

THE SPARK

June 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World





MELANIE'S MESSAGE

June 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
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

Diana Florez
Church Bookkeeper
rivierapresfinance@gmail.com

Barbara Prieto, CCA
Certified Church Administrator
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

Dear Friends,

As summer rolls in, I invite you to consider one of my favorite summer poems by Mary Oliver.

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
With your one wild and precious life?

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie

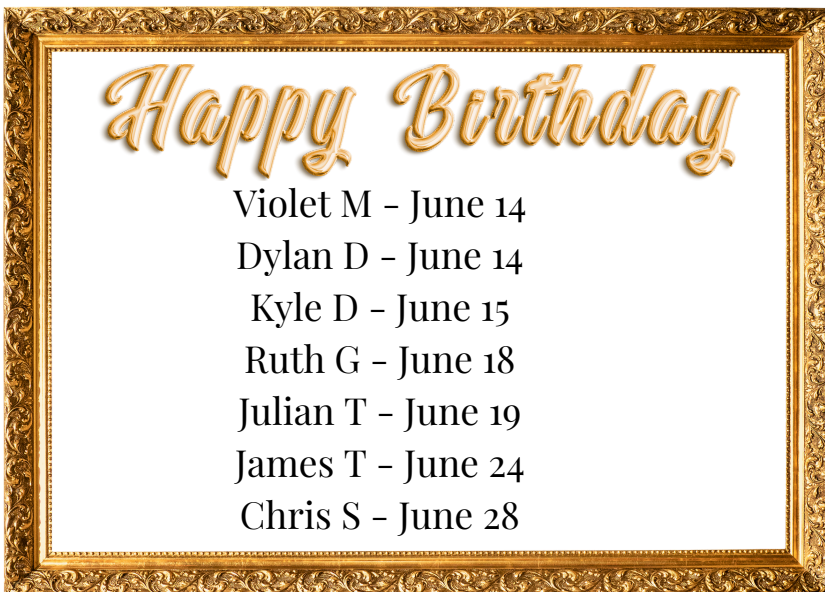


Submit items for the July issue of
The Spark by June 17th. Send to Barbie
Prieto at riverachurch@gmail.com

CONGREGATION CARE

June 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World



If we missed your June Birthday
please send an email to
the church office
rivierachurch@gmail.com
Subject: June Birthday

Meal Train for Alejandra, Annie & Baby

In June, we are welcoming a new baby into the world and into our home. We think this will be a joyous and exhausting experience. People have encouraged us to reach out for help with food, so we created this Meal Train! Please feel free to participate or not.

Favorite Foods:

I (Annie) will be needing lots of protein and iron while feeding the baby, so well-rounded dishes would be wonderful. But we're pretty easy to please in general!

We love lots of kinds of food, including Mexican, Venezuelan, Italian, Mediterranean, Thai, Japanese, Pan-Asian, Peruvian, American, and Southern.

Allergies or Dietary Restrictions:

None

Additional Special Instructions:

For the first month or so, we probably won't be able to ensure that we're awake or available at the time of drop-off, so there will be a cooler near the front door where you can drop off the meal and just text us that you did it. Hopefully, we can all say hi!

[Meal Train Link](#)

MISSION

June 2024 Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Hello,
My son, Kendrick, attends Frances S. Tucker Elementary. Back in March, the church sent home a gift card for food over Spring Break. I just simply wanted to say thank you. It really came in handy during these hard times.

Thank You
 MARGO

TOGETHER TO CARE FOR HUMANITY

Blood donation is a form of our concern for others

SAVE THE DATES
JULY 7
OCTOBER 6
DECEMBER 1



Registration information coming soon

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

MISSION

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MISSIONS

2024

JUNE

@RPC

MON
WED

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

9:00 - 12 noon many available slots

DISTRIBUTION OF SUMMER READING BOOKS

9 am meet at Frances S. Tucker Elementary

MON
03

ONGOING

LEAP DONATION BOXES

@located in the Welcome Area/Narhex

COLLECTING GENTLY USED SCHOOL UNIFORMS

All sizes navy or white shirts/ navy or khaki pants

ONGOING



MORE INFO:

SPEAK TO ELLEN ANDERSON

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS

June 2024

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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 Thursday of every month at 7:30 on Zoom, June 20. New members are welcome.

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

We are currently studying from The Good and Beautiful Bible Study. If you want to join, please email Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com.

Theology Uncorked

Sunday, June 9, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Unseen Creatures Brewing and Blending, 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, 33155. As part of our Pride Month programming, we're using this time to talk about LGBTQ+ inclusion and the church:

What have we learned - or had to unlearn - about God's love for all people from the traditions of our childhood to our current life of faith?



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS

June 2024

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It's Time to Celebrate

2024

Congratulations to
Morgan Adams
Dylan Deville
&
Jakk Schoenblatt

We are looking forward to
your next chapters!



Congratulations to Graham on a
great baseball season!

Graham German plays outfield with
the Howard Palmetto league. He is on
the Atom- Nationals A's team.

Currently his coach-pitch team is in
the playoffs and on the way to the
championship in late May.

We are grateful for Butch Sorenson
who joins in cheering on Graham
most games



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS

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It's Time to Celebrate



Edwin exercises his focus and discipline to excel at gymnastics. He trains 12 hours a week on top of homework and chores at home. This year he qualified again for the Southeast regional competition which took place in Atlanta. He earned second place overall, a great end to the season!



Congrats to Liam for graduating 3rd grade gifted with straight As, receiving multiple awards, and keeping all A since kindergarten.

Congrats to Leo who is going to VPK. his last year at our beloved CCC, where he has learned and grown so much during his time there.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS

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It's Time to Celebrate



Alex

Sofia

Dylan

Alex is living and working in San Diego. He is working as a computer engineer, is happy with his job and loves San Diego.

Sofia has finished baking school and will have her graduation on July 18. She is part of the 2024 USA Down Syndrome Synchronized Swimming National Team and attends an inclusive theater project group at Area Stage.

Dylan is studying mechanical engineering at UCF in Orlando. He will finish in December. He's doing great in school and is an avid soccer player and swims too.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS

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It's Time to Celebrate



Violet got braces on May 21st



Lena came first in her class on the FAST test for reading (Celebrating with Angela & Edwin)



James graduated from CCC on May 30th

F E L L O W S H I P

June 2024 Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

EVENTS **2024** JUNE SCHEDULE

**SUN
02**

**11 AM GRADUATE
SUNDAY**

And First Sunday Potluck Lunch

**5 PM FAMILY
GAME NIGHT**

Games for all ages - Join the fun!

**SAT
08**

**SUN
09**

**5 PM THEOLOGY
UNCORKED**

@Unseen Creatures Brewery

**9 AM BEACH
GATHERING**

Crandon Park - Bring food to share

**SAT
15**



MORE INFO:

RIVIERACHURCH.ORG

WORSHIP

June 2024

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JOIN US FOR THE
UNVEILING OF OUR NEWLY
WRAPPED LGBTQ+ VEHICLE
FOLLOWED BY OUR 4TH ANNUAL
POLICE PRIDE CARAVAN

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 AT 10:00AM

STARTING AT MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ENDING AT THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST



Join the Excitement with the South Florida Police LGBT Coalition!

We're thrilled to announce that the South Florida Police LGBT Coalition is organizing an inspiring vehicle caravan from Downtown Miami to Pinecrest on Monday, June 3rd, and they've asked YES to be a "drive-by" location!

We warmly invite all Riviera members to participate in this fantastic event. Show your support by gathering at the church by 10 am.

Don't forget to wear your Riviera t-shirts to represent our community proudly!

Let's come together to celebrate unity, diversity, and pride. See you there!

SESSION & SPF COMMITTEE

June 2024

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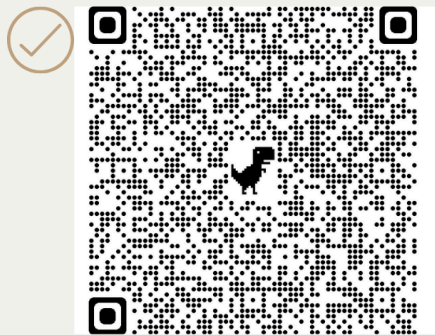
SPF: Stewardship, Property and Finance Committee:

Welcome to our newest member Tania Socarras!!

The 10 year recertification by the county was completed and submitted in April, now we are waiting on the official documentation that RPC has passed the requirements. Many thanks to a great team: Diana, Butch, Rey and John who put in so much time and energy in all the repairs and details needed to ensure RPC's property was in great shape to pass!!

We continue to meet monthly via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm. (Next meeting June 12, 2024)

Did you know..... If you need to take an RMD from an IRA this year, you can directly deposit the funds to church and not pay any taxes on the amount?? Very easy, just fill out and submit the form and you are done.



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

Our Journey through Presbyterian Processes and Policies

New members, regular visitors and even longtime members of Riviera might be wondering about our continued talk of the CAT survey, the results, and a Mission Study.

What is this all about?

These are the various steps that are part of the Presbyterian process churches must undertake before they can officially recommend a permanent Pastor for the church. Riviera is in a transition!

Why are we looking for a permanent Pastor?

Melanie, in her official role as Transitional Pastor, has the challenging job of leading Riviera through this transition time which began when our previous Pastor retired in 20XX. After all the to-do boxes are completed, we can officially recommend a permanent Pastor to Riviera.

Happily for us, a recent change to a longtime Presbyterian policy allows Riviera to consider Melanie as our permanent Pastor – the proverbial silver lining!

What's already happened.

In April, Riviera members completed a comprehensive survey known as the Church Assessment Tool – CAT!

The survey was sent to 55 people and 37 responses received – a 67% response which is terrific. The survey asked a broad range of questions ranging from how often one attends church, education options, support, worship, music, sermons, faith.

On April 20, Riviera Session members met with the Rev. Geoffrey Mclean of the Presbytery for his expertise in a review, and most importantly, in interpreting the survey results. We had a great meeting revealing many positives and a few challenges.

A core team of Session members – Laura Fothergill, Kathy Stults, and Cris Sweeney worked on a summary of the CAT survey results which was presented by Laura to the congregation on May 19.

What's next?

The next step is for Riviera to do a Mission Study – a comprehensive, deep dive into every aspect of the church. The hope is for you to be involved once the project (yes, it's a project) gets off the ground. This might be in an interactive congregational meeting or your specific involvement in that deep dive of an area that interests you.

If you want to know more, get involved, or just have further discussion about this, you can contact Melanie, Barbie, or any member of Riviera's Session listed below. Our emails are available in the Church Directory.

Karen Collier, Laura Fothergill, Amparo Hernandez, Susan Mazzola, Rey Prieto, Alejandra Rondon, Butch Sorenson, Kathy Stults, Cris Sweeney, Lisa Torchut

FIU

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine IS HIRING!

The Office of Medical Education's Simulation
Center is hiring

STANDARDIZED PATIENTS.

-  Make \$20 per hour
-  Flexible scheduling!
Great for students,
retirees, part-time, etc.
-  All ages, ethnicities, and
physical characteristics
are eligible to apply!



Standardized Patients are an essential tool aiding the education of healthcare providers. Please consider applying if this sounds like you:

- comfortable in a healthcare environment around healthcare professionals
- possess strong English, verbal communication skills
- reliable and punctual
- an excellent listener
- can memorize scripts and accurately portray roles or scenarios (no acting experience required)
- want to contribute to the training of healthcare providers.



Please fill out an
application at:

 <https://hr.fiu.edu/careers/>

Job ID: 529465

After completing your
application, please email a
resume to:

 spprogram@fiu.edu

We look forward to hearing
from you!

For information contact Laura Fothergill at lfotherg@fiu.edu