



Welcome! – Riviera Church is an unapologetic 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. Gluten-free option available.
- 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. For prayer requests, please email 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)

**Riviera Presbyterian Church
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sunday, February 11, 2024**

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#189 O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

WELCOME

Rev. Melanie Marsh



Please let us know you worshiped 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

Rev. Melanie Marsh

One: God encounters the world,
ALL: and the world changes.

We encounter God,
and we are transformed.

In the brightest of day,
in the deepest of night,
on mountain,
in valley,
everywhere.

**In this time, together,
we invite God
to open our eyes
to the transformation
of our lives.**

And through the change –
**we worship God.
Alleluia!**

***HYMN#193 Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain**

CALL TO CONFESSION **Susan Mazzola**
Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And rather than condemn us, Christ came to be with us. Christ lived among us and loved us, Christ died and rose again for us. Let us confess, believe in Christ's mercy.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION **Susan Mazzola**
Holy God, we confess that we do not always trust You. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart. You have given us a love greater than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security. Forgive us.

Call us back to You, so that we may not be afraid. Help us to hear your words, as the disciples did on the day of the Transfiguration; may we rise up, and not be afraid. In the name of Jesus, who loves us and offers us forgiveness, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS **Susan Mazzola**

Hear and believe this good news:

You are God's Beloved.

With you, God is well pleased.

You are renewed and restored, you are forgiven and loved,
you are a new creation. Everything old has passed away. See,
everything is becoming new.

In Christ you are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE **Rev. Melanie Marsh**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

***GLORIA PATRI #582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose
grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

TIME FOR ALL AGES **Rev. Melanie Marsh**

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE #80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

*-- Children 5 and under will go with Josephine; older
children will attend Sunday School*

CHORAL ANTHEM#192 Shine, Jesus, Shine

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Susan Mazzola**

Reveal your presence to us this day, O God of love, and glory.

As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain,
send your Spirit to teach us all that we need for today.

May the brilliance of your face illuminate this moment

as we hear your Word proclaimed and may we, your people, be ready to receive and to share all that we have heard.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

Susan Mazzola

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me

as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Melanie Marsh

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Rev. Melanie Marsh

HYMN OF RESPONSE #626 As the Deer

As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs after you. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Melanie Marsh

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.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Melanie Marsh

O God who loves us, who is with us through thick and thin, who promises us life in abundance, we come to you in prayer.

In the calm of this beautiful space, we are mindful of those who do not know the beauty of friendship and community,

the calm of daily bread, the peace of life without violence of war.

We lift up to you those people around the world who suffer this day – the poor, the hungry, those facing rampant disease. We lift up to you those places torn apart by war and conflict and by natural disaster. As if we need to lift them up to you – you are already there, compassionate and strong. Help us to follow your example, and to help as we can.

In the calm of this beautiful space, we are mindful of those in our community who are wracked with worry and anxiety – about their health or the health of those they love; about work and finances; about their kids' well-being and their education and their social lives and their education. We especially pray for:

[PRAYER REQUESTS]

In the calm of this beautiful space, we give you thanks for this time. We lift up to you all our praise for the good in life and for the struggles that help us to grow; we lift up to you that which we cannot name aloud. We lift up to you our hearts, knowing that you have had them all along. Show us, God of grace and glory, how we can extend your love, your care, your provision. Enlarge our hearts to love even more. Enlarge our minds to creative answers. We offer our prayers in Jesus' name, saying together...

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 OFFERING

Susan Mazzola

All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. Let us now with joyful and generous hearts return to God a portion of the gifts we have been given.

***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.*

How You Can Give

- ACH**
You may set up online payment via your bank bill pay program.
- VANCO MOBILE**
You may download the free Vanco app (IOS & Android)
- MAIL CHECK TO US**
Riviera Presbyterian Church 5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

DIGITAL PAYMENT

Cash App **venmo**

@rivierachurch5275
305-666-8586

www.rivierachurch.org

OFFERTORY#156 Sing of God Made Manifest

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows four staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the doxology, the second and third staves contain the second and third lines, and the fourth staff contains the final line. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases held over from the previous line.

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow,
Praise him all crea - tures here be - low.
Praise him a - bove ye heav - en - ly host,
Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1675-1748, and William Kethe, d. 1593; adapt. by Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
tune: John Hatton, c.1719-1793; adapt. by George Coles, b.1792-1858; arr. by Roberta Martin, 1912-1969, © 1968 OneLicense.net #94984

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Susan Mazzola

Generous God, bless these our gifts of grateful offering. Use them to feed. Use them to heal. Use them to help. Use them to make whole your beloved community. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Butch Sorenson

*CLOSING HYMN#625 How Great Thou Art

**Riviera Presbyterian Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Reporting on 2023**

February 4, 2024

Zoom Meeting ID: 829-1129-7118 Passcode: 056833

AGENDA

INSTRUCTIONS

For those in person: For questions, please raise your hand.

For those on Zoom: You must use your computer or device with a web camera. Calling in without video for this meeting will not be possible as we do not permit that at in-person meetings. You must show yourself on the screen to participate, and your first and last name must be on the bottom of your screen – no name slide or picture is accepted.

For questions, please raise your hand in front of your face, and the moderator will call your name.

For Voting, please raise your hand in front of your face. Please keep your hand raised until all votes are counted and you are instructed to place your hand down.

The CHAT will not be monitored.

OPENING PRAYER Rev. Melanie Marsh, Moderator

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Susan Mazzola, Clerk of Session

PURPOSE FOR MEETING

Moderator

1. COMMITTEES OF SESSION REPORTS

Written reports can be found in the online packet or at the back table.

2. OVERVIEW OF 2024 BUDGET Kathy Stults

Line item budget available upon request to Diana at rivierapresfinance@gmail.com

3. DREAMS & VISIONS FOR 2024 Moderator

Video from Rev. Geoff McLean, Associate General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Tropical Florida

4. MISSION STUDY

Susan Mazzola

BENEDICTION

Rev. Melanie Marsh

POSTLUDE #190 Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Your donations throughout the season of Lent will provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Throughout Lent, you will hear stories of how each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The offering provides us with a way to share God's love with our neighbors near and far who are in need.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday

Start your Lenten journey with RPC at our Ash Wednesday Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

Soup Supper at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Worship Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Lent Events with Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, February 28: 7:00 pm Taize worship service and Fellowship at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, March 3: 3:00 pm Creative Movement at Riviera Presbyterian Church - more details to follow.

Sunday, March 17: 3:00 pm Ancient and Modern Psalms at Greynolds Park - more details to follow.

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday worship service at Riviera Presbyterian Church

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion

6:30 pm Soup Supper

7:00 pm Worship

Friday, March 29: Good Friday TBA

Sunday, March 31: 11:00 am Easter Sunday worship followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Holy Grounds

Riviera's Journey to a Called Pastor

Next Step – MISSION STUDY

- September 2021 - The Rev. Missy Shiverick retires after ministering to Riviera for five years.
- October 2021 – The Presbytery appoints The Rev. Dr. David Welton as the interim moderator of Riviera's Session. An Ad Hoc committee is formed to begin the process of searching for a Transitional Pastor.
- July 2022 - The Rev. Melanie Marsh is welcomed as Riviera's Transitional Pastor.
- January 2023 - Melanie takes the lead on Riviera's journey to a Called Pastor by facilitating the process of Devotion, Visioning, and Discernment with The Session during their meetings and with the congregation during worship.

The journey brings us to now, when we will begin the work of researching and preparing a Mission Study - a necessary step in this process to a Called Pastor.

A Mission Study is a written document that comprehensively examines all aspects of Riviera. Our history, the congregation and its members and staff, local community demographics, missions, The Child Care Center, finances, stewardship program and participation, property and buildings, music program, and adult and youth programs. The document is ultimately submitted to the Presbytery for their approval before Riviera can proceed to the next step in the journey – forming a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Our mentor from Presbytery in this process is the Rev. Geoff McLean, Associate General Presbyter, and our leader at Riviera, Melanie. Our goal is to complete the Mission Study document by May 2024. Every Session member will be involved and responsible for one or more sections of the document.

Members of the congregation will be asked for their input, and if interested, you can be involved in the research and writing of one or more sections of the Mission Study.

We will update you as the project progresses and the pieces come together. The Session is excited and looks forward to Geoff's input, direction, and Melanie's steady leadership.



Florida Grand Opera: From the Page to the Stage

Great Literary Works Reimagined on the Operatic Stage

Composers and librettists frequently take inspiration from great works of literature, bringing larger-than-life adaptations to the operatic stage. Featuring selections like “La fleur” from *Carmen* by Georges Bizet and the tomb scene from Charles Gounod’s *Romeo et Juliette*, the Florida Grand Opera Studio Artists perform excerpts from some of the best musical interpretations of the world’s most celebrated authors, demonstrating first-hand how great music can enhance great storytelling

Friday, February 16 at 7:30 pm

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive, Miami 33143

Florida Grand Opera: Drop the Mic!

Broadway Musicals Without Microphones

revisits the Golden Age of Broadway when stars belted their best without the use of microphones. Featuring classics like “The Impossible Dream” from *Man of La Mancha* and “I’m in Love with a Wonderful Guy” from *South Pacific*, the Florida Grand Opera Studio Artists will serenade with classic Broadway songs and scenes as they were intended to be heard—unamplified, unaugmented, and unbelievable.

Friday, March 15 at 7:30 pm

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive, Miami 33143

General Admission: \$15 Subscribers and Donors: Free. To reserve tickets, call the FGO Ticket Office at (800) 741-1010 or e-mail sales@fgo.org.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Souper Thank You! The RPC community delivered “souper” results and helped the ... Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you to all who participated in this annual event. The current total is \$485.76. We will keep you updated as new donations are received. It is not too late to donate. See page 10 in the bulletin for ways to donate. Funds go towards purchasing food for the Riviera Food Pantry and a donation to the PCUSA Hunger Program.

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(A Vibrant Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)
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rivierachurch@gmail.com | rivierachurch.org

Mission Statement

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

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Rev. Melanie Marsh
Director of Music	Dr. Walter Busse
Certified Church Administrator	Barbara Prieto
Church Bookkeeper	Diana Florez
Nursery Caregiver	Josephine Gurri
Sacred Space Caretaker	Glenda Bertran

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