

# The Spark

January 2023

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

*Happy New Year!*

*Create the world  
that you want to live in.*

*Embody Love  
Demand Justice |  
Transform the World*

# Pastor's Reflection...

Riviera Presbyterian Church

5275 Sunset Drive

Miami, FL 33143

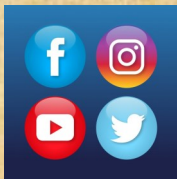
(305) 666-8586

11:00am Sunday Worship Service

Office Hours M - F 9:00-5:00

[www.rivierachurch.org](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

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

"Bequeath me not becalmed seas,  
slack sails and premature benedictions,  
but breathe into me a torment,  
storm enough to make within myself,  
and from myself,  
something...  
something new,  
something saving,  
something true"

- Ted Loder *from All Shall be Well, Meditations for Lent and Easter*

Beloved Friends,

Blessed New Year to you! The Christmas Season feels like it's only just behind us, and already the season of Lent is quickly approaching.

This is a time when we often adopt a spiritual discipline that will inform and shape our journey through the holy season. This year, in the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday, we will spend time exploring spiritual disciplines in worship. These interactive worship services are a chance for each of us to "Try On" different disciplines, with the hope that we will be inspired to commit to one - or more - for the 40 days of Lent. Some are quiet. Some are active. Some might invite creativity, or contemplation. Whatever our spirit is longing for in this season, there is a discipline that can help us respond to that longing, drawing us closer to God and one another. Below is a brief overview of our six-week Spiritual Disciplines worship series. I look forward to seeing you in worship early in the New Year and throughout the Lenten season.

Week 1 - January 15  
Prayer

Week 2 - January 22  
Play

Week 3 - January 29  
Lectio Divina

Week 4 - February 5  
Silence

Week 5 - February 12  
Creative Expression

Week 6 - February 19  
Labyrinth

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Melanie



# Mission News...

## Mission Missive

### The Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has had its busiest year ever distributing family and single bags to the food insecure and homeless. We have added new items that may be requested-laundry detergent strips, maxi pads, toilet paper and diapers. We try and keep the bulletin board with community offerings up to date. Many thanks to the people who have donated their time staffing the pantry on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Their help with distributing and assembling the bags is well appreciated. Everyone is invited to sign up on the schedule in the Welcome Area/Narthex. In 2022 we have out 493 family bags and 99 single bags

### Frances Tucker Elementary

On Monday, December 19, 2022 we distributed the presents that our congregation purchased for the first grade children. It was a noisy and fun time for all. Our team was Ellen Anderson, Rev. Melanie Marsh, Barbie Prieto, Rev. Rosemary Noga Welton and Rev. Dr. David Welton. Thank you to Ms. Buchanan, Ms. Correa, Ms. Chakravarty and Ms. Edwards from Frances Tucker Elementary for their help.



### LEAP for Ladies—Ladies Empowerment and Action Program

We continue to help support the two houses with grocery gift certificates every week. We were able to give each lady a \$50 gift certificate as a holiday present. Here are two of the ladies with their purchases.



Please remember that donations are always welcome at the LEAP Dragonfly Thrift Boutique, 3141 SW 8th St, and bicycles for transportation are needed also.

Shalom,  
Ellen Anderson

# Congregational Care News...

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANUARY BABIES



Karen M—6

Mary H—12

Carolina F—18

Melanie M—22

Luke F—29

Mary S—31

# Stewardship News...

Thank you to all who send in your 2023 pledge!

What an exciting future we have ahead of us! 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!

It is not too late to send in your pledge for 2023—use this link to fill out the electronic form:  
<https://rivierachurch.org/2023-pledge/>



# Christian Education News...

Dear Church Family,

Sometimes you God gives you what you need even if it's not what you expected. As you all know, my Sabbath pilgrimage on the Camino was fraught with tummy issues. However, before that ever happened, I was able to do at least some hiking.

Autumn is the most magical of the seasons. There is something about that season that a livens my soul in a way that no other season can. I see God's goodness in those oranges, reds, and yellows. I feel God's presence in that crisp breeze that I swear smells like cider. And I hear God's voice as the leaves crunch and crinkle beneath my feet.

Spain isn't known for its fall colors, so I was not expecting to see any on this Camino. Imagine my delight when the vineyards in the Rioja region of Spain exploded with the colors and sounds of fall. Below, I've added some of my favorite pictures of those vineyards which make up part of the Camino. I hope that as you see these pictures you too can sense God's beauty in this little corner of Spain.



Christian Education Classes will resume on January 8: Adult Bible Study at 10 am

Children's Sunday School at 11:15 am

Women's Bible Study Class will be on January 18 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Contact Karen C for details [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com)



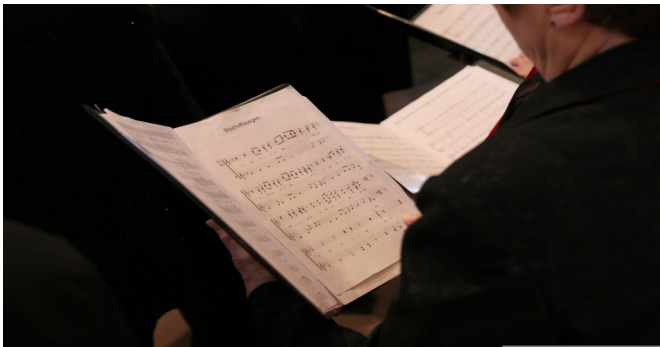
## Worship News...



**Ukulele Rehearsal**  
**Sunday @ 12 noon**  
**In-Person & Zoom**



**Riviera Bell Choir**  
**Rehearse the 5th Sunday of**  
**the month after worship**



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](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

## Six-week Spiritual Disciplines worship series



**Starts January 15th**

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](mailto:rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com)

# THEOLOGY UNCORKED

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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



1.8.23

5:00 PM



# 2022 in pictures...



2022  
Living  
our Mission  
Statement:

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