

THE SPARK

June 2025

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

A Legacy Built on Faith & Service

Riviera Presbyterian Church - Celebrating 80 years

Child Care Center at Riviera - Celebrating 45 years



Join us on Sunday, June 8, at 11:00 AM for a special worship service honoring the 80th anniversary of Riviera Presbyterian Church and the 45th anniversary of our Child Care Center.

After worship, stay for a celebratory luncheon filled with good food, shared memories, and joyful connection. We'll reflect on our story, celebrate where we are, and look ahead to what's next—with gratitude and hope.

Please let us know by Thursday, June 4th, if you'll be attending.

RSVP by calling the church office at 305-666-8586 or emailing rivierachurch@gmail.com

All are welcome—longtime members, new friends, and those who've been part of our journey over the years. We'd love to see you there.



MELANIE'S MESSAGE

June 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

Barbara Prieto, CCA
Certified Church Administrator
rivierachurch@gmail.com

Clerk of Session
Kathy Stults

Session Members
Gerardo Avitia
Karen Collier
Laura Fothergill
Angela Galbreath
Amparo Hernandez
Michele Ready
Cris Sweeny

Beloved Community,

This summer in worship, we will explore the history of what we, as Presbyterians, say about our faith with a sermon series entitled "This We Believe."

Each week, we will examine scripture in conversation with one statement of faith from our PC (USA) Book of Confessions—a written history of the claims, doctrines, and moral imperatives that have guided and shaped our tradition.

Over the five weeks of this series, we will pair our worship exploration with classes and workshops that examine what Presbyterians Believe about contemporary social issues, such as women's reproductive rights, immigration, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and more. Below is the schedule for the worship series.

Week 1 (06/22) - The Apostle's Creed
Week 2 (06/29) - The Scots Confession
Week 3 (07/06) - The Barmen Declaration
Week 4 (07/13) - The Confession of 1967
Week 5 (07/20) - The Brief Statement of Faith

If you've never seen or read the Confessions of the Presbyterian Church, USA, copies of the Book of Confessions are available for free online, in our library, and in the church office. Check in-worship announcements and weekly emails for more information on class times and locations. We hope you will join us in worship and beyond for this summer series.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie

Link to online Book of Confessions:

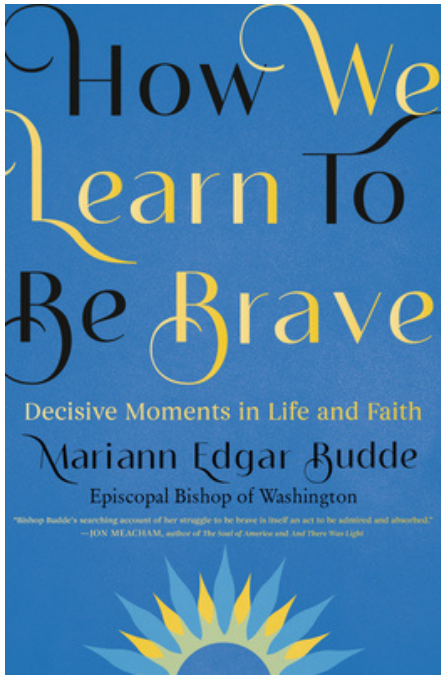
<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/OGA16018/book-of-confessions-pdf.aspx>

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee is dedicated to providing care, support, and prayer for individuals and families in all stages and circumstances of life. Rooted in a spirit of community and service, this ministry fosters meaningful connections and ensures that no one walks alone. Through thoughtful systems of support, we seek to nurture, encourage, and care for every generation of our church family—coming together as siblings in Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Don't hesitate to contact Karen C at kc33134@aol.com if care is needed.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-ADULTS



Here is what Ruling Elder Michele Ready had to say about our last Adult Education Class

I really enjoyed our discussion group and Dr. Mariann Edgar Budde's book, "How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith." The participants were engaged and thoughtful, occasionally even surprising because-- of course--the same material resonated differently with different people.

For such a limited time commitment, the benefits in terms of faith and community building have me looking forward to future RPC discussions that focus on contemporary theologians and current events.

Come for reflection, fellowship, and spiritual growth. All are welcome!

The Women's Study Group will meet on June 19 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Reach out to Karen C at kc33134@aol.com for login information.

MISSION



During the month of June, we'll be collecting the PC(USA) Pentecost Special Offering at Riviera Presbyterian Church!

This offering supports children at risk, youth ministries, and young adult mission opportunities—nurturing the faith of the next generation.

Our 2025 goal is \$650, and 40% of what we receive will go directly to the Frances Tucker Elementary Fund to support students and teachers as they prepare for the new school year.

Every gift brings us closer to that goal and helps us invest in young lives—both locally and globally.

Stay tuned for more updates throughout the month!



Thank You, Blood Donors!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated during our June 1st blood drive with the Big Red Bus! Your generosity helps save lives and strengthens our community. We're so grateful for your compassion and willingness to give. ❤️💧

September 7 is our next opportunity to make a difference!