

A scenic landscape featuring a mountain range under a dramatic sky. A bright sun is partially obscured by clouds, creating a lens flare effect. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, casting a soft glow over the scene. The foreground shows a rocky outcrop and some trees with autumn foliage. The overall mood is hopeful and inspiring.

LIGHTING THE WAY...

HOPE



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

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.

REMEMBER:

As a church committed to good science and medical recommendations, we continue to keep our building closed for public worship for the safety and health of the congregation.

While the building may be closed, the church is wide open and doing the work of the church by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.

Please check out the many ways to be involved and engaged in ministry.

These are indeed 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.

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.

November 29, 2020

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Our faith is over 2000 years old

Our thinking is not.

11:00 a.m.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier.'

~Alfred Lord Tennyson

GATHERING MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Dr. Ron Morgan, organ

arr. Charles Callahan
J. S. Bach

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.*

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Diaz Enriquez Family: Marina, Mar, Victoria and Emilia

SUNG RESPONSE

We Light a Candle for Hope

Colligan

We light a candle for hope, and our world that's longing for hope

We light a candle for hope, and our world that's longing for hope

Holy One, shine with the fire of our lives

We light a candle for hope, and our world that's longing for hope

THE PSALTER

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might; come and save us.

Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

How long, LORD God Almighty,
will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

THE MORNING MESSAGE

The Rev. Aaron Lauer

CHORAL RESPONSE

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Parton

Brandon Mowry and Anthony Cabrera, 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Child of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.

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 at gablesucc.org/give. Thank you for your gifts and generosity.

CLOSING HYMN

Love Will Guide Us

*Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
Hope inside us, will lead the way
On the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.*

*If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot speak before thousands,
You can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.*

BENEDICTION

Hope lives in the sound of joyful laughter,
In eyes that cry with grief,
In moments of quiet rest,
In the feet that march for justice.
Hope lives in you and in me
In all that is and in all that we dream can be.
Go in peace, to be the hope of Christ to a weary world. Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION

Alleluia, Alleluia

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

POSTLUDE

O How Shall I Receive Thee
Dr. Ron Morgan, organ

Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

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. If you are watching online, the Connection Café will continue on the same video as the service so just stay tuned. Please send your 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.



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.

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. Contact Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482. or Carol Fifield, Called to Care Coordinator, at 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.

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.

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 or 651.252.7544.

WEEKDAY MORNING DEVOTIONS ARE BACK!

The month of December is filled with important and meaningful traditions such as Advent and Christmas. Morning devotions as offered each day as a way to stay connected, to inspire, and to provide encouragement and hope during these special days. Join us at **8:00 a.m. each weekday morning** on all the usual places such as Facebook, Instagram, our church app, and our website, for these morning moments.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Monday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

We will gather virtually as we knit or crochet prayer shawls to share with members of our church family who are ill. If you would like to join us and have not received the link for Zoom, please contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

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 email to Suely Piraino Argianas at suely@crownecoaching.com.

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. Email to LisaL@gablesucc.org for the link to the meeting.

A NEW GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

Grief is a powerful emotion and can stop us in our tracks. 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. For more information or to register, please contact Pat Berman at pberm@mindspring.com.

ADVENT OFFERINGS

Mid-Day Advent Devotions

**Tuesdays, December 1-22 from 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. via Zoom
Led by Pastor Megan**

In this Advent centered time of devotion, biblical scriptures and simple, accessible practices interweave with Maya Angelou's stirring vision of faith, freedom, and dignity. Each gathering will include: Advent Candle Lighting, Advent hymns offered by our soloists, Scripture, Maya Angelou's poetry, Prayer, Reflection, Advent spiritual practices

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vc-qqrD8qEtSGYiiCSwm-IIO5J2M8TAwS>

Wednesday Evening Advent Vespers

Wednesday evenings, December 2 -23, at 6:30 p.m. in the church courtyard

Throughout Advent, we will offer Advent vespers or "sunset prayers," but this year with safety in mind. These brief services of candlelight, music and prayers, are the perfect quiet break from the stress and noise of the season. Masks and physical distancing will be required with seating limited and by registration each week. To register for the first gathering on **Wednesday, December 2**, please go to <https://gablesucc.org/vespers> or contact Drew Sandbulte at 305.448.7421, ext. 112.

Adult Spiritual Formation: Advent Video Series

Sundays, November 29, December 6, 13 and 20 at 9:00 am on Zoom

In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctfuyvrT0pGNGcQo9ItjFCW3U2NhExiLS>

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

Our Advent theme this year is "Lighting the Way." Each Sunday in Advent, beginning on November 29, we invite you to light a candle as part of our worship to symbolize "Lighting the way for "hope," "peace," "joy," and "love." Please have a candle ready or if you wish, create your own Advent wreath with four candles for each Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Explore the seasons of Advent and Christmas with Pastor Megan via Zoom. Each Thursday, parents will receive an email with a video of Ms. Alex leading Music Time as well as a video story of the scripture for Sunday with Pastor Megan and friends.

PreK-3 and PreK-4: 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Kinder and 1st Grade: 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
2nd and 3rd Grade: 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 4th and 5th Grade: 11:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m.

Please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org for the registration link for the appropriate age group, to be added to our Sunday School mailing list, or with any questions you may have.

PARENT AND PASTOR CONNECTION

Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Parents, join Pastor Megan for a time of check-in, support, and prayer as we gather via Zoom. All parents are welcome. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZIoduupqD4rGtN2EgpgvgbMmuwdaauq-HN>

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.

FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

New shop hours for safe holiday shopping (CDC guidelines)

Tuesday - Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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. Lives are changed as the artisans support their families with the dignity and pride of their work. We offer curbside pickup and delivery too.

ANNUAL ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Our Annual Angel Tree Outreach Project has gone VIRTUAL!

Our Angel Tree donations will support the families at Lotus House in Overtown. The families at Lotus House Shelter need our Christmas gifts this year like no other year! That is why, even though our church building is closed, our Angel Tree donations for the women and children at Lotus House is open! Gables UCC has committed to donate:

25 Gifts for New Mothers ~ 25 Gifts for Women

50 Gifts for Boys aged 5-12 years old ~ 50 Gifts for Girls aged 5-12 years old

25 Gift for Children aged 3-4 years old ~ 25 Gifts for Infants to 2-year-olds

There are several ways to get us your unwrapped gift(s) or gift card(s):

Mail it to: Rev. Megan Smith, 3010 De Soto Blvd, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Drop it off at the church Tuesdays-Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Bring it to the Drive-In Worship on Sunday, December 13.

Go to <https://gablesucc.org/angel-tree> to sign up and find gift recommendations from Lotus House Shelter.

Gifts due by Sunday, December 13.

ANGEL TREE

Outreach Project

BENEFITTING LOTUS HOUSE

GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 13

SIGN UP AT

GABLESUCC.ORG/ANGEL-TREE



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

LaurieH@gablesucc.org ext. 116
MeganS@gablesucc.org ext. 119
AaronL@gablesucc.org ext. 117

Program Staff

German Worship Information
Mark Hart, Exec. Dir. of the Community Arts Program
The Rev. Yoli Izquierdo-Yglesias, Spanish Worship
Valeyosly@gmail.com/786.506.9890
Lisa LeSueur, Minister for Congregational and Staff Care
Dr. Ronald Morgan, Director of Music Ministries
Brooke Bagnall-Koger, Director of Early Childhood Center
To contact Early Childhood Center, please call:

GermanMinistry@gablesucc.org
MarkH@gablesucc.org ext. 120
LisaL@gablesucc.org, ext. 150
RonM@gablesucc.org ext.121
BrookeB@gablesucc.org
305.444.9792

Support Staff

Anthony Cabrera, Minister of Liturgical Arts
Kris Coney, Sound Technician
Allen Feldman, Pew Organizer
Elena Korallis, Communications Coordinator
Seth Patterson, Youth Bell Choir Director
Tony Prinzi, Print, Rentals & Reception Coordinator
Dennis Rodrigues CPA, Business Manager
Drew Sandbulte, Events Coordinator
Dr. Gregory Taylor, Parish Musician
Alexandra Woods, Children's Choir Director

Cabreraa25@att.net
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Maintenance and Custodial Team

Rene Dominguez (Lead Custodian)
Carlos Barrios, Rosario Noriega

WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE



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.