

THE SPARK

September 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Spiritual Discipline: Listening Groups

Sunday, September 10
after worship

This month for our Spiritual Disciplines class we are going to practice something called Listening groups.

Listening groups is a form of communal prayer in which we use the art of listening to collectively hear the voice of God. One person shares a story based on a prompt and the rest of the group listens and notices prayerfully.

It's a beautiful way to give witness to the movement of God in a communal space.

Please RSVP to Anna at
rivierapreschristianed@gmail.com



FALL 2023 CALENDAR

SEASON OF CREATION

Over the coming fall season, we invite you to join us at Riviera Presbyterian as we celebrate the Season of Creation and the many gifts of our natural world. From meditation to special events; we will be out in the neighborhood, enjoying and exploring our local Gables and South Miami habitat. Here's how you can get involved in the celebration.

SEPT
03

ALL OF CREATION

11AM Interfaith Prayer Service
12PM Free Community Pot-Luck

SEPT
10

THE AIR

11AM Morning Breathing Meditation
12PM Neighborhood Birding Expedition

SEPT
17

THE WATERS

11AM Presentation by Miami Waterkeeper
04PM Chasing Coral Film Screening

SEPT
24

THE EARTH

11AM Earth Care Pilgrimage
11:30AM Community Bike Tour

OCT
01

THE PEOPLE

11AM Presentation by PACT
12PM Free Community Pot-Luck

OCT
08

THE ANIMALS

11AM Blessing of the Animals (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi)

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG



MELANIE'S MESSAGE



September 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

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

11:00am Sunday Worship Service

Office Hours M - R 9:30-6:30

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

Beloved friends,

This fall, we are joining communities of faith from across the country in celebrating The Season of Creation in worship. This is a nationwide initiative of communities committed to Earth Care and environmental justice. This year's theme is Let Justice and Peace Flow, inspired by the Hebrew scripture from the prophet Amos, "But let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"(Amos 5:24).

Through the months of September and October, we will explore our call as God's people to be caretakers of the Earth. At Riviera, this is an essential element of our identity and calling as Christ followers. As neighbors in Miami, we recognize just how much is at stake. This spring and summer, we've experienced an unprecedented wave of climate emergencies in our region and beyond. Our local ecosystem is beautiful and unique. It is also fragile and precious. Our faith tells us that God calls us to join with our neighbors in protecting and preserving this corner of creation where we all live together.

Over the coming season, I hope you will join us, not only for worship but also as we get out into the neighborhood, enjoying and exploring our local Gables and South Miami habitat. Look at the front page of this issue of The Spark to see how you can get involved.

--Blessings,
Melanie Marsh, Pastor

CONGREGATION CARE

September 2023

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Happy
★
Birthday

September Birthdays

Kevin F - 8

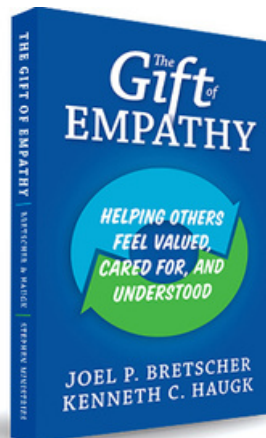
Juliana O - 14

Christian M - 19

Lexi H - 23

Ellie R - 28

Sage S - 28



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 situations and settings.

With ready-to-use principles and a rich selection of real-life stories, this book will empower you to understand better, connect with, and empathize with family, friends, coworkers, and others you may relate to.

The Congregation Care Committee will offer classes on empathy using the book **The Gift of Empathy**.

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

If you are interested, RSVP to Karen C at kc33134@aol.com

Zoom option also available.

A close-up of a bright, glowing sparkler with many sparks radiating outwards, set against a dark background.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September 2023

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY @ 10 AM

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study is the best way to explore the day's scripture, ask questions, and connect with new and old friends. You do not have to be a member of the church to join this small group class. We offer the class in person and via Zoom. Child care is also available.

Meeting ID: 894-7650-2156 Passcode: 333227



Children's Sunday School

"Don't you love New York in the fall? "It makes me want to buy school supplies." This is one of my favorite lines from the classic romcom You've Got Mail. It is one of my favorites because I love fall. I love going up north for leaf peeping, the inventive autumnal drinks that Starbucks hypnotizes me into buying, and the excitement the new year brings.

You feel this excitement in the kids at Riviera. A new school year brings new possibilities. It brings new friends, new teachers, and new knowledge. Our children's ministry will acknowledge that newness with a new curriculum that will encourage our children to love God and others! And our fall programming brings new activities for all ages. Riviera does fall well.

Don't you love Miami in the Fall? --- Anna

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September 2023

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Women's Study Group Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Join us for this year's women's study using the book - The Good and Beautiful Bible Study - Empowering Stories from the Bible and What it Means for our Lives Today.

Try it out this month - Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373 Passcode: 757192

If you have any questions please contact Karen at kc33134@aol.com

THEOLOGY ungearorked

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



Join us at:
4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami,



We will discuss our capitalist and Christian structures of economics, justice, and mercy. How do these two things interact with each other? How do they compete? How do we see them working together?

I look forward to sharing a meal with you and discussing this topic.

---Rev. Melanie

P.S. Food trucks are on site

FELLOWSHIP

September 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Save the Date

Saturday, Nov. 4 5-7pm
Riviera Game Night

More details will be provided soon - but save the date now. Games for all ages, food and fun!



We are always looking for volunteers. It is a wonderful way to connect with church and community members. You can see the opportunities to get involved and serve below. Help us embody love and transform the world!

<https://rivierachurch.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

MISSION

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Friends, we need volunteers to staff the food pantry on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

All you have to do is get the person's name, give them a bag of food, and assemble another bag according to the list in the pantry to replace it.

Please check your calendars and sign up on the clipboard in the Welcome Area/Narthex for one or more shifts or email the church office rivierachurch@gmail.com

Thank you!

S.P.F. STEWARDSHIP FINANCE PROPERTY

September 2023

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Meet our new church bookkeeper

For those who don't know who I am. My name is Diana Florez. I'm a Single mother of two beautiful boys, Liam and Leo. My whole life and beliefs have completely changed the moment I set foot at Riviera Presbyterian Church on March 20th, 2022.

I am beyond blessed to be part of this beautiful family who are always there for one another and who work together to make our community a better place.

I am honored to be part of the Riviera team as their bookkeeper and helping in anyway I can.

Per Capita 2023

Reminder: Per Capita for 2023 is \$37 per active adult member. To donate, please go to our website www.rivierachurch.org/give

A close-up of a large, bright sparkler exploding, with many smaller sparklers visible in the background, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

WORSHIP

September 2023

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SEASON OF CREATION

SEPT 10

11AM Morning Breathing Meditation

12PM Neighborhood Birding Expedition - A birding guide will be provided.

SEPT 17

11AM Presentation by Miami Waterkeeper -

04PM Chasing Coral Film Screening

SEPT 24

11AM Earth Care Pilgrimage

11:30AM Community Bike Tour - Guide will be available soon

OCT 01

11AM Presentation by PACT & World Communion Sunday

12PM Free Community Pot-Luck

OCT 08

11AM Blessing of the Animals (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi)

Keep up to date on our social media channels, One More Thing and Sunday Reminders e-blasts.



United
Women
in Faith

CLIMATE JUSTICE DAY SATURDAY, SEPT 16, 2023

9 A.M. TO NOON

OPA LOCKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

630 Sharar Avenue

Opa-locka, FL 33054

LET'S PLANT TREES @ OPA LOCKA UMC

and help grow the County's tree canopy!

- ✓ Mini-Tree Giveaway
- ✓ Tree Mulching, Weeding & Trimming
- ✓ Garden and Hedge Planting



Visit Our Website for more
information & to volunteer:

www.southeastdistrictuwfaith.org

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. it does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:8



FALL 2023 COURSES

COMMUNICATION TOOLBOX

SAT., SEPT. 9, 2023

9AM-1PM

ON ZOOM

DECIPHERING GENDER & ORIENTATION

SAT., SEPT. 30, 2023

9AM-1PM

ON ZOOM

A COMMUNICATION CALLED "BULLYING"

SAT., OCT. 14, 2023

9AM-1PM

ON ZOOM

MASCULINITY DISTINGUISHED

SAT., NOV. 4, 2023

9AM-1PM

ON ZOOM

Register at: yesinstitute.org/crf

THIS SUMMER @ RPC

September 2023

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I've been
meaning
to ask...



A Season of Psalms
Sundays @ 11:00am

