



The Spark



BEING THE LIGHT OF GOD

Worship—Sundays at 11:00am

JUNE 2017

“Being intentional about our identity, embracing who we are and what we stand for in a changing world, is vital to us as individuals and as a community of Christ. “

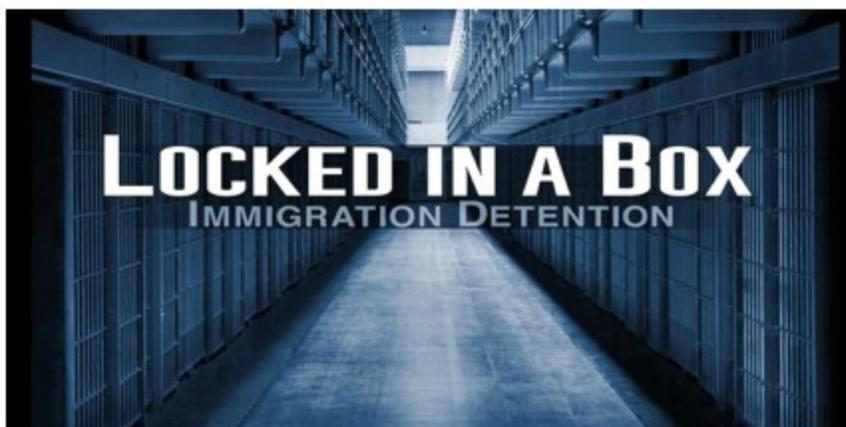
—Rev. Sue Washburn
Presbyterian Today

Riviera Presbyterian Church proudly hosts “Sanctuary in the Sanctuary”

A screening and interfaith discussion of

Locked in a Box

Friday, June 16th at 7pm



Special guest speaker: Susan Krehbiel,
Refugee and Asylum Catalyst Compassion, Peace & Justice PMA

Light refreshments served

RSVP by calling our office: (305) 666-8586x3
or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pg/RivieraChurch/events

5275 Sunset Drive | Miami, FL 33143
305-666-8586
www.rivierachurch.org
www.Facebook.com/RivieraChurch

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Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 666-8586
11:00am Sunday
Service

rivierachurch@bellsouth.net
Visit us on the web at
www.rivierachurch.org
Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/RivieraChurch

Save the date of July 21st for Part Two of
Sanctuary in the Sanctuary Series.



June, 2017
Dear Riviera Family,

1,000 Peace Cranes.... That is our goal as we decorate the sanctuary for the season of Pentecost which begins this month. Within Japanese folklore is a promise that if you make 1,000 origami cranes you may make a wish for peace. We began making the cranes in March a few weeks before Easter and are now nearing completion. And the process of stringing them and getting them ready for their installation for this summer in our beautiful worship space has begun.

At the same time, our country and world seems as far from peaceful as it can be. We fear violence will erupt, missiles will be launched, and the foreigner has become our enemy. The past few

weeks have been watching a wild and unprecedented series of events unfold within the leadership of our country which leaves us feeling insecure and unsteady. Peace seems illusive in this climate. Stability and security is craved by us all. There is no better time for us to pray for peace, for shalom, for God's love and justice to reign on earth. We have made our 1,000 Peace Cranes.....hear our prayer, Lord, for peace to come on earth.

At Riviera we will also share peace this summer with our summer mission projects. There will be two evenings of movies and discussion about what it means to be a Sanctuary Church. We will learn how we live into the commitment we have made to help the undocumented foreigners among us. Second, we will once again have our back pack project where we fill back backs with supplies for the first graders at Frances Tucker Elementary School. And this summer, we will share joy with others in our community through the 'Riviera Rocks' Project. Members of the congregation are invited to paint rocks before and after church each Sunday and after they have been sprayed with a fixative, pick them up the next week to place on a path you travel. People who find the rocks will be invited to send a photo of themselves to us and replace the rock in a new location. Spreading joy is spreading peace as well!

In Christ and Love,
Missy
The Rev. Martha M. Shiverick



The academic year 2016-17 has certainly provided UKirk with a broader exposure opportunity, courtesy of a little more engagement/involvement in student activities.

We kicked off the academic year participating in both CaneFest 2016 and Discover the UM Rainbow, an orientation experience for members of the LGBTQ Community sponsored by UM's LGBTQ Student Center. We also launched Taizé Tuesdays, at The Bede - an opportunity for students to engage in contemplative prayers. During the fall term, UKirk was also a proud partner and sponsor for Spectrum's Thanksgiving dinner special.

Over the winter term, UKirk expanded its programming, by collaborating with the LGBTQ Student Center's conversation series. Together we held an interfaith panel in partnership with Hillel, the Episcopal Student Center and Wesley Student Center for a conversation on being LGBTQ and our respective faith traditions.

Interfaith conversations continued for us, as we partnered again with the aforementioned campus ministry partners along with a student driven initiative for Interfaith Dialogue to host a luncheon for students wishing to engage further on this conversation.

As part of my involvement and direct connection with Spectrum, during the Spring term, I was honored to be a guest speaker at their weekly Ally Series for conversations on Queer Spirituality.

In addition to participating in these events and opportunities throughout the year, UKirk has hosted several students seeking pastoral care. And thanks to Dr. Van Bailey and the LGBTQ Student Center, I had the opportunity to serve as mentor throughout the academic year to one of our graduating seniors. Needless to say, it was an amazing experience to be a part of the Lavender Celebration, and witness the celebration of this major milestone for my mentee.

And with that we conclude this academic year. Over the summer I anticipate working with Fr. Frank, Pastor Katie and Rabbi Lyle to continue our conversations of hosting interfaith luncheons and conversations for the coming academic year. It is my hope and prayer to once again be of continued service to the broader student body and faculty of University of Miami for academic year 2017-18.

Daniel Morales,
Campus Pastor, UKirk@RPC





"What Separates Us?"

Introduction: In Miami, for the most part, the separation of groups of people is easy to identify. Looking beyond the obvious divides, such as the naming of immigrant neighborhoods like "Little Havana" and "Little Haiti", I am more focused on literal separation. Infrastructure is booming in Miami due to the development of high-rise luxury condos, tourism, and a growing financial district. A consequence of this is a mass influx of people coming in and out of the city everyday. While Miami does have a transit and bus system, the building and maintaining of Miami's highway system tells a much deeper story about power dynamics in the city. This blog is focused on I-95 and it's direct impact on segregation.

Background: Interstate highways are used as tool for development. They are needed to connect people to cities, and are symbols of urbanization and economic growth. The building of I-95 in south Florida is no exception. The building of I-95 in Miami took place in the

1950's with completion in the early 1960's. The interstate reshaped the city in many ways: More commuters could live outside of the city and drive to work, tourists were able to visit, and developers were able to make the city more assessable to winter residents, real-estate moguls, and big businesses. The question then became, where would the interstate be built?

The Cost: Through homes and a booming community, I-95 now divides the historic Overtown community- an African American neighborhood. Generations of families lost their homes due to this "public works" project. People were separated from community life because they lived on the "wrong side" of the interstate. One can see homes on either side up against the guardrails, and abandoned community centers, shops, and restaurants. What is most troublesome to me is that the builders did not include an exit for Overtown. What does this mean? It means that Overtown is not important or worthy of an exit because no one using I-95 would need or want to go there. This is where I see the power dynamic most strongly. Who can say a town is unworthy of an exit? If you have building power in this city, you can pretty much do whatever you want.

The Lasting Impact: In Miami, this is not an independent story. People with power have been uprooting and disrupting vibrant communities for years. Because they have the power and money they can do this. They say "We are making Miami better!" or "This will lead to a boom in tourism!". When really this is extremely harmful to the people who already live in the city. Marlins Park, the baseball stadium of the Miami Marlins, was built in the middle of the community in Little Havana. There are restaurants, Laundromats, auto shops, and family homes built all around the park. Would you want this in your backyard? Currently there has been an ongoing debate in Little Haiti over whether or not to build a Soccer Stadium and bring a soccer team to Miami. Again building a multi-million dollar soccer arena next to homes, schools, and disrupting the community. The reality is that this will happen regardless of public outrage, because that's how power systems work here.

--JG

Mission News

OGHS

Updated
Total
\$541.98

Pentecost Offering

During the month of June you are encouraged to donate to the Pentecost Offering of the PCUSA.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

RPC Food Pantry

Riviera has long been involved in the local mission of caring for the homeless, unemployed and underemployed.

We have bags of food available for families and for individuals.

These bags are as balanced nutritionally to the best of our ability.

We also collect white socks for the homeless. Some we give to Camillus House and we have started to put a pair in each individual bag. Homeless people are subject to infections and foot deformities due to the lack of clean socks.

If you are interested in learning more, please read this article:

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/blog/2014/06/04/when-socks-are-more-important-food%E2%80%99>

A simple way to help with the sock mission is to buy socks at Amazon Prime and have them shipped directly to the church.

Every week the yellow board in the narthex lists items that are needed by the food pantry. It is simple to buy the items, bring them to church and leave them in the little red wagon when it comes around. If you don't have time to shop, there is also a small box by the yellow board where you can leave donations. I love to shop and have no problem helping you provide for the homeless.

There are also lists of what goes into the family and individual bags in the food pantry so that you can buy an entire bag of food - a great family activity, especially with young children.

Please help us with this long-standing and very active mission.

Shalom,
Ellen Anderson



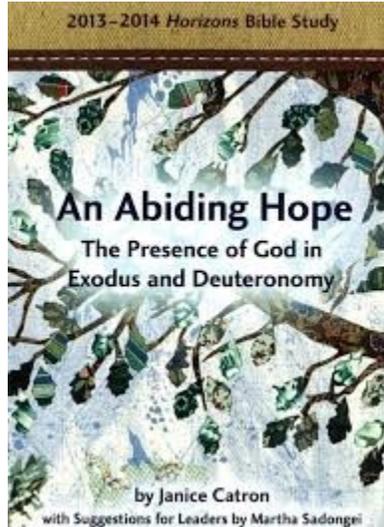
Congratulations and blessings to all our *graduates* and their *families*. As you are saying goodbye to one chapter and hello to another we hope that The CCC has gifted your child with moments of happiness, love and fun. We wish you all the best for your child's primary schooling.

Peace and Grace
Rev. Martha Shiverick
The Session and Members of Riviera Presbyterian Church

Christian Education News



Want to get a glimpse into the sermon on Sunday morning? Come to Theology Over Morning Java Sundays at 9:30am in the church library.



The Women's Study group will meet on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00pm in the church library. Discussion will be on Chapter 8 of "An Abiding Hope".



THEOLOGY uncorked

2nd Sunday | Monthly | 5 - 7pm | Titanic Restaurant & Brewery
5813 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables



Theology Uncorked will meet on Sunday, June 11th at 5pm at Titanic Restaurant and Brewery.

This month's Topic:

Forget the Wall:

Build a Deck. Invite Everyone Over

Illusive Shalom: Can we live it personally and work for it corporately?

All Are Invited

Food and beverages are available for you to purchase

Session News

- 2016 Session Minutes were reviewed and accepted without exceptions.
- Officer's Retreat—August 20th—

Congregational Care News ...

We Welcome to our Church Membership: Stephanie Godoy, Michelle Garcia and Kyle Dettloff.

Stewardship News

Per Capita—Thank you to those who have sent in their Per Capita funds. This year Per Capita is \$33 per active member. Per Capita is a set amount of money per member that congregations pay to the Presbyterian Church (USA). This money has been described as “part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together.” It funds such expenses as General Assembly meetings, judicial and legislative services required by the PC(USA) Constitution, the compilation of annual statistics pertaining to congregations and finances to name a few. Who knew \$33 could do so much! Please help us reach 100% participation by sending in your \$33 per active member in your family. Thank you.

Worship News

Fun Facts about Church: Pentecost as a Liturgical Season and Its Colors

At last month's Women's Bible Study someone asked about the liturgical colors and seasons of the church year. It got the group talking about a lot of liturgical facts that clergy take for granted but, unless you grew up in a Presbyterian home where your parent was a minister, or you were married to a minister, you might not be aware of their significance. I promised the group that we would publish in the next Spark Newsletters a few fun facts the color and garb of the church and clergy.

The first Sunday in June this year also happens to be the first Sunday of the season of Pentecost. It is the longest season of the church year beginning on Pentecost Sunday and ending this year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving which is Christ the King Sunday. The liturgical color of the Day of Pentecost is red and the parament on the pulpit will be red. The parament is the cloth that is on our pulpit and can also be found on communion tables and lecterns in other churches. I will wear a red stole over my robe as well. (more on stoles in a later issue) The color red represents the fire of the Holy Spirit which is given to us at Pentecost. The only other time red is worn liturgically is for ordination and installation services, so you will see it again in September when the new officers of the church are ordained and installed into the new class of elders.

In many churches, the congregation wears red to church on Pentecost. It is a joyful celebration as it is considered the birthday of the Church. In churches I have previously served, birthday cakes are served at coffee hour and in one church cards were sent to all the homebound members made by the children celebrating the birthday of the church. The dove descending upon us is another liturgical symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Day of Pentecost. We will decorate our sanctuary with descending doves in the colors of fire to celebrate the holiday and the gift of God's Holy Spirit which is with us (as close as our breath) at all times.

The paraments for the rest of the season of Pentecost are green. And although you will see the same green parament on the pulpit each Sunday, the season of Pentecost is so long that clergy (yours included) usually have several different stoles with green undertones to wear throughout the season.

Our church calendar is divided into different seasons. The church year begins with Advent. It heralds the four Sundays before Christmas and can fall the first or second Sunday after our civil holiday of Thanksgiving. The other seasons are Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter.

Next Month: Many more fun facts.....

Fellowship & Community News

June Birthdays

Henry Barrow—6

Gerry Blount—10

Dylan Valdivia—14

Steve Padilla—21

Jordan Armour—26

If your birthday is not listed please let us know in the church office.

happy
birthday
to you!

Beach Breakfast is back

Saturday, June 10

8am till....

Bring a breakfast item to share.

Coffee and juice will be provided.

**Key Biscayne Doggie Beach
turn right as soon as you get off
the main bridge.**

RSVP to church office

Email rivierachurch@gmail.com

Call 305-666-8586x3

Facebook Event/Beach Breakfast



VS



July 29 at 7:10pm

If you are interested please contact the church office to add your name to the list. Ticket price will be determined by number of attendees, but no more than \$30.