

MAY 2022

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

## Where Do You See God In Your Life?

*Continuing of series "Where Do You See God In Your Life?" this month we hear from Member Bonnie Hannemann*

### *HOW I SAW GOD BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MY SURGERY*

My favorite Bible verse that got me through many years of dealing with medical difficulties experienced by my late husband, Chuck, was Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me. However, I need to confess that I had trouble holding onto that concept before my surgery. Since I had two blood clots in my leg and now needed a knee replacement, I was told to get an IVCFilter inserted the day before surgery. Oh, and you need to find your own doctor. So began the search: call to friends, to other doctors, to my insurance company. My faith in my ability to handle this within the given time frame began to slowly disappear. Schedule this scan, get this test done, you need clearance letters from three different doctors. Time, TIME!!!! Don't want to run out of time. But where was my time with God? Where was my time for prayer? As I sat at my desk to have a little talk with Jesus, my mind started to relax and become more focused. I knew what I had to do and had a time line to work with.

My first surgery was scheduled for South Miami Hospital. As a nurse walked me to the surgical area, she ask, "Who is here with you?" "Just me and God", I told her. "You can't get any better than that," she replied. So the Peace of God accompanied me through a successful experience.

The next morning, Scott dropped me and my walker off at Doctor's Hospital. I was more in tune with my positive, motivating Bible verse. Scott was off to the airport to pick up my sister, Phyllis, who was flying in from Atlanta to take care of me for two weeks. Shortly after I woke up in my room, Phyllis and Lexi came bouncing in to give me family love and support.

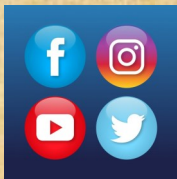


Now is the time for healing, time for prayers of gratitude, time to be still and know that God is always there giving me strength to endure another hour of physical therapy.

—Bonnie

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

## May Clerk's Corner *Susan Mazzola*

The Easter season continues on for 50 days, through the Ascension of Our Lord to Pentecost on Sunday, June 5, seven full weeks after Easter Sunday! Riviera's Easter week worship services were wonderful and unfolded in such a way that they incorporated and celebrated a loosening of Covid protocols. Barbie Prieto, Church Administrator; Dr. Walter Busse, Director of Music; The Reverend Rosemary Noga-Welton and The Reverend Dr. David Welton, Parish Associates; Anna Rosas, Youth Education & Outreach Assistant; and the Worship Committee worked together to produce Lenten and Easter week services that cleverly re-introduced and welcomed certain aspects of our worship that we have all missed. And, this author must give a "thumbs up" and 'thank you' to the audio-visual team led by Rey Prieto and including Butch Sorenson and Abigail Thompson who work together to stream and record our services making them available to all.



In May, we will welcome the return of Youth Sunday School which runs concurrently with the worship service. Starting May 22, after the Children's Sermon, younger members and guests may leave to attend Sunday School following the lead of Anna Rosas, Youth Education and Outreach Assistant, Anna will introduce them to *Honoring God's Diversity*, a curriculum specifically created for youth by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (Note, this author spent over three minutes watching ducklings following their mother for research for this month's Clerk's Corner!)

May will also have Riviera celebrate First Sunday lunch, on the first Sunday! And, on the second Sunday, May 8, we celebrate Mother's Day by enjoying ice cream during Holy Grounds.

Riviera will continue to remember the Ukrainian people in our prayers. Their celebration of Orthodox Easter was on Sunday, April 24 – a solemn celebration this year amid a war that is crushing their cities, but not their spirits.

We keep in our prayers those members and friends of Riviera who are recovering from illness, injury, or surgery; those whose everyday lives have become difficult due to inflation; and those who continue to struggle with this pandemic and the masks on, masks off back and forth. If this author begins to list people, someone will be inadvertently left off. So, close your eyes, pray, and silently (or not silently) name all you know. However, I ask you do include Marysabel (Mary) Lopez, our Custodian, who took a nasty tumble down our choir stairs one Sunday morning. She is recovering comfortably at home.

There's lots more happening during the month of May – read The Spark and the weekly, One More Thing to keep track of happenings and dates.



# Mission News...



## MARCH IN UNITY

Inspiring unity and cooperation across the public, MCCJ and South Florida community leaders and organizations have formed an alliance that will embody the belief that we're better off united, regardless of race, color, religion, origin, and political affiliation.

**SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022, AT 3PM**  
MEET AT FREEDOM TOWER IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI  
600 BISCAYNE BLVD, MIAMI, FL 33132  
Ends at The Underline SW 1st Ave

REGISTER VIA  
EVENTBRITE  
EVENT IS FREE



### WE ARE UNITED PARTNERS



Speak with Elaine or Alejandra for details if you would like to attend the March in Unity.



As a reminder, throughout the month of May 2022, **Riviera's Food Pantry** has been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every **\$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet** with the red circle sticker sold at the stores located at

**Winn-Dixie 6770 Bird Road,**  
**Winn-Dixie 5850 SW 73rd Street,**

Look for the Bloomin' 4 Good bouquets displayed in a specially marked box in the floral section.

# Congregational Care News...



Nicole P. - 3

Janet P.— 16

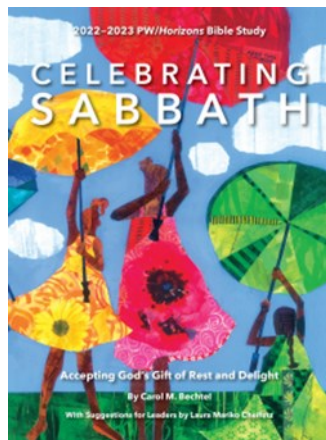
David W.—16

Nancy S.—17

Sofia V.—23

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)

# Discipleship News...



**Introducing  
Riviera's  
New Women's  
Study Group Book  
*Celebrating  
Sabbath*  
Accepting God's Gift  
of Rest and Delight**

In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and

Acts—we'll consider Sabbath

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Contact Karen at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) for the Zoom Link.

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

**Passcode 333227**

**Sunday Bible  
Study Class**

**10:00 am EST**

**Join in person or on Zoom**

**Theology Uncorked  
Resumes  
Sunday, June 12 @ 5 pm**

**Youth Sunday School  
Resumes Sunday, May 22**

Youth Sunday School which runs concurrently with the worship service. Starting May 22, after the Children's Sermon, younger members and guests may leave to attend Sunday School following the lead of Anna Rosas, Youth Education and Outreach Assistant, Anna will introduce them to ***Honoring God's Diversity***.



## Worship News...

**Stay Tuned for details on a special May 22nd Worship Service.  
Watch your inbox!**

## Session News...



### *Welcome New Member Lisa T.*

I am 40 years old, married to my amazing husband, Max. We are proud pet parents to our 11-year-old mixed breed rescue dog, Bailey. I enjoy various activities including watching Disney movies, attending live music performances, taking regular trips to Disney World, and playing computer games, especially The Sims 4.

I maintain a vegan lifestyle, as I have a passion for helping animals. I volunteer at the South Florida Wildlife Center as a homecare volunteer, where I foster baby opossums in my home until they are big enough to go to the nursery at the Center to be raised and rehabilitated for their eventual release into the wild. I'm very close with my family, and I enjoy spending time with my mother, Patty, who is also an avid Disney fan and my Disney World travel buddy.

I was born in Hollywood, FL, but raised in Miami Gardens. A few years after high school I learned to be a dog groomer and did that professionally for quite awhile, until I obtained an A.S. in Funeral Services. I consequently worked in a funeral home for 4 years but left to return to the dog grooming industry. In 2020 I started a new job at Chewy. I'm currently working towards going back to school to hopefully become a veterinarian.