

# THE SPARK

November 2025

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

## *Hanging of the Greens*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT  
11:00 AM**

Sunday, November 23 we'll gather to prepare our sanctuary—and our hearts—for the Advent season. Through scripture, song, and the decorating of sacred spaces, we'll reflect on the symbols of Christmas and the hope they represent.

As part of the service, we'll hang handmade Chrismons on the Christmas tree—a meaningful tradition where people of all ages can take part. Together, we'll adorn our church with greenery, light, and symbols of faith, welcoming the season of anticipation and joy.



# MELANIE'S MESSAGE

November 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

[Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.melanie.marsh@gmail.com)

Dr. Walter Busse  
Director of Music

[rivierapresmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresmusic@gmail.com)

Emma Cottrell

Faith Formation & Outreach Director  
[rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com)

Barbara Prieto, CCA  
Certified Church Administrator  
[rivierachurch@gmail.com](mailto:rivierachurch@gmail.com)

Clerk of Session  
Kathy Stults

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

An Invitation from Rev. Melanie

Dear Friends,

Those of you who joined us in worship at Riviera on October 26th, heard me share the news that I will not be seeking the role of Installed Pastor for Riviera Presbyterian Church, and that my last day as Transitional Pastor and Head of Staff will be Wednesday, December 31st, 2025.

As we move through this concluding season of our ministry together, as we grieve, and process and make peace with a new reality, and as we think about what the future might hold, I invite you to join me in a weekly time of prayer and conversation, Sundays from 12-2 in the Spirit Center. A simple meal will be provided.

I know the coming weeks will be filled with hard conversations, and challenging questions. My deepest hope is that we will feel the Spirit with us, and when God calls the next long-term pastor to this congregation, they will enter into a community that is ready to move together into the future God has prepared, because of the foundation we are building in this culminating stage of our transition process.

My prayer for all of us, now and in the days to come, is that we will step into this moment courageously, with open hearts and clear eyes, ready to follow where the Spirit leads us. I look forward to seeing you Sundays for worship and conversation through the end of this year.

Many Blessings,  
Rev. Melanie

# STEWARDSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

Stewardship, Finance, Property Committee's next meeting is via Zoom on Wednesday, November 12, at 5:00 pm.

Members: Kathy S. Butch S. Tania S. John G. Rey P. Barbie P. Carol N.

The new fire alarm system is nearing completion. We hope to be approved and up and running by the end of the year.

Thanks to Tania for heading up the subcommittee for the Stewardship Drive for 2025.

Consecration Sunday will be November 2nd . Please remember to submit your pledge cards or [online](#) before then. Knowing your support for next year will help us plan and finalize the budget for 2026.

# WORSHIP, MARKETING, MEMBERSHIP




This Advent season, we enter the story that has been told and retold through the generations—a story of promise, hope, and God's presence among us.

Our Advent series, From Generation to Generation..., invites us to remember that we are part of a sacred story still unfolding. Through word, song, and worship, we will reflect on how God continues to move through every generation—past, present, and future.

Join us Sundays at 11:00 a.m. starting on November 30<sup>th</sup> as we wait and watch for Christ's coming together.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

Hi friends! We have had an incredible season of creation so far and are looking forward to the upcoming season of Advent! We hope you will join us on December 7th for a very special worship service! We will hold our Nativity pageant, followed by a delicious Christmas luncheon and a birthday party for Jesus!



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

**Jesus's Birthday**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

Join us after worship for a special birthday party for Jesus! We will be celebrating with cake, games, crafts, and by kicking off our toy drive for Francis Tucker K-8!!

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Outdoor Sunday School Class during Season of Creation - The Land



### Open Invitation:

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



Zoom Information

Meeting ID: 894-7650-2156

Passcode: 333227

THE  
BIBLE



# MISSION

## 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.

## CCC News



### August News:

We are extremely proud of our VPK program and Ms. Arleen for 20 years of excellence in VPK. We are honored by the recognition from the ELC (Early Learning Coalition) and will continue to bring quality education for the next 20 years and beyond.




During the month of September we had a special surprise for our Ms. Arleen. A wonderful visit from ELC CEO and past parent of the CCC Evelio Torres, his son Daniel, CCC alumni. Also Sandra Gonzalez, senior VP of school readiness and the VPK program. We are always so happy to see past families and see just how much everyone has grown and are honored for the recognition for our service to our community.

# 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**

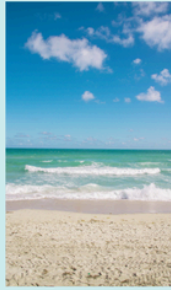
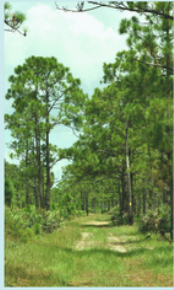
**RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
5275 SUNSET DRIVE MIAMI FL 33143  
WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG



## Game Night - November 8

Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition! Bring your favorite game and a snack to share as we gather for a fun time together. From 5:00 - 7:00 pm, enjoy family-friendly games for all ages, followed by Games After Dark from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Get ready for laughter, excitement, and new memories with family and friends. We can't wait to see you there!

# October in Pictures



## 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



**Blessing of the Animals**



**Season of Creation –  
The Land worship service**



**RPC's Trunk or Treat  
Car at CCC  
Halloween Event**



**CCC Families at  
Trunk or Treat**