

# THE SPARK

November 2024

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

*Please Join Us!*

## ***2024 Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service***

# *Thanksgiving for God's Good Creation*

***Wednesday, November 20, 2024***

***7:00 PM***

***Riviera Presbyterian Church***

***5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143***

*Hosted and Directed by*

*Cantor Rachelle Nelson and Dr. Walter Busse*

*Featuring local synagogues and churches singing and celebrating together!*

***ALL ARE WELCOME!!***

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

Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude as we come together with other denominations in our community to give thanks to God for all our blessings.

Refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to sharing this special time of reflection, unity, and fellowship with you.



# MELANIE'S MESSAGE

November 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  
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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

Beloved Community,

Do you, or someone you know, want to know more about becoming a member of our congregation at Riviera Presbyterian Church?

Our fall new member info classes are a great place to get started. You will get to know some of our elders, learn about who we are as Presbyterians, and find out how to get connected with the church life beyond our Sunday morning worship time.

Attendance in classes is not mandatory for membership, and I am always happy to meet with families or individuals who can't make the classes, but want to learn more, or have questions about our community.

Classes will meet three Sundays in a row - November 10, 17, and 24 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and treats will be provided.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Peace,  
Rev. Melanie

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Wishing you a joyful and blessed birthday this November! 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.

- Ellen A. - 8
- Graham G. - 16
- Barbie P. - 28

If we missed your November Birthday please send an email to the church office [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)  
Subject: October Birthday



# FELLOWSHIP

## FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

FRIDAY, NOV. 1 6PM

FREE FAMILY MOVIE & CANDY SWAP  
(BRING YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY TO SWAP)



**November is packed with activities, and we're thrilled to invite you to join the fun. We're kicking things off Friday, November 1 at 6:00pm with a free screening of Coco, followed by a Halloween Candy Swap—bring your leftover treats and trade them for your favorites!**

Celebrate the season with this heartwarming film about family, memories, and pursuing your dreams, blending Halloween fun with the spirit of Día de los Muertos.

Enjoy pizza, popcorn, and great company! Bring your friends, family, and of course—your sweet tooth. We can't wait to see you there!

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 5275 SUNSET DRIVE MIAMI FL 33143  
[WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG)





**Save the DATE!**  
**Nov. 16: 5:00 - 7:00pm**  
**Family Game Night**

**Family Game Night**  
**Fun for All Ages!**  
**Saturday, November 16**  
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Join us starting at 5:00 PM for an evening of games, fellowship, food, and fun!

Bring your favorite game and a snack to share as we enjoy quality time together.

Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

Come ready for laughter, friendly competition, and great memories with family and friends.

We can't wait to see you there!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS

### Bible study @ 10 am



An important part of my Sunday worship experience at Riviera Presbyterian is 10am Adult Bible Study. Skillfully lead by Elder Karen Collier, discussion covers assigned scriptures and related topics that add depth to my continued "learning" the Word of God. The half hour flies by and so back next week I return. The class is held in the Fellowship Hall library room and is available on Zoom. Please join us and see for yourself.

---Butch

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



"I found the women's study group right after I found out about Riviera, after a search for open and affirming churches near me. I was seeking community with like-minded Christians. As I couldn't attend worship services on Sundays at the time due to my work schedule, I thought joining the women's group, which met after I got off work during the week, would be a great way to get to know people of Riviera.

I attend regularly to not just learn about and discuss the Bible, but to form relationships with women who are supportive, kind, and willing to help one another. I get a sense of community and belonging, and also a fantastic break and rest from a busy life. I will continue to attend the women's study group for as long as I can.

--Lisa

The Women's Study group is going strong! We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 on Zoom, November 21 . New members are welcome.

Meeting ID: 886-2278-6373 Passcode: 757192. Contact Karen C kc33134@aol.com for details

# Theology Uncorked

## **Religion and Politics at the Holiday table:**

Are there any topics, ideas, or people that your family have agreed not to discuss together at family gatherings?

How might this year's holiday season be shaped by what's happening in the world outside our dining rooms?

How can we show compassion and grace, while still being faithful to our call as Christ's followers?

Join us for thoughtful discussion as we explore these questions at Theology Uncorked, hosted at Unseen Creatures Brewery, Sunday, October 13 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm 4178 SW 74th Ct, Miami, 33155.

# MISSION



**Socktober 2024**

**100 pairs to go!**

Help us reach our goal of 500 pairs of socks for the homeless population.

[See Bulletin for details](#)

We are almost at the finish line!

Please help us meet our goal of 500 pairs of white cotton men's socks. You can either buy them and bring them to church, order them online and have them delivered to the church, or donate money to the food pantry line on the Riviera giving page. [www.rivierachurch.org/give](http://www.rivierachurch.org/give)

Remember, when we all do a little, it adds to a lot.

## SPF: STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/PROPERTY

The Stewardship drive ended Sunday October 20 with Consecration Sunday. At that time, the pledges totaled \$70,254 with 70% of the members/friends pledges completed. Many thanks to all of you who have pledged or plan to pledge. Knowing what we can plan on for the pledges for next year really helps Session as we consider the 2025 budget.

Special thanks to Laura, Ampy, Tanya & Gerardo, Chris & Rosy for sharing your thoughts for Stewardship and our Kindom at RPC. I enjoyed each one of your messages and know others did as well.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 13 at 5:00 pm via zoom. We welcome new members. Please reach out to me for details.

Peace, Kathy Stults, Chair

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

## RPC FALL MUSIC NEWS

Can you believe 2024 is almost over!?!? Our RPC November Music News starts off on the 3rd, when daylight savings time ends (be sure to "fall back" your clocks!), when we will also be celebrating All Saints Day with special music for the occasion.

On Wednesday, November 20, at 7pm, we are honored to host, right here in our sanctuary, our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving collaboration with numerous churches and synagogues around town. Those who wish to participate in this moving spiritual event by reading, singing or playing an instrument will meet at 5:00pm in the church sanctuary to rehearse the songs prepared by Walter and our dear friend and cantor Rachelle Nelson.

We continue to re-establish our Ukulele group which meets after Sunday service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. For November this will be on Sundays, November 10 and 24.

We will be reviewing music for Advent and Christmas. Please know that we are ALWAYS looking for both beginners and seasoned musicians and singers alike to become part of our music ministry family. Every Thursday evening, the choir and any instrumentalists regularly meet at 6:30 for wine, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner prior to the weekly 7:30pm rehearsal.

Looking ahead to Advent, be sure to mark your calendars for the Nativity Play/Pageant on December 8, our choir's Cantata on December 15 during the 11 am Sunday service as well as and Longest Night Service on Sunday December 22 at 6 pm. ANYONE interested in serving God and Riviera by sharing their musical talents please reach out to Dr. Walter Busse at [rivierpresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierpresmusic@gmail.com).

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## Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, November 17 at 11:00 AM

Join us during worship for our Blessing of the Animals! Bring your pet, a photo, or even a favorite stuffed animal to receive a special blessing. We look forward to celebrating the joy animals bring into our lives and honoring all creatures great and small.

We are very excited to meet your furry family members, so we have a friendly reminder to ensure everyone has a fun and safe day. Please remember to keep your well-behaved, pet-friendly, and people-friendly pets leashed and/or contained at all times before, during, and after the service, both inside and outside of the sanctuary.

If you feel the service may be too stressful for your little one, you're encouraged to bring a photo of them for the blessing.



### **Join Us for an Exciting November at Riviera!**

November is packed with activities, and we're thrilled to invite you to join the fun. We're kicking things off Friday, **November 1 at 6:00pm with a free screening of Coco**, followed by a Halloween Candy Swap—bring your leftover treats and trade them for your favorites! Celebrate the season with this heartwarming film about family, memories, and pursuing your dreams, blending Halloween fun with the spirit of Día de los Muertos. Enjoy pizza, popcorn, and great company! Bring your friends, family, and of course—your sweet tooth. We can't wait to see you there!

### **Join Us for a Special Worship Service – Sunday, November 3**

We warmly invite you to our worship service at 11:00 AM as we honor and remember those who have entered the Church Triumphant. During the service, we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper, sharing in communion together. Following worship, stay and enjoy a community potluck lunch—a time for fellowship, food, and connection. We look forward to gathering with you for this meaningful day of remembrance and celebration.

### **Get to Know Riviera – Sundays, November 10, 17, and 24 at 10:00 AM**

Join Pastor Melanie for an informal gathering to explore what it means to be Presbyterian, learn more about Riviera, and connect with our community. Whether you're new or just curious, this is a great opportunity to ask questions and get to know us better. Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Family Game Night – Fun for All Ages! – Saturday, November 16 at 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

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### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Wednesday, November 20 at 7:00 PM**

Join us for a meaningful evening of gratitude as we come together with other denominations in our community to give thanks to God for all our blessings. Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to sharing this special time of reflection, unity, and fellowship with you.

### **Greening of the Church – A Special Worship Service – November 24 at 11:00 AM**

With Christmas just around the corner, join us as we prepare our hearts and space for the season of hope and joy. During this special service, we will transform the sanctuary in anticipation of the Christ child's arrival. Come be part of this beautiful tradition as we decorate, reflect, and ready ourselves for the celebration of Christmas.

Wishing Everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving

May your day be filled with gratitude, joy, and the warmth of loved ones. Happy Thanksgiving!

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