

# THE SPARK

October 2025    Embodying Love – Demanding Justice – Transforming the World



## SEASON OF CREATION

Worship Series

JOIN US  
SUNDAYS @11AM

OCTOBER 5 -  
NOVEMBER 16

The Season of Creation theme is "Peace with Creation" based on Isaiah 32:14-18.  
Celebrate each week by honoring a different element of the created world

See page two for details



# MELANIE'S MESSAGE

October 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](http://www.rivierachurch.org)

Connect with us on social media  
@RivieraChurch

All The People  
Ministers

Rev. Melanie Marsh  
Pastor

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Dr. Walter Busse  
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Clerk of Session  
Kathy Stults

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

Beloved Community,

Welcome to the Season of Creation! As the weather outside changes ever so slowly in the coming weeks, we will return to our annual celebration of all God's created wonders. Creation Justice Ministries tells us,

"The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our siblings in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home."

This year's global Season of Creation theme is "Peace with Creation" based on Isaiah 32:14-18. We will be celebrating each week by honoring a different element of the created world:

Week 1 (10/05) - The People  
World Communion Sunday

Week 2 (10/12) - The Animals  
Blessing of the Animals

Week 3 (10/19) - The Land  
Immersive worship experience with Forest Bath Miami

Week 4 (10/26) - The Waters  
Our Home Waters: An Art, Science, and Faith Conversation with Dr. Andrew Furman, Creative Writing Professor (FAU) and Matthew Newton, Marine Archeologist (UF)

Week 5 (11/09) - The Air  
Mindfulness Breathing Meditation with Rev. Kathy McLean

Week 6 (11/16) - All of Creation  
Songs of Creation Hymn Sing

We look forward to seeing you in worship throughout the Season of Creation and beyond!

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Melanie

# 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.

If you have a concern, need support, or would like someone to pray with you, please reach out to Karen at [kc33134@aol.com](mailto:kc33134@aol.com). For prayer requests reach out to Bonnie at [bfah@me.com](mailto:bfah@me.com)



We share with you the obituary of church member Christian Mazzola, who entered the Church Triumphant on August 31, 2025. He was a part of our Riviera family, faithfully sharing his gifts of with this community of faith. You can read Christian's full obituary and learn more about his life and legacy at the link below:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/mazzola/christian>

Please keep his family and friends in your prayers as we give thanks for a life well-lived and the promise of God's eternal love.



# STEWARDSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

The Stewardship, Property & Finance Committee is meeting on Wednesday, October 8 via Zoom at 5:00pm. If you are interested in finding out more about the responsibilities of this committee please reach out to the church office at [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

## Message from the Stewardship Sub-Committee

Congratulations to the Riviera family on a successful 2024 stewardship campaign, during which 35 families pledged and contributed nearly \$98,000.

This year's campaign, entitled 'From Bread & Wine to Faith & Giving,' invites us to The Table as a reminder of how God's transformational love inspires us to improve our community. Please make your pledge to support Riviera's mission of transforming the world around us with God's love.

The campaign launches on September 28th and concludes on November 2nd with a consecration of the gifts during worship.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - FAITH FORMATION

There's nothing like a day spent with our church family, and Rally Day was a perfect reminder of that! Our recent Rally Day was filled with joy, laughter, and love from start to finish.

We began by commissioning our Sunday School teachers and celebrating the exciting kickoff to the program year. After the service, we gathered for a community lunch where we explored creativity as a spiritual practice through two hands-on activities. Cris Sweeny and Kathy Stults led us in launching our Magic Mailers Ministry, guiding us as we used a variety of art materials to create joyful cards to share with others.

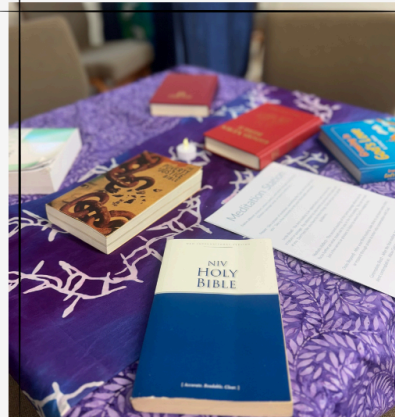
Meanwhile, Carol and Julian Thompson helped us create a beautiful prayer quilt, filled with joys, thanksgivings, and blessings that will be displayed in the Spirit Center.

In the Sanctuary, Pastor Melanie led us in energizers, a fun and meaningful way to experience joyful movement as a spiritual response. We also practiced Lectio Divina, reflecting on scripture, psalms, hymns, prayers, and poems.

The children also had their share of fun, as we celebrated the launch of our new curriculum with Lego-building, face painting, and joyful play.

We are so thankful for everyone who volunteered, participated, and made Rally Day special. We can't wait for our next community meal and more moments of connection and celebration together!

## RALLY DAY 2025



[More news ...](#)

## October Community Meal: Sharing Encouragement and Creativity

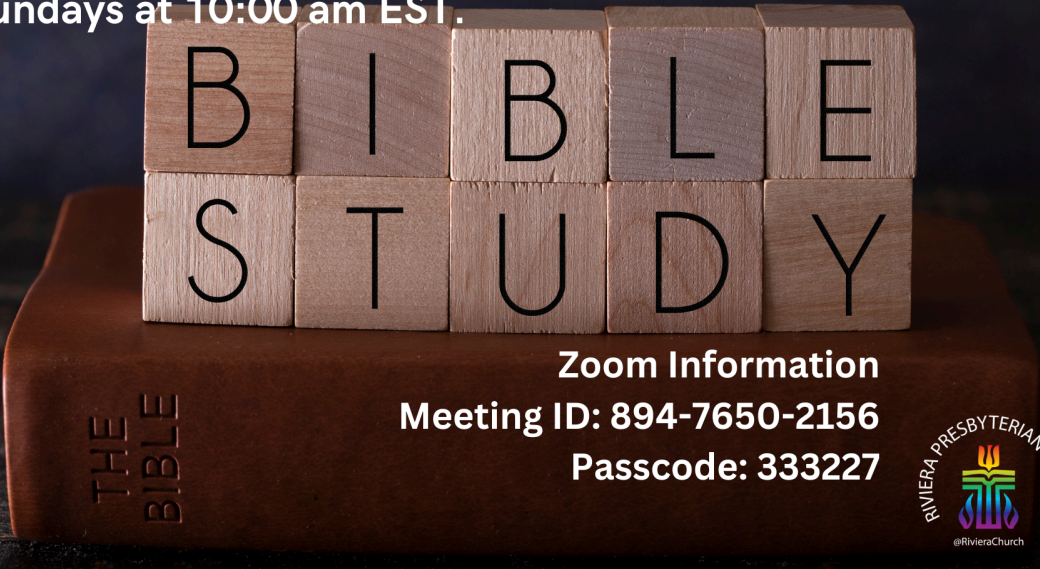
At this month's Community Meal, we'll be adding a special way to care for one another. Emma will provide cards for anyone who would like to write a short, encouraging note. These notes will then be passed along to our Congregational Care Committee, who will see that they are mailed to members and friends who could use a little extra encouragement.

We'll also have an origami station! Come fold, create, and share in the joy of simple hands-on art while enjoying food and fellowship together.




### Open Invitation:

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



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



THEOLOGY  
**un**gear**orked**

Will meet on October 12  
at 5:30pm

Lincoln Beard 7360 SW 41st St Miami, FL 33155

# WORSHIP, MARKETING, MEMBERSHIP



If you are looking for inspiration to staying healthy as you age, look no further than our Mimi Sutherland. Click on this link to see how she stays healthy and active at age 85.

<https://www.local10.com/sponsored/2025/09/19/85-year-old-shares-secret-to-staying-healthy-and-active/>

## MISSION

**This October, help us share warmth and care!**

Riviera is collecting new white socks for adults to support our neighbors in need.

All donations will go directly to the Camillus House Specialized Street Outreach Program, whose teams provide compassionate care to Miami's most vulnerable homeless men and women.



# Socktober



**Donations accepted October 1 - 31**

**Bring in new, white adult size socks**



During the month of October, RPC is collecting new socks to support our neighbors in need

**Why socks?**  
They are the most requested item in shelters and by the unhoused

Together, we can make a difference - one pair of socks at a time!

### Why socks?

Socks are the most requested item on the streets. They provide immediate comfort and help prevent serious health issues.

About Camillus House Outreach:

- Every morning, trained specialists seek out men and women living under bridges, in parks, and on the streets of downtown Miami.
- They provide assessments, foot care, medical attention, and addiction support.
- Their dedicated teams work patiently with those who are mentally ill, severely addicted, or chronically homeless—helping them step toward stability, treatment, housing, and dignity.

### How you can help:


- Donate new, adult-sized white socks.
- Collection bins will be available in the narthex.
- Donations accepted October 1 – October 31.

Together, we can bring comfort, compassion, and hope—one pair of socks at a time.

# FELLOWSHIP

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS**


**SUN. OCT. 26 7PM**  
**HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT**  
WITH LIVE IMPROVISED MUSIC SCORE  
ON SPOOKY REAL PIPE ORGAN &  
OTHER-WORLDLY THEREMIN!!  
JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF THE 1931 ORIGINAL CULT CLASSIC  
DRACULA FEATURING BELA LUGOSI  
PERFORMED BY ORGANIST/COMPOSER DR. WALTER BUSSE



**SUN. NOV. 2 5PM**  
**FREE FAMILY MOVIE & CANDY SWAP**  
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY  
& CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS DAY WITH THIS  
FAMILY FAVORITE!

**The Book of Life**

**RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
5275 SUNSET DRIVE MIAMI FL 33143  
WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG



RSVP to [rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)



## Community Meal Potluck – World Communion Sunday

This Sunday, following worship, we invite you to join us for a Community Meal potluck in celebration of World Communion Sunday. In the spirit of unity and diversity, we encourage you to bring a dish from your own heritage to share with the congregation. Together we'll enjoy flavors from many traditions, reflecting the rich tapestry of God's family gathered at one table.

All are welcome—whether you bring a dish or simply bring yourself, there will be plenty to share!

# SESSION

## Called Congregational Meeting

Sunday October 5 during worship

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- Present, discuss, and vote on the slate of people to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

- Present, discuss, and vote on the slate of people to serve on the Session for the Class of 2028.

# ONE MORE THING

## Angel Tree Project Begins November 17

On Sunday, November 17, we will launch our annual Angel Tree project for first graders at Frances Tucker Elementary. Each child will have an “About Me” sheet to help guide you in choosing a meaningful gift. We suggest keeping gifts around \$20 per child.

Please return all gifts to the church by Sunday, December 15. The following morning, Monday, December 16, we will gather to distribute the gifts—and everyone is welcome to join us. It's always a heartwarming experience to see the joy these gifts bring.

For many of these children, this may be the only present they receive during the holiday season. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

