

THE SPARK

August 2026

Embodying Love - Demanding Justice - Transforming the World

Riviera Presbyterian Church
Back to School

**BLESSING OF
THE BACKPACKS**

AUGUST 9, 2026
9:00 A.M.

Pastor Kim will be blessing backpacks for students and teachers, of all ages, who are going back to school, during 9 am worship on Sun., Aug. 9th.
And, our very own CCC teachers and staff will be commissioned during worship!

RIVIERACHURCH.ORG

LETTER FROM PASTOR KIM

Dear Riviera Presbyterian Church Family,

I hope you all have enjoyed the summer worship series as much as I have these last several weeks. What a wonderful opportunity to fellowship in a deeper way, while also worshipping and learning more about how to be advocates for all of God's creation. Our last Sunday of "What Every Living Thing Needs" will be on August 2nd. And, the worship on August second should be memorable with a special art project happening during the table conversation about community.

On August 9th, we will be trying something new as a community – we will be welcoming the CCC staff, teachers, and families into our worshipping space to commission our CCC teachers and staff, and to bless backpacks for students and teachers of all ages as we prepare to go back to school. We will also be finishing our school supply collection for Francis Tucker Elementary School students. We will bless those school supplies too.

Our worship on August 9th will aim to speak to all ages in worship, with a focus on how to practice attentiveness and slowing down in our fast-paced world. We will try some meditation techniques together. Hopefully our teachers and students will be able to use these new learned skills at school and at home.

All are then invited to spend the afternoon in fellowship. First with our Sunday Lunch, and then at a Miami Marlins vs. Los Angeles Angels game at 1:40 pm. See the flyer to sign up for tickets to the game. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends, both old and new!

It has been such a joy to worship with you all in such creative ways this summer. And I cannot wait to see how God continues to show up in beautiful new ways in this community this school year.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Kim Robles
Pastor, Riviera Presbyterian Church

CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for livestream worship and 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).

LIVING OUR MISSION ...YES INSTITUTE

Congratulations to the YES Institute on being honored by Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava and the Board of County Commissioners, who proclaimed June 3 as YES Institute Day, recognizing the profound difference their three decades of work have made.



Miami-Dade County recognizing YES Institute's 30 Year Anniversary with a proclamation.

We invite you to read the YES Institutes Midyear Report

[CLICK HERE](#)

LIVING OUR MISSION ...LEAP

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 AND CONDITIONER**
- FULL-SIZE 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)**



BOWLING WITH A PURPOSE!

Sunday, August 9, 2026

11am - 1:30pm

Bird Bowl

9275 SW 40th St.

Miami, FL 33165

Join our commitment to the mission of YES Institute, which serves youth and families across the community.

- Participate in a team building activity while supporting your local community and having fun.
- Partnership with YES Institute, a leading and reputable nonprofit with over 30 years of impact.
- Invitation to our yearly donor events and inclusion in our donor acknowledgements.
- Silent auction and win raffle prizes!
- Highest scorer wins a trophy and a special prize!

\$570 SPONSOR A LANE FOR UP TO 6 BOWLERS. INVITE YOUR COLLEAGUES OR YOUR FRIEND GROUP AND CREATE A TEAM.

\$95 FOR INDIVIDUAL BOWLERS.

THIS PRICE INCLUDES SHOE RENTAL, PIZZA AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES!



yesinstitute.org/bowling

Call 305-663-7195



Contact Ellen Anderson for details if you would like to be a bowler or come and cheer on the Riviera Team.



DONATE BLOOD

Riviera Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 2

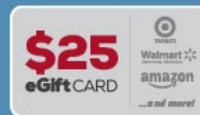
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$25 eGift Card**
- **Big Red Bus T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Please Help Us Save Lives this Summer!
Please Donate! Thank You!!

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 1738**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.



oneblood
Share your power.

Frances Tucker

School Supply Drive

JULY 19 - AUGUST 9

Help Kids Start the School Year Right!

We are collecting supplies for the first-grade teacher at Frances Tucker Elementary.



Drop-off Location

5275 Sunset DR
Sanctuary or Church Office

What we need

You are invited to pick an item from our list, buy it and have it back to Riviera no later than Sunday, August 9th.

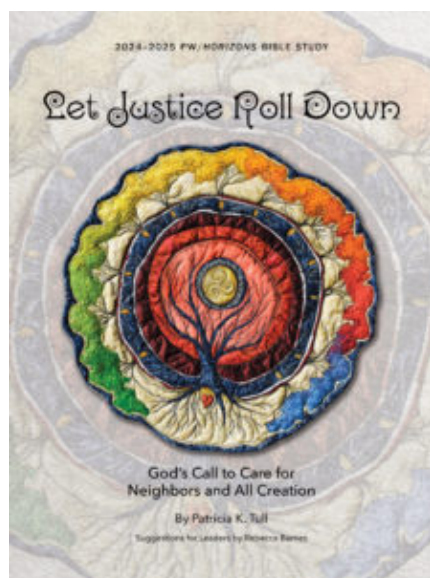
We will be delivering the supplies to the classroom on Wednesday, August 12th.

If you are unable to shop, please donate to the Frances S. Tucker Elementary School line on the giving page.

For more information & list:
See Ellen Anderson or email
schatzie49@att.net

Thank you for your help

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP



The Women's Study Group is meeting via Zoom on Thursday, August 13 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Please reach out to Karen Collier (kc33134@aol.com) for Zoom information.



THEOLOGY
uncorked

See you August 9 at
5:30pm
at
Berries in the Grove
2884 SW 27 Ave



After worship on Sunday, August 9 join us for First Second Sunday Brunch.

Bring a dish to share and spend time with your church family.

All are invited to share this meal together.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game
Church

Baseball

Fellowship Event

Sunday 09 August | Start 01:40 PM

LoanDepot Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami, FL 33125

Miami Marlins



VS

Los Angeles Angels



Reserve Tickets
Now

Please RSVP with your contact information and number of tickets no later than July 26 to secure a spot with the group. Tickets are \$19 each!

If you are interested in attending the game please contact Emma at rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com

SPF COMMITTEE

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

All The People
Ministers

Rev. Kim Robles
Pastor
pastor@ppcusa.org

Dr. Walter Busse
Director of Music
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

Emma Cottrell
Director of Children & Youth Ministry
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

Stewardship, Property, Finance Committee:

Volunteer opportunity:

Sunday August 16: Right after the church service, we need as many people as possible to help move the chairs from the narthex and sanctuary to the sides of sanctuary in preparation for the upcoming election on Tuesday August 18th.

Please let me know if you are in town then and could possibly help.

I will send out a reminder ahead of time. Thanks so much, Kathy