



Welcome! – Riviera Church is a progressive-thinking community in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are a family church where families come in all compositions.

We are a thinking church that wrestles with faith issues confronting our society today and strives to make our faith personally relevant and meaningful.

We are a mission-driven church that since the civil rights movement has worked for justice and peace for all of God's children.

In our worship, education, and mission, we strive that all will know they are loved unconditionally.



5275 Sunset Drive | Miami, FL 33143  
rivierachurch.org  
305-666-8586

## Ministry Statement

- 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.
- 
- *We celebrate The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome at the table.*
  - *Child Care –infant through age five- is available. Our childcare attendant, Josephine, will greet you in the Welcome Area/Narthex.*
  - *Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.*
  - *Restrooms are accessible by the ramp in the sanctuary. Follow the signs. Changing tables are in both restrooms.*
  - *We want to serve you. If you have a ministry need, don't hesitate to contact Congregational Care Committee Chair Karen at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com). For prayer requests, please email [bfah@me.com](mailto:bfah@me.com)*
  - *Riviera Presbyterian Church is a proud member of these organizations and a Matthew 25 congregation.*



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS



Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities."  
([www.pcusa.org/matthew25](http://www.pcusa.org/matthew25))

**Riviera Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, November 19, 2023**  
**Stewardship Week 4**  
**“What I Love About This Church”**

*Please note that this service is broadcast via live stream and digitally recorded.*  
*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR & WELCOMING THE  
LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE** UMCH#399 **Take My Life, and Let It Be**

**WELCOME**

**Ruling Elder, Laura Fothergill**



*Please let us know you worshipped with us today by scanning this QR code and filling out our welcome form online or using the Welcome Pad on the aisle seat. If you are watching online, say “Hello” in the chat.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Laura Fothergill**

One: The time for harvest is close at hand.

What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

**We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.**

Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

**We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.**

Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

**Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude.**

Let us worship God together!

# \*OPENING HYMN

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

## God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B $\flat$

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) F (Bm) Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, ric - es  
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) B $\flat$  (D) F (A) C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B $\flat$  (A) C (D) F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) Dm (G) B $\flat$  (D) F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne,  
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1963. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1861, *id.*  
MUSIC: The Sacred Harp, 1844; *arr.* James H. Wood, 1958  
Net © 1961, rev. 1969 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)  
Music Journ. © 1958, rev. 1966 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

BEACH SPRING  
B.7.8.7.D

**CALL TO CONFESSION****Kathy Stults**

God's expectations of us are higher than we can achieve. Yet, God's mercy when we fail, is beyond anything we can imagine. With humility and gratitude for God's unfailing love, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION****Kathy Stults**

**You know each of us by name, O God, and in your sight, we are precious and holy. Yet our minds cannot comprehend the vision of your glory, or the vastness of your love. We often fail to see one another in the same precious and holy light that you see us. We do not extend the generosity, and compassion to our neighbor and to the stranger that you have given to us.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Grant that as we glimpse your greatness, reflected in your many gifts, we may always return to you and praise you, by loving others. Amen**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS****Kathy Stults**

Beloved, hear this good news: As far as the east is from the west – as far as the mountains are from the depths of the seas, even further has God removed our sins from us, in the love of Christ our Redeemer. Know that this is always true: In Christ, we are all forgiven.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE****Laura Fothergill**

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also, with you.

**\*GLORIA PATRI #634 To God Be the Glory**  
*To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O  
come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the  
glory: great things he has done!*

**TIME FOR ALL AGES**

**Anna E. Rosas**

**CHILDREN'S REPOSE #647 Give Thanks**  
*Give thanks with a grateful heart.  
Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ the  
Son. (2x) Give thanks!*

*--Children five and under will follow Ms. Josephine.  
--Children six and older will follow Ms. Anna.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**John Rutter**

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Karen Moyer**  
God of all Creation, in you are hidden all the treasures  
of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may  
see the wonders of your Word. Give us grace that we  
may clearly understand and freely choose the way of  
your wisdom. Amen.

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING    Matthew 25:14-23**

**Karen Moyer**

<sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **Second Reading**

**Matthew 25:24-30**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

<sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.

Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’ <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

**WHY I LOVE THIS CHURCH**

**Butch Sorenson**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #70**

**What Does the Lord Require of You?**

***1. What does the Lord require of you?***

***What does the Lord require of you?***

***2. Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.***

***3. To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.***



## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Laura Fothergill**

*If you are attending in person, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by raising your hand, and a member of our worship team will bring the microphone to you. Remember to bring the microphone close to your mouth; do not hold it down by your chest.*

**Please remember to guard people's privacy and ensure you have their permission to use their full name when requesting prayers in this public format.**

*If you are watching on Zoom, we invite you to raise your hand and unmute yourself when your name is called. If you are watching our live stream or on-demand, you may enter your joys and concerns in the comments, and they will be sent to our active prayer group or email our prayer coordinator directly at [bfah@me.com](mailto:bfah@me.com).*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

*We appreciate the diverse traditions and backgrounds that make up the Riviera community of faith and encourage you to use whatever words for the Lord's prayer are meaningful for you.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER unison**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **CALL TO THE OFFERING**

**Kathy Stults**

**Let us now with glad and joyful hearts Give thanks to God for all of God's many blessings, and give back to God with equal generosity.**

## THE ACT OF GRATITUDE

*The physical act of giving by placing your offering in the offering plate is a tangible act of gratitude. However, if your pledge is mailed or sent electronically, you may still participate in this act of gratitude by placing the envelope inside the bulletin into the offering plate to symbolize your gratitude and participation in the worship service.*

- You may leave your donation in the offering plate.
- You may donate today with a credit/debit card at [www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org), click the GIVE button, or use the scan me QRcode with your phone camera.
- You may download the free Vanco Mobile app (IOS & Android) to set up recurring donations or online payment via your bank bill pay program.
- You may also mail in your check to the church at Riviera Presbyterian Church at 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143



## OFFERTORY #526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*Please stand for the Doxology*

## Doxology

R. Avery & D. Marsh

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all crea- tures  
here be - low. Praise God ye hosts in heav'n a - bove. Praise  
God the tri - ni - ty of love. A - men.  
A - men. A - men. A - men.  
A - men. A - men. A - men.

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### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Kathy Stults**

Gracious God, we thank you for your many blessings. In gratitude we give you our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace and use them according to your will. Bind us together with Christ in love and service for the sake of the healing of the world, in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Butch Sorenson**

# \*CLOSING HYMN #700

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

## 700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me



1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)



where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na



live so (live so)  
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
 pray so (pray so)  
 sing so (sing so)



where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!)  
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)



This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

TEXT: African American spiritual  
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Wendell P. Whaker, 1994  
 Mus.: Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whaker

I'M GONNA LIVE  
 irregular

POSTLUDE #719 Come Labor On



Join the excitement and camaraderie after the worship service to assist in adorning the sanctuary in preparation for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and contribute to the festive atmosphere of the church. By joining in the decoration efforts, you will help create a warm and inviting space that reflects the joy and anticipation of the holiday season. Whether it's hanging colorful ornaments, arranging beautiful wreaths, or draping twinkling lights, every contribution is valuable and appreciated. Let your creativity shine as you help transform the sanctuary into a magical space that will uplift the spirits of all who enter. Together, we can make this Advent and Christmas season truly special.

*A pizza lunch will be provided to participants.*



# DONATE BLOOD

**Riviera Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, December 3**  
**11:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

All donors will receive\*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood Blanket**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

*Fact: A+, B+, O+, AB+ & AB- are blood types recommended for platelet donation.*



Appointments are encouraged, please visit [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and use **sponsor code 1738**

#### ID REQUIRED

\*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit [oneblood.org/details](http://oneblood.org/details).

Donors  
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



**oneblood**  
Share your passion

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view giving money to their church merely to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Stewardship Committee selected this approach this year by providing you with testimonials from church members speaking about their love for Riviera and what this church community has done for them and the community at large.

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday (November 26), we ask our members and friends to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

A narrative budget was sent via email, if you did not receive it please let the church office know and one will be provided.



## 2024 Pledge Card

In support of its 2024 operating expenditures, I/we pledge to Riviera Presbyterian Church the total sum of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

I will give this pledge \_\_\_\_\_ weekly, \_\_\_\_\_ monthly  
\_\_\_\_\_ other

Please print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also pledge online at:

<https://rivierachurch.org/2024-pledge/>

**Our Members/Friends goal is \$140,000.**



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**Riviera Presbyterian Church – PCUSA**  
*(A Vibrant Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)*  
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[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com) | [rivierachurch.org](http://rivierachurch.org)

**Mission Statement**

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

**Ministers**

**Pastor**

**Director of Music**

**Youth Education & Outreach**

**Certified Church Administrator**

**Nursery Caregiver**

**Sacred Space Caretaker**

**All the People**

**Rev. Melanie Marsh**

**Dr. Walter Busse**

**Anna Rosas**

**Barbara Prieto**

**Josephine Gurri**

**Glenda Bertran**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Session</b>
<u><b>Class of 2024</b></u>	<u><b>Class of 2025</b></u>	<u><b>Class of 2026</b></u>
Laura Fothergill	Karen Collier	Amparo Hernandez
Rey Prieto	Susan Mazzola	Kathy Stults
Alejandra Rondon		Lisa Torchut
Butch Sorenson		
Cris Sweeny		