For you are the beloved children of a Creator

who rejoices at the mere sight of you.

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 either stay in your car or remain seated in lawn chairs by your car
for the entire service.

Wave to your neighbors and enjoy seeing folks from an appropriate six feet,
but please, for compliance, do not get any closer.

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,
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.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 10, 2021 *Our faith is over 2000 years old* **11:00 a.m.**
Our thinking is not.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The hardest question we have to ask ourselves in this life is,
"Who am I?" Ideally, we answer it for ourselves,
but be warned that others will strive to do it for you.
~ Karma Brown

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Greg Taylor, Parish Musician

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

CALL TO COMMUNITY *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

Greg Jackson and Brandon Mowry, vocalists

SHARING 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!

If you are in the parking lot, please honk your horn as a sign of peace and wave to the car next to 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)* Caribbean Traditional

Please put your windshield wipers and flashers on during this song.

Halle, halle, halle-lujah. Halle, halle, halle-lujah.
Halle, halle, halle-lujah. Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!

THE GOSPEL LESSON *Mark 1:4-11*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Friends, Listen! God is still speaking!
Thanks be to God!

THE MORNING MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Wade in the Water*

Greg Jackson and Brandon Mowry; vocalists

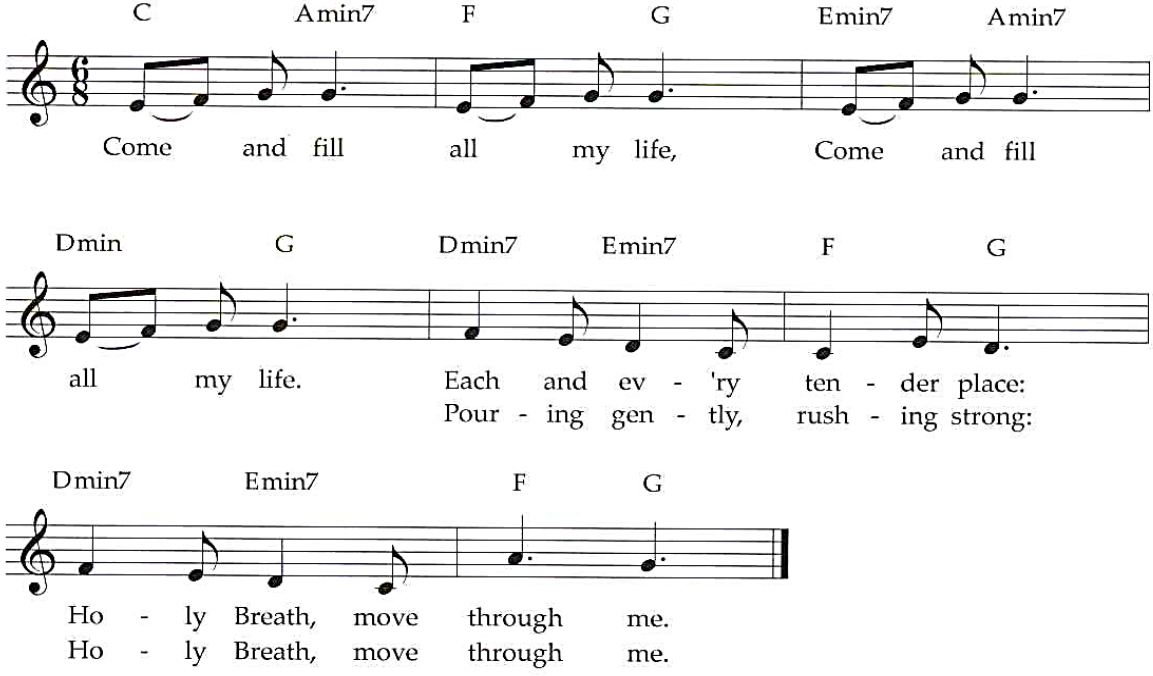
At this time, you may text your prayer requests to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or email her at 3059686482@vtext.com.

THE MORNING PRAYERS

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



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.

CLOSING HYMN *Lord, I Want to be a Christian*

Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

BENEDICTION

Let the waters of baptism sooth you, nourish you,
and sustain you for all the possibilities yet to come!
For you are the beloved children of a Creator
who rejoices at the mere sight of you!
If you listen closely
you just might hear
the flapping of the wings of a dove
as the Holy Spirit alights upon you.
Receive the blessings of possibility!
You beautiful beloved children of God.
Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION *Alleluia, Alleluia*

On the second verse, you are invited to open your car windows or sunroofs and raise your hands up and out in glory to God.

POSTLUDE

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

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 do not 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.

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.

INQUIRER'S GATHERING
TODAY, January 10, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

We have loved having so many visitors and guests with us online over these past months. Together we have built a virtual community of worship, support, and care. One of the things we have learned is that we don't need a building to be a church and we don't need to be local to be part of the church family.

Would you like to know more about Coral Gables Congregational UCC? Our history, what we value, the things we do, and what we stand for? Are you even interested in knowing more about membership at the church?

If you are interested in "inquiring" more about the church or what it means to be a church member, please join us for a special Inquirer's Gathering **TODAY at 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom. We look forward to welcoming you, meeting you, and having you meet more of our church family as well as learning more about the church. Please register at the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc--oqjgpHNejq6uQqXZgnEU3FkiXvmNP

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.

FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE
Open Today After Worship

Each of your purchases helps 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.

Please note that while the Fair Trade MarketPlace is open today, it will otherwise be closed until Thursday, January 14.

However, if you would like an appointment to shop, need a purchase picked up, or to help select a gift, please contact Marilyn Caputo at 305.310.8756 for assistance or Marilyn Smit at 786.897.1515 (bilingual).

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.

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.

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 and the link to the meeting will be forwarded to you.

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.

GABLES UCC WALKING GROUP

Every Wednesday, through February 24 at 6:00 p.m.
Meet outside the Fair Trade MarketPlace at the Church

Join Pastor Megan, church members, and friends for a weekly walk around the Granada Golf Course and back. Walk at your own pace. We will meet outside our church's Fair Trade Shop on Columbus Blvd. and leave the church together as we begin our walk at 6:00 p.m. sharp. You may choose to walk slowly or quickly, with a friend or alone. Please bring a face mask and flashlight.

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.

NEW ADULT BOOK STUDY IN JANUARY

Reading the Bible Badly:
How American Christians Misunderstand and Misuse their Scriptures

Sundays, through January 31 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Rick Walters will lead us through this new book by Karl Allen Kuhn, an Eden Theological Seminary grad. *Reading the Bible Badly* exposes how American Christians misunderstand and misuse the Bible, reading scripture through "lenses" that distort its true character. Click the link below to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-qtqTkrEtRWpBbgaP8uOZone1Q4mznT.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Sunday Mornings through February 14 on Zoom

We waited and waited through Advent, and then celebrated the birth of Jesus on Christmas. Now, we are invited to experience the light of Christ in a new way. On Epiphany, we reveled in the visit from the Magi and the brightness of the gifts they bring. Now, we will once again be reminded through what the church calls "Ordinary Time" that the light of Christ is "No Ordinary Light." These classes, which are taught by Pastor Megan, include a Bible story, activities, video, music time, discussion questions, and so much more.

Please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org to register your child.

ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 24
On Zoom

It is Annual Meeting Sunday at Gables UCC, and all members of the church are encouraged to be with us as Pastor Laurie delivers a State of the Church address as her morning message during the 11:00 a.m. online service. Following worship, all members are then invited to attend the annual meeting via Zoom and to hear reports of the past year, vote on a new budget and leadership for 2021, and celebrate the vision and possibilities of the year ahead.

It's been quite a year, and it will be good to reflect and to dream together a future that is faithful, strong, and Spirit-filled. The Zoom link will be announced beginning next week.

Please note: Budget review will take place on Sunday, January 17 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Join Larry Silvester, our church treasurer, as he reviews the financial picture of the church from 2020 and presents the proposed church budget/mission statement for 2021. Register in advance for this meeting at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vdOutrzsoGteqotG3fB86XFBc4JzGsQGX

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link for joining the meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: THE ORDINATION OF LISA LESUEUR
Sunday, January 31 during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Please join us for such a wonderful and meaningful service as we celebrate the ordination of beloved church member Lisa LeSueur into the Christian ministry. Much of Lisa's inspiring journey toward ordination has taken place right here in her home congregation. Let's gather online that day and surround her with our prayers, good wishes, and our many congratulations as she makes this important covenant in her life with God, the United Church of Christ, and with Gables UCC.

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.

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.

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	MeganS@gablesucc.org ext. 119
The Rev. Aaron Lauer, Associate Pastor	AaronL@gablesucc.org ext. 117

Program Staff

German Worship Information	GermanMinistry@gablesucc.org
Mark Hart, Exec. Dir. of the Community Arts Program	MarkH@gablesucc.org ext. 120
The Rev. Yoli Izquierdo-Yglesias, Spanish Worship	
Valeyosly@gmail.com/786.506.9890	
Lisa LeSueur, Minister for Congregational and Staff Care	LisaL@gablesucc.org, ext. 150
Dr. Ronald Morgan, Director of Music Ministries	RonM@gablesucc.org ext.121
Brooke Bagnall-Koger, Director of Early Childhood Center	BrookeB@gablesucc.org
To contact Early Childhood Center, please call:	305.444.9792

Support Staff

Anthony Cabrera, Minister of Liturgical Arts	Cabreraa25@att.net
Kris Coney, Sound Technician	info@gablesucc.org
Allen Feldman, Pew Organizer	
Elena Korallis, Director of Communications	ElenaK@gablesucc.org ext.151
Seth Patterson, Youth Bell Choir Director	smpatter@samford.edu
Tony Prinzi, Print, Rentals & Reception Coordinator	TonyP@gablesucc.org ext. 100
Dennis Rodrigues CPA, Business Manager	DennisR@gablesucc.org ext.130
Drew Sandbulte, Events Coordinator	DrewS@gablesucc.org ext.112
Dr. Gregory Taylor, Parish Musician	Gregpiano1@aol.com
Alexandra Woods, Children's Choir Director	Awoods@cushmanschool.org

Maintenance and Custodial Team

Rene Dominguez (Lead Custodian)
Carlos Barrios, Rosario Noriega

WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE

HUNGER VIGIL

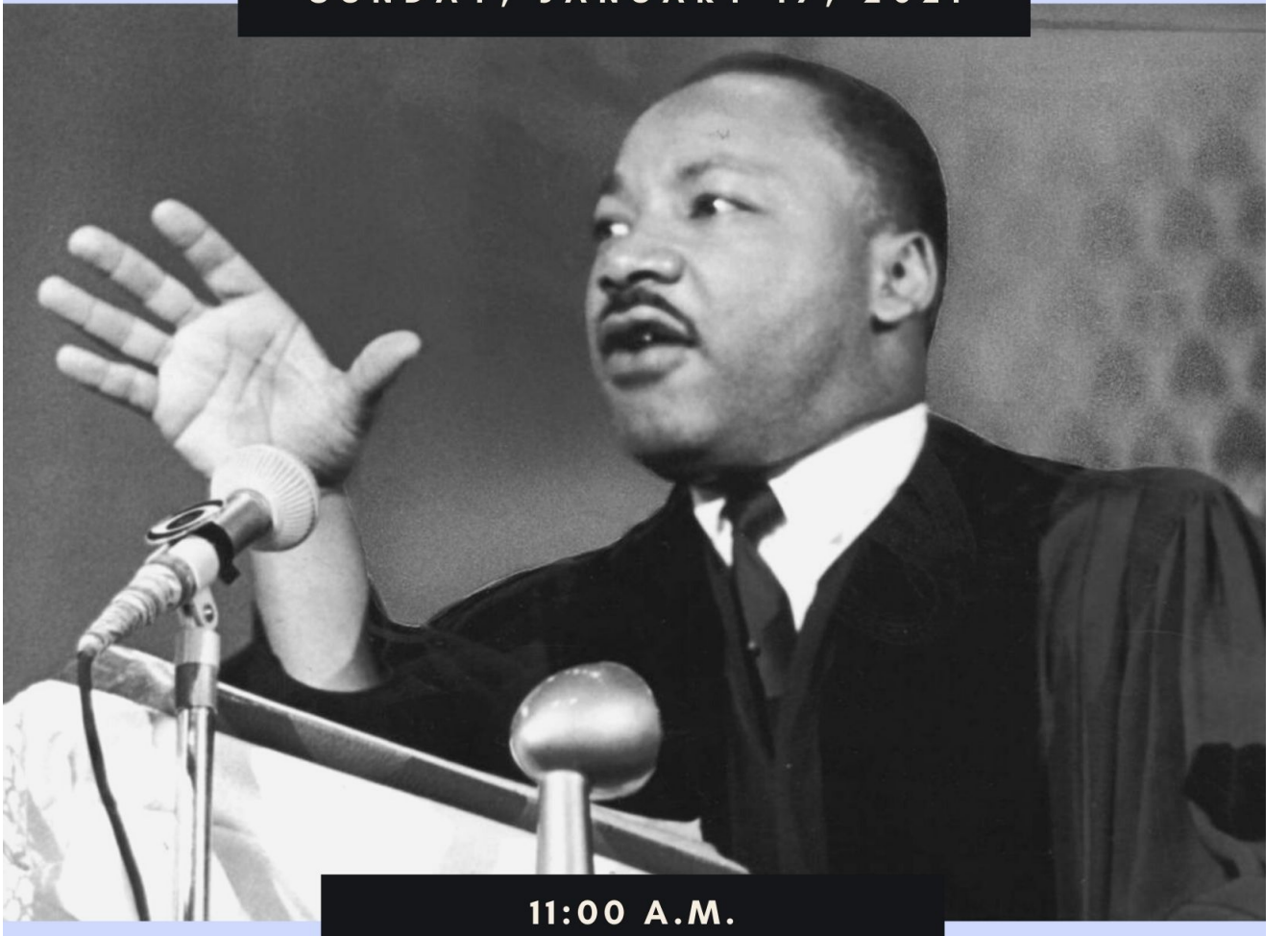
Saturday, January 16
beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Once again, Pastor Laurie will head up to the church tower to be locked in until we raise five tons of food for the hungry of south Florida.

Drop off nonperishable food that day or give at gablesucc.org/mlk.
$1=1 pound of food

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND RE-COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPALS AND DREAMS OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021



11:00 A.M.

Online at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ

gablesucc.org/live

DRIVE-IN

WORSHIP

COME AS YOU ARE, BUT STAY IN YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR CAR

TUNE YOUR CAR RADIO TO 87.9 FM

OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE/FACEBOOK PAGE

GABLESUCC.ORG/LIVE