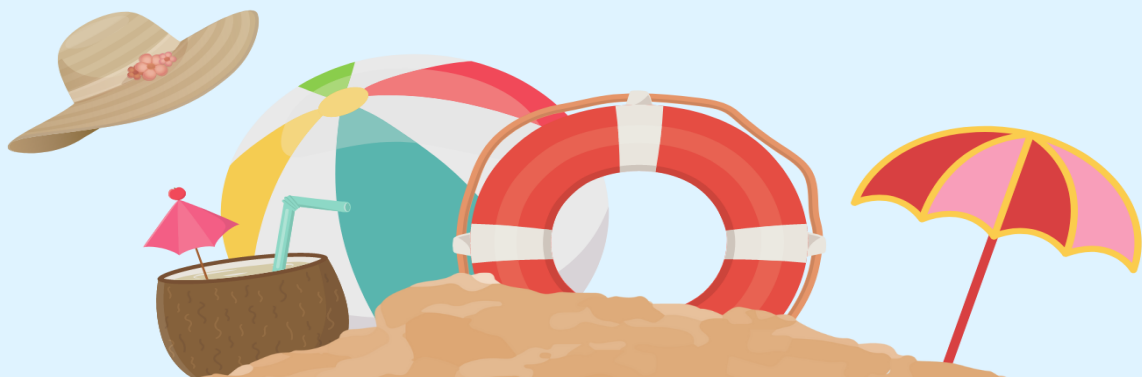


The Spark

AUGUST 2022

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

Riviera Presbyterian Church Beach Fun Day & Potluck Brunch



8.6.22

10:30 - 12:30 pm

See inside for details

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...

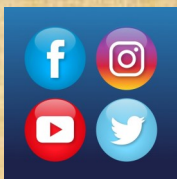
Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586

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

Pastor's Reflection

Rev. Melanie Marsh

Beloved Friends,

July 17th's Scripture from Luke on Mary and Martha has stuck with me in the past couple of days. It is interesting how often the women in this story are reduced down to just one quality of their personality - Mary, the one who sits and listens, Martha, the one who works her fingers to the bone. There must have been so much more to both of them, because there is so much more to all of us. We contain multitudes. Sometimes it takes someone looking at us as Christ does for the world to see how much more there is to our story.

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes seems to have been on the same wavelength this week. In a recent post on his poetry blog, *Unfolding Light*, he wrote the following reflection:

*Mary sat at the Beloved's feet
and listened to what he was saying.
—Luke 10.39*

We drove through cities and towns,
little burbs and urban stacks of buildings,
suburban developments like giant microchips,
past apartment windows and farmhouses,
cozy neighborhoods and lonely hovels.
Each house a story. So many stories.
None are evident by appearances: the neat estate
may hide a story of abuse and loneliness;
the sagging single-wide a story of redemption.
The people we saw—the people you pass by—
every single one is a story with a beginning and a middle,
and you only know one sentence of it.
The nuanced setting, the alarming backstory,
the various characters and their own story lines,
the intertwining of so many subplots, these you do not know.
And the end? And how it all fits together,
and what the story is really “about?” Ah, wait.
But meanwhile what a privilege it is
to be welcomed into one home,
one story, even to just look around.
What a gift to know someone who is willing to hear
your whole story. And what a gift we have
to sometimes stop and listen.
I hope as we move through our days toward Summer's end, we find time to
look around, time to listen, and time to know a little more of one another's
story.

Many blessings,
Rev. Melanie

PS. If you get a chance in the next few weeks, head over
to www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org to experience the virtual conference put together for this summer with help from myself and the rest of the 2022 PYT Production Team. Our in-person gathering was put on hold because of Covid, but presbyteries all across the country will use these worship resources to take the Triennium Spirit far and wide this summer. Videos and resources will be live on **Sunday, July 24th**.

Mission News...



Our Child Care Center Families have once again answered the Call to Action by generously donating funds, diapers, wipes and other baby care items for the Afghan family this Riviera community is helping via the Refugee Assistance Alliance.



Donate to Child Care/Diaper Fund.



Excitement is BUDDING for Riviera's Food Pantry!

Winn-Dixie

GIVE BACK THIS MONTH

When you buy a \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with a red circle sticker at our Winn-Dixie location this month, we get a \$1 donation!

Learn more at
seg.bloomin4good.com



Only @
Winn Dixie
Located at
6770 Bird Road

Congregational Care News...

Happy Birthday

Some Birthday Wishes For Loved Ones



Morgan A - 6 | Susan M. - 14 | Joanne R. - 18

Happy Anniversary

Kathy Stults and Karen Moyer
are thrilled to celebrate 35 years
together on August 12.



Discipleship News... Fellowship Time

Riviera Presbyterian Church Beach Fun Day and Brunch Pot-Luck

When: Saturday, August 6th, 2022 -10:00am-12:30pm (Park toll opens at 9am, feel free to come and stay as you wish)

Where: Matheson Hammock Park: 9610 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156

Park Details: Park Entrance is \$7 per car (carpool is encouraged), pool floats and toys are not allowed in the ocean but sand toys are fine, lifeguards are on duty

The Riviera Presbyterian Church community—members and friends are invited to this intergenerational event in celebration of summer fun as students and families are gearing up to head back to school in mid-August.

Grab your sunscreen (maybe some bug spray) and a beach towel!
Bring a breakfast or brunch item to share.

We will setup next to the water and will try to have a small sign. Friends, neighbors, all are welcome.

For questions and to RSVP (though not required), please contact Anna Rosas (rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com) or Laura Fothergill (laura.fothergill@gmail.com)

Discipleship News... Learning

Zoom Meeting ID 894-7650-2156

Passcode 333227

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

Join in person or on Zoom

Children Sunday School



Email rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com



Women's Study Group

Wednesday

Aug. 17 @ 7:30pm

Contact Karen @

kc33134@aol.com

for Zoom Link



Youth News

Enter a world where music creates magic
and every song is a spell.

**Youth Reading Group
Resumes July 31 @ 4:00 pm via Zoom**

Reach out to Miss Anna to RSVP
rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

Spiritual Discipline Class



- August 24 @ 7:00pm
- RSVP to Anna Rosas at rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com
- See you on Zoom

Save the Date for KICK-OFF SUNDAY Sunday, September 11

Join us after worship as we kick-off plans for the liturgical year ahead of us.

Hear from the various church committees and what they do.

Consider how you can be involved in the life of the church - try something new!

A 'First Sunday Lunch' potluck lunch is planned for this date and will be confirmed as we get closer to the date as it depends on COVID numbers as reported by Miami-Dade County.

Session News...

Session-Staff Retreat!

Not as in going or moving back! At a Retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 13, at a yet-to-be-revealed location, your Session members and Riviera Staff will come together in person to worship, enjoy fellowship, and discuss plans for Riviera's upcoming liturgical year. At this annual event, Session and Staff are looking forward to working under the leadership of The Rev. Melanie Marsh, Riviera's Transitional Pastor.

We look forward to Pastor Melanie's experience, energy, and enthusiasm as the various committees which assist in the operations of the church talk about what we need to do, what we want to do, and ways in which Riviera's members can be involved in the life of the church.

The current committees are:

- Congregational Care
- Discipleship (Christian Education & Fellowship)
- Mission
- Stewardship (Stewardship, Property & Finance)
- Worship (Liturgical Art, Music, Marketing & Evangelism)



Stewardship News...

Stewardship News:

Your second quarter statement of gifts, offerings, and tithes to the church for 2022. have been mailed. As we look with hope toward life beyond the Covid pandemic, we are grateful for all that we have lived through, all that is yet to come, and most of all, that you are with us. Your continued generosity and faith in God's work through this community make possible all of the mission, faith formation, and spiritual support we provide.

Property News:

The Rainbow Tree Project is 3/4 of the way completed. Thank you to all involved and thank you to Luis from Airport Brick it was a delight to work with him.

This committee has been busy year round keeping the church in tip top shape. There is always something that needs to be done. If you are handy and would like to volunteer or have a list of service providers you would like to share with us, please contact the church office at rivierachurch@gmail.com



Worship News...

Fall Sermon Series— series will begin October 9th and run through November 20th, taking a one week break for All Saints/Reformation Sunday on October 30th. Stay tuned for further details.



Riviera Presbyterian Church



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

START THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL
YEAR OFF WITH A SPECIAL
BLESSING!

8.14.2022 @ 11AM

Bring your backpack to worship

