

THE SPARK

July 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World





MELANIE'S MESSAGE

July 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

Gratitude for our Riviera Food Pantry -

Beloved Community,

With equal parts gratitude and grief, I write to you this month to share that, after over 50 years, our Riviera Food Pantry will close its ministry at the end of July 2024.

The food pantry first opened in the '70s., and has gone through many transitions and transformations over the years, but the one thing that has remained constant is the commitment of our members and volunteers to provide loving, open-hearted support to our neighbors who need a little help making ends meet on a weekly basis. In recent years, we've seen this need increase exponentially. The demand for resources, both volunteer and financial, became so great that it was clear that our small congregation could no longer sustain the ministry at the level that was necessary to support the community around us.

In June, our Session, guided by the Spirit and led by the wisdom of our Food Pantry Coordinator, Ellen Anderson, and our Mission Committee, came to the realization that the time has come to complete this work at Riviera with joy and gratitude for all the years of service, and lives made whole through its outreach.

We are deeply grateful to all those who have volunteered and donated to the food pantry over the years, and especially to Ellen, who continues to work tirelessly organizing, coordinating, and advocating for our food assistance ministries and community missions.

Even as we feel the grief that the loss of this particular ministry brings to our congregation, we celebrate all of the ways it has brought hope and support to our community. We also rest in the knowledge that God's work is never done by just one person, or just in one community. We will continue to support the ongoing work of feeding God's people in need through our neighboring community food banks, pantries, and our emergency car bag outreach.

We thank God for the gift of being able to serve our neighbors in this way for so many years, and we look with hope to the future, and all that God might be calling us to do next.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie Marsh

We are taking a summer break for The Spark - Our next issue will be in September

CONGREGATION CARE

Cindy H - July 7
David G - July 25
Dylan D - July 27

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

MISSION

BLOOD DRIVE

JULY 7
12:00PM - 2:30PM



SIGN UP TODAY

 More Information
rivierachurch.org

 oneblood.org/donate
Sponsor Code 1738

FELLOWSHIP


POTLUCK BRUNCH

JULY 7
AFTER WORSHIP



**BRING A DISH
TO SHARE**

 More Information
rivierachurch.org

 5275 Sunset Dr
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS

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, July 18. New members are welcome.

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

Theology Uncorked

Sunday, July 14 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Unseen Creatures Brewing and Blending, 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, 33155.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS

Parents, have you discovered the hidden gem in our children's worship bulletins? Each week, a secret code unlocks engaging, scripture-based games, making it an exciting and interactive way to deepen your child's connection to the Sunday lessons. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to enhance their spiritual growth!

SPF: STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/PROPERTY

It's time to pay your 2024 Per Capita if you haven't already!! What is Per Capita???

Per Capita is the fee that each Presbyterian Church (USA) must pay based on their annual membership count to the General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery based on the annual operating budgets of each.

This year Riviera's Per Capita fee has been set at \$37.00 per member. Please help us to reach 100% member giving to this required fee of our national church.

More questions?? Ask a committee member- Kathy, Butch, John G., Rey, Tania, Melanie, Barbie

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