

THE SPARK

September 2024 Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Starts Sunday, September 1
at 11:00am

**SERMON
SERIES**

YOUR KINDOM COME

Rev. Melanie Marsh



www.rivierachurch.org

After worship, if you're interested in further exploring the sermon,
we invite you to join our **AfterSermonTalkBack**.

This is a space where you can ask your "whys," share your thoughts, and dive
deeper into the ideas discussed during the service.



MELANIE'S MESSAGE

September 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

Priest and Scholar John Dominic Crossan, calls the Lord's Prayer "Christianity's strangest prayer":

"It's prayed by nearly all Christians, but never mentions Christ. It is prayed in all churches, but it never mentions the church, denominations, or doctrines. It is prayed every Sunday, but it never mentions Sunday, sabbath, or worship. It is a prayer handed down to us by a Jewish Rabbi through the Christian movement to us, the modern-day Church.

Have you ever wondered why...??

Why this prayer?

Why these words?

Why are these ideas lifted up?

If you've worshiped in our community for any length of time, you might have noticed that we pray a somewhat different version of the Lord's Prayer than the more traditional one many churches use, taken from the Gospel of Matthew (6:9-13). This fall, we will explore the Lord's Prayer in detail, in our worship series, Your Kin-Dom Come. We will take a close look at the language that has been used in this prayer, traditionally, and in the modern church. Each week, we will ask the question "Why?". Does the language we use matter? Does it matter what metaphors and imagery we use to envision God, and God's hopes for creation and humanity? Explore these questions with us in worship this fall, Sundays at 11am, here in our community at Riviera.

After worship, if you're interested in further exploring the sermon, we invite you to join our [AfterSermonTalkBack](#). This is a space where you can ask your "whys," share your thoughts, and dive deeper into the ideas discussed during the service.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie Marsh

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Wishing you a joyful and blessed birthday this September! May God's love, grace, and abundant blessings surround you in the year ahead. We're so grateful for the light and warmth you bring to our church family.

- Kevin F - 8
- Christian M - 19
- Lexi H - 23
- Ellie R - 28
- Sage S - 28

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



FELLOWSHIP

End of Summer Potluck

Join us for our End of Summer (is it really, in Miami?) Potluck Community Meal of Sunday, September 1, following worship.

Bring you favorite Picnic Style dish to share.



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, September 19. New members are welcome.

Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373 Passcode: 757192. Contact Karen C

kc33134@aol.com for details

Theology Uncorked

Sunday, September 8 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Unseen Creatures Brewing and Blending, 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, 33155.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-KIDS



MISSION

Food Pantry

In the 1960s, RPC became an activist church. Marion Broadway started the Food Pantry. Until the pandemic, we handed out 1-2 family bags and 1 individual food bag per week.

During the pandemic the number became greater, and we were eventually giving out 18-25 bags per week. Unfortunately, the donations and grants received did not keep up with the need. It was decided to discontinue the family bag distribution after July 31, 2024.

Individuals in the congregation still keep individual bags in their vehicles to hand out to people in need they see on the street. The bags also contain socks and hygiene products. Anyone interested in joining this ministry can sign out a bag.

Here is a letter from Christ Episcopal Church where we shared the remaining food pantry items.



Located in Gibson Hall
Christ Episcopal Church
3475 William Avenue
Coconut Grove, FL 33133

August 18, 2024

Dear Ellen,

We want to thank you for sharing your Pantry donations with us. We are so impressed that you managed to dedicate 30 years of service to those in your community. Sourcing food and personal care items is a full-time job and takes someone special to make it happen. Clearly, your dedication has stood the test of time. Your service has helped thousands of families navigate challenging circumstances. What a wonderful legacy to have.

We have already organized the laundry sheets and know our clients will use them. In addition, the shelf stable items you delivered will be of great help to us in stabilizing our inventory that ebbs and flows. As you know, it's an ongoing task.

We wish you all the best in the future and if you ever want to volunteer at our Pantry, please let us know! Tuesday is our distribution day and we are usually finished by noon.



With Blessings from the Coconut Grove Crisis Food Pantry,

Deb Dolson

Director of Outreach

coconutgrovefoodpantry@yahoo.com
www.coconutgrovecrisisfoodpantry.com
www.facebook.com/coconutgrovecrisisfoodpantry

MISSION

Frances Tucker Elementary School

On Wednesday, August 14th, Riviera delivered school supplies to the first-grade teachers. They were most appreciative. We will continue to collect reams of printer paper to distribute to the first-grade teachers during the year.



LEAP For Ladies

Six ladies joined the residential program during June, July, and August. Riviera gave each one a \$50 Target gift card to help them buy what they needed to start their new journeys.

Good news! Starting September 4th, the LEAP Dragonfly Thrift Boutique will be at 5815 SW 68th Street, South Miami. They will be open seven days a week, 12:00 – 8:00, during the week and 11:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

It is a great place to buy clothing, household goods and furniture. It's also a great place to donate all these items.



A collection box is also available for donations in the church. For furniture donations, please call first to see if they are suitable (305-397-8743).

Shalom

Ellen Anderson

SPF: STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/PROPERTY

Stewardship Drive 2025: Join Us in Achieving 100% Participation!

This September, we will kick off our Stewardship Drive for the 2025 budget, and our goal is 100% participation! We invite every member and family to prayerfully consider making a pledge for the coming year.

Every contribution, no matter the size, is valuable and deeply appreciated. Your pledge can be made on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. These commitments are crucial in helping the Session plan and manage our budget for 2025.

We've made giving easier than ever! Visit our website and check out the donation section under the "Give" tab, where you can designate funds for special missions. We also offer convenient options like [Cash App, Venmo, etc.]. Of course, cash and checks are always welcome.

Our Stewardship season will run from September 22 through October 20, culminating in Consecration Sunday on October 20th. Throughout this period, you'll hear from various committee members during our "Minutes for Mission" announcements during worship services. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kathy S, Butch S, Tania S, John G, or Rey P, members of our Stewardship Committee.

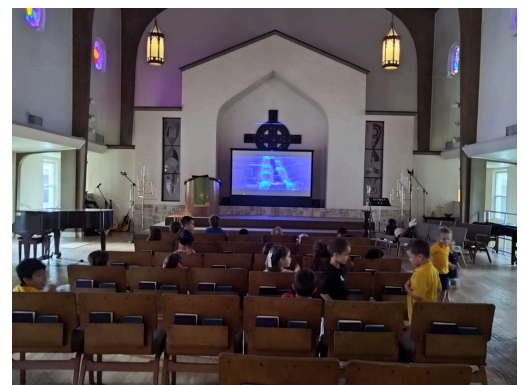
Property Update: A Big Thank You to Diana!

We owe a huge thanks to Diana for "keeping a roof over our heads." She has successfully managed to find a company to repair our entire roof, addressing multiple leaks across the property and securing a five-year guarantee at a reasonable price. The property team continues to tackle a never-ending list of tasks, with surprises always popping up. We're grateful for their hard work and dedication.

Open House Childcare Pilot Program!

Dear Riviera Family,

I am thrilled to announce the resounding success of our Open House Childcare Pilot Program! This initiative was designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment for children while their parents attended the Sunset Elementary open house on Tuesday & Wednesday. Our pilot program served as a platform for our church to connect with 27 new families in our community which is essential for our continued growth. The feedback was very positive and inquired of other events. Thank you to all the families who participated and to all my volunteers for making this program a triumph. I hope this is the beginning of many other community outreach events that our ministry develops and I hope to be a part of it.



Blessings,
Diana

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2024/2025 Nominating Season for Session Members Begins!

Nominate yourself or someone you think would make a great leader of our congregation to serve on our governing body called the Session. Nominations began on Sunday August 11 and will conclude on Sunday September 15. A slate of nominees will officially be put forth by Riviera's Nominating Committee and put forth to the congregation for voting by members on Sunday, September 29th.

Brief Explanation about Elders and a Session

Similar to a board of directors, Riviera Presbyterian Church follows the PCUSA governing structure. At the local level this is a Session (made up of nominated, voted on and ordained Elders), followed by the regional Presbytery, a larger Synod, and finally our national General Assembly. Elders serve a 3 year term and cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

From our Book of Order, "Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness."

Talk to a member of the Nominating Committee (Laura Fothergill, chair, Kyle Dettloff, Alejandra Rondon, Vivian German, Michele Ready, or Bryan Page) or Rev. Melanie Marsh for questions and the exciting possibility to serve our community!

Laura

Sign Up to
Be a Liturgist
in
Worship

A liturgist is needed for each worship service to help lead our worship. The liturgy and readings will be provided ahead of the service so you can practice and ask questions.

Training is available for anyone who would like it; don't hesitate to contact Pastor Melanie.

You can see available dates by clicking the button. Thank you so much for your participation.