

THE SPARK

February 2025

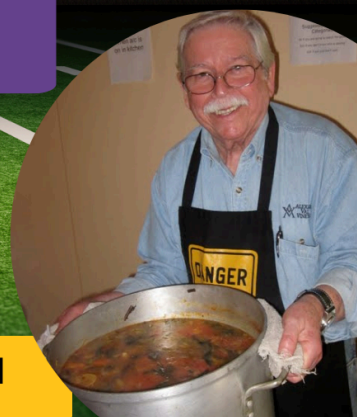
Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World



Sunday, February 2 • 12:00 pm

First Sunday Community Soup Potluck

Bring a soup, salad, or bread to share
Free Will Offering for Hunger Program



Celebrating RPC's 5th Annual Henry Barrow Memorial SouperBowl

*Henry Barrow, Riviera Presbyterian Church Member, served as a radio analyst and sideline reporter during his three-decade career with the Dolphins, including during the team's historic perfect season in 1972.

Since the 1960s, Riviera Presbyterian Church has been committed to feeding those in need within our local community. This mission remains at the heart of who we are. Every February, we join hands with congregations and community programs nationwide in the fight to Tackle Hunger.

This year, we invite you to be part of this effort through our Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch on February 2. It's more than a meal—it's a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

Children and their families are invited to bring sweet treats for our bake sale.



MELANIE'S MESSAGE

February 2025 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 pm
Sunday 9:00 - 1:00 pm
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

Gerardo Avitia
Karen Collier
Laura Fothergill
Angela Galbreath
Amparo Hernandez
Michele Ready
Kathy Stults
Cris Sweeny

Dear Friends,

February starts with two big events, and we would love for you to attend!

First, on Sunday, February 2nd, during the monthly Community Meal, we will hold our annual Henry Barrow Memorial Souperbowl Feast. Proceeds from this yearly fundraiser help to feed the hungry in our community and beyond. This year, along with our soup and salad potluck, we are adding to the fun with a football pool fundraiser led by our own Karen Moyer! Entries into the pool are \$5 each, and portion of funds raised will go to Riviera's Hunger Program.

On February 9th, Rev. Geoff McLean will return with us after worship for part 2 of our mission study conversation about Riviera - Past, Present, and Future. Our discussion will focus on future hopes and dreams for our Riviera community. Members and friends of the church will be asked to share their answers to the following questions:

1. Where/Who do we want the church to be 5 years from now?
2. What are our dreams for Riviera?
3. What do we think that Riviera Church can offer to the community?

We'll have plenty of Holy Grounds snacks to share, and childcare will be provided.

If you can't make it to the conversation on Sunday, February 9th, feel free to share your answers to these questions with us via email, or drop them on a note card in the offering plate during worship. We can't wait to see you at church this month.

Cheers!
Rev. Melanie

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



As we journey through this season, we are filled with joy and gratitude for each of you, especially those celebrating their birthdays in February!

May this new year of your life bring abundant blessings, good health, and countless moments of happiness. We pray that God's love continues to guide and surround you every step of the way.

"May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." – Psalm 20:4

Wishing you a very special birthday and a year filled with His grace and peace.

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



Becky F - Feb. 4
Amy B - Feb. 9
Diana I - Feb. 13
Michele R - Feb. 18
Barbara O - Feb. 20
Lucas S - Feb. 27



If you're not currently on our email prayer list but would love to join in praying for others, we'd be delighted to include you! Please email Bonnie at bfah@me.com, and she'll gladly add you to the list.

FELLOWSHIP



Beach GATHERING

SATURDAY FEB. 8

STARTS AT 10:00AM UNTIL PARK CLOSES

BRING YOUR FAVORITE BRUNCH SNACK TO SHARE

**CRANDON PARK
SOUTH BEACH SHELTER #1**

rsup: rivierachurch@gmail.com



Bring your favorite beach-friendly brunch dish to share and enjoy a day of relaxation, great food, and fun by the ocean. Stay as long as you like, soaking in the sun, the soothing sound of the waves, and the joy of laughter.

We can't wait to see you there! **Please RSVP** rivierachurch@gmail.com



THEOLOGY **uncorked**

Sunday, February 9, at 5:30pm

What do resistance and restoration look like for the church in the current cultural climate? Let's discuss.

[Unseen Creatures Brewing & Blending 4178 SW 74CT 33155](#)



Let's Laugh & Play with Friends

RIVIERA'S GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY MARCH 8

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
GAMES FOR ALL AGES 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
GAMES AFTER DARK 7:00PM - 9:00 PM

CARD & BOARD GAMES - BINGO - TRIVIA - CHARADES

RSVP: rivierachurch@gmail.com

Bring snacks and beverages 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

Join Us for Women's Study Group in February!

Ladies of Riviera Presbyterian Church, we're excited to invite you to our upcoming Women's Study Group as we dive into the powerful book Sons of Encouragement by Francine Rivers.

This inspiring study will explore the lives of five biblical men who quietly changed eternity through their faithfulness, humility, and steadfast encouragement. Together, we'll reflect on their stories and discover how their lessons apply to our own lives today.

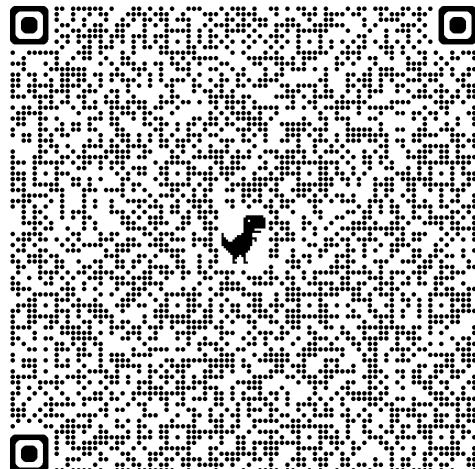
Come for thoughtful discussion, spiritual growth, and the joy of fellowship with other women of faith. Whether you're new to Bible study or a seasoned participant, you'll find a welcoming place in this circle.

Let's grow in faith and encouragement together.

The Women's Study group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 on Zoom. New members are welcome.

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

You may purchase book on Amazon - scan QR Code



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-FAMILIES

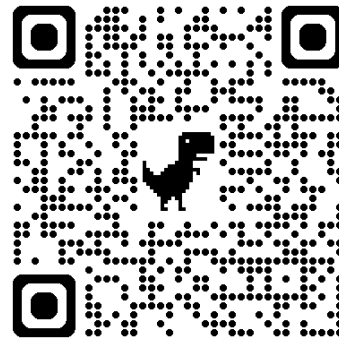
Parent's CORNER

Around the Table Podcast

Around the Table is a Lilly Endowment Inc.-funded initiative in the Presbyterian Church (USA) that engages faith communities, parents, and caregivers in innovative practices of sharing stories that grow intergenerational communities and support household faith formation. Available on Spotify and Apple.

Rev. Melanie was interviewed in an episode about faith conversations around the table and anywhere they can happen, in the busy life of single parenting.

Listen Here:



Sunday School class with Laura.

MISSION



Child Care Center

at Riviera Presbyterian Church



This year, the church and school are celebrating two milestone anniversaries –the church will celebrate its 80th birthday, and the school will honor 45 years in the community in 2025.

We hope to celebrate these big events with you all later this year, and we are looking for volunteers to help us dream, plan, and prepare for some wonderful festivities this summer.

Contact Rev. Melanie via email - rev if you want to get involved.
melanie.marsh@gmail.com.

We look forward to this special year.

Peace,
Rev. Melanie Marsh

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



everything
[in] between

intention & action

Ash Wednesday Service March 5 at 7:00pm

SPF: STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/PROPERTY

Per Capita Challenge Update: Over Halfway There!

Great news, Riviera family—we've raised \$1,473 toward our \$2,615 goal! We're officially over halfway there, and every contribution brings us closer to the finish line by March 30th.

Remember, reaching 100% participation means we'll celebrate with a Helados Unidos ice cream social on Palm Sunday!

Thank you for your continued generosity—let's keep up the amazing work!

You can pay online at www.rivierachurch.org/give, CashApp, Venmo @rivierachurch5275 #305-666-8586



2024 Contribution statements have been mailed out. If you do not received your statement by Feb. 10 please email, Diana at rivierapresfinance@gmail.com