

THE SPARK

May 2026 Embodying Love – Demanding Justice – Transforming the World



"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."
Psalm 24:1

LIVING OUR MISSION .. LEAP

Riviera Presbyterian Church

EASTERTIDE DRIVE

As we celebrate the gift of new life, help women in our community with a new start! To support our friends at LEAP, we will be collecting the following items:

- Full-size shampoo, conditioner, and body wash
- Loofahs and washcloths
- Full-size lotion
- Hair ties and brushes
- Full-size deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Pads and Tampons
- Body wipes and baby wipes
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Bras, socks, and underwear (S/M/L/XL)



You can locate the collection box in the Welcome Area/Narthex.

LETTER FROM PASTOR KIM

Dear Riviera Presbyterian Church Family,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Easter worship at Riviera Presbyterian Church was special. I could feel God's spirit in the air. It was palpable.

Some highlights of Easter Worship 2026 were:

- Matthew and the children leading us in the Easter liturgy
- The heavenly music, led by Dr. Walter Busse and the RPC choir
- The gorgeous flower arrangement by John German
- The number of visitors and long-time members that worshipped with us
- The celebratory Egg Hunt, hosted by you all, with the assistance of Emma Cottrell and her brother



If you were around for the worship, you probably felt the positive energy in the worshipping space. And, we told each other "Something Good!" I appreciate you all participating in this different kind of worship experience with me.

And ... there is more to look forward to ... Pentecost is coming!

My goal is to keep changing worship in ways that we allow the Spirit to show up in different ways for us. I'm sure you noticed that the pews and the Sanctuary were reset for Easter. And, the Worship Committee and I will be moving the Sanctuary around again for Pentecost. We are going to worship in the round! This will be a first for me. I'm really looking forward to it.

For Pentecost, I invite you to come dressed in as much red as you can find in your wardrobe. Let's see how the Spirit burns with fire on Pentecost! Also, if you speak a language other than English and can be in worship on Sunday, May 24 th, please let me know by Sunday, May 17 th (pastor@ppcusa.org). I'd like to include different languages from around the world in the Pentecost worship service.

I am grateful to each of you - for your patience and grace as the church tries to lean into a new way forward. As we all know, the one constant in life (besides God's love and grace) is that change is always around us. It is up to us as people of faith to learn how to continue forward faithfully. And, I feel your faithfulness.

I give thanks at the opportunity to serve as your Pastor at this time. Riviera Presbyterian Church holds a special place in my heart. RPC has been a prophetic voice in this presbytery, and I give thanks for being a part of a church that holds this in its DNA. May we know that God continues to walk with us as we continue to carve our way forward into the unknown together.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Kim Robles, Pastor, Riviera Presbyterian Church

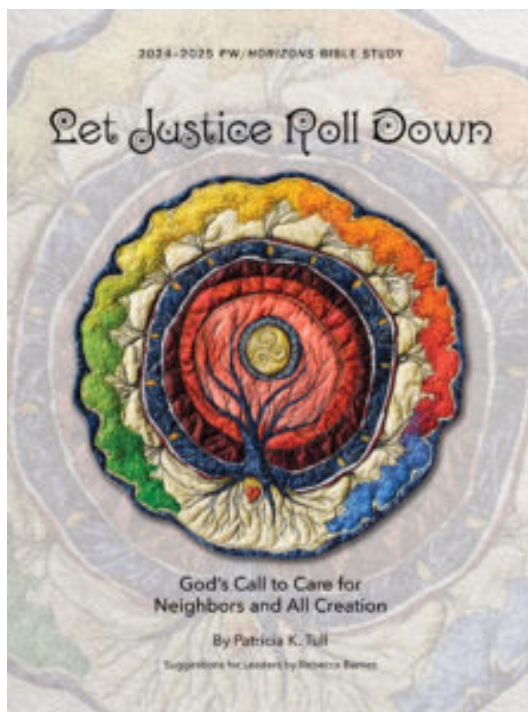
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

In May and June, we have the opportunity to slow down and take a moment to appreciate our parents and the parental figures in our lives. If you look around Riviera Presbyterian Church, you will see many examples of loving and dedicated parents! Not just parents wrangling young kids or encouraging elementary-age kids and teenagers, but also many people who have raised wonderful adults.

There are also many people in our congregation who have been like a mother or father to many, even if they do not have children of their own. As I reflect on Mother's Day, I think of my mom, my aunts, my mom's friends, my friend's moms, my grandmothers, and so many wonderful women who have shaped me into the person I am today.

We are so blessed to have received the gift of community from God. As we celebrate and reflect on the people in our lives who have offered us love and care, I encourage you to reach out to them and share your love and appreciation. Through a text, a card, a phone call, or whatever feels right to you. I also encourage you to look for an opportunity to be that outside parental figure in someone's life and send them some encouragement. Maybe reach out to a young parent or young adult in our congregation, let them know you're praying for them. Parenting is the hardest job in the world, as a community, let us love and help one another, as we first learned from scripture.

Above all, let your love for one another be constant, for love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8



This May, Riviera's Women's Study Group continues its journey through the Presbyterian Women's study, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.

As the season around us grows and changes, we'll gather to reflect on God's call to care—for one another and for the earth—through thoughtful conversation, shared learning, and faithful questioning. Our time together offers space to connect our beliefs with how we live and serve in the world.

All are welcome to join at any time. Come for a single session or join the ongoing conversation—we would love to have you with us.

Please reach out to Karen Collier (kc33134@aol.com) for more information. The group meets via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

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

SUNDAY MORNING

HYBRID BIBLE STUDY @ 10:15 AM

Bring your curiosity and your questions—Adult Bible Study is a welcoming space for meaningful conversation, fresh perspectives, and shared discovery. Whether you're familiar with scripture or just beginning to explore, you'll find a thoughtful community engaging the stories and wisdom of the Bible together. Join us for another lively and engaging conversation about faith and how it connects to our everyday lives in person at The Spirit Center or on Zoom.



THEOLOGY
uncorked

**Will not be meeting in
May.**

See you June 14

FELLOWSHIP



Join us on May 30 at 6:30 PM for an evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition for all ages. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share as we gather for a relaxed night of fellowship and connection.

Whether you love board games, card games, or just good company, there's a place for you at the table. Invite a friend and come ready for a great time together!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



As we move through the season of spring—a time of growth and renewal—the Congregational Care Committee continues its ministry of care, support, and prayer for our church family. We are committed to walking alongside individuals and families in every stage of life, offering encouragement, connection, and compassion along the way.

Through this shared ministry, we seek to nurture a strong and supportive faith community where each person is known, cared for, and reminded that they are not alone. Together, as siblings in Christ, we live out our calling to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If you are facing a challenge, have a need, or would like prayer, please reach out to Karen (kc33134@aol.com) or Bonnie (bfah@me.com) . We are here for you.

LIVING OUR MISSION .. OGHS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



One Great Hour of Sharing — Goal Reached

With gratitude and joy, we share that we have reached our goal of \$1,000 for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation—and a final gift from a member who contributed the remaining balance—we were able to fully meet our goal and fill the net.

Each fish added along the way represented a shared commitment to caring for others. Together, those gifts will support ministries that respond to disaster, expand access to housing, advocate for fair labor practices, and walk alongside communities in need.

Thank you to everyone who gave, encouraged, and participated. What we accomplished together will make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

We are the Church, together.

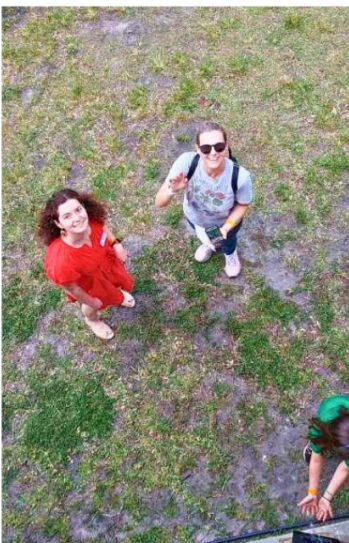
LIVING OUR MISSION .. CCC



Another wonderful day of community and celebration at the CCC Spring Carnival. It was a joy to see CCC and Riviera families come together—sharing laughter, games, and time with one another.

Events like this continue to reflect the spirit of connection that makes this community so special.

We're already looking forward to next year's carnival.



LIVING OUR MISSION .. EARTH CARE



As an Earth Care Congregation, Riviera Presbyterian Church remains committed to caring for God's creation in practical, everyday ways. One simple way our community can take part is through responsible electronic recycling.

If you have old or unused electronic equipment taking up space at home or in the office, we invite you to drop it off in the electronic recycling green bin located outside the Fellowship Hall.

This is an easy way to extend the spirit of Earth Day beyond a single moment. Our recycling bin is available 24/7, 365 days a year, offering a convenient opportunity to reduce waste and care for our shared environment.

Together, through small and faithful actions, we continue to live out our call to be good stewards of God's earth.



Give Your Items a Second Life

Looking to clear out clothing, jewelry, or home décor you no longer need? Give those items new purpose by donating them to the Dragonfly Store, supporting the LEAP program.

Gently used items in good condition can be dropped off in the LEAP Donation Box at the church. Proceeds from sales at the Dragonfly Store directly support women transitioning out of incarceration, helping fund programs that offer stability, resources, and a fresh start.

It's a simple way to recycle what you no longer use—and turn it into something meaningful for someone else.

Thank you for helping extend care through generosity and sustainability.

LIVING OUR MISSION..YES INSTITUTE



COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS™

Learn how to overcome barriers that get in the way of action and results in the face of disagreement. Discover how to generate new possibilities in communication that empower you to make a difference in your personal and professional relationships.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MAY 30-31, 2026
Noon-6pm both days

IN PERSON COURSE

5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
305-663-7195



Register online:

yesinstitute.org/courses/education/communication-solutions

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THE SOURCE FOR KNOWLEDGE
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2026 UPCOMING COURSES



COURSES DELIVERED ON ZOOM

**NEURODIVERSITY AWARENESS
& BEST PRACTICES**
WED, MAY 6
6PM-7:30PM ET

**ESSENTIALS OF GENDER &
ORIENTATION**
TUES, JULY 14
6PM-8PM ET

COMMUNICATION TOOLBOX
SAT, JULY 25
9AM-1PM ET

IN-PERSON COURSES

**WELL-BEING IN TIMES OF
UNCERTAINTY**
SAT, MAY 2
9AM-1PM ET

COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS™
SAT & SUN, MAY 30-31
NOON-6PM ET BOTH DAYS

COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS™
SAT & SUN, SEPTEMBER 19-20
NOON-6PM ET BOTH DAYS

Register at: [yesinstitute.org/crf](https://www.yesinstitute.org/crf)

*Spanish language interpretation
available with prior request*

305-663-7195

[yesinstitute.org](https://www.yesinstitute.org)

info@yesinstitute.org

5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

WORSHIP

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP AT RPC

Hi RPC Family,

The RPC Session had a lengthy discussion at our last meeting about the livestream not occurring during and after worship these last several weeks. The Session is aware that there is a desire to see it return, and is trying to find new avenues to make it happen with our staffing changes that have taken place.

With the absence of a paid staff person to work the livestream during worship on Sunday mornings, the Session is looking for new alternatives in offering a version of worship online. We are trying to be creative in coming up with a new way to have either an online presence during worship or at least trying to offer a recording of the worship service online at a later time. Again, if this is something that would interest you as a volunteer, please reach out to me (pastor@ppcusa.org) or Laura Fothergill (laura.fothergill@gmail.com).

It is critical in this moment of transition that we lean on one another for support and guidance. If you can assist us, the Session would appreciate it. It is in these times of change that we are called to carry one another forward as the Body of Christ.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Kim

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586

9:00am Sunday Worship Service
Office Hours M - R 9:30-5:30 pm
www.rivierachurch.org

Connect with us on social media
[@RivieraChurch](https://www.instagram.com/RivieraChurch)

All The People
Ministers

Rev. Kim Robles
Pastor
pastor@ppcusa.org

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
Kyle Dettloff
Laura Fothergill
Angela Galbreath
Amparo Hernandez
Michele Ready
Cris Sweeny
Carol Thompson

PS

We need volunteers for photography for our updated website. If you have some gifts in either of these areas, or would like to learn, please reach out to Laura Fothergill (laura.fothergill@gmail.com) and Pastor Kim (pastor@ppcusa.org).