

THE SPARK

September 2025

Embodying Love

- Demanding Justice

- Transforming the World

RALLY
DAY



POTLUCK
LUNCH

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 7
AFTER WORSHIP

Bring a dish to share



MELANIE'S MESSAGE

September 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

Emma Cottrell

Faith Formation & Outreach Director
rivierapresfaithformation@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,

We've seen a lot of changes taking place across our community in recent months. We're sure to see many more before our season of transition is through. In his life and his ministry, Jesus encourages his followers - ancient and modern - to step into the unknown with open hearts. "Fear Not" he tells us, again and again. This month, I am sharing a poem from the online devotion Unfolding Light as a reminder that we are all, always resurrection people, made new in every moment.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. — John 21.4

Mary thought he was the gardener.
The disciples on the road to Emmaus
thought he was a newcomer.
Why didn't they recognize him?
Because he'd been changed.

Resurrection isn't "coming back to life,"
it's going on to a new life. It's transformation.
When Jesus rose, Mary reported it to the disciples.
They didn't believe it.
They were still in an upper room, behind locked doors.
They had heard about resurrection,
but it hadn't changed them yet.

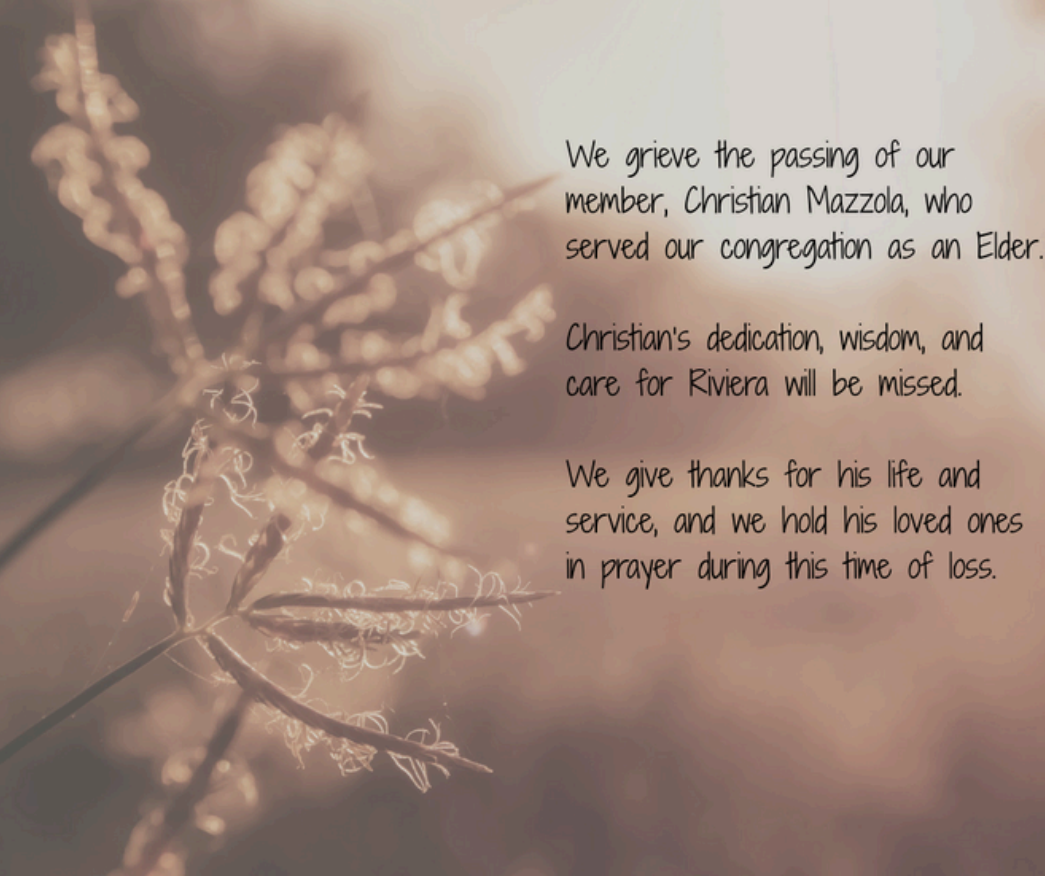
Too often I live as if resurrection has not actually happened.
I am still afraid, still doubting. Still ready to go back to fishing with Peter,
back to the old life.

I don't want to be changed. I say I do, but
there is still much I hang onto.
To be raised is to let go of everything,
everything I want to cling to, even fear, and only love.
Am I willing?
Willing to cast my net in a different way?

Risen Jesus, draw me up out of this life into a new one.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Melanie

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



We grieve the passing of our member, Christian Mazzola, who served our congregation as an Elder.

Christian's dedication, wisdom, and care for Riviera will be missed.

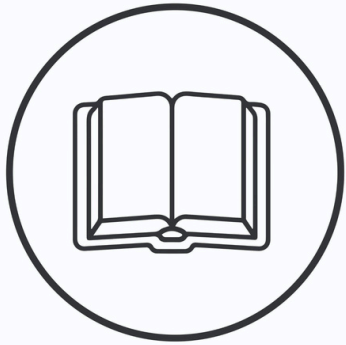
We give thanks for his life and service, and we hold his loved ones in prayer during this time of loss.



STEWARDSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

- Fire alarm installation is still in process.
- Roof repairs were done in the Education Building.
- Painting and transformation of the new Spirit Center in the library area has begun
- Stewardship Campaign 2026 is coming soon. Consider how you can share your time, talents, and treasures with Riviera.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION



Hi friends!

I am so grateful to be joining the Riviera family! I am very excited to kick off the program year as we celebrate Rally Day on September 7th! We will be launching a new children's Sunday school curriculum this year called "Bible - Church - Action"! This curriculum focuses on familiarity with key Bible passages and verses, theology and tradition in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and putting our faith into action! I hope you will join us Rally Day to celebrate and learn more about the education offerings here at Riviera!

Blessings,
Emma Cottrell

In-person or virtually
Sundays at 10:00 am EST.



Zoom Information
Meeting ID: 894-7650-2156
Passcode: 333227

THE
BIBLE





Bible Study

WOMEN'S GROUP

Join Us for a Time of Fellowship and Growth in the Word.



Thursday
Sept. 18



7:30 PM



via Zoom

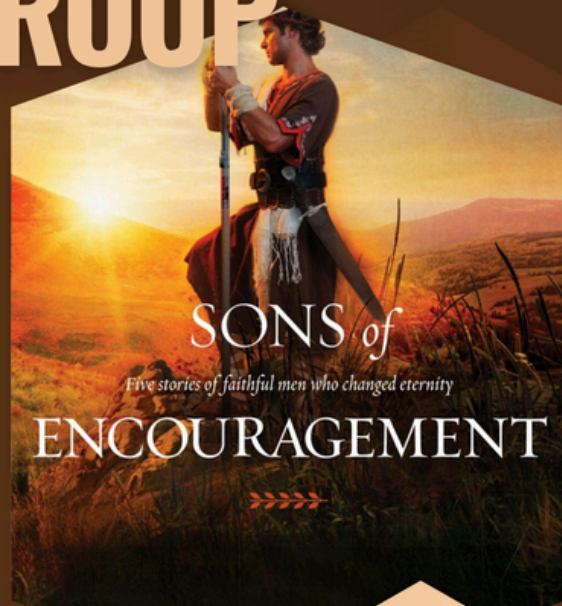
What to Expect:

- ✓ Group Discussion
- ✓ Reflection & Sharing
- ✓ Prayer & Fellowship
- ✓ Warm and Welcoming Atmosphere

MORE INFORMATION



kc33134@aol



WORSHIP, MARKETING, MEMBERSHIP

Reviews

Reviews from the web

4.4/5 [Facebook](#) · 31 votes

Google review summary

Write a review



Reviews

Sort by

G Peral
4 reviews

★★★★★ 6 years ago

I come here for chorus (Miami Children's Chorus) every Monday and Wednesday. I was chosen for opera so we get to stay in the church. Every Time I come here, a wonderous feeling fills me up. The place truly seems as though it is blessed by heaven.



Riviera Presbyterian Church

4.3 ★★★★★ 8 Google reviews

Presbyterian church in Miami-Dade County, Florida

[Website](#) [Directions](#) [Reviews](#) [Saved](#)

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Address: 5275 Sunset Dr, Miami, FL 33143

Get There: 🚗 2 hr 4 min · 🚶 25 min

Phone: (305) 666-8586

Hours: Open · Closes 6 PM

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Google Reviews – Share the Good News About RPC!!

Do you ever find yourself checking online to see how good a restaurant is? Maybe you are heading out on vacation and want to see if other people enjoyed their stay at a hotel. What is the experience like? Reviews on web platforms like Google establish a reassurance, a trust and credibility as well as a transparency to the many decisions we make about where we spend our time or what we like to do.

The same is true for our faith community. Help us share the Good News about Riviera Presbyterian Church by writing an authentic and current review on Google. These insights and feedback help bring new members and provide exposure online for our community. Write from your heart, your perspective, and your experience. We suggest you don't use specific names, be mindful of grammar and sentence structure, also not too long and not too short. It is helpful to have a Google profile, though not required.

[Simply click here or scan the QR Code and tell the world about Riviera Presbyterian Church.](#)



HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHTS

FEATURED FILMS

“DRACULA”
“BOOK OF LIFE”

OCTOBER 26
7:00 PM
CLASSIC SILENT
MOVIE DRACULA
WITH
LIVE ORGAN MUSIC

NOVEMBER 2
TIME TBA

CHILDREN'S FILM
BOOK OF LIFE

SAVE THE DATES

