



THE SPARK

BEING THE LIGHT OF GOD



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS 11AM

FEBRUARY 2018

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](https://www.facebook.com/RivieraChurch)

Rev. Martha Shiverick
Pastor

Seth M. Carlson
Interim Director of Music

Barbara Prieto
Certified Church Administrator

Valerie Deville
Sunday School Superintendent

Kathy Stults
Clerk of Session

Session Members
Allison Anderson
Karen Collier
Vivian German
Colista James
Christian Mazzola
Barbara Overton
Steve Padilla
Bryan Page
Karen Picciano
Nicole Prieto
Kathy Stults
Cris Sweeny

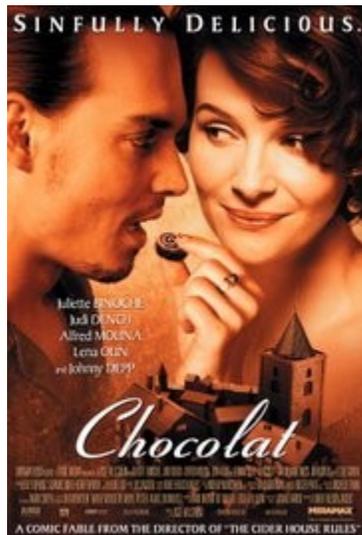
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Lent starts on Wednesday, February 14 and Riviera Presbyterian Church is offering worship, study, and self-discernment in the time before Easter.



Ash Wednesday Service with
Impositions of Ashes
at 7:00 pm
Come and find your centering place
as we enter into Lent together



Chocolat Friday, February 16

Our Lenten study, **Christ and the Chocolaterie**, begins with a viewing of the movie **Chocolat** on **Friday, February 16 at 7:00pm**. This Lenten study uses the movie as a springboard for recognizing Lent as a chance to embrace change and renewal, with discussion around the daily challenge of growing, giving and getting real with life.

Study will begin February 18 and will meet for the next four Sundays after the 11am worship service in the church library for Soup - Bread - Chocolate and Study.

Please RSVP via Riviera's Facebook page, sign up at church or contact the church office 305-666-8586 x3

Missy's Message



February 2018

Dear Riviera Family,

As I write this The 'Souper Bowl of Caring' decorations are out for this first Sunday of February, our Executive Presbyter has turned in his Scripture passages and sermon title for February 11th, and Danny Morales has planned his ordination ceremony for later that afternoon.... AND all this happens before we begin our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday! Yikes!

The theme for Lent this year is Loving Without Limits. In the five Sundays before Holy Week begins, we will meditate and learn what the gift of unconditional love means in our lives and the ways we both receive and give such a wondrous gift as people of faith in today's world. Some people sadly feel that they are unlovable and equally sad is that others act as though love is a conditional experience that is for some but not others. But we here know that God is love. And I truly believe this is at the center of our mission at Riviera.... that we are called to share God's love with a hurting and divided world.

Lent is a time for people of faith to regroup, reconnect, and recommit themselves to living as disciples of Christ. It is a time to make faith practices and disciplines to center ourselves on God. In some traditions people make personal sacrifices in their lifestyles or life choices to remind them of their faith. Some people 'give up things' for Lent but I recommend that instead of giving up things you take on activities and disciplines that will build your faith and connection with the church..... Make the commitment to attend church each Sunday in Lent. Make the commitment to attend the Lenten Bible Study which follows worship. Pray for our church and our community of faith. We are the family of faith for and with each other.

In Christ and Love,
Missy

P.S. - But whatever you do.... don't give up chocolate for Lent! The theme for the Lenten study comes from the movie Chocolat and the temptation to eat some might be too great for any of us!

Service of Ordination - February 11 at 4:00 pm



*The Presbytery of
Tropical Florida
and
Riviera Presbyterian Church
Invite You to the
Ordination of
Daniel Morales
As Minister of the
Word and Sacraments
Sunday February 11,
2018 at 4 o'clock PM
At Riviera Presbyterian
Church
Reception following*

Please RSVP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/879971958850358/> or you can call the church office 305-666-8586x3 or write in the Welcome Pad on Sunday.



Worship & Music News...

Worship Services in February

- Sunday, February 4th - 11am Service - *Being Held in God's Arms* - Rev. Martha Shiverick
- Sunday, February 11th - 11am Service - *Mantled Up: Thin Places Abound* - Rev. Dr. Daris Bultena
Minute for Mission by The Very Rev. Tracey Lind
- Wednesday, February 14th - 7:00pm Service - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, February 18th - 11am Service - *Loving without Limits: God in the Wilderness* - Rev. Martha Shiverick
- Sunday, February 25th - 11 am Service - Welcome Elder Chuck Hannemann to the pulpit.

Liturgical Symbols in Worship

How Our Theology Informs Our Physical Space

I once wrote a paper in seminary about the theology of Shaker Furniture. The Shakers were a sect of Christianity in our country which has or is dying out. Their furniture reflected their no-nonsense simple lifestyle which grew out of their faith. Even the design of the wooden chairs in their worship space and in their community was made so that the chairs could be hung on wooden pegs on the wall when not being used. Furniture hanging on pegs allowed the floors to be more easily swept. Function might inform the form of the furniture... but faith dictated the form.

Likewise, our sanctuary tells a lot about who we are as a worshipping congregation. The layout of our sanctuary says that we are indeed Presbyterian and from the modern Reformed Tradition. Soren Kierkegaard described reformed worship as a play or a drama. He said at first glance, most would say that the congregation is the audience and the minister is the actor. And if you ask members of Riviera who were here before the building was renovated two decades ago, the layout of the sanctuary reflected that type of belief and worship style. People came to hear the sermon and hear the choir. The sanctuary was set up in a theatre style where members had a good view of what was happening in the chancel area. Members were to listen and to be passive, while everything was happening in front of them.

However, Kierkegaard said that in modern reformed theology and worship, you don't go to church to get something out of it but are encouraged to actively offer worship to God. In a church like this, God is the audience, the worshippers are the actors, and the minister is the prompter. The shift in worship can be seen in more participatory worship, with liturgies and lay leadership in all aspects of worship. Our sanctuary certainly allows for this worship style and visitors all remark on the amount of congregational singing and involvement each Sunday.

But even when we worship with the seats 'in the round'; even when we use skits in worship instead of a sermon, even when we have a blue grass band instead of traditional music from our hymnal we are always Reformed in our worship. Our worship centers on God and illuminating, understanding, and bringing to life God's purpose in the teachings and stories found in our Bible.

Yes, we are a reformed Presbyterian Church.... and we follow the traditions of our heritage.... but we are traditional in a new way!

Summer Sermon Series - You Get To Pick

Summer Sermon Series



This summer you get to choose the Summer Sermon Series!

Please pick from the following choices:

1 - **The Minor Prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures.**

2 - **A Slow Journey Through the Gospel of Mark**

3 - **You Asked for It Series** - submit Bible passages from which you would like to hear sermons preached or topics you would like covered.

Please contact the church office with your choice.



Look for God's grace in quiet places.

Mission News...



Souper Bowl of Caring utilizes the energy of the Super Bowl to motivate the nation to give food and monetary donations to local charities who fight hunger. Join the Youth of Riviera Presbyterian Church in an effort to #tacklehunger during this year's 52nd Annual Super Bowl!

Helping is easy!
Here's how:

- Come to Riviera on Sunday, February 4th for Souper Bowl Lunch, following the worship service at 11:00am, for delicious soups prepared by the Youth of Riviera. Donations are based on your love of the game.

SUGGESTED DONATION GAUGE



Can't Make It For Lunch - Here's How You Can Help:

- Donate to Riviera Presbyterian Church - food pantry
- Purchase the following food items for the Riviera Food Pantry
Family size cereal | canned soup | pasta sauce | crackers | canned fruit | Peanut butter | fruit cups | 8oz milk cartons | granola bars
Donations can be dropped of in the church office



In 2017 we were able to provide 150 bags of food to families & individuals

RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 5275 Sunset Drive Miami, 33143

Explore Dementia as a Pilgrimage for Spiritual Growth.

Saturday, February 17 | 10:00-2:00 | Living in the Spirit with Dementia: This is a retreat for individuals and their spouses/partners who are living with early to mid-stage dementia. During our time together, we will explore dementia as a pilgrimage for spiritual growth.

The program will include: presentation, conversation, art, music, reflection, and labyrinth walking.

Morning snack and lunch will be provided. This retreat is free of charge, but pre-registration is required.

Please register at gablesucc.org/tracey-lind or by calling 305.448.7421.

Retreat will be held at Coral Gables United Church of Christ | 3010 De Soto Boulevard | Coral Gables, FL, 33134

Co-leaders are The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, a retired Episcopal priest living with early-stage dementia (Frontotemporal Degeneration), and her spouse Emily Ingalls.



Tracey Lind - Diagnosed with Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), a disease that results in progressive damage to the temporal and/or frontal lobes of the brain, Rev. Lind was most recently the Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio. She will be with us to share her experiences as one living with FTD which results in a gradual, progressive decline in language, mobility, behavior, and short-term memory.



The Riviera Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

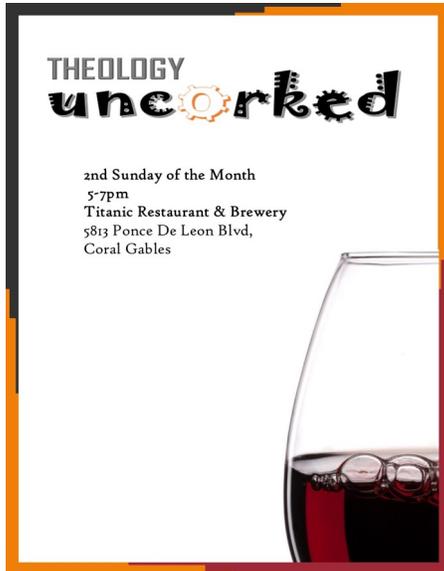
Family Size Cereal Boxes | 1lb rice bags | 12 oz. or 16 oz. dried beans

32 oz. jar of spaghetti sauce | Peanut butter | Canned fruit | Tuna Helper

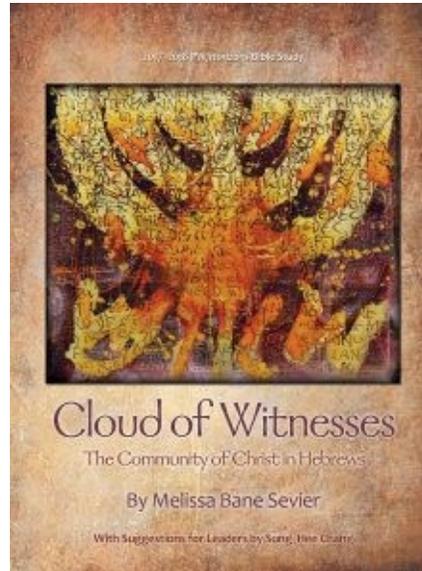
Crackers | Canned Soup | White Socks



Christian Education News...



See You on
March 11.

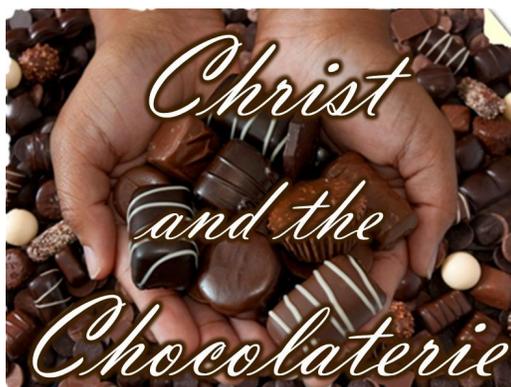


Women's Study Group will meet on Thursday, February 22 from 7pm-8:30pm in the church library.

Lesson Four will take you on a tour of angelic messengers in the Bible, and reminds us that *we never know when an encounter may bring us God's messages of love and support.*



You are invited to Theology Over Morning Java Sundays at 9:30am in the church library. Elder Chuck Hannemann leads this class for all adult ages and all spiritual stages.



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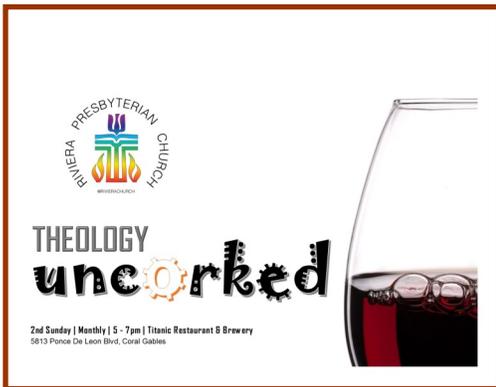
Congregational Care News ...

happy
birthday
to you!

February Birthdays

Amy B.
Michelle G.
Diana I.
Barbara O.
Aidan T.
Michele R.

Fellowship & Community News...



See you at Titanic March 11th @ 5pm

Session News...

2018 Per Capita is \$35 per member

This coming year the amount we contribute toward the work of the denomination at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly level will total \$35 per member.

Per capita is one way our members and congregation annually support the work of the whole church as that church also supports us in our ministry in this place. Your separate contribution of this amount is appreciated, as it keeps this expense from impacting our spending plan for 2018. Please mark your contribution as "per capita."

January 2018 at Riviera

Seth Carlson, Interim Director of Music conducting the choir 1/7/2018



Young Patroness of the Opera performance of Little Red Riding Hood for the children of The Child Care Center. 1/5/2018



RPC Youth enjoying the Virginia Reel at the Forest City String Band concert 1/13/2018



Forest City String Band providing the worship music 1/14/2018



“all who walk in our doors, or are affected by our ministries know true acceptance and the abundance God’s love. “

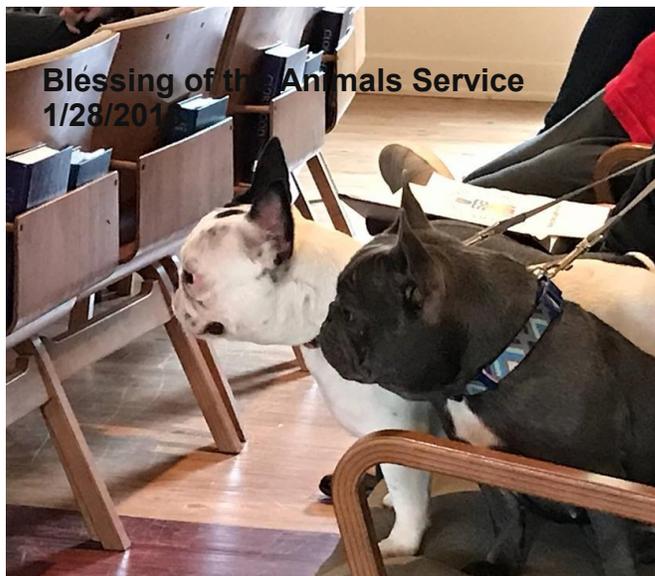
January 2018 at Riviera



Celebrating one of our favorite church couples
1/20/2018



A wonderful celebration
with family and friends.



Blessing of the Animals Service
1/28/2018



**DON'T
GO
TO CHURCH.
BE THE CHURCH.**

Riviera Presbyterian Church

is open to all who want to be part of a community of faith seeking to being the light of God. God makes no distinction among people and neither do we.

Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community engaged in joyful worship, transformative education, and active service being the light of God.