

THE SPARK

October 2026

Doing Justice - Loving Kindness - Walking Humbly with our God

SAVE
the
DATE

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

Riviera Presbyterian Church Presents

HALLOWEEN MOVIE THE MUMMY

WITH LIVE IMPROVISED MUSIC SCORE

ON SPOOKY REAL PIPE ORGAN & THEREMIN!!

PERFORMED BY ORGANIST/COMPOSER DR. WALTER BUSSE

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF THE ORIGINAL 1932 B/W CLASSIC
"THE MUMMY" STARRING BORIS KARLOFF!



RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5275 SUNSET DRIVE MIAMI FL 33143
www.RIVIERACHURCH.org

SUN
EVE
✦✦

OCT
25TH
✦✦

AT:
7 PM



A NOTE FROM PASTOR KIM

“If I speak in the tongue of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

“Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

We know these words well. They are from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. But, what about the first words to the next verse in chapter 14? And, what do they tell us how to be as a church? As a community?

For the next several weeks, we are going to look at what “pursuing love” looks like in worship and in our community life. I pray that this will deepen who we are as a loving community in relationship with one another.

I pray that you will participate and “pursue love” with us all at Riviera Presbyterian Church!

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Kim

LIVING OUR MISSION...CCC



Happy Fall friends!

We are looking forward to celebrating the season with our friends and neighbors! On October 23rd we will be passing out treats to our friends at the Child Care Center for their annual Trunk or Treat and Movie Night celebration! We'd love to see you in your best Sesame Street or Halloween costume to greet and celebrate with our friends and family at the CCC!

If you're planning on joining in on the fun, please reach out to Emma at rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com so we can get a head count! Time TBA.

LIVING OUR MISSION ...PCUSA



**Our goal for 2026 is
\$300
Help us reach our goal today.**

LIVING OUR MISSION ...SOCKTOBER

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Socktober

Small Socks.
Big Impact.

This October, Riviera Presbyterian Church is collecting 500 pairs of new, white cotton socks to share with our Miami neighbors experiencing homelessness.



How the Socks Help

A portion of the socks we collect will be included in our food bags for our unhoused neighbors. The remainder will be donated to Camillus House for its Foot Care Program, providing essential foot care services to people experiencing homelessness.



Camillus House

FOOT CARE PROGRAM



How You Can Help

Donate a pair—or several pairs—of new, white cotton socks. And don't stop there: tell your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers about Socktober and invite them to join us!

*Together
we can make
a difference!*



Donate on Sundays
or ship to the church:

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143



**Collection continues
throughout
October.**



Real people. Real needs. A caring community.



THOUGHTS FROM A CHOIR MEMBER

Psalm 108:1 – "My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!"

More than 30 years ago, I was asked to join The Riviera Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir. (Yes, that's our official name.) I couldn't sing, but learned as I went along, each choir director teaching me something new. As with all things in life, there is some music we like and some that we don't.

When Sandy Barrow passed away, we lost one of our most consistent tenors. She is greatly missed. Her daughter came to choir practice and asked us to sing at her memorial service. We chose "Brother James' Air", a version of Psalm 23 and one of our favorites. I looked at the few people still in choir and thought it would be a wonderful tribute to Sandy if I were able to get past members of the choir to join us. I sent out an email to everyone I could and was thrilled to get many positive answers. Our number swelled to 15 plus a Simple Piano Player, and I was reminded of times in the past with our choir family.

When we sang "Brother James' Air" a warm feeling came over me.

When we sang "The Lord Bless You and Keep You", that warm feeling enveloped me and all those around me.

When you sit in the congregation and hear the choir sing, don't just listen to the words and music. Let the feeling of love surround and embrace you. The music can be spiritual, soothing, or invigorating. Bring it home with you and think about how you relate to it.

Meditation isn't always silent; sometimes it's musical.

Ellen Anderson

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Congregational Meeting

Riviera Presbyterian Church's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, **October 18, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the voting.

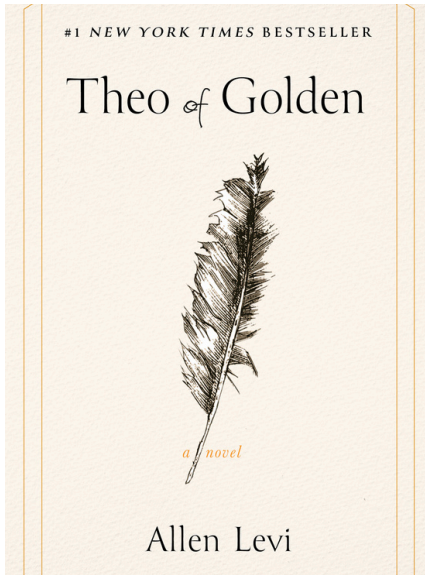
The purpose of the meeting is to elect members to fill upcoming vacancies for Elders on Session and Members at Large on the 2027 Nominating Committee.

Elder, Class of 2028 (elect 1) Annie Castro

Elder, Class of 2029 (elect 2) Henry "Butch" Sorenson, Kathy Stults

Nominating Committee Members At-large, Class of 2027 (elect 3) Bonnie Hannemann, Tania Socarras, Marilyn Sutherland

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP



Women's Study Group

The group meets on Zoom on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Whether you've been part of the group before or would like to join for the first time, you are warmly invited to read along and be part of the conversation.

For Zoom information, contact Karen Collier at kc33134@aol.com.



Email Emma Cottrell for information at rivierapresfaithformation@gmail.com



Adult Bible Study at Riviera Presbyterian Church - Sundays at 10:15 am

Bring your curiosity and your questions—Adult Bible Study is a welcoming space for meaningful conversation, fresh perspectives, and shared discovery. Join us for another lively and engaging conversation about faith and how it connects to our everyday lives, led by Elder Bonnie Hanneman in The Spirit Center.

PNC COMMITTEE

Hello Riviera Church Community,

Since my last update in July the work of the PNC does continue. Previously, I detailed a timeline of the formation of the PNC and a bit about the current pastor situation. In this edition, I want to highlight parts of the process.

Pastor Nominating Committee Process within the Presbyterian Church (USA)

During a PNC process there are typically several steps, however they do differ from presbytery to presbytery and may change according to each church's situation.

- Initially there is preparation and a mission study that is completed and guided by the presbytery or a liaison. This is typically a kind of assessment of the church's identity and goals. This study is submitted to the Committee on Ministry (COM) within the Presbytery for approval.
- Upon approval of the mission study or assessment, the congregation is given permission to move toward electing the PNC members.
- Next the PNC works with the presbytery and liaison on the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). This is a detailed profile of the congregation that includes demographics, traits of the congregation, salary information, and the traits of a pastor that is being sought. This profile must be approved by the Session and the COM to be entered into a national PCUSA database called the Church Leadership Connection (CLC).
- At this point, the PNC reviews profiles of pastors and Pastors can review the profile setup by the PNC (that MDP). The PNC can review references, sermons and information.
- Interviews can begin, reference checks, and visits and sermon deliveries at a host church happen.
- The final steps include final prayerful discernment of a candidate, having a candidate preach, and holding a congregational meeting to extend that call.

Since the last update a few items have taken place:

- Rev. Kim Robles continues to be in a covenant (contractual) relationship with Riviera Presbyterian Church and has committed through the Advent Season, end of December 2026. She continues alongside her primary designated role of leading as Teaching Elder (Pastor) at Pinecrest Presbyterian Church.
- The previous liaison to Riviera from the presbytery, Rev. Geoffrey McLean, has moved on to a different position and into a new presbytery.
- The PNC has been in discussion with a new liaison, Rev. Dr. Christopher Benek of First Presbyterian Church Miami as well as members of the Committee on Ministry.

I know that this process continues to bring deep feelings throughout our community. I continue to pray for us, the Riviera Presbyterian Church community, and to find ways to lean on faith, trusting in God and not succumb to impulse, fear, and doubt. As the chair of the PNC, I am sorry that this process has been hard. I ask that you continue to keep praying for our community, the PNC, the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, the Presbyterian Church USA and the mainline protestant denominations in the United States.

Blessings,
Laura Fothergill

SPF COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Stewardship, Property and Finance Committee is Monday, October 5 at 630 via Zoom. Current members are Kathy, John, Rey, Tania and Kyle. If you are interested in joining please speak to one of them.

Many thanks to Rey for getting the air conditioning up and running ASAP after a light strike knocked it out just before Labor Day!!

Many thanks to John for making sure the entry area is clean of tree limbs and other debris each Sunday before church and help With locking and unlocking the building and so much more on Sunday mornings!!!

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

