WORSHIP
SUNDAY DECEMBER 19TH



Mission News...



Winn-Dixie

Let's Fight Hunger Together!

Every \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet bought at our local Winn-Dixie location this month will send us a **\$1 donation**

Spread some Christmas Joy this December with a beautiful Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet and help the Riviera Food Pantry fight hunger.

The Riviera Food Pantry was selected by Winn Dixie's Bloomin' 4 Good Program to receive a \$1 donation for every \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker.

ONLY AT THIS: Winn-Dixie 6770 Bird Road, Miami, FL.

So head on over and purchase a bouquet to cheer up a friend with the holiday blues.

Buy one for your elderly neighbor who lives alone.

The co-worker who goes that extra mile to help you.

And don't forget to pick up one for YOU because you deserve a beautiful bouquet!

And not only will you be bringing beauty into someone's life, but you will also be helping to feed the hungry in our local community.

