

THE SPARK

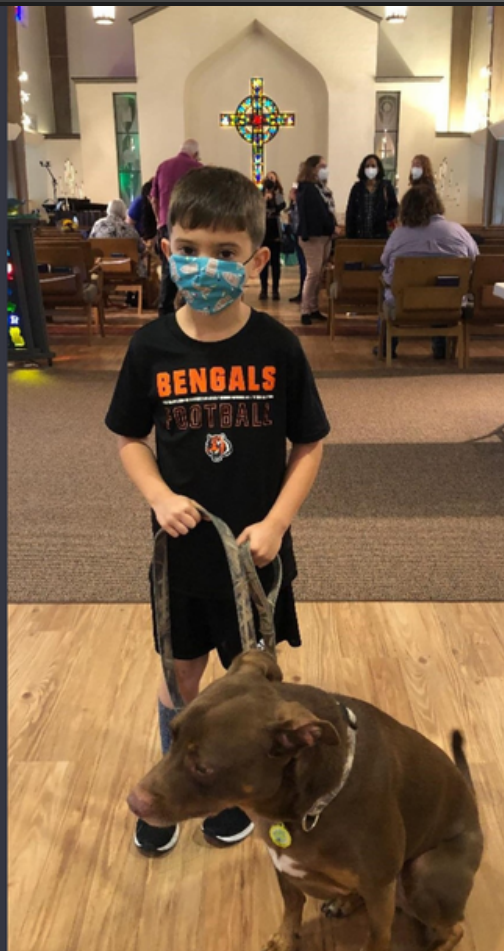
October 2023

Embodying Love – Demanding Justice – Transforming the World



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Have your beloved pet
blessed
Sunday, October 8 during
the 11 am worship service



We are very excited to meet your furry family members, so we have a friendly reminder to ensure everyone has a fun and safe day. Please remember to keep your well-behaved, pet-friendly and people-friendly pets leashed and/or contained at all times before, during and after the service, both inside and outside of the sanctuary. If you feel the service may be too stressful for your little one, you're encouraged to bring a photo of them for the blessing.

www.rivierachurch.org



MELANIE'S MESSAGE

October 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](https://www.instagram.com/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 Community,

Are you curious about banned books?

Wondering what all the hype is about?

Feeling furious at the news of book burnings and book bans around our state and across our country?

You're not alone.

Reading banned books is not a new thing. In fact, throughout history, whenever societies have tried to silence information, stories, and voices that challenged a dominant worldview, there have been courageous and thoughtful people who came together to seek out that knowledge, and make sure those voices and stories were not lost or forgotten.

At Riviera Presbyterian, a commitment to open minded conversation around big questions and challenging issues runs deep in our faith tradition. Also a big part of our tradition - living in communion and community with our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ.

The month of October marks National Book Month and LGBTQ+ history month. In honor of both of these celebrations, and in faithfulness to our call as disciples of Christ, we are featuring a weekly Banned Book Story Hour and discussion groups throughout the month of October.

Our books will be geared toward families of all ages, and focus on stories that center LGBTQ family experiences. But you don't have to be queer, trans, or any other particular identity to love these books, or to join us for the discussion. The only requirement is that you are a beloved child of God, and that's all of us - no matter who's in our family, what we look like, or who we love!

We've partnered with our friends at the YES Institute to put together a collection of family-friendly books for this project, and we'll share links to many more, as well as info on how you can check out other Banned Book Clubs in our community.

Stories will be read live, every Wednesday at noon on my pastor's Instagram account [@nola.timera](https://www.instagram.com/nola.timera). We'll also share them on our website. Discussion groups will be held in our sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons at 5:30. We'll talk about the book, the author, why some have tried to ban the story, and why we think it's important to share.

I hope you will join us for the conversation.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie Marsh

CONGREGATION CARE

October 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World



October Birthdays

Stephanie G - Oct. 1

James B - Oct. 2

Cris S. - Oct. 3

Rey P. - Oct. 6

Pam A. - Oct. 12

Karen C. - Oct. 15

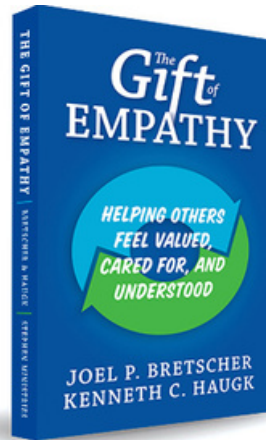
John G. - Oct. 16

Emilee G. Oct. 21

Vivian G. - Oct. 23

Ruth A. - Oct. 25

Bryan P. - Oct. 27



This class has taught me that learning to listen to help friends and family members by letting them allow me to help.-- Butch

I am learning and benefiting so much from reading the book "A Gift in Empathy" under the leadership of Karen Collier and Melanie Marsh.

What I have enjoyed most is coming together after church service, reflecting on what we have read, and listening to others' input, observations, and helpful suggestions. This group is comprised of amazing men and women who are open to sharing life experiences and are welcoming to learning how to grow by listening to others. We are sharing different tools that have worked for us as empathis as well as learning how to accept empathy from others. --- Elaine



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS

October 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

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



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

"The Women's Study group is going strong! We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 on Zoom.

We are currently studying from The Good and Beautiful Bible Study. This month, we will be discussing Elizabeth and Esther.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com

THEOLOGY
uncorked

WE WILL RETURN
ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS

October 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Dear Church,

On October 15, we are starting a new multi-age curriculum called Feasting on the Word for our kids.

It is a lectionary-based curriculum that uses different crafts and activities to help our kiddos learn and understand various Bible passages.

One of the passages we will cover this month is from Matthew, where Jesus answers, "Which is the greatest commandment of the Law?"

Because the curriculum follows the lectionary, our kids will mostly be on a journey through the book of Matthew this fall.

We are excited to try out this curriculum and have our kiddos experience the scriptures this way!

Keep looking for many exciting kiddo activities between now and the end of December!



Anna

Butterfly Choir



40th Anniversary of Teaching @ CCC



Thank you
Ms. Arleen
for your
dedication
to our
children

Pumpkin Decorating





F E L L O W S H I P

October 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World



HALLOWEEN MOVIE

LIVE MUSIC SCORE

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF THE CLASSIC
BORIS KARLOFF - FRANKENSTEIN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 7:00PM

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5275 SUNSET DRIVE MIAMI FL 33143

WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG

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!



October 2023 Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

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



October is upon us, and the kickoff of Socktober - a Riviera tradition providing white socks for the homeless population. Please bring white socks or ship them to the church through the month of October. We use these socks in the single food bags we give out of the food pantry and share with the community foot care program run by Camillus House.



Socktober 2023



S.P.F. STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE & PROPERTY

October 2023

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

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 or use the blue Per Capita Envelopes located on the Welcome Area/Nathex table.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - WHY WE GIVE

Riviera's Mission Statement states that we are a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

Our Ministry Statement states:

- We engage with each other in joyful worship & and thoughtful education;
- We dedicate our resources and talents to God's work;
- And we open our hearts in active mission to others.

This is why we give to Riviera:

- To be able to provide a sacred space for those who have been hurt by "the church," those who feel they are not welcomed at any church.
- To share Christ's message in joyful worship as we gather in a sacred space filled with light and the Holy Spirit.
- To wrestle with faith issues confronting our society today and strive to make our faith personally relevant and meaningful.
- To work for justice and peace for all of God's children.

October 15th is our annual stewardship campaign kickoff. You will be hearing more from this committee on giving in 2024.



October 2023 Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

VOLUNTEERING AT RPC

We are always looking for volunteers. It is a great way to connect with members and friends of the church as well as with the community. You can sign up to serve with us below and see the exciting opportunities we have to get involved. Help us embody love and transform the world!

USHERING

We welcome anyone who can usher. For those new to our congregation, you will find that ushering is a great way to meet people and an easy way to help!

Usher duties include handing out bulletins, helping seat people with difficulty walking, providing hearing devices as needed, and being a welcoming presence for everyone who joins us.

Please click on the button below to see available dates. Thank you so much for your participation.



LITURGIST

A liturgist is needed for each worship service to help lead our worship. The liturgy and readings will be provided before the service so you can practice and ask questions. Training is available for anyone who would like it; please get in touch with Pastor Melanie.

You can click on the button below to see available dates. Thank you so much for your participation.





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

Bonnie's Carrot Soufflé recipe

There were many requests for this recipe that fooled many to think it was a sweet potato casserole

Ingredients:

4 pounds carrots, peeled and cut into approximately 1 inch chunks
2 ½ cups sugar
1 T baking powder
1 T vanilla extract
¼ c all-purpose flour
6 eggs
2 sticks butter

Instructions:

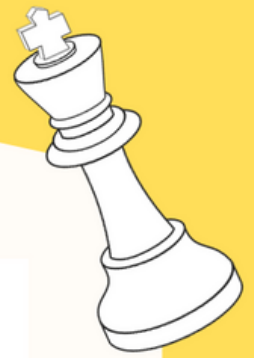
Boil carrots until very soft. Drain.
Put carrots in mixer, add sugar, baking powder, and vanilla
Whip until smooth.
Add flour and mix.
Beat eggs and then add to mixture, mix well.
Pour mixture into lightly buttered 9X13 casserole dish.

Topping:

1 c. brown sugar
1/3 c flour
1/3 c butter
1 c chopped nuts
Mix all ingredients together and spoon over carrot mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



EVERYONE
IS INVITED
TO JOIN

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

All Ages

Saturday, November 4
5-7pm
Fellowship Hall



Games to Play

**BOARD GAMES, CARD
GAMES, CORN HOLE, ETC**

RSVP: rivierachurch@gmail.com www.rivierachurch.org
More information: 305-666-8586x3 or rivierachurch@gmail.com

