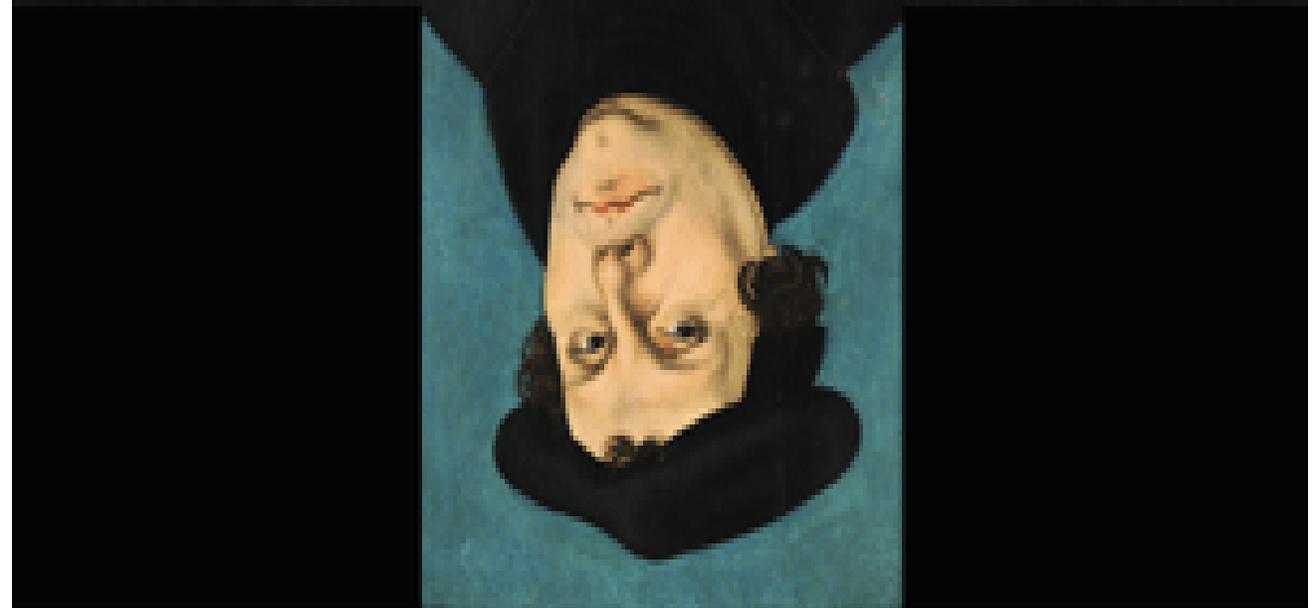


*Re*FORMATION





# 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.

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](http://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.**

October 25, 2020

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

**11:00 a.m.**

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

*I cannot and will not recant anything,  
for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe.  
Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.*

~ Martin Luther

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*Three Consolations*  
Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

Liszt

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Please check your screen for upcoming events and programs***

*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](https://gablesucc.org/live).*

*Be sure to "like" us at [facebook.com/gablesucc](https://facebook.com/gablesucc).*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**

*A Might Fortress is Our God*

Martin Luther

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;  
with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.*

*And thought this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us.  
The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them;  
Their rage we can endure for lo, their doom is sure; one little word shall fell them.*

That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill;  
God's truth shall triumph still; God's reign endures forever.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Rev. Aaron Lauer

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!

*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.*

## 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 GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 22:34-40*

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Friends, listen. God is still speaking!

**Thanks be to God!**

## THE MORNING MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

## MUSICAL RESPONSE *Untitled Hymn*

Alex Woods and Brandon Mowry; vocalists

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

## THE MORNING PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## SUNG RESPONSE

C Amin7 F G Emin7 Amin7  
Come and fill all my life, Come and fill

Dmin G Dmin7 Emin7 F G  
all my life. Each and ev - 'ry ten - der place:  
Pour - ing gen - tly, rush - ing strong:

Dmin7 Emin7 F G  
Ho - ly Breath, move through me.  
Ho - ly Breath, move through me.

## 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.*

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION**

Receive these gifts O God.  
May they be used to reform this community of faith  
even as we seek to remake the world in your image.  
And may your grace, love and presence be ours this day  
and, in the days, to come. Amen.

## **\*THE SUNG BENEDICTION**

*Alleluia*

## **POSTLUDE**

*Feux Follets*  
Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

Liszt

## **CONNECTION CAFÉ**

*Following the service, please join us for our weekly Connection Café. Come, enjoy some conversation with the pastors and the chance to connect with others. Starting today, we will go right into the Connection Café after the postlude. It will be in the same video, so you will no longer need to refresh your page. Please send the pastors messages through our Facebook video, the website chat, the YouTube video, or text or email Pastor Laurie directly at 305.968.6482 or 3059686482@vtext.com.*

---

## **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](http://gablesucc.org/live).*

---

## **TODAY'S BULLETIN COVER:**

In 2017, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Dadian Gallery at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. presented an exhibit called "ReFORMation." The eight artists who contributed works embraced a spirit of protest and re-visioning to remember the Reformation begun by Martin Luther in 1517. Today's bulletin cover comes from the image for that exhibit.

## **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.

## **CHURCH PRAYER LIST**

The Called to Care Team prays together each Wednesday. They use a list compiled from your prayer requests texted to Pastor Laurie on Sunday morning (or throughout the week). To share your prayers, text Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or email Carol Fifield, Coordinator of the Called to Care Team, at [miamifife@gmail.com](mailto:miamifife@gmail.com).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:DrewS@gablesucc.org).

## **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.

---

## **FRIENDS WHO CHURCH CHECK-IN**

**Sundays at 12:30 p.m.**

Every Sunday the young adults of Gables UCC are gathering for a time of check-in, reflection, and learning. Each week a new leader facilitates a great conversation and encourages our growth in community. If you are in your 20s or 30s+ and would like to join us, contact Pastor Aaron for the Zoom login at [AaronL@gablesucc.org](mailto:AaronL@gablesucc.org) or 651.252.7544.

## **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.

---

### **N.E.A.T.**

#### **Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the Month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

N.E.A.T. (Network, Empower, And Transition) offers practical, motivational, emotional and spiritual support when facing challenges in business, career and life transitions. If interested, send an e-mail to Suely Piraino Argianas at [suely@crownecoaching.com](mailto:suely@crownecoaching.com) to receive a Zoom link via email.

### **PACT ANNUAL MEETING**

#### **Monday, October 26 at 6:45 p.m. on Zoom**

After sharing our stories of worry and concern at our Listening Sessions, we will now gather with the 40 other congregations of PACT (People Acting for Community Together) for our Annual Meeting. All Network Members are encouraged to attend, as we will be voting on a new issue for the upcoming year. Join us for this very important gathering and “Let Justice Roll!” Contact Pastor Aaron for the Zoom sign-on at [AaronL@gablsucc.org](mailto:AaronL@gablsucc.org).

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

*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 and to 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](mailto:LisaL@gablesucc.org) and the link to the meeting will be forwarded to you.

### **SHARE AND SUPPORT ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTION**

#### **Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom**

Many of our church family are deeply engaged and involved in the upcoming election both locally and nationally. Also, many have expressed deep sadness and concern about a broken trust in leadership, as well as the loss of compassion, justice, and respect for the other. Therefore, as a faith community that is built on love and seeks to find hope in all that is, you are invited to a time of prayer, support, and action as we reflect on the upcoming election and find ways to put our faith into political engagement. To register go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vde2qqT0iH9T2W9Sh3eQjwJPqm14RpfYk>

## **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 this **Thursday evening, October 29 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** for the topic: Five Wishes. This is for people of ALL ages, as let's face it, we are all aging!

**Please note that the link for this session is different from the others so that we can email you the workbook for this particular session.  
Please register by going to this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrcuiqrD4qE9dJBRDbYXVuJfWgMsl7BqRH>

*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.

## **SPANISH LANGUAGE CONVERSATION SKILLS CLASS**

**Every Friday at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom**

A new beginner, conversational Spanish class is starting on Zoom every Fridays at 4:00 p.m., led by Monica McDougal. If you are interested in working on your basic Spanish language skills, please contact Monica at [mmcdougal817@gmail.com](mailto:mmcdougal817@gmail.com) for the Zoom ID and password to join the classes.

## **NEXT SUNDAY: ELECTION DAY SERMON**

**November 1 at 11:00 a.m.**

One of the great traditions of our fore-bearers in the Congregational tradition was what was called an Election Day Sermon - a noble tradition going back as far as the mid-1600's in the American colonies. At the center of every town in Puritan New England, there was a Congregational Church. The Sundays before an election, almost every Congregational preacher in the land devoted the sermon to the body politic. It typically touched on the nature of government, human nature, the qualifications and duties of rulers, and the need for repentance and reformation. On this Sunday, two days before the national election for President of the United States, Pastor Laurie will revive this tradition and offer up an Election Day sermon.

**Don't forget to "Fall Back" and set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening, October 31.**

## ALL SAINTS SERVICE

November 1 at 1:00 p.m. online

Join Us for An Online Service of Gratitude, Memory and Hope

On this day, we will commemorate All Saints Day by remembering those loved ones who have died **since November 2019**. As part of our recognition, candles will be lit for those who have passed away in the past year. That candle will then be sent to you as a remembrance of their light that lives on.

**If you would like to remember a loved one, please contact Pastor Laurie at 305.448.7421, ext. 116 or LaurieH@gablesucc.org by Friday, October 30.**

---

## THE “NEW NOW” OF CHURCH

*A special Sunday Morning Adult Education Series*

**Sundays, November 1, 8 and 15 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom**

As members and leaders, we are finding ourselves in a profound moment of change within the church. According to one church specialist, “We on the cusp of unprecedented change which will forever transform the church as we have known it.” Or as another church specialist suggests, “The new normal...ain’t going to be normal at all.”

For three weeks, Pastor Laurie is encouraging ALL members and friends of the church to share in conversation, reflection, a time of visioning and learning about what a “new now” might look like for the church. These three weeks will lead us into our annual Commitment Sunday, when we re-commit ourselves for another year to the work, ministry, and mission of Coral Gables Congregational UCC. This year’s theme: “Gables UCC Strong.”

To register go to:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tcuqhrT8sGNHt7GO8dHV5L\\_7KcQF1mwzl](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tcuqhrT8sGNHt7GO8dHV5L_7KcQF1mwzl)

---

## WEEK-DAY MORNING MOMENTS ARE RETURNING

As we approach the months of November and December, which are traditionally filled with important and meaningful traditions such as election day, Thanksgiving, and Advent, we will resume our morning devotions as a way to stay connected, to inspire, and to provide encouragement and hope each day. Join us at **8:00 a.m. beginning on Monday, November 2** on all the usual social media places such as Facebook, our church app, and our website for these morning moments.

## **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:

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

**11:30 a.m.** - Fourth and Fifth Grades

## **FROLIC PRESCHOOL: LITTLE STEPS, BIG FAITH**

Each Thursday, parents will receive an email with a music lesson video for their child in PreK-3 and PreK-4 starring Ms. Alex. Then, each Sunday, **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.

## **STORY TIME WITH PASTOR MEGAN**

### **Infants through PreK-2**

Each week a short story time video will be emailed.

Contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org to receive the weekly Bible story.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Sundays through November 15 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Using video, scripture, coloring, music, drawing, observation, TV and current events, our youth will be encouraged to document one "*compassion sighting*" in their life each week. Join Pastor Megan each Sunday via Zoom. To register and get information use tis link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qdOmhpzosHtTG4K9FVizLH6zMrFGGfame>.

## **HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Sundays, November 1-22 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Today's high school youth experience stress and anxiety at alarming levels, impacting their school work, social lives, and physical and mental health. Our Christian faith speaks to this anxiety and provides us ways to respond to stress through faith practices, community, and a deepened relationship with the ground of all life, God our creator. Join us for this innovative class on how our faith can call us back into wholeness and health in an anxiety-ridden world. Please contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org for the Zoom link.

## VOTING NEWS

***Gables UCC is committed to be a 100% voting congregation.***

If you need a ride to the polls for either early voting or on election day, **November 3**, please let Pastor Laurie know at LaurieH@gablesucc.org or 305.968.6482.. We have folks willing to help drive you safely.

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

**A Morning of Support for Women Living with Cancer  
Saturday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom**

Join us for some caring and the sharing of insights and support for those living with cancer or who have gone through the journey. Register in advance for this meeting by clicking on this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-iopzsvG9K\\_SPTAv-Kik2CJReruAr6r](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-iopzsvG9K_SPTAv-Kik2CJReruAr6r)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For help, contact Dorothy Thorburn at sammy398@bellsouth.net.

## A NEW GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

**Led by Pat Berman, M.S., Family Therapy**

Grief is a powerful emotion and can stop us in our tracks. It can also break our hearts enough to make us feel that we will never again be whole. Whether you are newly bereaved or still struggling with painful feelings that occurred years ago, join us in a safe place, led by a professional marriage and family therapist with over 40 years of experience to find mutual support and care. This is a new group forming and will meet on the **Second Saturday of the month at 2:00 p.m.** For more information or to register, please contact Pat Berman at pberm@mindspring.com.

## 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 purchases during this extraordinary time. And your purchases continue to help artisans in developing countries build strong, local economies. These skilled workers are paid fair-living wages while crafting sustainable products that do not harm the environment. No child labor is used. Women's lives are changed as they support their families with the dignity and pride of their work.

We offer curbside pickup and delivery too.

Call our personal shopper: **Marilyn Smit at 786.897.1515.**