



THE SPARK

EMBRACING ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

DECEMBER 2018

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

11:00am Sunday Worship Service
Office Hours M - F 9:00-5:00
www.rivierachurch.org
Connect with us on social media
@RivieraChurch



Rev. Martha Shiverick
Pastor
marthashiverick@gmail.com

Jade Kastel
Interim Director of Music
rivierapresmusic@gmail.com

Barbara Prieto
Certified Church Administrator
rivierachurch@bellsouth.net

Kathy Stults
Clerk of Session
Session Members
Allison Anderson
Kyle Dettloff
Vivian German
Christian Mazzola
Barbara Overton
Steve Padilla
Bryan Page
Rey Prieto
Kathy Stults
Cris Sweeney

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WWW.RIVIERACHURCH.ORG



CELEBRATE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT RIVIERA

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Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

Missy's Message



December, 2018

Dear Riviera Family,

ADVENT!!!! It's here! And with it has come the wild ride that is the Christmas season. I used to fight it and try not to participate in Santa's magical world that begins before Thanksgiving and is over after the post holiday sales. But it is a part of our society and frankly, there is no escaping it. So, this year, at Thanksgiving, while my grandsons were still with me, I got out a few Christmas children's books and read the books to them.

Traditionally Advent has been a time to prepare for Jesus' birth, to talk about Christ entering our lives and our world again. It is when we yearn for peace to come to earth and love and joy will fill the air. And, if you are like me, this can not happen too soon. Mass murders of innocent people, crimes of hatred, racism, sexism, and bigotry on the rise, a volatile stock market, hurricanes, fires, and mudslides fill the news. We need Christmas this year. And we need it now. We need to rekindle that childish simplicity that believes in Santa Claus giving us what we desire if we are good little children. We need to believe in the sappy Christmas movies on Netflix where love wins and all is calm and bright. God knows that the living Christ can not enter our hearts a moment too soon. This year when we sing 'O Come, O Come Emanuel' it is also our prayer and we don't mean for God to wait to be with us on December 25th but to come right now.

We need to be together as a congregation to make this Advent and Christmas merry and bright! And although as we worship we will sing our Advent songs in their minor keys that speak to the yearning for peace and love and joy, we will also sing Christmas Carols as well. Because, as a people of faith, we know that even though we might feel that we are in a time of darkness now, it will be overcome by the light, the love, and the peace of God. So, let's bring on the Christmas this year as it really can't come a moment too soon!

Merry Christmas dear friends!

Love, Missy

Worship & Music News...

Hi Riviera! I'm happy to be serving as your interim music director. I am a librarian at Johnson & Wales University and my partner, Freesia, is in the MFA poetry & creative writing program at FIU. Last year, we moved from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, just in time for Irma. She was our first hurricane as Midwesterners.

I'm excited to be working with the ukulele ensemble & the choir! If you're interested in learning ukulele, joining the choir, or being involved in the music at Riviera, please chat with me after worship. We'd love to have you involved in our music!-- Jade



Here at Riviera Presbyterian Church, we believe that all people are God's beloved children.

Riviera welcomes all! You are invited to attend worship at Riviera Sundays at 11:00am.

Sunday, December 2 – 1st Sunday of Advent Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 9 – 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship
4:00pm Christmas Concert performance by Miami Collegium Musicum
5:30 pm Christmas Dinner – please bring a side dish to share.
Food, Fellowship and Caroling.

Sunday, December 16 – 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship

Friday, December 21 – 7pm The Longest Night Service at United Church of Christ Coral Gables

Sunday, December 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent Worship and Christmas Pageant and Luminaries Assembly Party after worship

Monday, December 24th – 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Carols and Lessons with Special Music.

WHY I BELONG TO RIVIERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Barbara Overton - Member of Riviera for 25 years -

You've probably heard the phrase: It takes a village to raise a child. Riviera is my village - for more than just raising my child. We moved to Miami and didn't have family in the area. Riviera became my extended family. It is a community that provided stability and connection over many years. I am grateful for all the great memories I have from here -

Doing a plug for Heifer International with my kids here -

Henry's "trinity for soup" - that Sarah learned over Souper Bowl Sundays and still uses

Songs that still stir my heart

Easter egg hunts in the courtyard

Fellowship lunches after church

Anything that Bonnie has baked

Helping others with our food pantry and other ministries

I am looking forward to doing even more in the future - the best is yet to come.

Riviera is my community but it's a special kind of community

Matthew 18:20 - Where 2 or 3 gather in my name, there I am among them.

This isn't just any village - it is a community that worships, and welcomes and lives out the life of Jesus. Knowing that God is the center of our community brings together the people of our community and connects us to the past and the future here in our sanctuary and to the world around us.

What do I contribute to this community?

Matthew 6: 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

I look at the importance of Riviera to me when I think about how to allocate the giving my family does to various organizations. If this is important to me, that should be reflected in how I give. And I can tell you my largest donations go to the church. And recently, I've been able to give more time to the church as well - leading the mission committee, being on the CCC board, working on our finances. Being in the ukulele choir.

I am the poster child of the fact that you need to be kind to yourself about how much you give - both in time and money. When my kids were at home and I was travelling a lot for business, I couldn't do a lot in terms of time. And that's okay. Now that I have more time, it's my turn. Your turns will come as you are able. And I'm excited to be able to add my bit to what goes on here at Riviera.

I give my time and money to Riviera because it has been so generous to me and because I see how important Riviera is to the larger community. I encourage you to do the same.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kathy S - 10

Vera B - 12

Jackie J - 14

Sandy B - 15

Christian H - 21

Ampy H - 22

Ricardo V - 26

Blessings On Your Birthday



Fellowship & Community News...

Fellowship

*Christmas
Dinner*



Join the festivities on Sunday,
December 9th

at 5:30pm

Riviera's Annual Christmas
Dinner

with carols

**Please bring a side dish to
share.**

Miami Collegium Musicum
A Musical Christmas Celebration

Dr. Donald Oglesby, Director



Service of Lessons and Carols

Cor Jesu Chapel Barry University
11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL
December 2, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Music of the Christmas Season

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL
December 9, 2018 at 4:00 pm

No
Theology Uncorked
In
December

See you
On
January 13th
At
Titanic
5 - 7pm

RPC Wish

- 12 cup coffee maker - new or gently used
- 32 - 35' Smart TV - new or gently used

Session News...

Christian Education News...



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.



Women's Study Group

Will meet on
Thursday, December
20th at 7:00pm in the
church library.



Christian Education for children

The Deep Blue Mission:

Reaching, empowering, and equipping children, and those who care for them, with grace-based resources that help them on the journey.

Deep Blue Kids will...

Be with God
Love God and neighbor
Understand themselves as children of God
Explore faith and the Bible

Deep Blue offers meaningful and engaging curriculum, encouraging children to “dive deeper” into the Bible and

explore their faith in fun and age-appropriate ways. Sunday school will be the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. The 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month children are invited to attend worship.



Looking Back at November 2018

