

# The Spark

JULY 2023

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World

**A Season of Psalms starts July 2@ 11:00am**

**Starting July 16  
Psalm 23 Sermon Series**

**A Season of Psalms  
Summer Sermon Series  
Sunday, July 2 at 11:00 am ET.**

The words of this song of praise may be ancient, yet they resonate deeply with the concerns of our modern lives and our spiritual journeys. Through July and August, we will look at the beloved Psalm 23 one verse at a time, hearing it through word, song, poetry, and preaching that features women's voices within our worshiping community.

Join us in person, [on Zoom](#), or [live stream on our YouTube Channel](#).

## 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...

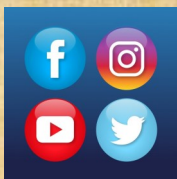
Riviera Presbyterian Church  
5275 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143  
(305) 666-8586

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  
[Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com)

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)

#### 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 community,

Have you ever wondered what it takes to become an elder in a PCU-SA congregation? The Presbyterian church has a strong tradition of calling servant leaders from within the community of faith. We believe this process is guided by the Holy Spirit and that we are all encouraged to take part in the practice of discernment.

This month we will begin our season of nomination. I invite you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you or someone you know in our community to step into a new or different role in leadership. We will share more information about the nominating process, ordination, and installation in the coming weeks. If you have thoughts or questions between now and then, feel free to contact our Nominating committee chair, Laura Fothergill - at [laura.fothergill@gmail.com](mailto:laura.fothergill@gmail.com)

Many blessings,  
Rev. Melanie



### Join me at Theology Uncorked

THEOLOGY  
**uncorked**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
ON SUNDAY, JULY 9  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami,

# Mission News...

## FRANCES TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The school year is finished, and, thanks to the generosity of Riviera Presbyterian church members, we were able to give all the first graders summer reading books of their own. The children were thrilled to receive them, and many started reading them even before they left the media center.

The first day of school will be here before we know it. On Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, Riviera will be bringing school supplies for the first-grade teachers. These will be kept in the classrooms for use throughout the year except for printer paper which will be delivered every month as needed.

Now is the time to start looking for school supply sales. We will be buying headphones from Amazon since we get the best price for them there. The tax holiday for school supplies is from July 24-August 6.

Please buy and bring in supplies from the following list and/or donate to the Backpacks and School Supplies Fund on the Riviera giving page.

Composition notebooks – wide ruled

Plastic two pocket folders with prongs

Crayons-24 packs

Pencils

Erasers

Glue sticks

Thin Expo markers

Sheet protectors

Dry erase markers with eraser

Index cards

Copy paper

Have a great summer,

Ellen Anderson

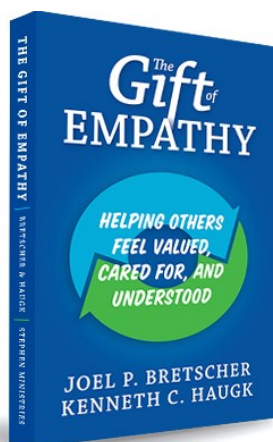
Mission Committee



Riviera's Food Pantry has been chosen for the month of July for the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. Purchase the designated \$12.99 bouquet at Winn Dixie located at 6770 Bird Road throughout July and the food pantry will receive \$1 per bouquet. Tell your friends and family.

## Congregational Care News...

Cindy H—July 7  
David G—July 25  
Dylan D—July 27



*The Gift of Empathy* takes a fresh look at this important skill, examining what empathy is and isn't, offering practical guidance for empathizing well, and showing how to respond with empathy in all kinds of situations and settings. With ready-to-use principles and a rich selection of real-life stories, this book will empower you to better understand, connect with, and empathize with family, friends, coworkers, and others you may relate to.

The Congregation Care Committee will offer a class on empathy using this book *The Gift of Empathy*.

The class will be after worship, with a light lunch and child care provided for four sessions—September 17 & 24, October 8 & 22.

If you are interested please RSVP to Karen C at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com)

## 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 June 21 at 7:30 pm via Zoom Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373 Passcode: 757192. Contact Karen C for details [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com)

**Theology Uncorked** —July 9 — Unseen Creatures - at 5:30, 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, FL 33155