

The Spark

November 2022

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World



Thanksgiving Interfaith Service Nov. 16 7:00pm

We are joyful to be a part of this annual event that brings together several faith traditions in Miami.

Rev. Melanie Marsh will participate in this year's service along with clergy from several other faith communities.

The service rotates to different houses of faith each year, and this year will be hosted at Riviera.

Mission Statement



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

We are a Matthew 25 Church

Pastor's Reflection...

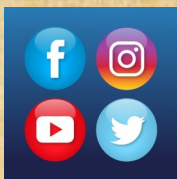
Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586

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

Dear Friends,

In this week before All Saints Day, I have been reflecting on all the ways we hold grief and loss in our beloved community, and how we, paradoxically, hold it right alongside our hope in the future and our faith in everlasting life. The Creator gives us the gift of relationship - the capacity to love and be loved - knowing that this gift will bring us great joy and great sorrow. Maybe this is part of what we are meant to learn along the journey: how to love wholeheartedly, how to be fully present to the relationships we are given, even when they challenge us, and how to allow ourselves to feel their loss. Maybe it is the journey through this cycle which moves us toward what is eternal. Maybe it is along this path that we experience moments of Divine presence.

As we move through this season of remembering and honoring the Saints in our lives, may your heart be open to the joy, the pain, the healing and the hope of this wholehearted life.

An excerpt from "In Blackwater Woods" by Mary Oliver

Every year
everything
I have ever learned
in my lifetime
leads back to this: the fires
and the black river of loss
whose other side
is salvation,
whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

Rev. Melanie Marsh

Mission News...

Mission Missive

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has been very busy lately. All donations of food, money and time go a long way in helping feed the food insecure in our community. We have set up a bulletin board with information to help our clients find assistance. The Food Pantry also distributes toilet paper, diapers and women's sanitary products with the help of our various funds.

We are still in need of people who are able to donate 3 hours of their time on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Please check the sign-up sheet in the narthex for times available. If you haven't done it before, Ellen will be happy to walk you through the process.

Frances Tucker Elementary School

The holidays are approaching more rapidly than you can imagine. On **Monday, November 14**, we will be distributing grocery gift cards to the most food insecure families at the school.

On **Sunday, November 20** we will begin our Angel Tree project for the first graders. We should have "About Me" sheets for each student to help choose presents. We set a suggested limit for each child at \$20. The gifts need to be returned to the church by **December 18**. On **Monday, December 19** we will distribute the gifts in the morning. [All are invited to help us.](#) It is a truly warm and fuzzy event. Remember, for some of these children it will be the only gift they receive.



LEAP for Ladies



Riviera is continuing to give each house a gift certificate for groceries every week to help them get fresh produce and dairy.

A new lady joined the group in October, and we provided a \$50 Target gift certificate to help her buy anything she needs to start her new journey.

Riviera members have been able to donate items to the Dragonfly Thrift Boutique as well as buy things they need (or just plain want). Bicycles are still needed since that is their main means of transportation.

Congregational Care News...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER BABIES



Sarah G—6
Ellen A—8
Graham G—16
Lorella K—20
Barbie P—28

Stewardship News...

We hope you will join us in worship throughout this season of Stewardship, and especially on **Sunday November 20** as we consecrate our pledges to the church, and celebrate the generosity of our community. You can use the digital pledge card available on our website at www.rivierachurch.org/give or send an email to the church at rivierachurch@gmail.com.

Our goal is to have 100% of members turn in a pledge - - knowing every pledged amount, no matter how big or small, helps us better plan for the future.

What an exciting future it is! With your help, we will continue our work as a mission-driven church, that promotes for justice and peace for all God's children. In our worship, education, and mission, we will share the news that all are loved unconditionally. "Embodying Love, Demanding Justice, Transforming the World."

Your voice, your dreams, and your vision matter. Tell us what you would like to see Riviera become!

Christian Education News...

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



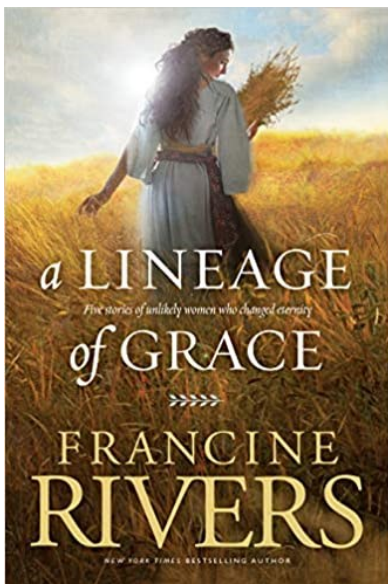
Email rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com

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



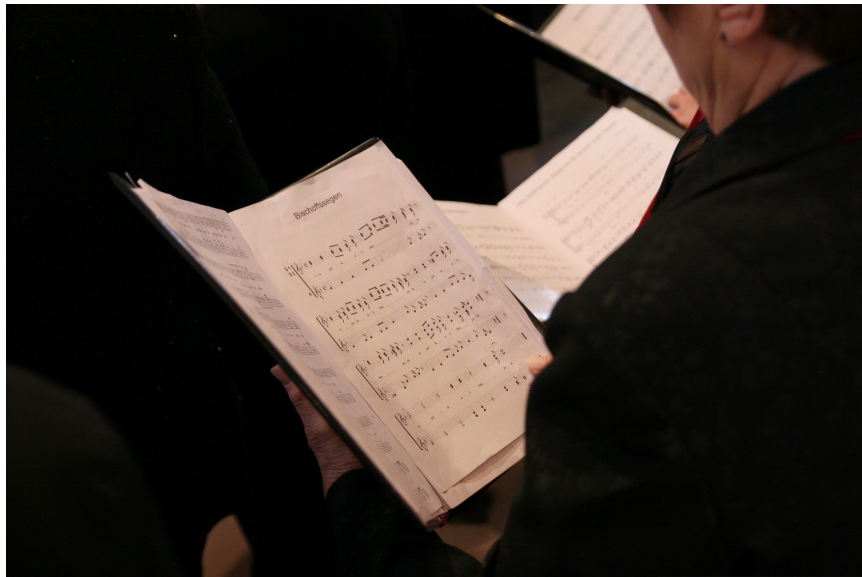
The **Women's Study Group** is reading the book **A Lineage of Grace** by Francine Rivers. Biblical stories of 5 Women in the Lineage of Jesus.

[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!

Worship News...



The Riviera Choir meets for a fellowship meal and rehearsal on Thursdays. Come for appetizers at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm and rehearsal at 7:30pm.

Bring a dish to share if you are able. Email our Music Director, Walter if you are interested in finding out more details. rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

One More Thing...

Open
House



Violet

Lena

James

NEXT EVENT
NOVEMBER 17

4 - 8 PM

Family
Events



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

THEOLOGY UNCORKED

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

TITANIC RESTAURANT & BREWERY
5813 PONCE DE LEON BLVD CORAL GABLES FL 33146



II.13.

5:00 PM



Join us Sunday, Nov. 6
Potluck Lunch
after worship

Please bring a dish to
share if you can, and
let's share a meal and
fellowship.