

The Spark

AUGUST 2023

Embodying Love | Demanding Justice | Transforming the World



August

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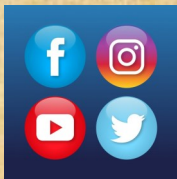
Mission Statement

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
rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com

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

Beloved Community,

Doesn't it feel like summer always goes by too fast?

One of my favorite questions of all time " Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? " comes from a line in a poem by Mary Oliver entitled, ***The Summer Day***. It's a reminder every time I see it that life, like summer, goes by too fast. We must dive in, we must swim, and sweat, and cry and look up at the stars whenever we can. I hope Mary Oliver's words are a prayer for you today as well - a reminder to live in the wild and the precious of this life while we are able.

The Summer Day by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie



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 16th, 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

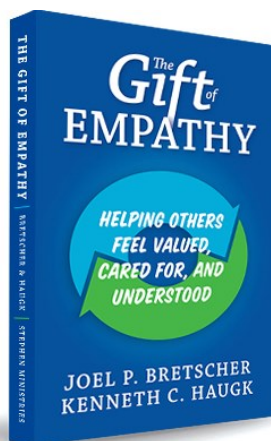


Sunday August 20 - Blessing of the Backpacks:

Join us on this first Sunday of the school year as we send our students and teachers into the new year with a blessing! Whatever age or stage of education you might be in, we want you to know that you are loved, and that the Holy One goes with you into this new school year. Bring your back pack, laptop case, lunch box, or tote to be blessed. Worship starts at 11am. All are welcome!

Congregational Care News...

Morgan A—August 6
Susan M—August 14
Joanne R—August 18



'I used to listen with my head, constantly thinking about what advice I could give or what I could say to make people feel better. Now I listen with my heart, seeking to feel the emotions they're having and letting them know I care. I like listening with my heart better, and I've found that the person I'm listening to appreciates it much more too.'

The Congregation Care Committee will offer a class on empathy using this book *The Gift of Empathy*. Cost of the book is \$15 but scholarships are available.

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

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 August 16 at 7:30 pm via Zoom Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373 Passcode: 757192. Contact Karen C for details kc33134@aol.com

Theology Uncorked—See you in Sept. — Unseen Creatures - at 5:30, 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, FL