



*“...and Peter”*



# 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

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*



## WELCOME

Know that in this space you are welcome as you are, for who you are.  
Together we celebrate all of God's children – young, old and in-between;  
male, female and in-between; gay, lesbian, straight and in-between;  
the assured, the doubting, and the in-between;  
the optimistic, the cynics, and the in-between;  
the foolish, the wise, and the in-between.

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.

We assure you, though, that the hard part is making up your mind to join in.  
Once you do you will find a haven of hospitality, beauty, and inspiring worship.



The Reverend Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Senior Pastor  
The Reverend Megan Smith, Associate Pastor  
The Reverend Aaron Lauer, Associate Pastor for Emerging Generations

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)

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**WE BELIEVE GOD CAN BLOW THE LID OFF ANY BOX AND TURN IT INTO A DANCE FLOOR. WE ARE OUT OF THE BOX PEOPLE.**

April 18, 2021

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Our faith is over 2000 years old*  
*Our thinking is not.*

11:00 a.m.



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*What if the empty tomb was simply God saying that the miracle that happened there is just a foretaste of the miracles that can happen within us? And if that's the case, nothing within us is really dead. Rather, it's just a bunch of stuff waiting its turn to stand up and breathe again."*

~ Craig D. Lounsborough

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*Three Global Songs:*  
*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*  
*Linstead*  
*Siyahamba*  
Dr. Ron Morgan, organ

arr. John Behnke

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please check in on Facebook and let your family and friends know that you are joining us virtually at Coral Gables Congregational UCC.*

*Invite your family and friends around the world to worship with us online each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at [gablesucc.org/live](http://gablesucc.org/live).*

*Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, or Twitter.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Pastor Megan

**CALL TO COMMUNITY**

*Soon and Very Soon*

Andrae Crouch/Schrader

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

**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 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.*

**SUNG RESPONSE**

Caribbean Traditional

*Halle, halle, halle-lujah. Halle, halle, halle-lujah.*

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

**THE GOSPEL LESSON***Mark 16:1-7*

English Standard Version

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

**THE MORNING MESSAGE**

The Rev. Traci deVon Blackmon  
Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries  
for the United Church of Christ

**MUSICAL RESPONSE***Total Praise*

Smallwood/Cymbala

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

**THE MORNING PRAYERS**

Pastor Laurie

*You may offer up prayer concerns and joys that will be shared this Wednesday as members of the Called to Care Team gather in prayer together. To have your concerns and/or joys included, please text Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or email her at 3059686482@ytext.com.*

**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**

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

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

Pastor Aaron

*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

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.*

## BENEDICTION

...and (insert your name here)

Go in peace, embracing the Good News that God is still faithful.

Go in peace, understanding that God still has your back.

Go in peace, knowing that you are forever held in the very heart of God. Amen.

## SUNG BENEDICTION

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

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

## POSTLUDE

*Lift High the Cross*

arr. Larry Shackley

Dr. Ron Morgan, organ

## PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no Connection Café following worship this week.

Please join us next Sunday for another edition of Connection Café and the chance to connect with your church family and friends.

## ABOUT TODAY'S PREACHER

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is the Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ. As a featured voice on many local, national, and international platforms, Rev. Blackmon's life's work focuses on communal resistance to systemic injustice through the redemptive power of love. Rev. Blackmon's religious praxis is rooted in principled discipleship lived out through congregational and community engagement. Her response in Ferguson to the killing of Michael Brown resulted in national and international recognition, gaining her many audiences spanning the breadth of the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican.

## **A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS**

If you are visiting with us for the first time this morning, 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 or membership, please contact Pastor Laurie at 305.448.7421, ext. 116 or at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

We are also a large online congregation of expats from our congregation who have moved to places and parts around the country and around the world. Folks are actively involved in our church who have never set foot in our building, but are committed to our vision, values, and beliefs as a progressive, open-minded, and open-hearted Christian congregation.

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

## **FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE**

**Located on the Columbus Boulevard Side of the Church**

**Store Hours: Wednesday – Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

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. Come and safely shop (masks required) in support of our justice ministry.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 Communications Coordinator, at ElenaK@gablesucc.org.

## **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.

**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 need groceries, a meal, conversation, a pharmacy run, or anything else, let us know.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

We gather virtually as we knit and crochet prayer shawls to wrap those in need with our love and prayers. Grab a cup of tea and your knitting needles or crochet hook and join in the fun. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81213414425?pwd=cF15QnBmOWZhV3B1bFZJRnJ2b3lodz09>

Meeting ID: 812 1341 4425

Passcode: KNIT

Contact Pastor Laurie for more information at [LaurieH@gablesucc.org](mailto:LaurieH@gablesucc.org)

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**LUNCH AND THE BIBLE**

**Tuesday, April 20 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 will provide the scripture. This month Pastor Laurie presents on John 20:19-31 and “The Marks of Faith.” The zoom link and password are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85331099387?pwd=a1BTKzNBVEkxU09YRkN6Zlc0Ykh1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3109 9387

Passcode: UCC

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**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EDITION OF SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE**

**Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

As the trial around George Floyd’s death continues, and a new indictment takes place with the killing of Daunte Wright, and the treatment of Army Lt. Caron Nazario comes to light, we gather once again to share in a sacred conversation on race. Be with us as church member Nikki Paul Knoll leads us in a conversation using Rev. Blackmon’s sermon from Sunday, April 18 as a jumping off place for our discussion.

Register in advance for this meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUld--qrjwjHtRw3NAGSmpMHQW5VqiSaUm1>

**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.**, Pastor Lisa LeSueur leads a Zoom opportunity to connect with others, 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.

## **GABLES UCC WALKING GROUP**

**Every Wednesday, through April 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

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.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/GABLES UCC THERAPY STUDY**

Through a partnership with the University of Miami Graduate Psychology Department, we are pleased to offer two therapeutic opportunities on **Thursday evenings by Zoom**. Pastor Laurie serves as a consultant along with Dr. Amy Weisman, Ph.D., Associate Professor/Fellow, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Department of Psychology at the University of Miami.

### **General Group**

Have you been struggling with depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, or other psychological stresses? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a free culturally informed, religiously-based group therapy as part of a research study aimed at improving treatment for these conditions. Pastor Laurie is serving as a consultant along with Dr. Amy Weisman, Ph.D., Associate Professor/Fellow, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Department of Psychology at the University of Miami. During the treatment, clinicians will provide education on mental health, as well as techniques to assist in coping with psychological stress. All sessions are free. If you are interested, please call 305.284.5455 or [miamiCIT@gmail.com](mailto:miamiCIT@gmail.com) to set up your baseline interview.

### **SMI Group**

Have you been diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or another psychotic spectrum disorder? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a free culturally informed, religious-based group therapy that is part of a research study aimed at improving treatment for these specific conditions. During the treatment, clinicians will provide education on psychotic spectrum disorders, as well as offer techniques to cope with mental illness. All therapy sessions are free. If you are interested, please call 305.284.5455 or email [miamiCIT@gmail.com](mailto:miamiCIT@gmail.com) to set up an initial meeting and to join the group.

## **NEXT SUNDAY: A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING**

It is our hope to begin returning to public worship cautiously, respectfully, and safely in May. Yet, as we begin to regather, we know that much will be different and we may find that what was once familiar will feel somewhat foreign, and that some beloved traditions and rituals will have been changed because of necessary health and safety precautions. As a congregation we will also have changed because as individuals we have been changed by this past year.

**Next Sunday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m.**, the entire congregation is invited to join Pastor Laurie over Zoom in a time of reflection on the "church of the new now." We will share what new practices will be in place, what to expect, and how we hope to roll out this special time in such a way that it will be beneficial for everyone, whether present or virtual. Please register in advance at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocu2gqDMjG93WLECoGOH-TpEdzMmr> **UMW**.

## **WORSHIP WITH US**

*One Church ~ Three Congregations:*

### **10:00 a.m. Spanish-Language Worship**

Spanish language worship is available each Sunday in the Chapel. Under the leadership of Pastora Yoli Izquierdo-Yglesias, the congregation is a warm, supportive, and caring community.

### **11:00 a.m. Worship Online**

Join us online for beautiful music, challenging and inspiring messages, and liturgy that offers a renewal of mind and spirit.

### **German Language Worship**

If you are part of a German-speaking family or would like to worship in German come and join us for services, Bible studies, and cultural activities conducted in German. For more information about our German language ministry contact us at [germanministry@gablesucc.org](mailto:germanministry@gablesucc.org).

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## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*The Lord's Prayer for Kids*

**Sundays, April 18 - May 16**

**PreK-3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade via Zoom.**

The Lord's Prayer is one that is prayed by Christians around the globe. During our Sunday School series, our children will explore this foundational prayer and learn it. We will pray, sing, color, learn American Sign Language, receive weekly emails, share videos, and develop family prayer time with at-home-activities. Please contact Pastor Megan at [MeganS@gablesucc.org](mailto:MeganS@gablesucc.org) to receive the Zoom link.

## **THE ALHAMBRA CONCERT IN A VIRTUAL CONCERT**

**Sunday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

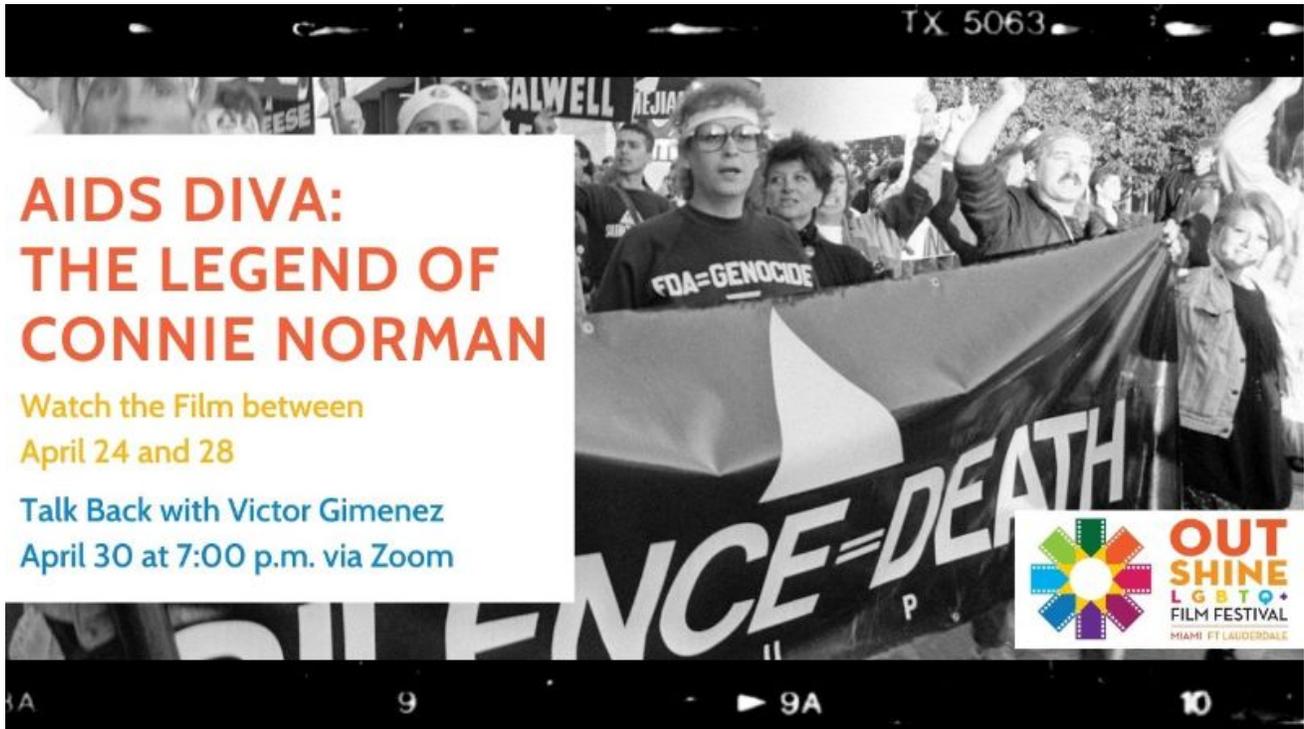
The Alhambra Orchestra has a long relationship with Gables UCC and performs a free concert for the community in the sanctuary each year, usually in the spring. This year, however, because of Covid precautions and safety, they are substituting a virtual performance in place of the choir and chamber orchestra concert that had been so carefully planned.

This free video performance will have its premiere on **Sunday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m.** and will remain available for viewing at the convenience of the public. The location will be [www.alhambraorchestra.org/youtube](http://www.alhambraorchestra.org/youtube). Please enjoy what is always a beautiful concert.

## **THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

The Early Childhood Center is our NAEYC accredited preschool serving children ages two years through Kindergarten. Please call us for a tour at 305.444.9792 or email us at [ECC@gablesucc.org](mailto:ECC@gablesucc.org). Check out our website at [gablespreschool.org](http://gablespreschool.org).

## OUTSHINE FILM FESTIVAL AND TALK BACK



**Gables UCC is partnering with OUTshine Virtual Film Festival, the Florida premiere of *AIDS DIVA: THE LEGEND OF CONNIE NORMAN* and the short film *IN THE IMAGE OF GOD*.**

You may view the films on your own, anytime between  
**Saturday, April 24, beginning at 12:01 a.m. - Wednesday, April 28 at 11:59 p.m.**

*AIDS DIVA: THE LEGEND OF CONNIE NORMAN* - The number and range of people involved in the struggle for AIDS victims is larger and wider than we can possibly know. It's proven once again by this intriguing portrait of Connie Norman, a local LA activist who worked tirelessly to make a difference. Director Dante Alencastre deftly handles this portrait of a political figure whose HIV diagnosis spurred her eloquent rage against complacency, hatred and denial as the AIDS virus ravaged the queer community. (Running time: 61 minutes).

*IN THE IMAGE OF GOD* - A Jewish Rabbi is the fourth generation in his family to be born intersex. (Running time: 15 minutes)

**To learn more about the films and to purchase tickets, click here:**

<https://watch.eventive.org/outshinemiami2021/play/605a6a463276731b8be75b21>

(You can use the OUTGUCC discount code for 25% off.)

**The Talk Back with Victor Gimenez will take place on  
Friday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Victor is a church member and the Executive Director of the Outshine Festival!

**Register in advance for the Talk Back:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrc-yqqD4vGt0MlnBUUp-hmpFik5Boh\\_CrE](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrc-yqqD4vGt0MlnBUUp-hmpFik5Boh_CrE)

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF ANTI-RACISM

Adopted June 2020

Black Lives Matter. This is a truth we speak to ourselves, to the Church, and to the world as we witness racism continue to take the lives of Black people in America. With grieving hearts, we speak their names: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Corey Jones, Atatiana Jefferson, Trayvon Martin and countless other victims of racist violence, both known and unknown, listened to and ignored. The voice of their blood cries out from the ground, and we join this cry for justice.

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

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

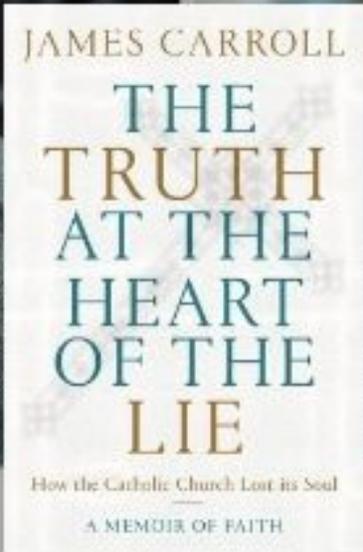
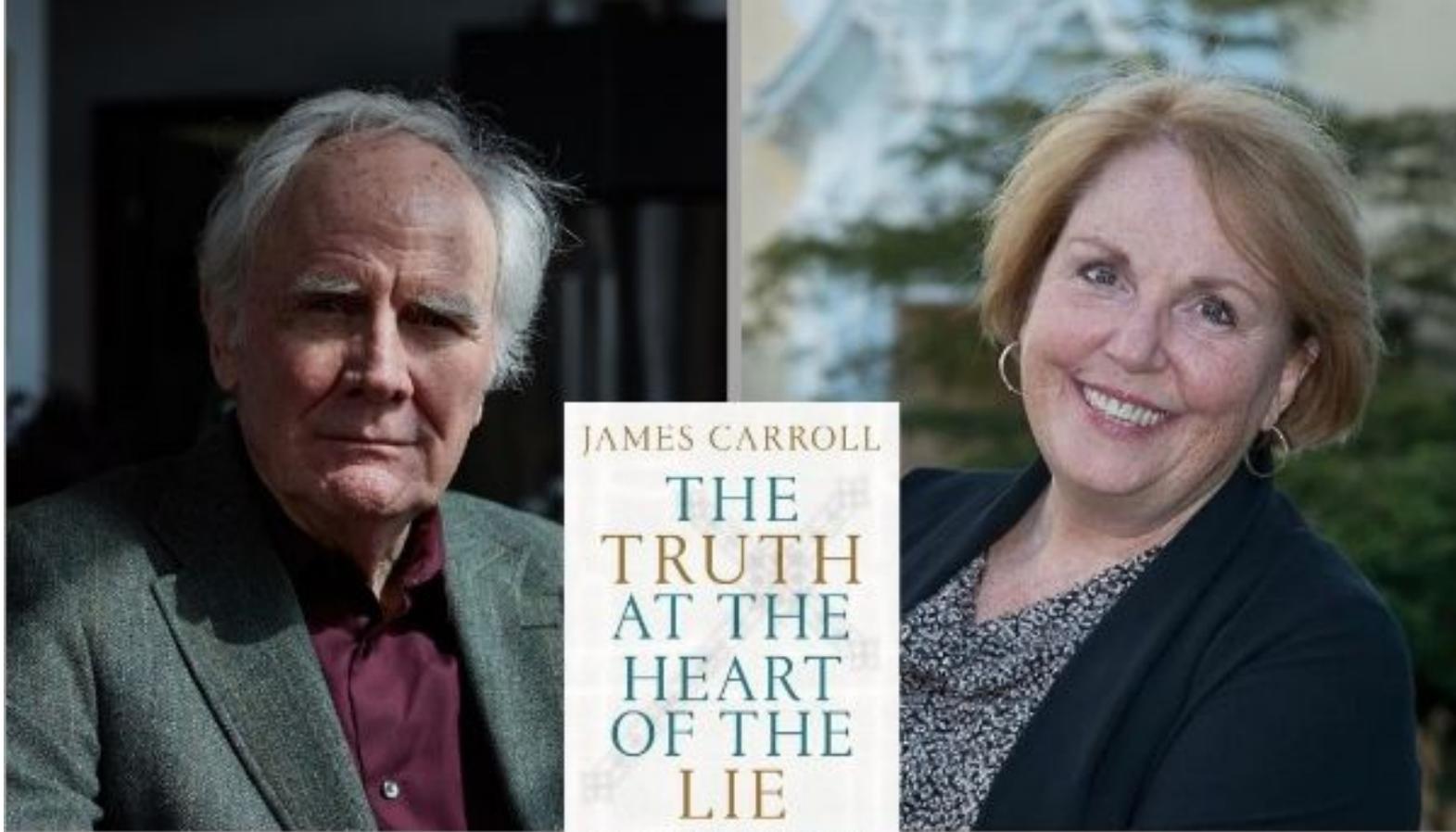
The book of Genesis affirms that, "God created humankind in God's own image;" that all people are beloved, blessed image-bearers of the Divine. Likewise, the Apostle Paul preaches in Galatians that "there is no longer Jew nor Greek...for all are one in Christ Jesus;" that we are united as a human race,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

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

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

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

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



A Virtual Event with  
James Carroll  
and Rev. Dr. Laurie Hafner  
Sunday, April 18, 2 PM ET

BOOKS & BOOKS  
Your Locally-Owned Independent Bookseller

**Books & Books and Miami Book Fair present...**  
**Author James Carroll**  
**in conversation with Rev. Dr. Laurie Hafner**  
**[The Truth at the Heart of the Lie: How the Catholic Church Lost Its Soul](#)**

An eloquent memoir by a former priest and National Book Award–winning writer who traces the roots of the Catholic sexual abuse scandal back to the power structure of the Church itself, as he explores his own crisis of faith and journey to renewal. This is a free event. To register, go the Books & Books website at <https://booksandbooks.com/.../the-truth-at-the-heart-of-.../>