

The Spark

September 2022

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

Riviera's Kick Off Sunday EVENT

Worship | Potluck Lunch | Game Show

September 11, 2022 @ 11:00am

**Invite a Friend
Bring a dish to share**

Engage in the ministries of Riviera - as we start the church program year
There is a place for YOU!



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...

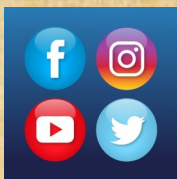
Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586

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

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

" We, too, are building a neighborhood—

not of buildings but of prayer:
a place not in time or space
where souls may find shelter and belonging.
We are clearing ground, uprooting things,
the uneven made level and the crooked made straight.
We are laying foundations, offering space,
making of our hearts a welcome home,
so all of us, friend and stranger,
near and far, human and not, are neighbors."

*adapted from 'Building a Neighborhood' by Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
Unfolding Light*

Beloved Friends,

For a while, my family has been dreaming of welcoming our community into our home for fellowship. In our day dreams, these gatherings are full of food and laughter and music. Every generation is here. Games are played, stories are shared, and memories are made. As the end of the summer season approaches, we feel ready to make this dream a reality, at least in one small way!

Thursday Night Kick Back is a new gathering we are introducing for the fall season. One Thursday each month in September, October, and November we will open our home for a very informal time of connection, fun, music and food with friends and family of all ages.

*come by on your way to choir and chill for a bit,

*or grab a snack for the road

*parents bring your kids and play backyard games

stop in on your way home from work

OR

bring your snack/beverage of choice and hang out for a while

We will have snacks and drinks to share - arrive when you can, leave when you need to.

Dates and times are below. We hope to see you soon!

Thursdays 4-8pm

September 22

October 27

November 17

**Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie**

Mission News...

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!

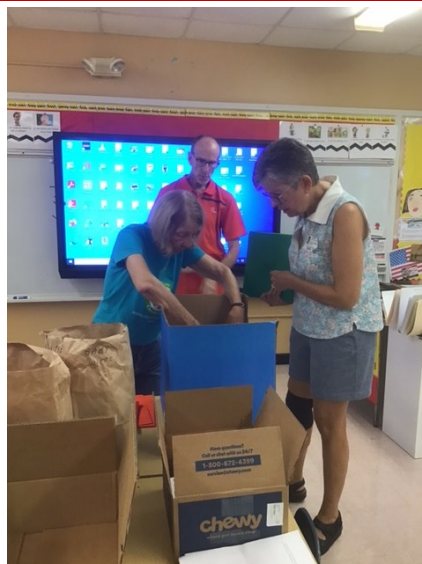
Learn more at
seg.bloomin4good.com



Shop at
Winn Dixie
Located

At
5850 SW 73rd ST
South Miami

Preparing the 1st Grade Class @ Frances Tucker Elementary With YOUR Donations!



Mission News... continues

LEAP FOR LADIES

LEAP empowers women who have experienced incarceration through transformational opportunities and advocacy. For every woman who has experienced incarceration and who is committed to change to have the opportunity and tools to achieve her full potential.

Riviera Presbyterian Church started its relationship with LEAP by providing groceries to help augment their needs. We next decided that providing grocery gift certificates every week to allow them to buy fresh produce, milk and bread was more practical.

The ladies work at Dragonfly Thrift Boutique (3141 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33135) a wonderful place to shop! Recently they had a visit by Vice President Kamala Harris. The ladies were thrilled and honored to have her visit and shop.



Riviera Presbyterian church also assists the ladies by donating bicycles, their main mode of transportation. We are lucky to have members who have donated bicycles, and more are needed as they get new ladies in the houses and, unfortunately, they get stolen, even with locks.

One of the ladies, Cheyanne Guzy runs a car detailing service. On June 5th we had a car wash at Riviera and everyone who had their vehicle washed was very pleased. **We are planning another car wash for Sunday, September 11th starting at 9:00 AM. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex.**

When the new ladies are released, they are given a place in transition housing near the boutique. LEAP provides paid retail job training at Dragonfly Thrift Boutique. Training at the Dragonfly includes customer service, computer skills, photography, social media, inventory management and more.

When they come out of incarceration they need shoes, undergarments and other basic necessities. Riviera Presbyterian Church provides a \$50 Target gift certificate so that they may purchase these items.

We can continue our mission for LEAP for Ladies by donating to or shopping at the Dragonfly Thrift boutique, donating bicycles, phones or laptops, attending special events or even mentoring one of the ladies.

More information is available at <https://leapforladies.org/>



Congregational Care News...

Just a reminder to our church family regarding the sharing of prayer requests... it's always a good idea to get permission from someone before you share something about them. This is especially important now that our church services are online.

When we do share our concerns, it's always better to be more general. Thanks in advance for being sensitive to our Riviera family!

Below is an article that talks about this issue in more depth. — Blessings, Karen Collier,

Prayer Lists: How to Protect Privacy

Obtain permission before sharing sensitive information

Sweeping changes to privacy laws have changed the way doctors, hospitals, and even insurance companies handle health care information. Part of the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#) (HIPAA) that took effect in 2003 made it illegal for health care providers to disclose information about a person's medical condition. Generally, the Act doesn't pertain to churches. However, the ensuing discussion of privacy rights has led many churches to reexamine how they share personal information through prayer ministries.

Here are some suggestions on how to maintain a prayer ministry without offending the prayer recipient or breaking the law.

There's nothing that prevents a person from telling the congregation—or the whole world—that he has a medical condition and would like prayer. But some laws prevent *you* from telling the world for him. Therefore, **it's a good idea to obtain a person's consent before disclosing personal information.** It could be as simple as asking someone: "Would you like us to add you to the prayer list?" or "Would you mind if we shared this information with the congregation?" **It's easiest to get verbal consent, but you have far greater legal protection if you obtain it in writing.**

Even with a person's consent, it's best to keep the information general. A notice that says "Sue Smith has been hospitalized, and we pray for a speedy recovery" is better than "Sue Smith has been suffering from debilitating panic attacks that have caused her to be admitted to the hospital. Please pray for her."

Some churches avoid the problem of **obtaining consent by printing information on how to reach a relative or close friend who has agreed to serve as spokesperson.** The spokesperson can decide how much detail to release, and to whom. That person is probably in a better position than the church to know how much information to share.

Churches should be extremely cautious about disclosing health-related information about their employees without their consent. In particular, churches can be held legally liable for disclosing such information about employees (or their dependents) obtained through the church's health plan. You should obtain the employee's consent to release the information. Even with permission, less is generally best.

Congregational Care News...continues

Happy Birthday

Kevin F.— 8

Juliana O.— 14

Christian M.—19

Mary L.—20

Lexi H.— 23

Ellie R.—28

Cris S.—28

Opportunity for Health Screenings

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

Life Line Screening will be on site on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at Riviera Presbyterian Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

Schedule today via the methods below appointments are limited. CALL: 888-814-0466 OR VISIT: <https://llsa.social/HS>

Sign-up using the phone number, website link and receive a \$10 price reduction off the vascular screening package prices

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

Learn and spiritually grow with us!

Riviera offers a **Hybrid Bible Study Class** to help you grow in your knowledge of God's Word in ways that make a difference in your life.

Whether you're a new believer, a long-time follower of Christ, or just curious to learn more, join us!

Children Sunday School



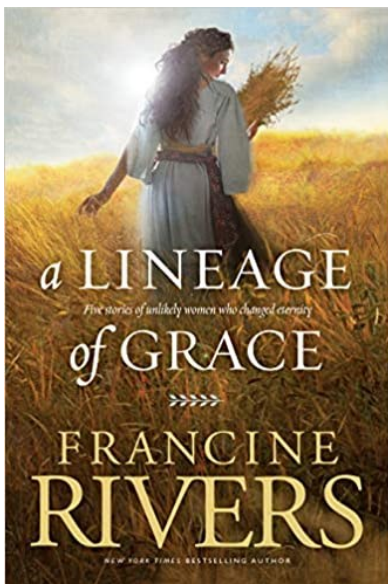
Email rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

Our **Hybrid Children's Sunday School** runs concurrently with the worship service after the Children's Sermon.

Younger members and guests may leave or log into Zoom to attend Sunday School following the lead of Anna Rosas our Youth Education and Outreach Assistant.

We are using the Follow Me Curriculum from the PC(USA)

Contact Anna via email at rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com for more information



Starting in September, the **Women's Study Group** will start a new book called **A Lineage of Grace** by Francine Rivers. Biblical stories of 5 Women in the Lineage of Jesus.

[The book is available on Amazon.](#)

If you have any questions please contact Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com

Hope you can join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. We meet on Zoom so you can join from wherever you are!

One More Thing...



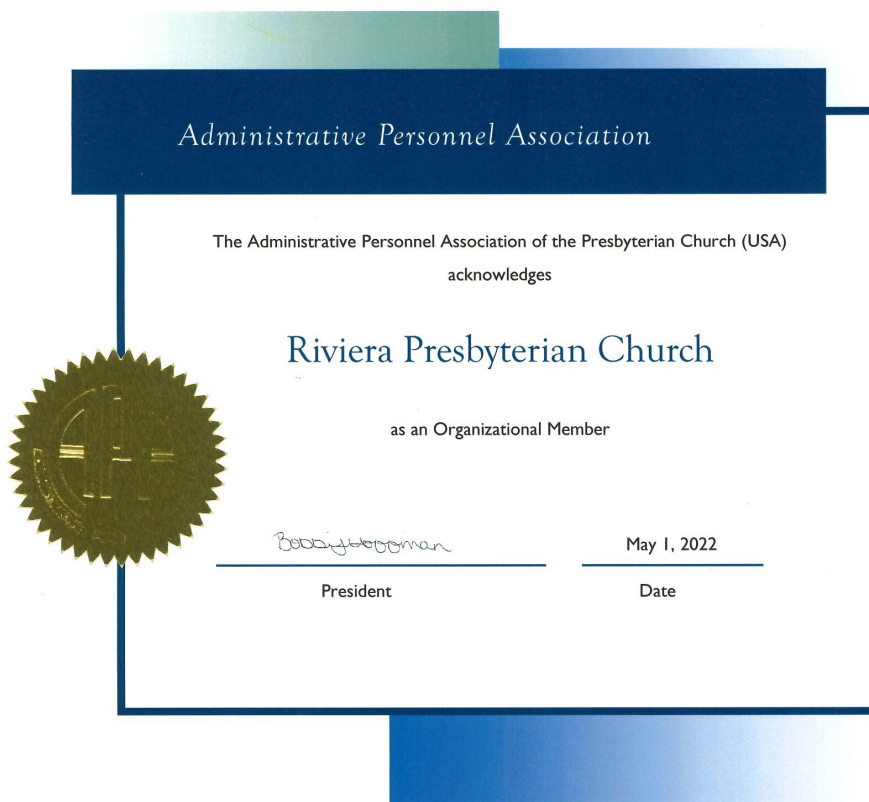
Youth News
Enter a world where music creates magic
and every song is a spell.

Youth Reading Group
Sunday @ 4:00 pm via Zoom

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



Ukulele Rehearsal
Sunday @ 12 noon
In-Person & Zoom



The Administrative Personnel Association of the PCUSA has recognized Riviera as an organization that values its employees by encouraging and funding continuing education opportunities by providing professional development for those called by God to serve as support staff.