

JUSTICE

It's a Jesus thing.



CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, JUST PEACE, W.I.S.E. & SANCTUARY CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOME TO CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Faith is over 2000 years old. Our thinking is not.

We invite you to be a part of our community of faith,
to be blessed by God's grace in our midst.

We invite you to grow spiritually, and to find welcome at God's table.

Our vision is to be an inclusive, vibrant, alive, witnessing community of faith.

We are the people of South Florida, a diverse, culturally rich, and intriguing community.

We are young and old, economically fortunate and economically struggling,
with and without disabilities, Hispanic and African-American, gay and straight;
trans- and cis-gender, native Miamians, and transplants from around the globe.

A common misconception is that Church goers are
stuffy, standoffish, and don't like newcomers.

Nothing is farther from the truth here.

We want you to experience our friendship and closeness firsthand.

We want you to feel comfortable and to enjoy worship with us.

Visiting a church for the first time can be a frightening experience.

We know it can be scary walking through those big wooden doors.

We assure you, though, that the hard part is making up your mind to visit.

Once you are here you will find a haven of hospitality, beauty, and inspiring worship.

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.

June 21, 2020

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Our faith is over 2000 years old

Our thinking is not.

11:00 a.m.



**A SUNDAY OF RECOMMITMENT TO THE WORK
OF DISMANTLING RACISM,**

Justice is the sum of all moral duty.

~ William Godwin

PRELUDE

A Symphony of Spirituals

Dr. Ron Morgan, organ; Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Aaron Lauer

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this **United Church of Christ** congregation.*

Thank you for signing in online.

We love knowing where everyone is worshipping from today.

*Please use your smartphone 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 gablesucc.org/live.*

Be sure to "like" us at facebook.com/gablesucc.

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Nobody Knows

Traditional

Dr. Charmyn Kirton, vocalist

CALL TO WORSHIP AND A RE-COMMITMENT TO DISMANTLING RACISM

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF ANTI-RACISM

You may find the statement printed on the back of the bulletin.

HYMN

O For a World

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,
where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

OFFERING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Rev. Megan Smith

One: No matter from where you are worshipping with us today; no matter the concerns, worries, or joys that you bring; no matter your background or social status; your race, culture, faith tradition, or sexual orientation, we offer to you the peace of Christ this day. Peace be with you!

If you are gathered with others, share the peace of Christ with one another.

If you are worshipping individually, know the peace of Christ is with you. Email, text, or message your family and friends and share the peace of Christ with them from a distance.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *(Sung)*

*Bless the Lord, my soul and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul who leads me into life.*

THE HEBREW LESSON

Jeremiah 22:3

"This is what the Lord says: Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!"

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Galatians 6:1-3

Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

Friends, listen. God is still speaking.

Thanks be to God!

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Emily Roles Fotso

MUSICAL RESPONSE

A Change is Gonna Come

Greg Jackson, vocalist; Seth Woods, percussion

*At this time, you are invited to text your prayer requests to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482
or email at 3059686482@vtext.com.*

THE MORNING PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (Sung)

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace, You alone O Lord are holy
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Please know that your financial support of the church does great things not only within these walls but far beyond. If you wish to give on your mobile device today, please text "GABLESUCC" to 77977 or go to our church app. You can also give on our website.

Total Praise

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Total Praise

Anthony Cabrera, Greg Jackson, and Charmyn Kirton, vocalists;
Seth Woods, percussion

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: We believe that through our time, talent and treasure that unarmed truth and unconditional love can have the final word.
We believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom in their lives and for their spirits.
We believe that "the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid."
We still believe that we shall overcome.

THE CLOSING HYMN

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome some day.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace someday.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome some day.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday.

God will see us through, God will see us through, God will see us through someday.

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe we shall overcome someday!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Go Down Moses

Joel Raney

Dr. Ron Morgan, organ; Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

Following the service, please join us for our weekly Connection Café at 12:15 p.m. Come, enjoy some conversation with the pastors and the chance to connect with others by going to our website or Gables UCC Facebook page and commenting on our live video or by texting Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or emailing to 3059686482@ytext.com.

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.

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. Today's prayers especially include our global community as well as our own nation and city as all encounter the coronavirus. A lighted candle on the altar symbolizes our prayers for peace, healing, compassion, and unity.

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED AND ALL PUBLIC INDOOR EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR MOVED ONLINE.

Be sure to join us through our church website, Facebook page, church app, and Instagram page for our various online offerings.

Online Morning Devotions Each Weekday at 9:00 a.m.

Online Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Please also keep checking our various social media outlets for up-to-date information, programs, and community connection time.

www.gablesucc.org

GET OUR CHURCH APP

For all Apple and Android users, get your official Gables UCC App by going to the App Store or Google Play and downloading it. It's free! And it will keep you up-to-date and connected with church information, special announcements, calendar, and the staff. Need help? Contact Elena Korallis, our Director of Communications, at ElenaK@gablesucc.org.

STAY IN TOUCH

Once a week or so, Pastor Laurie emails 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 Drew at DrewS@gablesucc.org.

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Do you know the Called to Care Team prays together each Wednesday at 12:00 noon from their respective homes or wherever they are? They use a list compiled from your prayer requests texted to Pastor Laurie on Sunday morning (or throughout the week). To be in touch, text Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or email Carol Fifield, Coordinator of the Called to Care Team, at miamifife@gmail.com.

THE COMPASSION FUND

We have established a "Compassion Fund" to help church family and friends in need through these challenging days. We invite you to give knowing that your gift will assist those struggling to make ends meet. If giving through our church website, app, or by texting "GABLESUCC" to 77977, please go to where it says "Fund," scroll down to the Compassion Fund, and contribute. It's that easy and you will be helping other members.

SHARE YOUR PRIDE

June is Pride Month and we are celebrating the welcome and affirmation of all our LGBTQ+ members and friends! As an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, we want to show our pride by making a video for Pride Sunday on June 28th. And we need your help! Your job is simple: record yourself, your friends, family, or pets with your cellphone or computer saying:

"We are Gables UCC and we have PRIDE!"

You can dress up, wave a rainbow flag, throw confetti, do a cheer, or any other creative way to celebrate! All members and friends are welcomed and invited to make a video. Please send your video to Elena Korallis at ElenaK@gablesucc.org by **Monday June 22**.

**WISE (WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE, SUPPORTIVE, AND ENGAGED
FOR MENTAL HEALTH) SUPPORT**

However, being socially distant does not mean having to be socially isolated.

Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., Lisa LeSueur, Minister of Congregational and Staff Care, will lead a Zoom opportunity to connect with other members of our church community as we share stories, as well as survival strategies, for getting through these challenging times. If you are interested in joining, please email Lisa at LisaL@gablesucc.org and the link to the meeting will be forwarded to you.

NEAT ONLINE MEETINGS

Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the Month at 7:00 p.m. via Meetup

N.E.A.T. offers practical, motivational, emotional and spiritual support when facing challenges in business, career and life transitions. We are professionals helping professionals. For topics, requests and to receive information and email, register for free at: www.meetup.com/Network-Empower-And-Transition-Life-Work. If you have further questions, contact Suely Piraino Argianas at suely@crownecoaching.com.

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SACRED CONVERATIONS ON RACE

Tuesday, June 23 at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom

Led by Members of the Church

One of the ways for folks to be engaged, empowered, and energized around the many issues of racism, is through our ongoing Sacred Conversation on Race, where we invite you to not only talk and learn, but to take constructive and meaningful action. In preparation for this conversation, we are asking that you watch the film, *The Hate U Give*, which is now streaming for free on all domestic digital entertainment platforms. *The Hate U Give* rose to critical acclaim by telling the story of Starr Carter, a Black teen who becomes a leader of a local movement after witnessing the fatal police shooting of her childhood best friend.

If you would like to be on the e-mail list for these Sacred Conversations on Race and to receive suggested resources, please contact Pastor Laurie at Laurieh@gablesucc.org.

TWO BOOK STUDIES

***So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo**

Book Study via Zoom from 7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays through July 1.

Facilitated by Church Member, Laura Davis Smith

Widespread reporting on aspects of white supremacy--from police brutality to the mass incarceration of Black Americans--has put a media spotlight on racism in our society. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. How do you tell your roommate her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law take umbrage when you asked to touch her hair--and how do you make it right? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?

In the *New York Times* bestseller, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

Please contact Pastor Megan at Megans@gablesucc.org for the password and ID to this Gables UCC program.

Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do?

Book Study via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

Thursdays through July 16

Facilitated by Pastor Aaron and Pastor Laurie

Is there a place for the common good in a diverse society? Is it right for a few to suffer for the happiness of the many? How do my personal choices impact the well-being of my neighbors?

Join Pastor Laurie and Pastor Aaron as we explore these questions and more in our book study of *Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do?* Touted as "spellbinding" and "exhilarating," this book is being read by college students across the country, and author Michael Sandel is described as "the most prominent college professor in America."

Each week we will dive into a different philosophical perspective of justice and fairness, from utilitarianism to social solidarity, and grapple with how we can live more just lives both as individuals and as a society. Come to learn and add your perspective to this most important and invigorating conversation. Please contact Pastor Aaron at Aaronl@gablesucc.org for the password and ID to this Gables UCC program.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

For Adults:

The Challenge of Paul

A video and Bible Study Based on the Work of John Dominic Crossan

Each Sunday morning through August 2

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. by Zoom

Paul is one of Christianity's most impactful, yet most debated and misunderstood figures. In "The Challenge of Paul," John Dominic Crossan gives us the benefit of his lifelong search for the Paul of history to create a new understanding that sheds new light on Paul and why he is more relevant than ever today.

In February we began a video series on the Apostle Paul which we postponed midway due to COVID-19. We will complete the series on Zoom. We will gather together on Zoom and watch the John Dominic Crossan DVD session, then be led in discussion by Mark Wolfe and Rick Walters. Please email Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org for the Zoom link.

For Children:

Children's Compassion Camp

Sundays, June 21 - July 19

Infants through Second Grade will meet at 10:00 a.m.

Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades will meet at 10:30 a.m.

This five-week Sunday morning camp will include activities such as biblical stories, videos, new music, coloring activities, crafts (with items easily found at home), yoga, breathing exercises, social time with Sunday School friends and time with Pastor Megan via Zoom! Families will also receive A Compassion Camp Family Pack, so you may continue to explore compassion as a family throughout the week. This will be an online Sunday School Camp, and each class will meet via Zoom for 30 minutes.

Please register by Monday June 13, by emailing Pastor Megan (MeganS@gablesucc.org) your child's name and the grade the just completed.



FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

Do you love and miss the Fair Trade Shop?

The feeling is mutual!

While we can't be open, we can help you with gift suggestions during this extraordinary time. Call our personal shopper: Marilyn Smit at **786-897-1515**. We offer curbside pickup and delivery too.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF ANTI-RACISM

Black Lives Matter. This is a truth we speak to ourselves, to the Church, and to the world as we witness racism continue to take the lives of Black people in America.

With grieving hearts, we speak their names: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Corey Jones, Atatiana Jefferson, Trayvon Martin and countless other victims of racist violence, both known and unknown, listened to and ignored. The voice of their blood cries out from the ground, and we join this cry for justice.

Again and again, we are reminded that racism is more than individual thoughts and actions. It is an immoral system that structurally discriminates against and oppresses people of color - especially Black people - through underfunded schools, lack of access to healthcare, food insecurity, discriminatory housing policies, polluted neighborhoods and undrinkable water, and an unjust criminal justice system.

As Christians, we believe that all people are children of God and deserve the same dignity, compassion, and access to a full life no matter their skin color, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, immigration status, socio-economic status, ability, education, or faith tradition.

The book of Genesis affirms that, "God created humankind in God's own image;" that all people are beloved, blessed image-bearers of the Divine. Likewise, the Apostle Paul preaches in Galatians that "there is no longer Jew nor Greek...for all are one in Christ Jesus;" that we are united as a human race, and that in God nothing divides us. In this oneness, we must unite and resist the racism that permeates every institution in this country -- including the Church -- and deprives us of fully experiencing the wholeness and equality promised by God and exemplified in the life of Jesus.

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ continues its commitment to the work of anti-racism, to dismantling the system of White supremacy, and to the co-creation with the Holy Spirit of God's reign of peace and justice on earth. This is the work that Jesus calls us to, in courage and hope, for a transformed world where all God's children are equal, free, and loved.

As a congregation, we will embody this commitment in our life and culture together through awareness, education, skills, application of anti-racist education, policies, and practices, as we continue to our work of dismantling racism. This includes:

- Anti-racist educational programming for children, youth, and adults
- Building relationships with diverse congregations
- Partnership with and purchases from Black-owned businesses and Black-led community organizations
- Justice work with PACT on issues of housing, gun violence, and unnecessary arrests
- Hiring practices that prioritize racial diversity
- Prophetic preaching and worship
- Prayer without ceasing for racial justice

In the name of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we re-affirm our commitment to dismantling racism in our nation and to the work of justice and witness for all people. Amen.

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

LaurieH@gablesucc.org ext. 116

The Rev. Megan Smith, Associate Pastor

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The Rev. Aaron Lauer, Associate Pastor

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German Worship Information

GermanMinistry@gablesucc.org

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The Rev. Yoli Izquierdo-Yglesias, Spanish Worship

Valeyosly@gmail.com/786.506.9890

Lisa LeSueur, Minister for Congregational and Staff Care

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Dr. Ronald Morgan, Director of Music Ministries

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Brooke Bagnall-Koger, Director of Early Childhood Center

BrookeB@gablesucc.org

To contact Early Childhood Center, please call:

305.444.9792

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Dr. Gregory Taylor, Parish Musician

Gregpiano1@aol.com

Alexandra Woods, Children's Choir Director

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Maintenance and Custodial Team

Rene Dominguez (Lead Custodian)

Carlos Barrios, Rosario Noriega



WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE