

Welcome! – Riviera Church is an unapologetic progressive-thinking community in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are a family church where families come in all compositions.

We are a thinking church that wrestles with faith issues confronting our society today and strives to make our faith personally relevant and meaningful.

We are a mission-driven church that since the civil rights movement has worked for justice and peace for all of God's children.

In our worship, education, and mission, we strive that all will know they are loved unconditionally.

5275 Sunset Drive | Miami, FL 33143
rivierachurch.org
305-666-8586

Ministry Statement

We engage with each other in joyful worship and thoughtful education; We dedicate our resources and talents to God's work; And we open our hearts in active mission to others.

•We celebrate The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome at the table. Gluten-free option available.

•Child Care –infant through age five- is available. Our childcare attendant will greet you in the Welcome Area/Narthex.

•Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.

•Restrooms are accessible by the ramp in the sanctuary. Follow the signs. Changing tables are in both restrooms.

•We want to serve you. If you have a ministry need, don't hesitate to contact Congregational Care Committee Chair Karen at kc33134@aol.com. For prayer requests, please email bfah@me.com

•Riviera Presbyterian Church is a proud member of these organizations and a Matthew 25 congregation.







Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities." (www.pcusa.org/matthew25)

Riviera Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 3, 2024
All Saints' Day

Please note that this service is broadcast via live stream and digitally recorded.
Please stand in body or spirit

PRELUDE #325 By All Your Saints Still Striving

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST



Please let us know you worshiped with us today by scanning this QR code and filling out our welcome form online or sharing the Welcome Pad down the aisle. If you are worshiping with us online, say "Hello" in the chat.

WELCOME **Rev. Melanie Marsh**

All Saints' Day is, more than anything else,
a day of remembrance.
Today, we remember those who came before us, those who shaped us, and those who taught us faithfulness both by example and error. Today we take time to meditate on the ones we love who are no longer with us – asking for God's Spirit to call forth memories of joy, to offer insight on memories of uncertainty, and heal our memories of pain and anger.

CALL TO WORSHIP
A thousand days are but a moment to God -
All flesh is grass, and withers away.
Still we treasure our days with those whom we love,
And reluctantly give them back to God.

On this day, we thank God for the saints in our lives.
And we pray that we might live into their dreams for us.
Let us worship God together.

***OPENING HYMN O When the Saints**

1. O when the saints go marching in (2x)
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

2. O when the sun refused to shine (2x)
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the sun refused to shine.

3. O when they crown him Lord of all (2x)
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When they crown him Lord of all.

CALL TO CONFESSION Cindy Hershey
When we remember the saints, we do so with rose-colored glasses. We watch the highlight reels of their lives in our minds, leaving their missteps and mistakes on the cutting room floor. We want to hold on to the very best of them, but in doing so, we forget the complexities that made them human—that make us human. God wants every part of us, not just the highlight reel. So let us come before God with honesty and authenticity. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
One: Holy One, We want to be considered worthy of sainthood. But you know our faults anyway. You know every detail of our lives.
All: Forgive us for trying to pretend we're perfect.
Holy One, we confess that we dance along the line between self-improvement and vanity. We try to eliminate all the mess from our lives so we can feel in control.
Forgive us for striving to be godlike when all you've ever asked of us is to be human.

Merciful God, we forget that even the saints are messy and complicated. Our heroes are flawed. Our loved ones make mistakes. We confess that we are quick to judge the faults of others we have placed on a pedestal, as though they aren't human too.
Forgive us for expecting too much of one another.
Give us grace to trade the illusion of perfection for the real life you have given us. Hold us secure in the promise of your love in life, in death, and in life beyond death.
Forgive us, we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Beloved ones, hear the good news: you do not have to be perfect to be a saint. You just have to be the person God created you to be. God's grace is abundant, and it is for you. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Melanie Marsh
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And Also with you

GLORIA PATRI #581 Glory Be To The Father

A TIME FOR ALL AGES - Communion

CHILDREN'S MUSIC RESPONSE #647 Give Thanks

CHORAL ANTHEM Come, Come Ye Saints

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Holy God, there is so much that we can't see, hear, or touch, and it's just as real as anything we can grasp.
Open our hearts, minds, and souls to your wonder and mystery. Help us trade certainty for
curiosity and knowledge for wisdom. Release our grasp on the things of this world so we can wade into your Word with open hands. Humbly we pray, amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 25:6-9

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all
peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich
food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is
cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all
nations; 8 God will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord
God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace
of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the
Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "See, this is
our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and
rejoice in his salvation."

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Revelations 21:1-6a

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first
heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was
no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from
the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God
himself will be with them and be their God; 4 he will wipe
every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning
and crying and pain will be no more, For the first things have
passed away." 5 And the one who was seated on the throne
said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write
this, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he
said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the
Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a
gift from the spring of the water of life.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

REFLECTION Rev. Melanie Marsh

HYMN OF RESPONSE #458 Thy Word

JOYS AND CONCERNS
If you are attending in person, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by raising your hand. A member of our worship team will bring the microphone to you. Remember to bring the microphone close to your mouth; do not hold it down by your chest.

Please remember to guard people's privacy and ensure you have their permission to use their full name when requesting prayers in this public format.

If you are watching on Zoom, we invite you to raise your hand and unmute yourself when your name is called. If you are watching our live stream or on-demand, you may enter your joys and concerns in the comments, and they will be sent to our active prayer group or email our prayer coordinator at bfah@me.com.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS(Prayer of the People)
Holy One,
You are our God and we are Your people,
and we are grateful that You have claimed us as your own.
You have set us in the company of saints past and present,
among those who have made bold witness to Your goodness and Your truth.
Your Word opens up new futures when we see no way forward.
You know the places in our hearts where we are afraid
— afraid of a future we cannot control;
— afraid of losing health and independence
— afraid for the well-being of our children
___ afraid for the well-being of our parents, or our partners
— afraid that past mistakes will ruin our future

You know the places in our bodies and our minds that are in need of healing

- From injury or illness
- From loneliness and despair
- From exhaustion
- From the trauma of abuse or violence

Give us what we need to carry on, to move through this moment toward wholeness.
We pray especially for:

[PRAYER REQUESTS]

God of all Saints and Sinners, write the stories of your people on our hearts so that we may learn to trust you beyond our fears. Give us hearts and minds and spirits ready to follow wherever your Spirit leads, confident that you will not lead us beyond your loving embrace.

Walk beside us here and now, as we remember those in our community whose loss we grieve, but whose spirits we know rest in your loving embrace…

[REMEMBERING THE SAINTS - TOLLING OF THE BELL]

Ruth Admire
Dorothy Algozzina
Ana Maria Angel
Henry Barrow
Edward Bobka
Andrew Bullen
James Carpenter
Katie Carpenter
Ruth and Hansel Daniel
Tia Mary Florez
Jose Morales
Miriam Pagano
John David Ramsey, Sr.
Carol G. Ready
Ronnie Seaborn
Jae Sweeny Lardner
Patricia Stilwell
Frances Voorhees

Herb & Irene German
Daphne Gilmour
Elanor Cuervo Lewin
Lena Esmerelda Lewin
Beverly Hope Marsh
Marguerite Marsh
Ronald F. Moorman

My baby and all
unborn/born children who
lost their lives before living
Mr. Fluff our dear bunny

Though we don't see them face to face any longer, these saints are not gone. Their memory lives on in us as their soul lives on in their Creator.
Their light shines just as brightly as before, unbound by the physical limitations of their earthly bodies.
They are now part of the glory that awaits beyond this life.
Thanks be to God.
I invite you now to come forward and light a candle in memory of the saints in your own life.

[LIGHTING OF CANDLES]

It is in your Love that we are united with all those who have gone before us, O God, and it is in your Love that we lift them up. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Instructions before communion for those online or via Zoom: Prepare a space for communion. Light a candle and place it on your table with bread and a cup filled with wine or grape juice; add any other items (bible or cross) that will make your table a spiritual and holy place.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

All: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. Do this, and remember me."

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

All: Jesus gave them the cup saying, "This is the new covenant. Drink of it, and remember me."

Children: What do we remember at this table?

All: We remember God's love for us, Christ's death and rising for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Leacer: So Great is the mystery of our faith. Let us pray:

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you
And Also with you
Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to God
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, In your wisdom beyond our understanding, you have placed a veil around this life. We don't know what was before; we don't know what's after. All we know is the passing from one to the next and the holy in-between in which we live all of our days. Our lives are only a brief glimmer in your eternal glory, one flickering candle with a borrowed flame. Yet we know that the light of those who lived before us, shines on in your presence for eternity. So on this day, we lift our voices together with theirs in everlasting song:

SANCTUS #595 (First English & Then Spanish)

We pray, Holy One, that you would keep our flames strong. Give us a fire that burns for justice, warms cold hearts, and comforts those living in an endless night. Let our brief flames ignite and inspire others, passing on what we have received from the saints you have placed in our lives. And as our lights dim, grant us the peace of rest in your holy darkness and your eternal glory. May we then come to fully understand the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We ask all of this in his holy name as we pray together:

We appreciate the diverse traditions and backgrounds that make up the Riviera community of faith and encourage you to use whatever words for the Lord's prayer are meaningful for you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER unison
Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

The congregation will come forward, pull off a piece of bread, and dip it into the wine or white grape juice cups. A station with gluten-free elements is available.

COMMUNION MUSIC
#516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

****Please stand in body or spirit***
***UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
We are not alone.
We live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING
On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are not building God's kin-dom alone. We continue the work that our ancestors started, and that generations after us will continue. With generous hearts we bring our offerings before God, trusting that though we did not begin this work and will not see it finished, God will bring it to completion.

THE ACT OF GRATITUDE *The physical act of giving by placing your offering in the offering plate is a tangible act of gratitude. However, if your pledge is mailed or sent electronically, you may still participate in this act of gratitude by placing the envelope inside the bulletin into the offering plate to symbolize your gratitude and participation in the worship service.*



OFFERTORY

#730 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

***DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heav'nly host, Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.
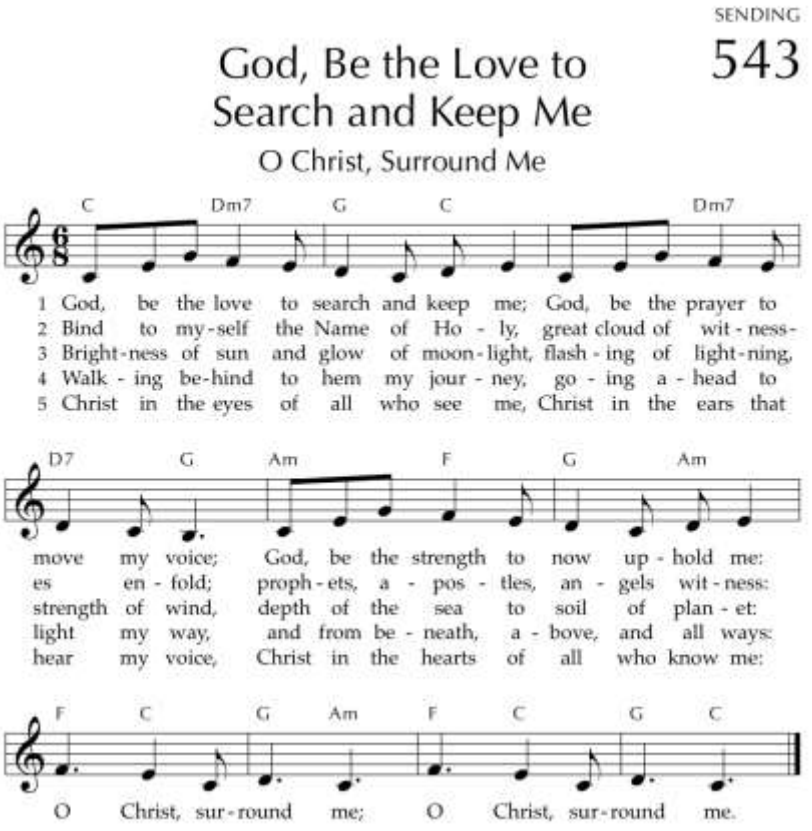
***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, into your hands, we entrust these gifts so that our unfinished work will one day be complete. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT Rev. Melanie Marsh

***CLOSING HYMN**
#326 For All the Saints (V. 1-3)

***SONG OF BENEDICTION**
#543 God be the Love to Search and Keep Me



POSTLUDE #732 Rejoice in God's Saints

You're Invited!
Congregation Update, Input, and Discussion

Topic: Riviera's Mission Study and Transition to a Called Pastor
Guest Speaker and Facilitator: The Rev. Geoff McLean, Associate General Presbyter
Date: Sunday, November 10
Time: Immediately after worship, in the Sanctuary

Your participation matters!



Join Us for the Blessing of the Animals! 🐾

Bring your pet, a photo, or even a favorite stuffed animal to receive a special blessing during our worship service! Let's celebrate the joy animals bring to our lives and honor all creatures, great and small. We can't wait to meet your furry (or feathered, scaly, or stuffed) friends!

For more events, read our November issue of The Spark: https://rivierachurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024.11-The-Spark.pdf

LINKING HEART & HAND OPPORTUNITIES



WE REACHED OUR GOAL!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated socks and funds to support the unhoused in our community. 🙌

Because of your generosity, we surpassed our goal of **500 pairs of white cotton socks**! **535 to be exact.**

Your kindness will bring warmth and comfort to so many. This wouldn't have been possible without YOU. Let's continue making a difference, one step at a time.

Frances Tucker Elementary Donations – Spread Thanksgiving Joy!

We're gearing up to provide **$25 Aldi gift cards** to 20 children from food-insecure homes at Frances Tucker Elementary.

Please help us make this possible!

Donate through the Food Pantry line on the giving page on our website, www.rivierachurch.org, or mark your donation as "Food Pantry" in the offering plate.

📅 **Join us** on **November 18th at 9:00 AM** at the school to help distribute these gifts and make a difference!

Thank you for your generosity! Please see Ellen if you have any questions.



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.

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!

Theology Uncorked – Sunday, October 13 from 5:30-7:30pm at Unseen Creatures 4178 SW 74 CT
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.

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

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.

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Communion: #516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken #27229 Words - ©1925 Augsburg Fortress Publishers Contributors: Louis F Benson

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Closing Hymn: #326 For All the Saints #80893 Words and Music - © Oregon Catholic Press Contributors: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, William How

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Riviera Presbyterian Church – PCUSA
(A Vibrant Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)
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Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

Ministers	All the People
Pastor	Rev. Melanie Marsh
Director of Music	Dr. Walter Busse
Certified Church Administrator	Barbara Prieto
Church Bookkeeper	Diana Florez
Sacred Space Caretaker	Glenda Bertran
Child Care Providers	Simonette Gutierrez
	Angie Waller

Session	**Session**	**Session**
Class of 2024	**Class of 2025**	**Class of 2026**
Laura Fothergill	Karen Collier	Amparo Hernandez
Rey Prieto	Susan Mazzola	Kathy Stults
Alejandra Rondon		
Butch Sorenson		
Cris Sweeny		