

THE SPARK

March 2025 Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Enter Lent with Intention & Action

Ash Wednesday- March 5

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Imposition of Ashes

CCC Entrance

Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm Soup Supper

Riviera Sanctuary

7:00 pm Worship Service

- In-Person
- Zoom
- YouTube



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](https://www.instagram.com/RivieraChurch)

All The People
Ministers

Rev. Melanie Marsh
Pastor

Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com

Dr. Walter Busse
Director of Music
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

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Church Bookkeeper
rivierapresfinance@gmail.com

Barbara Prieto, CCA
Certified Church Administrator
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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,

For the upcoming Lenten season, Riviera will examine the scriptures through the lens of the Sanctified Art worship series *Everything in Between*. This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to transformation.

Each week, we will explore life between two supposed binaries:
Between "faith & works"
Between "rest & growth"
Between "grief & hope"
Between "stranger & neighbor" And More..

We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we begin to see a picture that is more complex. We might discern a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

This season, we invite you to look beyond binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dualities that define our lives, and also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create.

This theme feels especially important to explore in this season of discernment in our community, as we find our way through the undefined spaces of transition.

It will also speak to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world.

This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between. We invite you to join us on this journey.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOW WE LEARN TO BE BRAVE

Join us for an engaging and thoughtful adult education series as we explore How We Learn to Be Brave by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. This book invites us to reflect on the courage it takes to navigate life's challenges with faith, wisdom, and resilience.

Through guided discussions, we'll examine what it means to live bravely as individuals and as a faith community, drawing on both personal experiences and the book's insights. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, deeper connection, or simply a space to grow, this class is for you!

When: 12:30 - 1:30 pm March 2, 16, 30, April 6, 27 child care provided.

Where: Church Library

We will have 1 copy left for sale at \$20 each. You may also download an audio version via Audible or a Kindle Version.

All are welcome—join the conversation! Come as you are, ready to reflect and grow in faith together.

For more details or to RSVP, contact Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com

FELLOWSHIP

Bring your favorite Mardi Gras food to share

Mardi gras FIRST SUNDAY
COMMUNITY
POTLUCK
3.2.2025
12:00NOON



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



Bring your favorite games & snacks to share.

Looking forward to spending time together



THEOLOGY **uncorked**

Sunday, March 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](#)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS

Bible study @ 10 am starting March 9th

During the Season of Lent, our Sunday morning adult Bible study will delve into the Everything in Between Lenten devotional, exploring the scriptures with fresh perspective.

As we engage with these texts, we will explore how Jesus' ministry disrupted the social, political, and religious divides of his time. He intentionally highlighted cultural and political extremes to reveal the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. Studying these stories in their historical and cultural context allows us to see striking parallels to the divisions we experience today—in our families, churches, and communities.

Join us as we reflect on how Christ's transformative love speaks into our world. We offer the class in person and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 894-7650-2156 Passcode: 333227

Child care is also available.

Women's Study Group – March 20 – 7:30pm

Join the Riviera Women's Study Group as we explore Sons of Encouragement by Francine Rivers. This powerful book highlights five biblical men who quietly shaped history through faith and humility.

For details contact Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com

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

SPF: STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/PROPERTY

Per Capita Challenge Update: \$2,303 Raised!

We're now at \$2,303 toward our \$2,615 goal—just \$312 to go before March 30th! Let's keep up the momentum and make this happen!

Remember, reaching 100% participation means celebrating with a Helados Unidos ice cream social on Palm Sunday! 🍦

Thank you for your generosity—almost there!

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

