



DRIVE-IN

SPIRIT SUNDAY

COME AS YOU ARE, BUT STAY IN YOUR CAR

TUNE YOUR CAR RADIO TO 87.9 FM

OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE/FACEBOOK PAGE

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3010 DE SOTO BLVD. CORAL GABLES, FL 33134



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, people of all races, gay and straight;
trans- and cis-gender, native Miamians, and transplants from around the globe.

FOR TODAY'S DRIVE-IN SERVICE

Please stay in your car for the entire service.

Wave to your neighbors through your windows and enjoy gathering,
but please, for compliance, do not leave your car.

If you need to leave urgently you will be able to pull out during the service.

Otherwise, please wait for the parking attendant to dismiss your row.

If you need something, more communion, etc.,
just wave to a greeter and they will help you.

Offerings can continue to be mailed or submitted online or through our app,
but there will be a box available as you leave the drive-in service.

Connection Café will follow immediately, so feel free to stay parked if you wish and
participate from your car or home.

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.

September 13, 2020

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

11:00 a.m.

+++++

SPIRIT SUNDAY

*The church's most useful asset is not a sanctuary filled with pew sitters,
but rather a congregation out in the world sharing the love of God.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Jorge Sayago-Gonzalez

*If you are worshipping with us at our drive-in service this morning,
please use this time to locate us on your car's FM radio or find us on Facebook or on our
website on your phone at Gablesucc.org.*

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.

SUNG CALL TO COMMUNITY

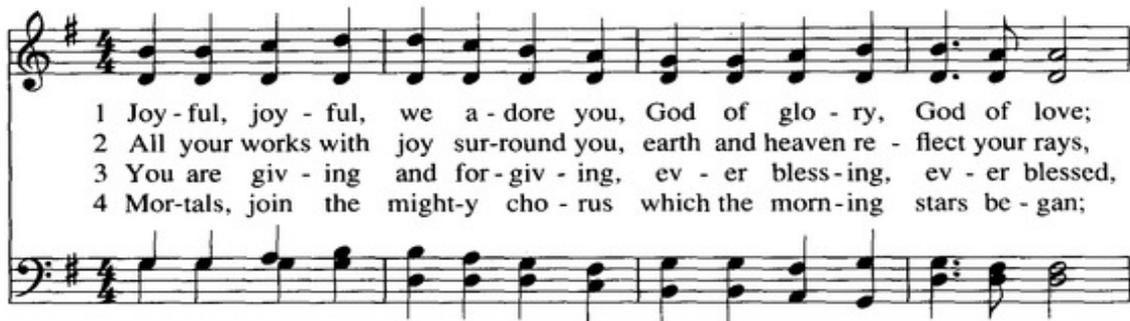
Jorge Sayago-Gonzalez

CALL TO WORSHIP

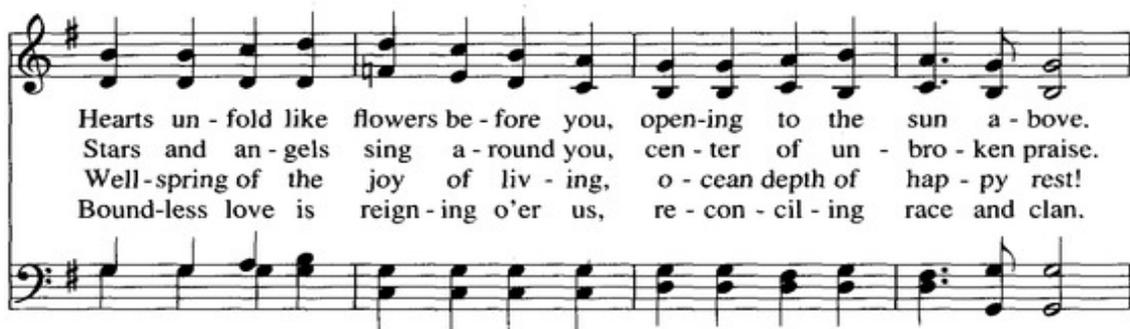
One: This is a celebration of love as we gather in community;
This is a celebration of life in the form of bread and cup;
This is a celebration of hope because we have endured over these
past months;
This is a celebration of joy as we begin our journey back together;
This is a celebration of a stubborn faith that believes all will be well for
the Spirit of God is with us always.
Come, let us celebrate together in worship!

****Honk your horn twice!****

HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You


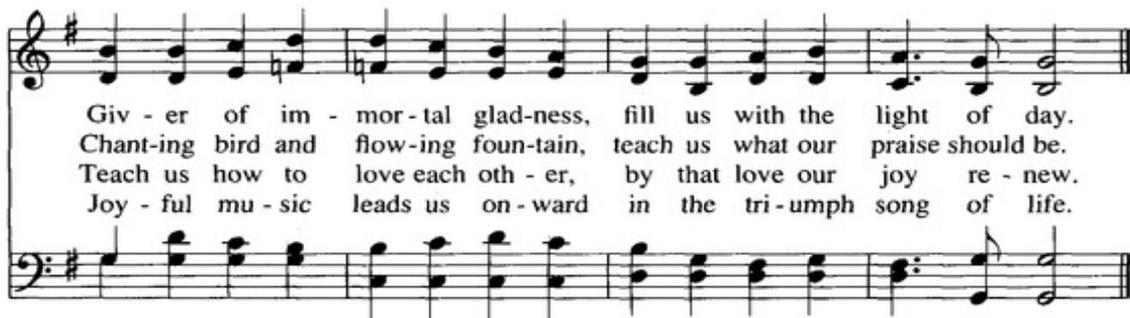
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur - round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

OFFERING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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. Peace be with you!

*****Please honk your horn as a sign of peace.*****

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

*****If you are in the parking lot, wave to the car next to you.*****

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.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE (Sung)

*****Please turn on your flashers during this song.*****

Halle, Halle, Halle

Caribbean Traditional

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

READING

I Celebrate the Church

Ann Weems

The Rev. Megan Smith

I celebrate the church of Jesus Christ
where two or three or thousands can gather together
in the Lord's name
and touch this world
with the amazing good news that somebody cares,
that God joins us in community so that someday
this world will be loved to wholeness.

I celebrate this church,
where the people say Yes in the face of No,
where they light candles in the darkest night,
where healing and compassion leave no time for self-righteousness,
and the life-sustaining love of Christ is evident in the life of the believers.

I celebrate this beloved community,
where every child of God is hailed as unique and valuable,
where arms are opened to the world's outcasts,
where the tired, beaten, disillusioned world is invited in and surprised
by the life-giving word that Christ accepts the children,
all the children of the world.

I celebrate this church of Jesus Christ,
whose supportive community holds me when I'm tempted to give up,
enfolds me when I'm hurting, affirms me, reaches out to me,
gives to me, receives from me.

*****Please honk your horn twice!*****

SUNG RESPONSE

Church (Take Me Back)
Anthony Cabrera, vocalist

Cochren, Fowler & Kuiper

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.

THE DOXOLOGY *(Sung)*

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.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our table is wide-open to all who desire a closer relationship with God no matter your age, gender, station in life, sexual orientation, or faith tradition.

We invite you to have available a piece of bread/cracker and a small cup of juice/wine ready so that we may share Holy Communion together as a "commune-ity," no matter from where we are worshipping today.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 114

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all God's benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
God made known ways to Moses,
and acts to the people of Israel.
God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Friends, listen. God is still speaking.

Thanks be to God!

****Please honk twice!****

COMMUNION MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Storm is Passing Over

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

INVITATION

PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken)

You are welcome to use the language or words of your tradition or choice.

Our 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Thank You, O God, for this meal of remembrance; And for coming to us, in the Spirit's power, as we have shared it. May the love we find through your table be reflected in our lives; May the power we receive through the bread and cup make us peacemakers and healers; And may the Spirit who fills us again through community lead us to be those who proclaim God's realm in every word we speak and in everything we do. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia

On the second verse you are invited to raise your hands up in glory to God.

THE SENDING FORTH

One: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together;
And we are grateful for the feast we have shared.
As you enter a new week, may you experience God's presence.
May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit
over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips,
over your hearts and your feelings and emotions
and your compassion for all others,
and over your hands and your feet
as you put into action all that God commands you.
During this week, may the Holy One guide, nurture, and be with
each of us. **Amen.**

*****Please honk twice**!***

POSTLUDE

*Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Following the service, please join us for our weekly Connection Café. 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@vtext.com.

Visitors, we would LOVE to have you join us!

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

The Called to Care Team prays together each Wednesday at 12:00 noon. 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.

REMEMBER

These are the times that call upon our faith—times like this, when we and those around us need assurance that we're not alone, and that together we will get through whatever lies ahead. Now is the time to draw close to God in prayer, and to one another in acts of compassion and care. If you are in need of groceries, a meal, conversation, a pharmacy run, or anything else, let us know.

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.

DO YOU LOVE AND MISS THE FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE?

The feeling is mutual!

While we can't be open, we can help you with purchases during this extraordinary time. Call our personal shopper: Marilyn Smit at 786.897.1515. We offer curbside pickup and delivery too.

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

Being socially distant does not mean having to be socially isolated.

Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., Lisa LeSueur leads 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.

LUNCH AND THE BIBLE

Tuesday, September 15 at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

Please join the pastors for a presentation on a Bible passage that is sure to nourish your spirit. You bring your lunch and we'll provide the scripture. For the Zoom ID and password, contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

Tuesday, September 15 from 7:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Thanks to all who have joined us over the past months as we have sought to be engaged, empowered, and energized around the many issues of racism. Please mark your calendar **for this Tuesday, September 15** when we welcome Sue Gallagher, EdD, as our special speaker for the evening. Sue has over 30 years of non-profit and local government experience. She is a white woman who began reading Black Liberation Theology in the 1980s and has centered racial justice in her life and work since. An Adjunct Professor at Florida International University, Sue has co-developed and co-presented a workshop on the local history of racism and resistance and the research on implicit racial bias to over 3,500 people over the last four years. She also piloted a Reparations Pilgrimage for Christians in the Fall of 2019. Please register in advance:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUud-iorz0qG9Xsgk_tLZFipg9pVlv4qlHp

If you have not yet taken the 21-day-challenge toward dismantling racism and causing no harm, it is still available. To receive a copy, please contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

**PACT (PEOPLE ACTING FOR COMMUNITY TOGETHER)
HOUSE MEETINGS**

**Monday, September 14; Wednesday, September 16; Tuesday, September 22;
Wednesday, September 23; Thursday, September 24; Wednesday, September 30**
All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

We all have concerns and worries about our lives and our community, and PACT is giving us an opportunity to gather and share with each other what matters most to us in these difficult times. In September our PACT Team will host a number of Listening Sessions as a chance for us to come together, voice our concerns, and begin the work of changing our communities for the better. Please join us for this important opportunity to do the work of justice together. You will get a call from a PACT Team Leader, inviting you to a session or you can always contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER

TheoEd Talks

Sundays through September 27 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

If you love TedTalks, then join us for TheoEd Talks, a theological lecture and conversation on some of the most important issues of our day. Hosted by the Board of Justice and Witness, these twenty-minute-long videos from some of today's leading theological voices will rouse good conversation and deep insight. Each Sunday will be a different topic, so please join us for a time of learning and reflection on faith and our public life.

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kd-GurjwE9POArDM-hdKml_o9CF8k20v

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

The Bible and Homosexuality: What They Didn't Teach You in Sunday School

Sundays, September 20 and 27 from 12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. via Zoom

During these sessions led by Pastor Laurie, we will examine the biblical texts that are used to judge, sometimes condemn, and often marginalize the LGBTQI community in the church, and in society as well. As an Open and Affirming congregation, we root our inclusive vision in the Word of God, and we welcome all of God's children to the table that God has set. Since our hospitality is grounded on a solid scriptural basis, we invite you to join this study series to "firm up" your own faithful understanding of God's inclusive welcome and unconditional love. *After all, it's in the Bible.* To register and receive Zoom information, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcocuysrz4pEteu1DP-NoREL7s5X42M-iTn>

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

Each Sunday, Pastor Megan will meet via ZOOM with our Sunday School Children to explore *The Beatitudes*, using an illustrated curriculum. Sunday Zoom meeting times beginning **September 20**:

10:30 a.m. - Kindergarten and First Grade ~ **11:00 a.m.** - Second and Third Grades
11:30 a.m. - Fourth and Fifth Grades

**Sunday School Children may pick up their packet with everything they need for the first six weeks of The Beatitudes Sunday School, TODAY, following our Drive-In Worship.*

FROLIC PRESCHOOL: LITTLE STEPS, BIG FAITH

Each Thursday, beginning **September 17**, parents will receive an email with a music lesson video for their child in PreK-3 and PreK-4 starring Ms. Alex. Each Sunday, beginning **September 20, at 10:00 a.m.** the PreK- 3 and PreK- 4 Sunday School class will meet with Pastor Megan to hear a Bible story and do fun activities together on Zoom, based on The New Testament Stories of Jesus' teachings using *Frolic Preschool: Little Steps, Big Faith*.

STORY TIME WITH PASTOR MEGAN

Infants through PreK-2

September 20 – December 6 via Email

Each week a short story time video will be emailed to the parents of our youngest members. These faith stories may be watched by families at the most convenient time for them. Contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org, to receive the weekly Bible story.

SISTERS ON SOJOURN

Saturday, September 26 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on Zoom

All women, regardless of age, are invited to join in this relaxed and easy-going group. Sit down with a cup of coffee or tea, maybe something to eat, and let's just spend some time listening, sharing, comforting, and laughing together over Zoom. A link will be sent out to all who are on the SOS list. If you are not on the list and would like to be included, please let Pastor Laurie know at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

TRANS/NON-BINARY 101

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. on On Zoom

As our congregation seeks to widen our welcome and do justice for everyone in the LGBTQ+ community, this training will equip us with the language and the action to be a congregation that affirms transgender and non-binary people. Led by the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, this training will discuss gender and the Bible, terminology and language, and practical ways that we can be trans/non-binary affirming as a congregation and in our own lives.

WISE PRESENTS...*GRACE, GRAVITY, AND GETTING OLD*

The WISE Team had chosen the year 2020 to explore the natural aging process, including the physical and psychological changes that occur as we age. We invite you to join us each **Thursday evening in October from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** plus a couple other times for this series on aging. This is for people of ALL ages, as let's face it, we are all aging!

These sessions will be via Zoom. Please register by going to this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEud-moqDwjHdG7xHdduRemkhkaiTFO6ynv>

Thursday, October 1- *What's New About Getting Old: Gerontology 101.* It is no secret that the U.S. Population is aging. What might be surprising, however, is that despite the scary headlines, aging and the changing demographics are not necessarily bad things. What if the headlines read "People are living longer!"" "You can be old and healthy!""? While certainly, there are some drawbacks to aging, there are positive aspects as well. Let's explore the who, what and why of aging and what it means to us - both individually and as a society.

Presenter: Dr. Rona Karasik, (proud sister-in-law of Pastor Laurie), is a professor and Director of Gerontology at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN where she teaches courses including: Health & Aging; Ethics in Gerontology & Geriatrics; and Dementia. Her work also includes numerous publications and presentations in the areas of dementia; aging families; and diversity. Her current research focuses on incorporating anti-racist pedagogy into the gerontological curriculum. Dr. Karasik holds fellow status in the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE).

Thursday, October 8 – “What Do I Do with All This Stuff?” Stuff is great, but too much of it can mean a lack of space and a constant source of low-level distraction. And yet, it's oddly difficult to dispose of accumulated possessions. After all, they *might* come in useful someday, or perhaps a long-dormant interest could reignite. No matter the cause, the result is identical: a whole load of clutter, and no idea what to do with it.

Join us as Marsha Sims, head of Sort-It-Out, a premier professional organizing company in South Florida, will be with us to talk about getting control and developing strategies for discerning real solutions to the ongoing problem of “what do I do with this?” Marsha is the author of several books including *5 Days to a Clutter-Free House* and has been featured on radio, TV, and newspapers on how to sort through all the “stuff.”

Thursday, October 15 – Mental Health and Aging. As we age, mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorders become more prevalent. Be with us as Dr. Kiara Timpano, a professor with the Department of Psychology at the University of Miami shares with us.

Thursday, October 23 – *The Brain and Aging.* Some changes in the ability to think are considered a normal part of the aging process. Age-related declines most commonly include overall slowness in thinking and difficulties sustaining attention, multitasking, holding information in mind and word-finding. However, not all thinking abilities decline with age. In fact, vocabulary, reading and verbal reasoning remain unchanged or even improve during the aging process. Join us as we learn about the brain and aging.

Thursday, October 30 – *Five Wishes.* In case you've never heard of it, *Five Wishes* is a document that lets you decide your final wishes as well as how you'll be treated if you ever become seriously ill. It helps all adults, regardless of age or health, to consider and document how they want to be cared for at the end of life. In addition, you get to make decisions surrounding your comfort, your dignity and other requests you have — no matter how specific they are. All participants will receive a *Five Wishes* form when they register to fill-in and to ask any questions that evening. Presenters include a pastor, attorney, and physician.

Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m. – Women's Book Study on *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age.* Author Mary Pipher offers a timely examination of the cultural and developmental issues women encounter as they age and explores ways women can cultivate resilient responses to the challenges they face. "If we can keep our wits about us, think clearly, and manage our emotions skillfully," Pipher writes, "we will experience a joyous time of our lives. If we have planned carefully and packed properly, if we have good maps and guides, the journey can be transcendent." Join us by for a great conversation led by Lisa LeSueur. The book is available from all the usual places. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkf-uvqjooGNKtgXmswqAKOXiRsn8U7vPE>

CULTURALLY INFORMED THERAPY

A Partnership Between the University of Miami and Gables UCC

*Do you experience depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, or other stress?
Or, have you been diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder,
or a psychotic spectrum disorder?*

If so, you may be eligible! We offer two separate and specialized therapy groups. The groups are free, culturally-informed, religiously-based, and part of a research aimed at improving psychotherapy. During the treatment, clinicians will provide education on mental health as well as techniques to assist in coping with it. Groups are available in English and Spanish. To learn more, contact us at 305.284.5455 or miamiCIT@gmail.com.

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 do 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.