

The Spark

April 2023

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

@RIVIERACHURCH



PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2



Worship Service at 11:00 am
In-person, via Zoom, and via Livestream on
YouTube@rivierachurch

Free Community Meal and Blood Drive
after worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 6



Maundy Thursday, April 6th
Soup Supper at 6:30 pm.

Tenebrae Service with Communion at 7:00 pm.
In-person, via Zoom, and via Livestream on
YouTube@rivierachurch

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9

EASTER SUNDAY

Jesus Christ is risen!
Join us for a joyous Easter
celebration at 11:00 am.
In-person, via Zoom, and via
Livestream on
YouTube@rivierachurch

We invite families of all ages to join
us for an Easter Egg Hunt
immediately following worship

RIVIERACHURCH.ORG

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...

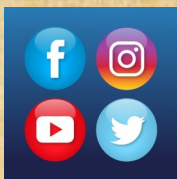
Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586

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

Rev. Melanie Marsh
Pastor

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

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

Dear Riviera Family,

Spring is a beautiful season of rebirth and reconnection! As we look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter Sunday, I hope you will consider not only joining us for worship and fellowship, but also bringing your friends. We love meeting new people and sharing with them the love of the Spirit that resides within our community. I want to extend a particular invitation for everyone to join us on Maundy Thursday for contemplative worship, and again on Easter Sunday for our celebration of the Resurrection. If you haven't been to in-person worship in a while, this is a great season to come in and see how everyone has grown and changed in recent months.

In other connection and gathering news, Pastor's Open House is returning this month on a new day. Join our family at home, Fridays this spring for backyard drinks, food, and fun! Our first gathering of the spring season will be **Friday April 21st at 5pm**. Bring a drink or treat to share, your favorite music, your friends, family, or just your wonderful self. We can't wait to see you!

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...

Jackie F—April 1
Valerie D—April 2
Laura F—April 5
Gavin H—April 7
Dustin D—April 11
Claire L—April 15
Mimi S—April 24
Alex V—April 25



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 April 20 at 7:30 pm via Zoom Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373
Passcode: 757192. Contact Karen C for details

Theology Uncorked —April 16—see article on next page about new location.

One More Thing...



Join us for Theology Uncorked at our New Location - **Unseen Creatures** in the Bird Road Arts District!

What is Theology Uncorked??

For generations thoughtful people of faith have gathered in public houses to share ideas, questions, and doubts about matters of life and spirit. One of the earliest and most legendary of these gatherings was the Inklings, formed in Oxford, England in the early 20th century. The Inklings counted among their members C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. The group met at a Pub called the Eagle and Child just off the campus of Oxford University for over 20 years. They were famous on campus and in the pub for their deep and wide-ranging conversations about faith, literature, philosophy, and role of humankind in the Universe. Theology Uncorked follows in this tradition.

Our friends at PubTheology.com describe it this way:

"The format is simple - beer, conversation, and God [and we at Riviera use these terms in the broadest sense imaginable!]. Come bring your questions, your curiosity, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives and life experiences. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way, and there's likely to be a good craft beer you haven't tried yet!"

No matter what your beverage or discussion topic of choice, we hope you'll join us for the conversation at Unseen Creatures - Sunday April 16th, at 5:30, 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, FL 33155



Riviera recently renewed its commitment as an Earth Care Congregation with the PC(USA). Earth Care Congregations are congregations that have committed to the "Earth Care Pledge" and accomplished a specific number of actions toward caring for God's earth in four categories: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. First certified in 2011, Riviera has participated in many different Earth Care activities including beach clean-ups, sustainable eating seminars, letter writing campaigns, and art projects with the CCC. Even our monthly luncheons celebrate our commitment to Earth Care by using reusable tableware.

The Mission Committee has the responsibility for overseeing our Earth Care pledge and its implications on evangelism, education, justice and peacemaking, worship and liturgy, public witness, global mission, and congregational service and action at the local community level. Every Committee and member has a role in making sure Riviera not only cares for, but also repairs, God's creation. If you would like to learn more about our Earth Care activities, contact Janet Peterson at janetmpetersonpg@gmail.com