

# The Spark

February 2023

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World



The **Souper Bowl of Caring** began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina:

*Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.*

22 churches raised \$5,700 in the first year. The number of groups involved has steadily grown each year, and so has the amount raised and put back into the communities. (From Wikipedia)

Henry Barrow, husband of Sandy Barrow, was a long time Riviera member who passed away in 2020. Henry had a terrific career background which included being a member of the first broadcast team for the Miami Dolphins. In the 1990's, Henry became involved in Riviera's Youth Group, learned about the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, and created Riviera's version of this important event.

Henry led the youth in the planning to cook soups – usually chicken with vegetables and a vegan option – to serve to Riviera's congregation on Super Bowl Sunday. He and the youth purchased or got donated ingredients and on Saturday mornings, fueled by a box of donuts Henry brought in for the group, they started slicing and dicing ingredients and began cooking.

Souper Bowl Sunday was always a fun day at Riviera. Members of the congregation brought salads, breads, and desserts to round out the soup lunch. After Worship service, we lined up in Fellowship Hall to be served soup by members of the Youth Group supervised by Henry. It was always interesting, fun, and delicious!

Following the spirit of the **Souper Bowl of Caring** organizational events which support food-related community charities, funds generated from Riviera's Souper Bowl events support our Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

This year two volunteers will provide **soups (regular and vegan)** and Riviera youth will be setting the tables and helping at the buffet.

Your potluck dishes are always welcome on First Sunday lunch: Breads, crackers, Salads, Appetizers, Desserts, Whatever (you're inspired to bring).



More details inside

For 2023,

\$10 if you intend to root for a team (Philadelphia Eagles vs. Kansas City Chiefs)

\$15 if you will watch the game, but don't care who wins

\$20 if you don't care who wins and won't be watching the Super Bowl

**Riviera's 2023 Souper Bowl fundraising goal is \$1,000**

What?

You don't carry cash or you won't be able to join us for lunch on Sunday?

Help Riviera reach our goal to help further our mission and vision to #TackleHunger.

Donate online at  
[www.rivierachurch.org/give](http://www.rivierachurch.org/give).

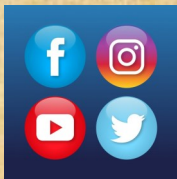
## Mission Statement

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](http://www.rivierachurch.org)  
Connect with us on social media



@RivieraChurch

All The People  
Ministers

Rev. Melanie Marsh  
Pastor

Dr. Walter Busse  
Director of Music  
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Session Members  
Susan Mazzola  
Clerk of Session

Karen Collier  
Laura Fothergill  
Amparo Hernandez  
Bryan Page  
Rey Prieto  
Michele Ready  
Alejandra Rondon  
Butch Sorenson

## Pastor's Reflection

Beloved Friends,

Our exploration of Spiritual Disciplines in recent weeks has been fun, energizing, and boundary-stretching for many of us. It is also a nice reminder that the season of Lent is just a few weeks away. As we 'try on' different Spiritual Disciplines in worship, I invite you to reflect during the week on whether this might be something you'd like to incorporate into your life of faith more broadly. Think about what it would look like to intentionally set time aside for Play, Creativity, Silence, or Scripture as part of a sacred practice over the coming Lenten season. Maybe you'd like to keep a journal of your experiences and discoveries, or share them with a friend or congregation member.

As we move toward Lent, I want to remind you to join us for fellowship and worship on Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will gather for a meal in the fellowship hall at 6:30pm and move into the Sanctuary for Worship at 7pm with communion and imposition of ashes.

Finally, as I write this note, we are preparing to reflect on Micah 6:6-8 in our Lectio Divina Spiritual Disciplines worship service on Sunday. Consider this brief reflection by Steve Garnaas-Holmes on the tenets the Prophet Micah lifts up for us all:

*The Universe will not applaud you  
for astonishing accomplishments.  
Angels won't go around talking about you  
for your notable achievements.  
God doesn't care if you succeed.*

*What gives the Beloved joy  
is that—even in your limited circumstances,  
with only the gifts the Spirit gives you,  
without notice, reward or acclaim—  
you act justly, love mercifully,  
and walk humbly with God.  
That really is all God asks.  
That is enough to give God deep joy,  
deep joy.*

- "**Great Achievement**" from *Unfolding Light*



Many Blessings,  
Rev. Melanie



## Mission News...

### Food Pantry Volunteers Needed



**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
**9:00 am - 12 noon**

Help people facing *food* insecurity  
by *volunteering*.

Sign up sheet is available in the  
Welcome Area in the sanctuary or  
call the Church Office at  
305-666-8586 x3 for available  
dates.

## Congregational Care News...

Becky F.—Feb. 4

Amy B.—Feb. 9

Diana I.—Feb. 13

Michele R.—Feb. 18

Barbara O.—Feb. 20



## Christian Education News...

Hybrid Adult Bible Study Sundays at 10 am Zoom Meeting ID: 894-7650-2156 Passcode: 333227

Children's Sunday School at 11:15 am in person

Women's Bible Study Class will be on February 15 at 7:30 pm via Zoom Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373  
Passcode: 757192. Contact Karen C for details

No Theology Uncorked in February—see you on March 12th at 5:00pm at Titanic Restaurant & Brewery.



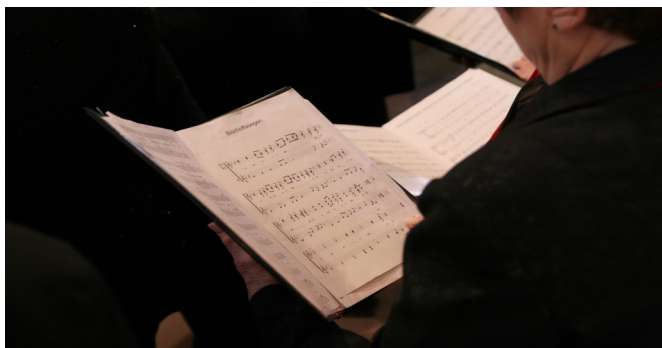
# Worship News...



**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)



- In-Person
- Zoom
- YouTube

**ASH Wednesday- Feb. 22**  
**Soup Supper @ 6:30 pm**  
**Service @ 7:00pm**