



# Hello & Welcome,

If this is your first time here, I'm glad you found your way to this space. My name is Renée Rivers, and I'm a licensed mental health counselor and the founder of Reflective Rivers Therapy & Consulting.

This newsletter was created as a quiet companion, something you can return to when you need a pause. I've been sitting with the idea of this newsletter for some time, not as a marketing tool, but as an offering.

In my work as a therapist, I often notice that some of the most meaningful reflection happens outside the therapy room. It happens in quiet moments. In pauses between responsibilities. In the spaces where we finally slow down enough to listen to ourselves without urgency or performance.

This monthly reflection is my way of offering grounded support beyond the therapy room, a place to pause, reflect, and move forward with intention.

Each month, you'll receive a **reflective theme**, **gentle practices**, and **grounding questions** designed to support awareness, regulation, and intentional movement forward. This is not about fixing yourself, reinventing who you are, or keeping up with expectations. It's about noticing what's already present, integrating what you've lived through, and allowing care to be simple.

For this first issue, I'm sharing the reflection as a PDF so you can return to it throughout the month. You can read it all at once, revisit it in pieces, save it, or sit with only what resonates. **There is no "right" way to engage, only the way that feels supportive for you.**

Thank you for being here and for beginning this year in reflection with me.

With care,

*Renée Rivers*

Licensed Mental Health Counselor  
Reflective Rivers Therapy & Consulting





# RENÉE RIVERS

LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNSELOR



JANUARY 2026

## INVITATION TO RESET WITHOUT RUSHING

January often arrives with pressure **to reinvent, resolve, and rush** toward a new version of ourselves. But healing, growth, and alignment don't begin with force. They begin with awareness. This month, we invite you to release the urgency of "new year, new you" and instead lean into a gentler reset, one rooted in honesty, rest, and intention.

A true **reset** doesn't mean erasing what came before, it means integrating what you've lived through. January is not about proving readiness, it's about listening. Listening to your body after a long year. Listening to what carried you through, and what is quietly asking for more care as you step forward.

## WAYS WE SUPPORT REFLECTION & CARE



### THERAPY SERVICES

We offer individual, couples, and group therapy to support clarity, healing, and connection as you enter a new year. **January is a meaningful time to begin therapy**, not to rush change, but to gently reflect on patterns, reset with intention, and build support for what's ahead.

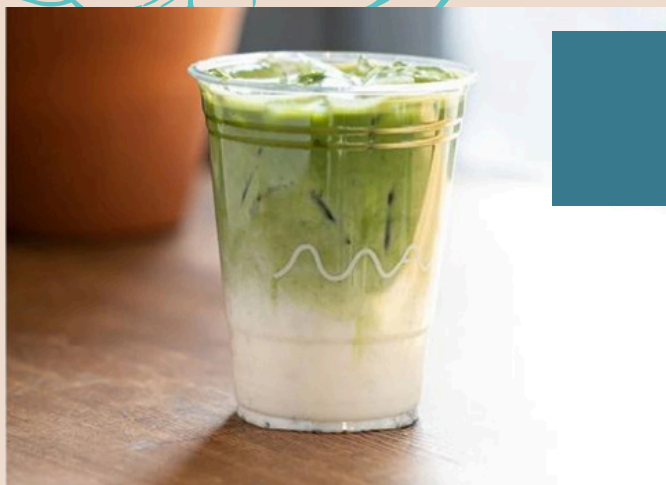


### TEEN'S GUIDE TO BOUNDARIES

The start of a new year is an ideal moment for teens to strengthen self-awareness and relational skills. **A Teen's Guide to Boundaries** helps teens identify comfort and discomfort, practice healthy limits, and build confidence as they navigate school, friendships, and digital spaces.



## GENTLE WAYS TO COME BACK TO YOUR BODY AND SENSES



### TASTE | SAVOR WHAT GROUNDS YOU

**Savoring taste is a simple way to ground the body and invite presence.** When we slow down and engage our senses, the body remembers how to settle. **Choose one drink or treat this month to enjoy slowly, without multitasking, scrolling, or rushing.**

For me, that looks like an iced vanilla matcha paired with a pistachio chocolate croissant from **maman in Aventura**. I let myself pause, notice the contrast of cool and warm, sweet and earthy, and take in the moment without needing to be anywhere else.

#### Try this:

- Set aside 5–10 uninterrupted minutes
- Take slow sips or bites
- Notice temperature, texture, and flavor without judgment



**Reflection:** What do I notice in my body when I allow myself to slow down and savor?

### SOUND | LET RHYTHM RESTORE YOU

**Sound gently supports the nervous system, helping the body settle when it has been holding tension for too long.** Rhythmic, natural sounds can create a sense of safety and steadiness, inviting presence without effort.

**Choose one sound this month that helps your body settle.** For me, this looks like a sunset meditation on the beach, guided by **Alex of The Blooming Sunflower**. Alex leads with an intuitive, grounding approach that honors the body's natural rhythms. With the sound of the waves and the steadiness of breath, nothing is rushed, only listened to.



#### Try this:

- Sit near water, play ocean or rain sounds, or choose calming music
- Close your eyes and notice your breath syncing with the rhythm

**Reflection:** What sounds help my body soften or feel safe?





## TOUCH | CREATE PHYSICAL EASE

Touch brings us back into our bodies. This doesn't have to be elaborate, comfort and warmth count. This may look like a long shower, cozy clothes, stretching before bed, or placing a hand over your heart while breathing deeply.

**Choose one form of physical care this month that invites your body to soften.** For me, this looks like a monthly facial at **Maro Wellness Center in Coral Gables**. The massage alone brings my body into a deeper state of ease, and the experience reminds me to slow down. Choosing a membership was a way of committing to myself not just once, but consistently. It's more than a facial; it's an experience of being cared for.

### Try this:

- Choose one intentional moment of physical comfort this week
- Let your body lead instead of your to-do list

**Reflection:** Where am I holding tension, and what kind of care does that place need?

## YOUR JANUARY INVITATION

This month, we invite you to move slowly and intentionally. You don't need to do all three practices at once, or at all. Choose one that feels accessible and return to it throughout the month, or rotate gently between them as your energy allows.

Presence is not something to achieve or perfect. It's a practice we return to, especially when life feels full, loud, or demanding. **Even a few minutes of awareness can shift how your body holds the day.**

Let January be less about pushing forward and more about listening inward. Let your senses guide you back to yourself. Let care be simple, and let rest count.

There is no rush here.  
Only awareness.  
**Only flow.**





## GENTLE WELLNESS PRACTICES TO SLOW DOWN, NOTICE, AND RESET

As you move through this month, consider slowing your pace, **emotionally, mentally, and even physically**. Reflection is not falling behind; it is preparation.

Take a few moments this month to sit with these questions:

- What does my nervous system need more of right now?
- Where am I feeling pressure to “start strong,” and where might softness serve me better?
- What is one thing I want to carry with me from last year, not leave behind?

### MOVING GENTLY FORWARD

Choose one boundary that protects your energy, such as **earlier rest, fewer commitments, quieter mornings, or more intentional breathing**. Let that boundary be your foundation for the year ahead.

Thank you for beginning this year in reflection with us. There is no rush here, only flow.

With care,

*Renée Rivers*

