

# THE SPARK



May 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

## HolyCow!

### Report to the Congregation



Once again, The Session deeply appreciates all Riviera members and friends who dedicated their time to completing this important survey.

Your responses are instrumental in guiding our future strategies aimed at furthering Riviera's mission inside and beyond its doors.

You will start to hear about the survey results and the next steps throughout the month of May.

Stay tuned.



# MELANIE'S MESSAGE

May 2024    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](http://www.rivierachurch.org)  
Connect with us on social media  
@RivieraChurch

All The People  
Ministers

Rev. Melanie Marsh  
Pastor  
[Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com)

Dr. Walter Busse  
Director of Music  
[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

Diana Florez  
Church Bookkeeper  
[rivierapresfinance@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresfinance@gmail.com)

Barbara Prieto, CCA  
Certified Church Administrator  
[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

Session Members  
Susan Mazzola  
Clerk of Session

Karen Collier  
Laura Fothergill  
Amparo Hernandez  
Rey Prieto  
Alejandra Rondon  
Butch Sorenson  
Kathy Stults  
Cris Sweeny  
Lisa Torchut

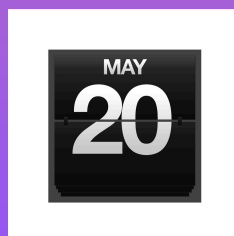
Beloved Community,

Are you wondering what it takes to become a member at Riviera? Or maybe you've been a member for a while and still have questions about who we are as part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Maybe you have questions about our leadership or how decisions are made.

If you, a loved one, or a friend have been wanting to deepen your understanding of the church or our community, our May New Member Class is the place to go! The class will take place over three weeks in May (05/05, 05/12, and 05/19) in the Pastor's office at 10 a.m. We will have coffee and treats, answers to your burning Presbyterian questions, and a chance to get to know some of our church Elders who will assist with the class.

Anyone who wishes to Join Riviera as a new member at the end of the three weeks will be welcomed into the congregation during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.

I look forward to seeing you soon!  
Many Blessings,  
Rev. Melanie



Submit items for the June issue of The Spark by May 20th. Send to Barbie Prieto at [riverachurch@gmail.com](mailto:riverachurch@gmail.com)

# CONGREGATION CARE

May 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

## Happy Birthday

Nicole P - May 3

Janet P - May 16

Nancy S - May 17

Sofia V - May 23

Belinda V - May 28

Our condolences to the family of Ruth Admire, who entered the church triumphant in March.

Her dedication to family, community and church will be missed by so many...



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/herald/name/ruth-admire-obituary?id=54943060>

For YouTube link to memorial service, May 24 at 3:00pm.

Join us for an empowering class designed to equip you with the tools to support others through times of loss and grief. In this compassionate and informative course, you'll gain valuable insights and practical skills to navigate the complexities of grief with grace and understanding.

Class Dates:

May 5th and May 19th - Time: Sundays after service

Let's learn how to be a beacon of comfort and support for those in need. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. See you there! The class will be held in the Church Library.

If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Karen Collier at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com) or [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com).

Thank you.

Karen Collier

Chair of Congregational Care

# MISSION

May 2024

Embodying Love

- Demanding Justice

- Transforming the World

## Gratitude Alert



Wow! Your kindness overflowed when you donated to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering.

Your contributions went above and beyond, hitting \$601.75—double the amount from 2023!

Each donation to OGHS is tackling hunger, quenching thirst, aiding in disaster recovery, supporting refugees, boosting education, and building up communities. Your support is changing lives for the better!

Thank you for your continued support for the PCUSA Special Offerings.

**Food Pantry**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
**9:00 am - 12 noon**

**How You Can Help?**

- 1 Donate Monetary Gifts
- 2 Volunteer Your Time
- 3 Donate Non-Perishable Food

**TOGETHER TO CARE FOR HUMANITY**

Blood donation is a form of our concern for others

**SAVE THE DATES**  
JULY 7  
OCTOBER 6  
DECEMBER 1

# MISSION

May 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World



## Frances Tucker Elementary News

Join Ellen on May 7th for Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. From 7:30 - 9:00 am in the Media Center. If you would like to attend, please reach out to Ellen at [rivierafoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:rivierafoodpantry@gmail.com)

## Summer Reading Fundraising Program



WAYS TO DONATE  
QR CODE  
OR  
APPS



**DIGITAL PAYMENT**



Cash App



venmo

@rivierachurch5275

# 305-666-8586

In May, we aim to fundraise to purchase books on the Summer Reading List to empower and encourage every First Grader at FSTES.

For many of these children, these might be the only books they can carry with them this summer as they transition into the foster care system.

Please help us ignite their imaginations, build their confidence, and set them up for a prosperous future, regardless of race, economic status, or personal capabilities.

There are several ways to donate. Thank you in advance for your participation.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS

May 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

## Bible study @ 10 am

10:00 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, May 16. New members welcome.

Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373 Passcode: 757192.

We are currently studying from The Good and Beautiful Bible Study. If you are interested in joining us, please email Karen Collier at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com).

## Theology Uncorked

Sunday, May 12 at 5:00 pm at Unseen Creatures Brewing and Blending located at 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, 33155. Theme: TBA.

# FELLOWSHIP

May 2024    Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

## New Members Class

We invite you to attend our Inquirers Classes with Pastor Melanie from May 5th to 19th at 10:00 a.m. These classes give you a chance to hear more about the Presbyterian church and, in particular, Riviera. If you are interested, please email Pastor Melanie at [rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com)

## Fellowship after Worship

After our weekly worship, we gather for snacks and fellowship during Holy Grounds! If you want to treat the group, visit the link: <https://rivierachurch.org/volunteer-opportunities/> and select a Sunday to share some snacks with friends!



# WORSHIP

May 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

## Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

Subscribing to Riviera's YouTube channel is a great way to stay in touch with the church's ministry and be notified when new videos are uploaded.

Find us at RivieraChurch

## Follow us on Social Media

@rivierachurch



## Sign Up to Be a Liturgist

Worship is something we do together. It requires an active role for each of us - praying, singing, listening, and more. If you would like to help lead the congregation in worship, sign up at <https://rivierachurch.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

Readers of all ages are welcome!  
Questions? Contact Pastor Melanie or the church office.

# SESSION

May 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

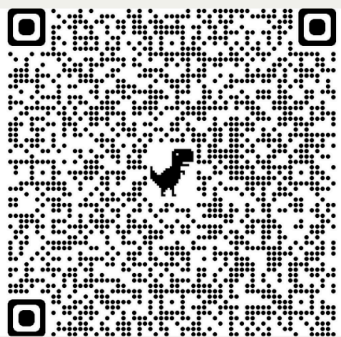
## Per Capita

Our church must pay an annual “Per Capita” fee to the PCUSA each year. For 2024, the cost is \$36.85 per member (“per capita”), paid out of church funds each year. The cost to our congregation in 2024 is \$2,247.85

Here is how the \$36.85 is distributed: The General Assembly gets \$9.80, our Synod (South Atlantic) gets \$1.50, and the Presbytery of Tropical Florida gets \$25.55. The money supports administrative costs and a wide array of programs and missions, including minister training and ecumenical ministries. If possible, we hope you will make a contribution designated as Per Capita as part of your giving to the church.

Could you please round up to \$37.00 to help pay for those who cannot?

Here are ways you can pay:



### DIGITAL PAYMENT



Cash App



venmo

@rivierachurch5275

# 305-666-8586

## 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

[www.rivierachurch.org](http://www.rivierachurch.org)