



Mardi Gras

God is still laughing,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST





WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

- No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this **United Church of Christ** congregation.
- Large-print bulletins, hearing devices, and cough drops are available from the ushers.
- Nursery and pre-school care is available during worship if you wish.
- God is calling you today, but probably not on your cell phone! Please remember to put it on vibrate if you are expecting an emergency call.
- **ALL** are welcome to this time and place of worship.

Know that in this space you are welcome as you are, for who you are. Together we celebrate all of God's children – young, old and in-between; male, female and in-between; gay, lesbian, straight and in-between; the assured, the doubting, and the in-between; the optimistic, the cynics, and the in-between; the foolish, the wise, and the in-between.

The Reverend Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Megan Smith, Associate Pastor
The Reverend Aaron Lauer, Associate Pastor for Emerging Generations
The Reverend Dr. Richard J. Bailar, Pastor Emeritus

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ
3010 De Soto Boulevard
Coral Gables, Florida 33134-6317
Phone: 305.448.7421 ~ www.gablesucc.org

CCLI License # 11282912

WE BELIEVE GOD CAN BLOW THE LID OFF ANY BOX AND TURN IT INTO A DANCE FLOOR. WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE.

A CELEBRATION OF MARDI GRAS



An Affirmation of Humor

We believe with the Bible that
“there is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for
“playful deeds and jokes.”

We believe with Luther that
“You have as much laughter as you have faith.”

We believe with Wesley that
“A sour religion is the devil’s religion.”

We believe with Kierkegaard that
“Humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”

We believe with Dostoevsky that
“If a person laughs well they are a good person.”

We believe with Chesterton that
“A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”

We believe with Bonhoeffer that
“Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor.”

We believe with Elton Trueblood,
“Never trust a theologian without a sense of humor.”

THE GATHERING MUSIC

Joe Donato and the Mardi Gras Ensemble

THE WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for signing and passing the red hospitality pad found in the pews.

Please use your smart phone to check in on Facebook; let your family and friends know that you are at Coral Gables Congregational UCC.

Invite your family and friends around the world to worship with us online each Sunday at www.Gablesucc.org/live.

Be sure to “like” us at www.facebook.com/mycgcc.

You are most welcome to connect your smart device to our free Wi-Fi service.

February 11, 2018

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Our faith is over 2000 years old;
Our thinking is not.*

11:00 a.m.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INSTRUMENTAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Donato and the Mardi Gras Ensemble

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tony Prinzi, liturgist

One: God of creation, God of gladness and joy.
God who created laughter, just because you could,
God of fun, God of life,
God who delights in diversity and randomness

Many: We rejoice with you this day!

One: God who comes to all, women, men,
Young, old, to all colors, all people
God who speaks all languages
And loves all people and accepts all

Many: We rejoice with you this day!

One: May we know your love deeply in our being,
May we be your love.
May we bring your love.

May your love reign

Many: As we rejoice with you this day!

***OPENING HYMN** *When the Saints Go Marching In*

Oh, when the saints, go marchin' in. Oh, when the saints, go marchin' in.
Lord, I want to be in that number. When the saints go marchin' in.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** (a little different version)

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, let Your holy name be known,
let Your kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread that we need, and forgive us our wrongs,
and ok, we'll forgive those who have done wrong to us, too.**

Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil.

For we want for You alone to rule in our hearts.

You have power to transform, and in the light of Your smile is Your glory. Amen

SUNG RESPONSE

Swinging with the Saints
The Chancel Choir

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN (OF ALL AGES!)

*All children through third grade wishing to attend Sunday School
are invited to exit to the Fellowship Hall **following the children's message.**
Children and youth from fourth grade through high school will stay in worship.*

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

Joe Donato and the Mardi Gras Ensemble

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY FOR ELECTED CHURCH LEADERS

GREETING

INTRODUCTION

PRESENTATION

***COVENANT**

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of this church. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of compassion, vision, service, and hospitality.

DECLARATION

HYMN FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

You may remain seated for the hymn.

Fly Away Medley

Mark Hayes

Choir:

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
to a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away
I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away;
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.
When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away.
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.

Choir and Congregation:
I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

Choir:
Trials dark on ev'ry hand and we cannot understand
all the ways that God would lead us to that blessed Promised Land;
But God will guide us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die;
we will understand it better by and by.

Choir and Congregation:
By and by, when the morning comes, when the saints of God are gathered home;
We will tell the story, how we've overcome; we will understand it better by and by.
When the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder, when the roll is
called up yonder, when the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Choir:
On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.
I am bound for the Promised Land; O who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the Promised Land.

Choir and Congregation:
O when the Saints go marchin' in. O, when the saints go marchin' in,
O, Lord I want to be in that number when the saints go marchin' in.
I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

Choir:
I'll fly away. Lord, I'll fly away.
When the morning comes, I'll fly away.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a

Continued...

cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

A MOMENT OF WITNESS

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

CHORAL RESPONSE

Highway to Heaven

William Gaither

The Chancel Choir with Charmyn Kirton, soloist

THE RECEIVING OF OUR GIFTS

An Invitation to Give

Tithe if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk!

Our church is open to all denominations – but we prefer 10's and 20's.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver.....but God also accepts gifts from the grouch.

Offertory Music

What a Wonderful World

Joe Donato and the Mardi Gras Ensemble

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND THE SINGING OF THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

ALL: Thank you God, for the joy you have given us which bubbles over into laughter and fun! Thank you for renewing our joy. We pray that you will use these, our gifts, to bring joy to all the world. Amen.

Please remain standing for the closing hymn

***HYMN FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION**

Down by the Riverside

Gonna lay down my sword and shield

Down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside

Gonna lay down my sword and shield

Down by the riverside, ain't gonna study war no more.

Refrain:

I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more, study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more, study war no more.

Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace; down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace; down by the riverside
Ain't gonna study war no more. (R)

Gonna shake hands around the world; down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
Gonna shake hands around the world; down by the riverside
Ain't gonna study war no more. (R)

***THE SENDING FORTH**

One: The Laughing One called us together

Many: so we could share in the laughter of life.

One: The Laughing One sends us out,

Many: to carry the joy of life and love to the world.

One: Go out to laugh, to live, to love. And when you hear a good joke...

Many: remember that sharing is a great thing!

***TRAVELING MUSIC** *This Little Light of Mine*

We invite you to follow the Knezevich family, pastors, and choir down the center aisle as part of a traveling processional to the front of the church for a special dedication.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine...
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

Even in my home, I'm gonna let it shine...

When I see my neighbor coming, I'm gonna let it shine...

Shine all over Miami! I'm gonna let it shine...

LUNCH IS SERVED...

Following the service of dedication, please join us in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our Mardi Gras Celebration. A New Orleans-style luncheon will be served. A freewill offering will be gratefully received. Visitors, we would LOVE to have you join us.

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS!

If you are visiting us today, we welcome you. We are grateful we have found each other. And, if somehow, there is something in you, some still small voice seeking a place to live out your faith, to ask important questions, and to serve beyond yourself, we invite you into our community. For more information about the church, please contact Pastor Laurie at 305.448.7421, ext. 116 or LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

EACH SUNDAY: WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

Invite your family and friends around the world to worship with us online today and each Sunday at gablesucc.org/live.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember all those places of war, violence and unrest, as we continue to pray for peace for all people around the world. A lighted candle on the altar symbolizes our prayers for peace and non-violence.

STAY IN TOUCH

Once a week or so, Pastor Laurie e-mails a pastoral letter, *Laurie's Lines*, to all members and friends, filling them in on the week's events, any special concerns that have arisen, and general church business. If you would like to be included, contact Ron Morgan at RonM@gablesucc.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS

Lois Legge, head usher;
Frank Dunbar, Pablo Alonso, Heather Baker, and Malcolm Davies

FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

Products with a Purpose ~ Located outside the Fellowship Hall

Open TODAY until 2:00 p.m.

Discover Valentine Gifts that Say You Care!

The most wonderful cards and sentiment hearts in all of Miami.

All under \$11.00.

A pair of earrings gift bagged is only \$10.00 too.

Shop where your heart is and come to your church Fair Trade gift boutique.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT

Our Sunday School children and youth are supporting Lotus House Homeless Shelter in Overtown and need your help! Every month they will be collecting a different item that the women, children or LGBT youth need. In February, they are collecting full size bottles of baby lotion. Please place your items on the Lotus House table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping us help the homeless in Miami.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Monday, February 12 from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Library

(Note the change in time and place)

We gather to create beautiful prayer shawls to share with members of our church family who are ill. You do not have to know how to knit or crochet- someone will teach you. If you are looking for a ministry of prayer and care for others, this may be it. Come and help wrap someone in God's love by creating a beautiful prayer shawl.

CHURCH NIGHT IN

Each Wednesday Evening

Dinner is served from 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

\$6 for adults; \$4 for kids 12 and under

Take out available

This week's menu: Turkey Picadillo or Black Bean Picadillo
White Rice, Black Beans, Plantain, Vanilla and Dulce de Leche Cake

ASH WEDNESDAY TRI-LINGUAL SERVICE

Wednesday Evening, February 14

7:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary

We will join with Christians the world over in marking the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. Begin your Lenten journey in worship, prayer, music and the symbolic act of receiving ashes. On this night we are reminded of the fragility of life and our call to live life abundantly. This is a children-friendly service and we encourage families to worship together. It will be shared with our brothers and sisters from our German-Language and Spanish-Language services. Come early for dinner.

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be NO Sophiology course this Wednesday, due to our Ash Wednesday service. Join us the following Wednesday when it resumes at 6:00 p.m.

BECOME A MEMBER AND JOIN THE FUN!

We warmly invite you to help us build the family of Gables UCC.

Our next Inquirer's Gathering for anyone interested in "inquiring" about the church and membership will be **Friday, February 16, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Pastor Laurie's Home**. Join us for dinner and the opportunity to learn more about the church, what we value, our history and the United Church of Christ. Childcare is available. To RSVP e-mail Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org or call at 305.448.7421 x 116.

FINAL CALL: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BLITZ BUILD 2018

Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Join the Gables UCC Team as we help build a home for a low income family in need of a decent and affordable place to live. You do not have to be a professional builder to join us. Just have a heart for helping others have a decent and safe place to live. For more information, contact Pastor Aaron or Pastor Laurie at the church.

NEXT SUNDAY: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Footprints in the Sand: A Lenten Beach Journey

Lent invites us to be in a season of reflection, introspection, and preparation.

Take a walk with us through the sands of the wilderness onto the sandy beaches of hope, as we seek God and in the process find ourselves.

Communion will be served weekly at all services.

Sunday, March 18 at 11:00 a.m.

Standing on Shifting Sand.

Bringing our inspiring morning message based on Psalm 139:1-18 and Mark 1:9-15 will be the Very Rev. Tracey Lind, former Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio who is living with Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), a disease which results in a gradual, progressive decline in language, mobility, behavior, and short-term memory. She will share with us about finding a renewal of faith in the midst of struggle.

SPANISH LANGUAGE WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

If you are part of a Spanish-speaking family or would enjoy worshiping in Spanish, come and join us in the Chapel for a service bridging the Latin experience with a progressive theology. There is music, prayer, community building, and refreshments.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY

Stating Our Faith: The UCC's Statement of Faith in a Diverse World

Sundays through February 25

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge

Facilitated by Pastor Aaron

The UCC prides itself on being a non-creedal denomination, but that sure doesn't mean we don't say what we believe! Dive in to our denominational history and theological foundation in a class that will dissect, discuss, deconstruct, and delight in our UCC Statement of Faith. Childcare is always provided in Room 3.

GAY PRIDE MEETING

Sunday, February 18 at 12:15 p.m. in the Library

Once again, Coral Gables Congregational UCC will be at the Miami Beach Gay PRIDE Parade to share the good news of an inclusive church and faith where all are welcome no matter where they are on life's journey, or with whom they walk that journey. The church shuttle will leave at **9:00 a.m.**, and will return after the parade, which begins at **12:00 noon**. To reserve a seat, visit the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Join the Pride Planning Team to help us choose a theme and decorate the float: First Meeting is next **Sunday**. Also, be a Dancer in the Parade! All are welcome to join us, with no dance experience needed! We will have two rehearsals: **Saturday, April 7, 12:00 p.m.** in the Green Space, and **Sunday, April 8, 10:00 a.m.** before the parade on South Beach

LUNCH AND THE BIBLE

Tuesday, February 20 from Noon - 1:30 p.m. in Havighorst Lounge

Join one of our pastors for lunch, fellowship and a discussion on one of their favorite Bible passages. Sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages will be served. Free will donations accepted. Please RSVP to Pastor Megan at 305. 448-7421 ext. 119 or by email at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

LENTEN VESPERS

Wednesdays, February 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Vespers or "sunset prayers" will be held through the season of Lent as a way to follow our Lord into the passion of the cross in order to encounter the joy of the resurrection. These services, made up of candlelight, music and prayer, offer the perfect quiet break we need from the stress and noise of life around us. All are welcome. We meet in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available.

CALLING ALL FUN AND ADVENTUROUS PEOPLE
Art Tour: *Turquoise Mountain: Artists Transforming Afghanistan*
FIU Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Thursday, February 22; Shuttle leaves church at 10:30 a.m.
Lunch at 12:30 p.m. Rice House of Kabob

Discover a unique project of revival and restoration of Afghanistan's traditional arts and the historic quarter of its capital city Kabul. Learn about the artisans, see their work and experience this powerful story of tradition and transformation. This exhibition is sponsored by the Green School's Muslim World Studies Program and produced in collaboration with the Turquoise Mountain Trust and the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. The tour is free. Afterwards, we will have lunch at the Rice House of Kabob. Everyone will purchase their own lunch. To register for this event, please visit the Congregational Life table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or contact Drew Sandbulte at DrewS@gablesucc.org or 305-448- 7421 ext. 112.

BREAKFAST AND DEVOTIONS ON THE BEACH
Saturdays, February 24; March 3, 10, 17 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Matheson Hammock Park ~ 9610 Old Cutler Road, Miami

Early morning holds so much promise: a new day, a new opportunity, a fresh start. De-clutter your mind of plans, schedules, and "to do" lists. Instead, look out upon the waves, wiggle your toes in the sand, absorb the sights, smells, and sounds, and enjoy the fellowship of others as we share a time of devotions and a light breakfast which is provided. \$5 parking.

SISTERS ON SOJOURN

Saturday, February 24 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Church Library

All women, regardless of age, are invited to join in this easy-going group. Come and enjoy a potluck breakfast, lots of laughter, and good support. If you need childcare, please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

INTERFAITH COOKING CLASS

Saturday, February 24 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Pastor Laurie's Home

Join us for a cooking class in collaboration with our Turkish Muslim friends. Come and learn some new recipes, discover about cooking with different ingredients and techniques, and share conversation across cultural lines as we create dishes representative of multicultural Miami. Space is limited. \$30 a person. Proceeds go to a charity for feeding hungry children. To reserve your space, contact Drew Sandbulte at DrewS@gablesucc.org or sign up following worship in Fellowship Hall.

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UCC STAFF DIRECTORY
305.448.7421 (Extensions listed below)

Ministers

All Members of the Church

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Megan Smith, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Aaron Lauer, Associate Pastor

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German Worship Information info@deutschkircheflorida.com
Dr. Ronald Morgan, Director of Music Ministries RonM@gablesucc.org ext.121
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To contact Early Childhood Center, please call: 305-444-9792

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Maintenance and Custodial Team

Rene Dominguez, Carlos Barrios, Rosario Noriega, and Guillermo Ordoñez

WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE



A Weekend with the Very Rev. Tracey Lind

Saturday, February 17 - Sunday, February 18



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.

Please join us for a variety of programs, worship, and sessions led by Rev. Lind and her spouse Emily Ingalls. There is no charge but registration is required for the Saturday retreat.

Saturday Retreat

Living in the Spirit with Dementia

Saturday, February 17

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Havighorst Lounge

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. A morning snack and lunch will be provided. This retreat is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Register at gablesucc.org/tracey-lind.

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, February 18 at 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Lind will offer the morning message: *Standing on Shifting Sands*

Sunday Afternoon Session

Through the Looking Glass: Dementia from the Inside Out

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel

All are welcome to this interfaith gathering. Refreshments will be served.

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OF CHRIST



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