

THE SPARK

February 2026 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

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



SPECIAL EVENT

\$600
Goal

Feb 8

Soups To Go on Super Bowl Sunday *Souper Bowl of Caring!*

Since the 1960s, Riviera Presbyterian Church has been committed to feeding those in need within our local community. This mission remains at the heart of who we are. Every February, we join hands with congregations and community programs across the nation in the fight to Tackle Hunger.

This year, instead of Souper Bowl Lunch, we're serving up delicious soups to go in support of our Hunger Program. Stop by, pick up your soup, and help us make a difference in our community on February 8th from 10:00 am – 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Suggested donations:

- \$10 – You're watching the game
- \$15 – You're tuning in for the commercials and halftime show
- \$20 – You don't know who's playing – and don't really care

Every contribution supports our efforts to address hunger locally, including providing food and essential supplies to our neighbors in need.

If you can't attend, your generosity can still shine. Consider donating to our Hunger Program, which provides essential food, socks, and toiletries to those who need them most. Your support will also help us provide grocery gift cards to children at Frances Tucker Elementary who face food insecurity while school cafeterias are closed during Spring Break.

Join us in making an impact. Because when we work together, no one has to face hunger alone.

Donate at www.rivierachurch.org/give -- Locate Souper Bowl of Caring



For many years, Henry Barrow was the master chef behind our Souper Bowl Sundays with our youth, sharing food, joy, and community. Henry was also a pioneering broadcaster in South Florida and a member of the Miami Dolphins' inaugural radio broadcast team in 1966, including during the team's historic perfect season in 1972. Deeply connected to Riviera Presbyterian Church and the local community, Henry was a respected news anchor and reporter. He passed away in 2020 at the age of 83. We continue this tradition of sharing food and caring for our neighbors in loving memory of Henry and his generous spirit.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

Hi friends!

As we start the new year, we are excited to invite our littlest disciples to stay in worship with us! We are continuing to build the number of resources in our pray-ground to help children experience worship through play. This includes worship buddy stuffed animals, books, and toys related to the worship theme or liturgical season, hymnals, children's Bibles marked with the scriptures and hymns used in worship, fidget toys, and sensory aids! We hope for children to experience worship in a way meaningful to them, while we appreciate the joy of intergenerational worship! If you are interested in volunteering as a playground facilitator, please reach out to Emma Cottrell at rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com.

We are also excited to launch a Google Classroom to offer families resources for at-home faith development! We have Baptism and Communion lessons available now with read-aloud videos, quick sheets with family discussion questions, and additional information for caregivers! We are looking forward to offering more resources as we prepare for Lent! If you would like access to the Google Classroom, please reach out to Emma Cottrell at rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com.

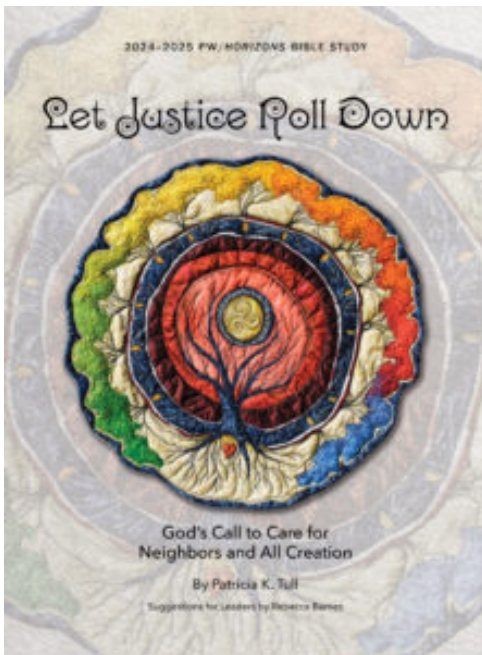
In Peace,
Emma



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

SUNDAY MORNING

HYBRID BIBLE STUDY @ 10:15 AM



Join Riviera's Women's Study Group in 2026 as we explore the Presbyterian Women study, Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation. Together, we will reflect on God's call to care for our neighbors and the world God loves, engaging ecological concerns, theological questions, and faithful responses for our time.

As an Earth Care Congregation, this study invites us to connect our theology with how we live and serve. All are welcome.

Contact Karen at kc33134@aol.com for details.



THEOLOGY
uncorked

Canceled Sunday Feb. 8
See you in March

LIVING OUR MISSION ...



Contact elected officials to “decry the unconscionable treatment of immigrant populations, the continued practice of family separation, and the unaccountable and lawless domestic policing of ICE.”



ACT NOW >>

<https://hubs.ly/Q0409qWX0>

RIVIERACHURCH.ORG

In response to the alarming militarization of I.C.E. and the repeated violations of civil rights, we urge you to contact your Administration and Congressional representatives to demand oversight and accountability. Join the PCUSA Action Alert today.

PC (USA) social witness policy statements affirm the core principles of U.S. democracy that every person has the right to live with dignity, speak freely, protest peacefully, and receive due process. We are called to act justly and protect all people.

Micah 6:8 reminds us: "To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

More here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/133070/Respond>



Join us in caring for our community and the planet as we continue our Electronic Recycling Program at the church.

You're invited to bring old or unused electronic items for responsible recycling. Clean out those drawers and closets and help keep harmful materials out of landfills.

Bin is located outside of Fellowship Hall on the South side of the building.



Congratulations to the Child Care Center who will be recognized on February 2 at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami's Board Meeting for their work in the community as a child care center as well as a VPK provider and to Ms. Arleen for 42 years of service and 20 years as a VPK teacher.

We are so proud!

Celebrating the Gift of Music: Thank You to the Young Patronesses of the Opera



We are grateful to the Young Patronesses of the Opera (YPO) for sharing their wonderful production of Little Red Riding Hood with our CCC Preschool and After School children as part of their In-School Opera Program on Friday, January 16. The performance introduced our young learners to live music, storytelling, and the joy of the performing arts in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

For more than 40 years, YPO has brought professional opera into schools across South Florida, helping children build curiosity, creativity, and an appreciation for the arts through live performances and student interaction.

We are especially proud that several of our church members and former staff have been involved with YPO since its inception, strengthening the long-standing connection between this meaningful program and our community.

Thank you, YPO, for inspiring our children and enriching their learning through the gift of music and performance.

LIVING OUR MISSION..YES INSTITUTE

Celebrating 30 Years



PURCHASE TICKETS:

yesinstitute.org/tickets

YES Institute is celebrating 30 years of service with a special anniversary event, Luminous Voices, Limitless Futures, on Saturday, February 28, 2026 aboard the Biscayne Lady Yacht.

For three decades, YES Institute has worked alongside families, educators, and communities to support the healthy development of youth through communication and education, and we are deeply grateful for the longstanding relationship and support we share with Riviera Presbyterian Church.

This milestone evening will feature inspiring speakers, live music, and a celebration of the impact made possible by those who believe in this work. Tickets are now available, and all are welcome to join.

Learn more and purchase tickets at yesinstitute.org/tickets.

Upcoming Courses & Workshops

Essentials of Well-being
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET
Via Zoom

Neurodiversity Awareness & Best Practices
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET
Via Zoom

Advanced Gender Therapy certification course
March 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2026
April 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2026
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Via Zoom

Reclaiming Machismo
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm ET
Via Zoom

Essentials of Gender & Orientation
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET

SPF – STEWARDSHIP, PROPERTY, FINANCE

We meet every month via Zoom at 5:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on February 11. Contact the church office at rivierachurch@gmail.com if you would like to join the committee.

Thanks to Tania for heading up the Stewardship drive for 2026. Pledges and donations are always welcome and appreciated. Below are instructions for easy online pledging and giving.

Instructions for online pledge:

On the homepage of the website, hover over Give for drop down menu

Choose your 2026 Pledge Commitment and click (or other donation)

Scroll past the picture collage and click on Open Pledge Form

Fill out the form and submit.

Once submitted, the church office will receive an email that a pledge has been submitted. The donor will receive a confirmation email.

Thanks to:

- Butch for taking on the task of Facility Use Coordinator and proofreading the minutes
- John G. for planting such beautiful flowering plants for the front sidewalk area and assisting with grounds issues. Take a look at the lovely new fence and landscaping on the west side of the courtyard. Made possible by a grant received by The Child Care Center for plant improvement and safety.
- Rey for coordinating ongoing repairs and projects like the new fire alarm system, new electrical updates, AC issues, and general handyman/carpenter projects, as well as performing many smaller jobs himself.
- Kathy for coordinating the agenda, chairperson, secretary, and assisting our bookkeeper with Servant Keeper entries.
- Butch, Kathy, Tania, Barbie and Carol for the tedious task of quarterly audits of the financial/bank statements.