Welcome to Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ (Gables UCC)! It gives me great pleasure to share with you the many programs, worship opportunities, events, and study groups that we look forward to offering during the 2021-2022 program year. If you are wondering why we call this an “Asset Booklet,” it’s because, as you read about all the inspirational and amazing offerings, people, and staff of the church, we hope you will see that they are the real assets or things of value that belong to this church.

Gables UCC is a community of seekers and servants drawn from many faith traditions, backgrounds, and cultures, who gather to build beloved community. We are a church that is open-minded, open-hearted, and open-handed, and that values a warm welcome and extravagant hospitality. Whether in the work we do for human rights, in caring for the earth; in seeking peace; or standing up against homophobia, racism, sexism, or all the other “isms” that separate us from one another; we live by our motto: “God can blow the lid off any box, unfold it, and turn it into a dance floor. We are ‘out-of-the-box’ people.” This means we are also a congregation that likes to have fun, that has a great sense of humor, that laughs often and easily, and can even be found (yes, wait for it), dancing!

This past year and a half as we have lived through the COVID-19 pandemic, several things became clear to us as a congregation: we are a loving and caring community, we enjoy being together and miss each other when we are apart, that the church is more than geography or a location, and that we are flexible, spontaneous, and can turn on a dime! So, while it is our hope that most of the events, programs, and services listed in this booklet will happen, we are also aware that we don’t know what the future holds for us and we will always put health, safety, and doing the right thing first. So be sure to keep checking our website, social media, Sunday bulletins, and my weekly email, Laurie’s Lines, to learn more about the status of our offerings.

We do hope that whether you are a long-time member or if you are new to our community, you will find something within these pages that calls you to grow your faith, share your gifts, and to be engaged in helping to create a beloved community both within and beyond our walls. And if you are facing a difficult season, Gables UCC is also a safe place to get practical, spiritual, and thoughtful help.

More than anything else though, I want you to know that no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Gables UCC. I would love to talk with you about your faith journey or the church, so please email me at LaurieH@gablesucc.org or call the church office at 305.448.7421.

Blessings abound!

Pastor Laurie Hafner
Be sure to check often our Gables UCC app, Laurie’s Lines, the Sunday bulletin, the church website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates, new events, and pop-up programs.
Who We Are

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ seeks to be a diverse and faithful community in which all can find support and nurture for spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth. As a member of the United Church of Christ, we claim four identities to which we bear witness through our service, commitment, and work.

Open and Affirming: In 1972, the United Church of Christ became the first Christian denomination to ordain an openly gay person. In 1985, the UCC General Synod called upon its congregations to adopt a policy of non-discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, and to adopt a Covenant of Openness and Affirmation of persons of lesbian, gay, and bisexual orientation. In 2003, the 24th General Synod updated its statement to include gender identity and gender expression, and in 2005, the UCC became the first mainline church to support marriage equality. Gables UCC is proud to be part of this tradition of welcome and inclusion. In 2000, we passed a motion to become an Open and Affirming congregation, meaning we openly welcome and affirm all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Just Peace: The UCC defines “just peace” as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence. Therefore, to the extent we are able, each member of our congregation will work as a peacemaker in various ways and in many different areas to promote justice for all people. We can start by learning to manage our own anger and by reaching out in our community to care for the earth and provide clean air, clean water, food, health, housing, employment, education, religious freedom, equality, and economic justice for all. In our courtyard, we have placed a peace pole with the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” inscribed on it in many languages, as a reminder of our commitment to the work of peace.

WISE: In 2018, Gables UCC became a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged for Mental Health) Congregation of the UCC. We are one of the first congregations to claim this status, and we now seek to live it out by opening the doors of the church even wider by offering extravagant hospitality to those living with mental illness and brain disorders, and those who care for them. Our WISE Team seeks to provide programming, support, and advocacy in the areas of mental health.

Sanctuary Church: As a community of faith, Gables UCC voted to become a Sanctuary Church which means “we are committed to opening our doors to immigrants and refugees in need of sanctuary. We are open to this call at any time, day or night. We will protect immigrants and refugees from a system that is separating families and deporting people who are woven into the fabric of their communities and congregations.” (Taken from our Sanctuary Covenant voted on in 2018).
Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ
Statement of Commitment to the Work of Anti-Racism
July 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.
BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.
Forgive often.
Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity.
Love God.
Enjoy this life.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A Word About COVID-19

The words of the poet James Russell Lowell have never been truer, “new occasions teach new duties.” Over the past year and many months as we have lived into a global pandemic, we discovered new ways of being the church in worship, outreach, and in caring for and upholding each other.

The Board of Congregational Life, along with our church physician, an attorney, the pastors, and the Executive Council of the church, have worked hard at developing guidelines and protocols for your safety and the safety of others while at church. These guidelines are overseen by our COVID-19 Administrator, Mark Wolfe, and we are grateful for his service.

At this time, we ask that you please wear a mask, physically separate as much as possible, use the hand sanitizer stations around the building, and do not attend any church function if you are feeling ill, running a temperature, or have been exposed to COVID-19. We also ask that you please sign in when you attend worship, so we have names and contact information in case we need to be in touch.

As a church that believes in good science as well as Christ’s admonition to love our neighbor as yourself, church leadership encourages you to get vaccinated. It is one more healthy step toward returning to worship and programs fully and completely.

Remember

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

The Compassion Fund

We have established a “Compassion Fund” to help church family and friends in need through these challenging days. We invite you to give, knowing that your gift will assist those struggling to make ends meet. If giving through our church website, app, or by texting “GABLESUCC” to 833.245.6434, please go to where it says “Fund,” scroll down to the “Compassion Fund,” and contribute. It’s that easy, and you will be helping others in their time of need.
Worship

At the heart of all we do is worship, because, without it, we lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on.

Worship Services for the Journey

9:00 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
A more intimate and meditative worship experience in Moye Chapel. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly and music is presented by one of our talented soloists or our Vocal Ensemble. Following our service, enjoy some conversation with others around the Coffee Bar.

10:00 a.m. Servicio en Idioma Español en la Capilla
Si eres miembro de una familia Hispano-parlante y te gustaría participar en una celebración religiosa en Español donde todos son bienvenidos, ven y únete a nosotros en nuestra acogedora Capilla para un servicio religioso que conecta la experiencia Hispánica - a través de una teología progresista - con las enseñanzas de amor y esperanza de Jesús. Bajo el dedicado liderazgo de nuestra Pastora Yoli Izquierdo-Iglesias, allí encontrarás música, oración, lecturas edificantes, una comunidad de fe que se fortalece en el amor fraternal y al final siempre algo sabroso para compartir entre todos.

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
We gather in the beauty of our historic sanctuary to be engaged in meaningful worship, which feeds our spiritual hunger. It is said that each week is a bit different; there is always something that challenges and calls us to our authentic selves. Join us for beautiful music, challenging and inspiring messages, and liturgy that offers a renewal of mind and spirit.

This service is also live-streamed online at gablesucc.org/live.

Connect With Us Online Each Sunday Morning

Gables UCC is not just a building in Coral Gables. Our online ministry reaches many outside our Sanctuary walls. You may join us online each Sunday for 11:00 a.m. worship whether you live in another state or country, you are feeling a bit sick, or any other reason that might keep you from in-person worship. Just go to gablesucc.org/live or our Facebook page to watch and connect with others.

You may also visit our worship archives to watch past services by going to gablesucc.org/live/archive.
Wir bieten Gottesdienste in deutscher Sprache, Trauungen, Taufen, Beerdigungen, und andere Veranstaltungen im christlichen Kalender an. Wir nehmen Sie gerne auf in unseren email Verteiler, wenn Sie aktuelle Infomationen zu Vernanstaltungen in unserer Gemeinde erhalten möchten. Schicken Sie uns einfach eine email an: GermanMinistry@gablesucc.org.

### Overview of German Ministry Church Year 2021-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Back to School CS</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Erntedank – World Communion CS</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>“Make your own lantern”</td>
<td>Fellowship Hall</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Martin Parade</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td></td>
<td>Advent Wreath Binding – Help welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Christmas Market</td>
<td>Fellowship Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Christmas Eve CS</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>New Year CS</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation CS</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Church Service</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>February TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Reunion of German Ministries in Florida</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Contribution to Ash Wednesday CS</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Palm Sunday CS</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Contribution to Good Friday CS</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Easter CS</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Earth Day Event</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Church Service</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pentecost CS</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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**Kindertreff Open House**: 2:00 p.m. on August 29, September 26, October TBA, December 12, December 19, January TBA, February 27 (Carnival), March TBA, April TBA, May TBA

**“Discovering God’s Tracks in Everyday Life” Discussion Group**: September 29 (Zoom at 6:30 p.m.), October TBA, November TBA, December TBA, January TBA, February TBA, March TBA, April TBA, May TBA
Spirit Sunday

Sunday, September 12
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The theme for this year’s annual Spirit Sunday, a day when we celebrate the joy, fullness, and vitality of our beloved faith community, is *Homecoming*. Following so many months apart and separated from each other, we don’t think there could be a better theme as we gather back for a heartfelt day full of worship, fellowship, and gratitude!

As with every homecoming, there will be a time for catching up, with lots of food, fun, and a celebration of our re-creation, and our continuing hope as a church family as we live into the new now. Special activities will be available for children and youth. It’s a morning not to be missed.

World Communion/Erntedankfest Sunday

Sunday, October 3
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Be with us as we join with Christians around the world in the commemoration of the Lord’s Supper. Come and cherish the rich diversity of this congregation, as we remember the many lands, peoples, cultures, and languages that will surround Communion tables around the globe this day and right here in our own congregation.

We will also celebrate the tradition of *Erntedank*, which is always the first Sunday of October, with our German-language congregation. It is tradition in Germany that during *Erntedank*, which means harvest, the congregation presents fruits, vegetables, and grains, giving thanks for all the hard work in the fields.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenge.
No matter their immigration status.
No matter their sexual orientation.
No matter their economic status.
No matter their gender identity.
No matter their disability.
No matter their religion.
No matter their race.

Love your neighbor. No exceptions.
Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 3
2:00 p.m. in the Courtyard

All are invited to bring their pets or a picture of them to the church courtyard for a brief service of blessing and gratitude for the joy they bring to us. There will also be a special part of the service to acknowledge the pets who died this past year. Each participant will receive a picture of themselves and their pet. From pelicans to penguins, all pets are welcome (be sure to have them on a leash or properly restrained).

Please note that our new Best Friends Memorial Garden, a special area around the statue of St. Francis in the Courtyard, has been set aside as a space to memorialize our beloved pets. A plant and personalized, etched stone will be placed in memory of your “best friend.” Contact Ann de las Pozas at adelaspozas@gmail.com for more information.

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 31
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Some things matter enough for us to stand before kings and rulers and declare with boldness, “Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me, Amen.” So it was with Martin Luther, who nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany on October 31, 1517. That act began the Protestant Reformation, sparking not only renewal within the church, but also offering freedom from the demands, rules, and condemnations of church leadership.

The themes of the Reformation remain the great themes and principles of our own faith today. As members and friends of the UCC, a denomination that is a direct descendant of the Reformation movement, we celebrate that at the heart of our faith is the gospel of Jesus Christ—the good news—that makes us free. Join us as we commemorate this historic and meaningful part of our rich church history.

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 7
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

On this day, we will commemorate All Saints Day by remembering those loved ones we have lost since November 2020. As part of our recognition, candles will be lit for those who have passed away in the past year. If you would like to remember a loved one, please contact Pastor Laurie at 305.448.7421, ext. 116 or LaurieH@gablesucc.org.
Evening Prayers for Advent and Lent

Advent: Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22
Lent: Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6
6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Online

Vespers, or “sunset prayers,” will be held as a way to prepare for the holiest seasons of the church year, Christmas and Easter. These services, made up of candlelight, music, and prayer, offer the perfect quiet break we need from the stress and noise of life around us. A light soup supper will be served in Fellowship Hall from 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21
7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

’Tis the season to be jolly, but not for some. The holidays can be hard for those whose hearts are hurting. We invite you to this service to find comfort and strength from each other and from God. It’s called the Longest Night Service as it takes place on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the calendar year. This means that, on that day, there is less sunlight and more darkness than any other day of the year. Each day that will flow from it, though, will have more light. And so it is with hope. Please join us for this gentle service which makes time for remembering and for sharing our hurting places with God, while opening our hearts to the hope of this holy season.
Christmas Eve Services

German Language Worship
3:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend this special service of Lessons and Carols offered in German. A reception will follow.

Family Worship
5:00 p.m.

Presents are under the tree. Christmas treats are plentiful. Sparkling lights are everywhere, and the kids can barely contain their excitement. Join us for this special family service, where our children can move, jump, be joyful and celebrate. No sitting still here and no stern “hush” required. This inspiring and joyous program concludes with the church aglow as every child and adult breaks open their shiny glow stick to light the evening darkness. The youth handbell choir will also ring in the holy announcement that Jesus is born.

Just pure Christmas spirit as we celebrate the good news that Jesus is born again in our hearts. Following the service, everyone is invited to the courtyard for a live nativity scene with a petting zoo and lots of Christmas cookies.

Outdoor Worship
8:00 p.m.

Come and experience the night sky as we sit between the beauty of a festively-lighted Biltmore Hotel and the grandeur of the church and its glowing tower. This informal, outdoor service will have the joyous music of a brass quintet, the telling of the nativity story, lots of familiar Christmas carols, and the traditional ending of each person holding a lighted candle raised high as we sing together “Silent Night.”

Candlelight Worship
11:00 p.m.

Our Christmas Eve worship has become a tradition, not only for our own church family, but for many in our community. Be with us as the glow of luminaries around the church lights the way to a glorious celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in our beautifully decorated, historic sanctuary. Experience spirit-filled worship, the singing of festive carols, moving choral and instrumental music, the telling of the nativity story through scripture and poetry, and, of course, the traditional lighting of candles during the singing of “Silent Night.”

Nowhere are church and home, heaven and earth so wedded together as on Christmas Eve. We look forward to greeting you and worshipping with you on this most Holy Night.
Three Kings Sunday

Sunday, January 9
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings (Dia de los Reyes), commemorating the coming of the wise outsiders who, following a star, take with them their most prized possessions to give as gifts to the baby Jesus. Be with us as we recall the importance and meaning of this great story. There will be an appearance by the Wise Ones, gifts for the children, and a special Epiphany party following 11:00 a.m. worship. This is an event for the whole family.

A Weekend Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The weekend of January 15-17, 2022 commemorates the life and legacy of Dr. King who brought hope, freedom, and rights to America. Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we “will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness.” Life’s most persistent and nagging question, he said, is “what are you doing for others?” Please join us over this weekend for a variety of activities, outreach, and celebrations honoring the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility, and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King’s character.

Hunger Vigil
Saturday, January 15 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. Food donations are most encouraged; however monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted. $1.00 equals one pound of food. Drop off your food/checks/money donations anytime during the day or donate to the Hunger Vigil fund on the church app or website. Pastor Laurie will appreciate getting down from the tower in time for Sunday morning worship! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, “Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Festival of the Flea
Saturday, January 15 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the Green

As part of our Hunger Vigil day, we are celebrating the Festival of the Flea. It’s a flea market with a twist. For $25 (which goes to our food pantry), you can have a table on the Green to sell any items you wish. Table space can be rented each Sunday after worship beginning in December, by contacting Drew Sandbulte at DrewS@gablesucc.org or 305.448.7421, ext. 112.

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday, January 16 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

We gather on this Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Sunday to recommit ourselves to the principals and dreams of Dr. King through inspiring music and words.
Annual Meeting Sunday Worship and Meeting

Sunday, January 23
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

It is Annual Meeting Sunday, 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. Following 11:00 a.m. worship, all members are invited to stay for a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall where we will hear reports of the past year, vote on a new budget and leadership for 2022, and celebrate the vision and possibilities of the year ahead.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, January 30
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us in celebration of our 2021-22 Confirmation Class as they are confirmed and join the congregation. This special service will lift up the Statements of Faith that our confirmands have prepared, as well as offer blessings to each youth.

Mardi Gras Sunday

Sunday, February 27
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring out your boas, put on your beads, get behind those masks, and join us for joyous, spirit-filled worship as we let loose on this last Sunday before the more reflective and quieter Lenten season begins. There will be swinging, swaying, and lots of singing. There will also be praying, preaching, and, of course, a New Orleans style parade. It’s celebrative worship at its best!

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 2
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Online

Trilingual Worship in English, German, and Spanish

Begin your Lenten journey in worship, prayer, music, and the symbolic act of receiving ashes. On this night, we are reminded of the fragility of life and our call to live life abundantly. This is a children-friendly service, and we encourage families to worship together. A light soup supper will be served in Fellowship Hall from 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Good Friday

Friday, April 15
Noon in the Sanctuary

Be with us for this powerful and meaningful service as we mark, through scripture, reflection, and music, the suffering and passion of Jesus. The service will end outside as we drape black fabric on a large cross that will reappear on Easter Sunday alive with flowers.

It has been said that you can’t have Easter without Good Friday. Only when our hearts break open with compassion for the One who suffered can we truly appreciate the new life represented by Easter.
Easter Sunday
A Celebration of Resurrection Joy!
Sunday, April 17

On this most joyful of days, we offer five opportunities to joyfully sing God’s praise, to experience renewal and resurrection hope, to have a party, pray, hear words of faith, and to experience it all in a warm, welcoming diverse community of caring people.

8:00 a.m. - Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion
We gather in the beauty of our lovely courtyard to celebrate the wonder of infinite possibility, of unquenched hope, and of eternal resurrection as we remember the newness of life that Christ offers us through the gifts of bread and cup. Beautiful harp music will soothe our spirits, and our talented Vocal Ensemble will lead us in glorious music.

10:00 a.m. - Servicio do Pascua de Resurrección - Spanish Language Easter Worship
¡La Pascua en Coral Gables UCC en el Servicio Hispano, es un momento alegre para toda la familia! Celebraremos la libertad que Jesús nos concedió. Este es un momento increíble para compartir las buenas nuevas de Jesús en nuestra comunidad. ¡Nos gustaría esta oportunidad de darle la bienvenida al Servicio en Español mientras celebramos a nuestro Señor y Salvador Resucitado, Jesucristo!

11:00 a.m. - Easter Festival of Worship
The “Alleluia” reappears in joyous and festive form as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with all our senses. Bring your neighbors, friends, and family for a stunning service filled with resurrection joy.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, join us for a “Celebration on the Green.” Mimosas and punch will be served on the green space across from the church.

1:00 p.m. - Family Easter Worship
All children and “children at heart” are invited to celebrate the joy of Easter at a special afternoon Children’s Easter Service. This 45-minute service is specially designed for young families. Come hear our children’s choir and youth bell choir as they celebrate the love of Easter.

3:00 p.m. - Ostergottesdienst in der Kapelle - German Language Worship
Die Deutsche Christliche Gemeinde in Miami lädt alle herzlich ein, in diesem Familiengottesdienst mit Abendmahl älteste und wichtigste Fest im Kirchenjahr gemeinsam zu feiern: Ostern, das Fest der Auferstehung Christi! Im Anschluss laden wir zu einem gemeinsamen Oster-Potluck in der Fellowship Hall ein. Auf die Kinder wartet eine kleine Osterüberraschung!
The Gospel According To...

Sunday, April 24
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Each year, we choose the music of a contemporary of pop culture and faith. Over the years we have celebrated the music of Motown; Bruce Springsteen; the Beatles; Earth, Wind, and Fire; Lady Gaga; The Miami Sound Machine; Queen; Elton John; Dolly Parton; and others. Who will it be this year? Mark your calendar for this very special, celebrative, and musical Sunday.

Jazz Sunday

Sunday, May 1
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

We are pleased to welcome the Gables UCC Community Arts Program Miami Jazz Institute ALL-STAR Jazz Ensemble to our worship, who will provide spirit-filled music for our Sunday service.

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, June 5
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ – the church. Whether you join us in person or online, wear red, a symbol of the flames of the Spirit. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper at all services. It will be a joyful festival of the church indeed! Since it’s the birthday of the church, we shall eat cake!
Pride Sunday

Sunday, June 12
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us on this Sunday as we explore what it means to stand in holy Pride and our commitment to ongoing liberation. This service will highlight God’s love for all people and the celebration of our LGBTQ+ members, friends, and neighbors.

Elephant in the Pew

Has there ever been something you wanted to know about your faith, but were afraid to ask? Well, this is your chance to ask tough questions about the Bible, church, ethics, or life and get an honest and personal answer back from Pastor Laurie. Maybe it’s a topic or issue that we tend to sweep under the rug or ignore in order to keep the peace, avoid disagreement, or maybe even change... kind of like that proverbial elephant in the room or, in this case, in the pew.

While Laurie preaches the Elephant in the Pew series during the summer, she welcomes your questions now. Email, write, or call Pastor Laurie to ask her your question. She just might preach on it! Then, on those Sundays, join us after worship for the Sermon Feedback Café. Have a cup of coffee and some conversation with Pastor Laurie about her sermon for the day. We will meet in Havighorst Lounge at 12:15 p.m.
With music, we express the things that are most meaningful in our lives, and find in its gifts a meaningful ministry of the church.

Music Ministry in a Season of Transitions

The musical ensembles of Gables UCC have shown their permanence, resilience, and adaptability in the past months. Saying a temporary goodbye to in-person rehearsals and live worship participation in March 2020, we moved to the creation of virtual choir anthems, musical videos for children, and socially-distanced bell choir rehearsals and recording sessions.

In conversations with other UCC churches and church musicians, we discovered that, as many congregations return to choral singing, the pathways to getting there emerge from the unique makeup of each congregation, trusting through faithfulness that those strategies will emerge and change in response to changing health guidelines.

Chancel Choir

For those of us who love to sing, it is difficult to hear that singing is considered a high-risk activity during this health crisis. As the Chancel Choir returns, we gather in spaces large enough so singers can be socially distanced. We sing with masks that allow for the breathing necessary for full singing; we find safe and responsible ways to sing in our Sanctuary that honor the need for safe space. A modified schedule for returning to worship has been set in motion for September through December 2021 and will be adjusted in response to emerging and evolving health guidelines.

Our choir is open to all friends and members of the church who love to sing and who would find satisfaction in rehearsing and presenting music in worship, including special music for the Advent, Christmas, Lenten, and Easter seasons. As we return from furlough, this is the perfect time to immerse yourself in this opportunity, as returning and new members will learn new procedures following pandemic parameters. The song of the church will go on in new and creative ways, and we cordially invite you to join in the song.

Contact Ron Morgan at RonM@gablesucc.org for more information or to be added to our choir distribution list for email updates, specific rehearsals, and worship-participation dates. Watch Laurie’s Lines as these plans are carefully and thoughtfully unveiled.

No auditions – just show up with a song in your heart!
**Adult Bell Choir**

In the past, we have participated in the annual Florida State Bell Choir Festival and have done other concerts locally throughout the season. Contact Ron Morgan at RonM@gablesucc.org for more information. You will also find information and schedules in our communication platforms.

Music reading ability is necessary for Adult Bell Choir participation!

**Youth Bell Choir**

Our talented and enthusiastic Youth Bell Choir meets on Sunday morning for rehearsals with Director Seth Patterson and plays in worship regularly. Youth Bell Choir is open to all ringers in Grades 6 - 12. A lot of fun, learning, and satisfaction can be found in ringing in a bell choir. Please contact director Seth Patterson at smpatter@samford.edu to express your interest or for more information. We look forward to the energy and inspiration our Youth Bell Choir will bring to the people of Gables UCC.

**Children’s Music Ministry**

Our children’s music ministry, under the ongoing and enthusiastic leadership of Alex Woods, is integrated into the Sunday School curriculum and may sometimes culminate in sharing some of that music in our 11:00 worship service. Possible ideas for safely reintroducing music into the Sunday School program include meeting children outdoors in our Courtyard or breaking the Sunday School children into small groups so they can safely socially-distance for music-making in our larger spaces. As with all ensembles, watch the bulletin, Laurie’s Lines, and our social media platforms as these plans are more fully developed.
Spiritual Formation

Bringing the heart of the Gospel to folks of every age, that they may grow hearts of love, compassion, and self-worth.

Sunday Morning Adult Spiritual Formation Classes

Sunday Mornings
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Simultaneously on Zoom

Join other spiritual seekers each Sunday for a time to explore your own spiritual development. Our weekly offerings vary, with Bible studies, interfaith studies, book studies, faith based discussions, contemplative practices, lectures on current topics, or listen to a guest speaker or learn about a new theologian.

All are welcome to gather as we take time for our own personal spiritual formation. For the most current study and Zoom link, please check out our website, app, Laurie’s Lines, or contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

The Bible and Homosexuality

Sundays, October 3, 10, 17
9:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom

During these sessions, we will examine the biblical texts that are used to judge, sometimes condemn, and often marginalize the LGBTQ+ community in the church, and in society as well. As an Open and Affirming congregation, we root our inclusive vision in the Word of God, and we welcome all of God’s children to the table that God has set. Since our hospitality is grounded on a solid scriptural basis, we invite you to join this study series to “firm up” your own faithful understanding of God's inclusive welcome and unconditional love. After all, it’s in the Bible!

Growing the Fruit of the Spirit

Wednesdays, September 15 - November 17
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Catalonia House (1210 Catalonia Ave.)

Are you seeking peace for the anxiety in your life? A deeper love for yourself and your neighbor? Or more joy or patience in the everyday?

The Fruit of the Spirit are the nine virtues of a life in God and you can grow them in yourself. Through the nourishment of prayer, spiritual practices, and group reflection, this class will encourage your growth in the Fruit of the Spirit, a deeper connection to God, and a truer understanding of your inner-self.

Space is limited to 15 participants. Attendance at all ten sessions is highly encouraged. For more information or to register, contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.
A Future with Hope

Sundays, October 31, November 7 and 14
9:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11

The rhythms of diaspora and gathering, exile and return, have been part of the life of faith for generations — and as the church seeks to re-imagine itself following this long period of exile and wilderness living, we can all look ahead to the next chapter, “a future with hope.” Or as one church specialist has said, “We are on the cusp of unprecedented change which will forever transform the church as we have known it.”

For three weeks, Pastor Laurie is encouraging ALL members and friends of the church to share in conversation, reflection, and a time of visioning a future with hope. These three weeks will lead us into our annual Commitment Sunday, when we re-commit ourselves to the work, ministry, and mission of Coral Gables Congregational UCC.

Lunchtime Bible Study

The Third Tuesday of Each Month
Noon - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us for a mid-week Bible study. You provide your lunch at home, and one of our pastors will supply the Bible reflection! On the third Tuesday of every month, your pastors will reflect and lead a discussion on one of their most challenging or their favorite Bible scripture. Email Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org for the Zoom link.

Midday Devotions with Pastor Megan

Advent Midday Devotions via Zoom
Tuesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, 21 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Lenten Midday Devotions Via Zoom
Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Deepen the holy seasons of Advent and Lent by setting some time apart to reflect, practice deep listening of our sacred stories, and enjoy being stretched by the imagination of poetry. Our weekly gatherings also include prayer, fellowship and a song of the season, sung by one of our gifted church soloists. All are welcome as we gather on Zoom.
**Meet the Owl**

A new addition to the tech team here at Gables UCC is the Meeting Owl Pro, affectionately nicknamed “Balthazar” after the Wise Man. Developed for hybrid meetings, the Meeting Owl Pro is a 360-degree camera, microphone, and speaker combined in one device. Balthazar will join us for many Adult Spiritual Formation sessions, as well as other events, so that those of you who live out-of-town or just cannot make it to the church building will still be able to participate. For remote participants, you will join via Zoom and Balthazar will do the rest!

**Women’s Christmas Retreat**

**Saturday, January 8**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Celebrated on Epiphany (January 6) in Ireland and elsewhere, Women’s Christmas offers an opportunity at the end of the holiday season to celebrate with friends and to gather ourselves before diving into the responsibilities of the new year. This retreat invites us to pause, to rest, and to reflect. In this spirit, we will gather and use the poetry and paintings of Florida artist, Jan Richardson, under the leadership of some amazing women in our congregation, to release 2021 and welcome 2022 together. Lunch is provided.

**Pilgrimage on the Camino De Santiago in Spain**

**July 5 - 14, 2022, 10 days of sauntering through beautiful Galicia**

Join Pastors Laurie and Megan along with the many pilgrims from around the world, walking the last section of the Camino Francés to Santiago de Compostela. Walking the last 100 kilometers of the Camino means that you can request your Compostela, or certificate of completion of the pilgrimage.

The last 100 kilometers is walked exclusively in Galicia, Spain’s green oasis in the North. You will be walking through beautiful oak woodlands, fragrant eucalyptus forests, and traditional Galician villages. This area is famous for the wines produced there (both red and white), its seafood (pretty much everything the Atlantic has to offer), and its cheese (curiously-shaped). You can count on enjoying all of these things, plus times of contemplation and connection to current fellow pilgrims and centuries of those who have journeyed this road before us.

We will fly directly from Miami to Madrid and then travel by bus to Galicia. From the starting point in Sarria, to the ending point in Santiago de Compostela, hotels, luggage transport, meals and excellent guides are provided by Andaspain! Start prepping now, by joining our Gables UCC Walking Group, because you will not want to miss this pilgrimage! For a brochure and more information, contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.
Sunday Mornings

Sunday mornings are a special time for our children and youth at Gables UCC. While parents are in worship, children and youth have time for their own spiritual formation and exploration. One of our ministers is always in the Sunday School Wing each week to greet members and visitors.

Sunday Morning Childcare

Each Sunday morning, we have childcare for children in Pre-K 2 and younger at both 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in our Nursery (Room 1). A caring and nurturing member of our childcare staff (COVID-19 vaccinated, background-checked and certified in CPR/First Aid) will welcome your family at the Sunday School Check-In table.

All parents will check in their child at the Check-In Table outside of the Sunday School Wing entrance. A childcare staff member will take your child's diaper bag and escort your child into the Nursery. Pick up is at the same table following the end of the worship service. Register your child online at gablesucc.org/cy-ministry-registration or in person on a Sunday morning. During 9:00 a.m. Chapel worship, children in Pre-K 3 and older are encouraged to worship with their family in the Chapel.

11:00 a.m. Sunday School for PreK-3 through Twelfth Grade

During 11:00 a.m. worship, which is held in our Sanctuary, we offer Sunday Spiritual Formation, aka Sunday School, for all children in Pre-K 3 through twelfth grade in our Sunday School Wing.

We use progressive lectionary Bible-based curricula for our elementary-aged children and sixth through twelfth grade youth, as well as enhance the program with mindfulness, yoga, mental health awareness, and hands-on learning. In Sunday School, we lay the foundation for a lifetime journey with Christ, nurture our children's compassion for others, encourage their spiritual questions, and listen to their experiences as they live out their faith. Register your child online at gablesucc.org/cy-ministry-registration or in person on a Sunday morning.
Sunday School Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop Off: Infants through eighth graders will enter between **10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** at our Sunday School Check-In table. Children will be welcomed by a church staff member, and parents will sign in and register their children at the table, if they have not already been registered online. Children will sanitize their hands, and a few health related questions will be asked of the parents. A church staff member will escort children into the Sunday School Wing and into their classroom.

Pick Up: After worship has ended, parents return to the Check-In table to sign their children out. A church staff member will bring your child to you. Our elementary, middle, and high school Sunday School classes are staffed by teams of COVID-19 vaccinated, background-checked volunteer church members and staff.

High School Youth will gather at their classroom between **10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** where they will be welcomed by their teacher and asked health related questions, before their Sunday School time begins.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

All our Sunday School rooms and supplies are disinfected using the standards set in our Gables UCC COVID-19 Safety Protocol Policy. No crayons, papers, Bibles, nor any craft materials are shared during Sunday School.

For information and to sign up for our weekly Sunday School email, please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.
Bible Sunday

Sunday, October 17
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Studying scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about our Christian faith. Each year, Gables UCC presents personal Bibles to every third grade child as a symbol of their growing faith development and as recognition of them being old enough to study scripture on their own. We celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our third graders as a gift from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for a deeper relationship with our still-speaking God.

Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health

Sundays, December 5 and 12
11:00 a.m. in the Sunday School Classrooms
For Fourth and Fifth Graders

During Sunday School on December 5 and 12, the WISE Ministry will be presenting a special two-part series titled Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health, for the fourth and fifth grade children. This curriculum is designed to introduce children to mental health and wellness, including how to care for their own mental health with positive coping strategies. Children will engage in a variety of fun activities, while creating their own mental health plan, including identifying trusted adults they are comfortable speaking with about their mental health.

On Thursday, December 2, there will be a special Pastor and Parent Connection on Zoom to discuss the curriculum, and offer suggestions as to how to be a trusted adult that children can feel comfortable talking with about their mental health.

A Night in Bethlehem Family Event

Saturday, December 18
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Bring the whole family as we journey back in time! Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a street in Bethlehem for this hands-on Holy Land experience. Families will visit a marketplace, Bethlehem home, bakery, mosaic artisan, potter’s wheel, perfume shop, dye shop, candle maker, and much more. You may even catch a glimpse of a Roman soldier or two. Each child will make crafts and learn about life in the first century. Don’t forget to visit the stable in the Courtyard for a family photo-shoot in authentic Bethlehem garments! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The entrance fee is a minimum of one canned good per person or $2.00 per child or adult. We welcome your generosity! Please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org with any questions.
Family Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Craft Party

Saturday, April 16
10:00 a.m. - Noon in Fellowship Hall and the Church Grounds
Toddlers through Fifth Graders
Entrance Fee: $2.00 per person

This is an annual celebration for children and their families. Come and enjoy the excitement of a traditional egg hunt, followed by a springtime collection of religious crafts to create and take home. There will be crafts, food, face painting, and lots of family fun. Do not forget to bring your own basket. Questions? Contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

Touch the Water; Taste the Bread

Sundays, May 1 - June 5
For Children in Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades
11:00 a.m. - Noon in Room 2

Responding to requests for a first communion program, Pastor Megan will teach a course called Touch the Water; Taste the Bread. This is a unique and age-appropriate seven-week course for children to learn and experience the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. This course will take place on Sunday mornings in place of Sunday School. Although our communion table is open to all, regardless of age, the culmination of this program will be on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, where these children will partake of Holy Communion.

Vacation Bible Camp

June 13 - 17
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
For Children Entering Pre-K 4 - Entering Sixth Grade in 2022-2023

Join us for the best camp in town! Registration will open on March 1. Check out our website and social media for more information and to register your camper. This camp fills up very quickly!
Our Whole Lives

High School Youth, Grades 10-12: Sundays, September 19- November 14 (no class on November 7) from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth, Grades 6-9: Sundays, September 19- October 31 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Gables UCC is proud to be one of two UCC churches in the state of Florida offering Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education program. In this day and age, this program is a must for our children and youth.

Our Whole Lives teaches honest, accurate information about sexuality that changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula.

OWL helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, OWL provides accurate, developmentally-appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

Our Whole Lives Offers

- Accurate information presented in developmentally appropriate ways
- Affective and emotional learning
- Guiding values and principles
- Activities that help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- A safe and supportive peer group
- Acceptance of diversity
- A social justice approach to inclusive sexuality education
- Parent orientation that affirms parents as their children’s primary sexuality educators

Our Whole Lives Values

The program gives clear messages about the following key sexuality issues:

- self-worth
- sexual health
- responsibility
- justice and inclusivity

OWL recognizes and respects the diversity of participants with respect to biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and disability status. The activities and language used throughout the program have been carefully chosen to be as inclusive as possible of this human diversity.

OWL is led by a trained OWL church member team and Pastor Megan. We offer parent information sessions during the year before our registration and courses begin. For information please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.
Parent and Pastor Connection

The First Thursday of Each Month, October - April
7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join Pastor Megan and other parents as we gather to share a prayer, collective wisdom, parental struggles, and a word of inspiration. All parents are welcome to register for this monthly gathering via Zoom.

Book Club for Parents

Join Pastor Megan for a discussion based on these two bestselling parenting books. Each discussion will meet on Zoom. Please read the book before the gathering so you may participate in the reflection time.

Monday, October 18
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m on Zoom

How To Raise An Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare your Kid for Success
by Julie Lythcott-Haims

In How to Raise an Adult, Julie Lythcott-Haims draws on research, on conversations with admissions officers, educators, and employers, and on her own insights as a mother and as a student dean to highlight the ways in which overparenting harms children, their stressed-out parents, and society at large. While empathizing with the parental hopes and, especially, fears that lead to overhelping, Lythcott-Haims offers practical alternative strategies that underline the importance of allowing children to make their own mistakes and develop the resilience, resourcefulness, and inner determination necessary for success.

Relevant to parents of toddlers as well as of twentiesomethings — and of special value to parents of teens — this book is a rallying cry for those who wish to ensure that the next generation can take charge of their own lives with competence and confidence.

Monday, February 7
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m on Zoom

UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World
by Michele Borba

Hailed as “an absolute must-read” (Jean Twenge) and a book that “will change your kids’ lives” (Jack Canfield), UnSelfie by Dr. Michele Borba explains what parents and educators MUST do to combat the growing empathy crisis among children today — including a nine-step empathy-building program with tips to guide kids from birth through college and beyond.
Sunday School Outreach Programs

There are two opportunities for young members to help our Miami neighbors:

Food Pantry

Each Sunday, our children and youth are asked to bring in canned goods for our food pantry. Our food pantry is currently handing out 50+ bags of groceries per month to families in need. Please help your children shop for canned beans, canned soups, peanut butter, and canned meats such as tuna fish, ham, Spam, and sausages. Cans with flip top lids are preferred. Please have your child turn in their donations to their Sunday School teacher.

Lotus House

This year, our Sunday School children and youth are supporting Lotus House Homeless Shelter in Overtown, and we need your help! Every month, we will be collecting a different item that the women, children, or LGBT+ youth need.

- September - New Pens, Pencils, Crayons and Markers
- October - New Body Lotion, Full Size
- November - Toothpaste, Full Size and Toothbrushes
- December - New Unwrapped Toys or Gift Cards for our Angel Tree
- January - Deodorant
- February - Shampoo Bottles, Full Size
- March - Sanitary Pads, Regular or Super Sizes in Original Sealed Packaging
- April - Body Wash, Full Size and Bars of Soap
- May - Disposable Diapers, Sizes 4, 5, and 6

Adults may leave donations at Reception, or ship them to Pastor Megan at Gables UCC via Amazon or other online retailer. Thank you for helping us support the homeless in Miami!

Annual Angel Tree Outreach Project

November 28 - December 19

This year, we are collecting new, unwrapped gifts for the children, LGBT youth, and women at Lotus House Homeless Shelter located in Overtown. Toys without batteries preferred! For a list of gift ideas, please see our website beginning in November.
**Youth Group**

**Middle School**

**Friday Night Youth Group**
Fridays, October 1, December 3, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Every month we gather for dinner, games, fellowship, and faith reflection. All middle schoolers are invited! Friends are welcome too!

**High School**

**Friday Night Youth Group**
Fridays, October 8, December 10, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Every month we gather for dinner, games, fellowship, and faith reflection. All high schoolers are invited! Friends are welcome too!

**Pie-Making Fundraiser**
Saturday, November 20
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our annual fundraiser for our summer mission trip is a great opportunity for our youth to cook and sell pies for our congregation the weekend before Thanksgiving. There will be multiple opportunities for selling pies and making crusts. We will bake all of the pies on **Saturday, November 20**.

**4 What’s Next**

In **February**, the WISE Ministry will be sponsoring “4 What’s Next.” Designed by the Jordan Porco Foundation, this curriculum is designed to help prepare high school students make the next transitions in their life, by teaching them skills that build resiliency and coping, giving them valuable tools to handle the stress and distress of their lives. More details will be made available in the coming months.
Youth Group Kick-Off
Friday, September 17
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Courtyard

All youth and their families are invited to join us for a BBQ to start off youth group for the fall! We’ll have burgers, sides, and dessert and some time for fellowship and a presentation about upcoming youth ministries. Younger siblings are invited too. Invite your friends!

Conference Youth Retreat
Friday, November 5 - Sunday, November 7

We’ll join with UCC churches from across Florida for a weekend of outdoor adventure and growing in our faith. Any high school and middle school youth can attend. Cost is $50 and there are scholarships available.

Christmas Luminary Making
Friday, December 24
10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard

We will prepare the luminaries for our Christmas Eve worship service to line the outside of the church. Join us for donuts, juice, and a fun service project to make the church look beautiful for Christmas. Parents and friends are invited to attend!

Hunger Vigil Chili and Cinnamon Roll Cook-Off
Friday, January 14, 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, January 15, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the Church Green

To help us raise money for the youth group, we’ll be making chili and cinnamon rolls on Friday and then selling our product to the hungry people at the Hunger Vigil Festival of the Flea on Saturday. Join us for either or both!
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
We are Out-of-the-Box People

**Congregational Life**

*Our life together is marked by our enjoyment and love of one another experienced in small groups of adventure, support, fun, and community building.*

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**Garden Warriors**

**The Second Saturday of Each Month**
9:00 a.m. on the Church Grounds

If you like to garden, pull weeds, plant flowers, or just help make the exterior landscape of our historic church beautiful, then join us for a Garden Warriors’ workday. All volunteers will be welcomed and appreciated (kids too)!

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**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**The Second and Fourth Mondays of Each Month**
September - June
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

We gather to create beautiful prayer shawls to share with members of our church family who are ill or starting a new era in their lives. You do not have to know how to knit or crochet – someone will teach you. If you are looking for a ministry of prayer and care for others, this may be it. Come and help wrap someone in God’s love by creating a beautiful prayer shawl. Email Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org if you would like to be added to the email list.

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**Sisters on Sojourn**

**Saturdays, September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18, January 22, February 19, March 19, April 23, May 21**
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

All women, regardless of age, are invited to join in this relaxed and easy-going group with no rules, no dues, no officers. We are just women coming together to hear each other’s stories, provide support and encouragement, and, occasionally, learn something. If you wish to be added to the email list for announcements about upcoming meetings, please let Pastor Laurie know at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.
Ladies High Tea

We are setting out our finest china, steeping a pot of tea (the proper way), ironing our napkins, baking sweet and savory delights (to fortify and delight you), all in the hope that you will don your finest hat and join us for a time of sisterhood and connection. We are looking to gather sometime in the spring. Formal invitations are forth coming!

LGBTQ+ Luncheon for National Coming Out Day

Sunday, October 10
12:30 p.m. in the Courtyard

“Come out” to Gables UCC for a luncheon to be in community with our LGBTQ+ members. Lunch will be provided. Join us after worship for a delicious lunch, supportive conversation, and, as always, lots of laughter and fun. RSVP to Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

Join us also on Sunday, June 12 at 12:30 p.m. for a national Pride Month gathering and luncheon at Pastor Laurie’s.

I Want to Do That... Just Not Alone

This new group started a year ago, just in time for the pandemic to hit. But we are back and anxious to get together. This is a group for anyone and everyone who enjoys going with a group of people on various adventures and to a variety of places. We have gone to improv showcases, the New World Symphony’s outdoor Wallcast, a pub with live music, and Fairchild’s Night Garden. Keep an eye out for announcements throughout the year. Most of these activities take place in the evening or on the weekend so folks who work can join us.
German Christmas Market

Sunday, December 5
Noon - 5:00 in Fellowship Hall

If you enjoy German traditions like Octoberfest, you will love our authentic German Christmas Market. Support our German ministry, and enjoy traditional German food, Gluehwein, German crafts such as Advent wreaths, and German music performances. Shop from a variety of vendors, purchase raffle tickets for great prizes, and let the kids partake in craft activities. Admission is free.

Interested vendors should contact Yvonne Visser-Guerrero at VGYvonne@gmail.com. If you can volunteer, please contact Daniela Kuczurba at DanielaKuczurba@gmail.com.

Be sure to order your Advent wreath from the German Language Church by contacting Daniela Kuczurba at DanielaKuczurba@gmail.com.

Beer and Carols

Thursday, December 16
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Duffy’s Party Room
2108 SW 57th Ave. Miami, FL 33155

The only rule is we sing Christmas carols (except when we pull out a few Christmas songs such as “The Christmas Song” and “Santa Claus is Coming to Town.” In other words, there are no rules!). We value tradition, but also silliness, mashups, and occasional super-fermatas. We will mostly sing a cappella with bits of tambourine and acoustic guitar. We have pre-made booklets of carols. Expect boisterous singing and swaying. Audience participation is a must.

Please bring money for the purchase of beverages and/or available food from Duffy’s – we want to be good partners with our venue. Please note, Duffy’s does not take credit cards.
Christmas Caroling

**Sunday, December 19**
**Shuttle leaves church at 2:30 p.m.**

Join us as we bring carols and good cheer to our homebound members and friends. We will meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. and travel by the church shuttle bus. Following caroling, we will return to the church for some hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. All ages are welcome!

Hospitality Team

The ministry of the Sunday morning Hospitality Team can be summed up with these words — making people feel welcome, assisting the pastors on Sunday mornings, preparing the sanctuary for worship, helping others to have a meaningful worship experience, and maintaining a safe environment for all. If you are interested and would like to learn more about how you can make a difference by ushering, greeting, etc., please contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org or Head Usher Marilyn Caputo.

Expats and Vurchers

Whether you live across the Pond, on the Gulf of Mexico, in the Carolinas, or the hinterlands of the East or West Coast, please join our special fellowship group.

Once a month, we gather from around the world to check in with our Gables UCC members and friends living outside of South Florida. Whether you have been a former member or friend of the church and have moved away, or have found a home with us virtually, we invite you to be connected through this special group just for you. To receive notices, be in touch with Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

No matter who you are or where you live, you are an important part of our church family.
Young Adult Gatherings

Every month, our 20-30s young adults gather for brunch, conversation, and support. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, make friends, and learn more about the ministries of the church. Periodically, we also host book clubs, social outings, and educational events. If you are a young adult or college student that would like to join in the fun and the fellowship, contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

We will have a potluck brunch at Pastor Aaron’s house on Sunday, October 17 at 12:15 p.m. Check our calendar for other dates!

Fun and Adventurous People

Join us for visits to museums, restaurants, gardens, and other interesting and enjoyable places throughout the year. These events usually take place during the day. All are welcome. Check our social media pages, website, bulletin, or Laurie’s Lines for upcoming events. Over the past years we have traveled to Germany to study the Reformation and Martin Luther; and in 2020 we traveled to the Middle East and Israel and Palestine. Once it is safe to travel again, we will pack our bags and embark on a very special adventure.

All-Church Picnic

Saturday, May 7
Tropical Park

Let’s have a picnic with an emphasis on community!

We want you to come out and enjoy a fun filled day with food, games, inflatables, and more! Make a point to meet people you may have not yet, make new friends, and expand your Gables UCC community! Details coming in Spring 2022.

Gables UCC is also home to outside groups such as Rise Up Florida, EarthSave, Miami Contra Dancing, Books and Books Author Events, and so much more. Keep checking for updated information.
Inquiring Minds Want to Know

How do I become a member of the church?

How do I become a member of the church?
If you don’t want to check your mind at the church door…
If you know that God’s love embraces all people, no matter who they are…
If you want religion with relevancy…
If you’ve wished for an open and embracing community of faith to nurture your spirit, grow your faith, and raise your children…
Then we warmly invite you to help us build the family of Gables UCC.

If you are interested in “inquiring” about Gables UCC and what it means to be a member of our family of faith, we cordially invite you to attend one of our Inquirer’s Gatherings throughout the year. You will meet the pastors and church members, learn more about the church, what we value and believe, our history, and our denomination, the United Church of Christ.

Who should attend an Inquirer’s Gathering? The short answer—you! If you love coming to the church and you are not a member, please join us! To find out when the next gathering is contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org or call 305.448.7421, ext. 116. She would love to speak with you!
Wellness

We are welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged for mental health, committed to reducing the stigma of and including people with mental illnesses/brain health/emotional challenges and their families, in the full life of the church.

Gables UCC Walking Group

Wednesday Evenings
September 15 - November 24
January 5 - May 25
6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Join Pastor Megan, church members, and friends for a weekly walk around the Granada Golf Course and back, approximately four miles. We will meet outside our church’s Fair Trade shop and leave the church together as we begin our walk. Just an FYI-Pastor Megan sets a brisk pace! Friends are always welcome! Bring a flashlight.

A Morning of Support for Those Living with Cancer

Saturdays, October 2, December 4, March 5, May 7
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Library

Join us for a little breakfast, a lot of caring, and the sharing of insights and support for those living with cancer or who have gone through the journey. This is for all, whether you are facing treatment now or have in the past. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Dorothy Thorburn at sammy398@bellsouth.net.

Grief Support Group

The Third Saturday of Each Month
2:00 p.m. at the Church
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 professional therapists to find mutual support and care. To register, please contact Pat at pberm@mindspring.com.
#metoo

Once again, this past year has been very distressing for those who have suffered sexual abuse. Acts of violence against women in our country continue, and news reports have brought up lots of occasions for many people to re-live traumas. If you are a victim or survivor of sexual abuse, we invite you to a #metoo gathering here at church. In this safe space, we may choose to share our stories or sit in silent solidarity. Let us gather together, in support of one another. For more information, please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

WISE Corner

Tuesdays in October
7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Learning how to forgive can be one of the biggest challenges in life, but it can also be one of the most transformative experiences, positively impacting both physical and mental health. There is no one way to forgive, but much wisdom can be found in the sharing of stories from others who have learned to offer forgiveness. Join us for a time of conversation and sharing using the book *The Gift of Forgiveness* by Katherine Schwarzenegger as a guide for discovering how others have forgiven the unforgivable. All sessions will take place on Zoom. Contact Pastor Lisa at LisaL@gablesucc.org for the Zoom link or for more information.

Called to Care

Called to Care is the lay-caregiving ministry of our church. If you are energized by the opportunity to offer support and encouragement to others and to strengthen the life of the church; if you are able to relate to people in many diverse circumstances of life; and if you are compassionate, have integrity, are able to maintain confidences, and are a good listener; won't you please join our team? Contact Called to Care Coordinator, Carol Fifield, at miamifife@gmail.com or be in touch with Pastor Laurie.

Weekly, the Called to Care Team receives prayer requests from church family and friends. Each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., they gather in prayer over Zoom to lift up these prayer requests, to pray for the church, and for the needs of the world. If you have a prayer concern to be prayed over by Called to Care, you may text it to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482.
University of Miami/Gables UCC Therapy Study

Through a partnership with the University of Miami Graduate Psychology Department, we are pleased to offer several free culturally-informed, religiously-based group therapy sessions as part of a research study aimed at improving treatment for mental health challenges of all kinds.

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. 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 and are currently on Zoom. If you are interested, please call 305.284.5455 to set up your baseline interview for any of the groups.

General Mental Health Concerns Group
**Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. in English**
**Thursdays from 5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in English**
**Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. in Spanish**

Have you been struggling with depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, or other psychological stresses? If so, you may benefit from these small groups for support, insight, and techniques for managing your mental health challenges.

Diagnosed Mental Illness Group
**Mondays from 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. in English**
Spanish Sessions TBA

If you have been diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or another psychotic spectrum disorder, you may be eligible to participate in this therapeutic group. During the treatment, clinicians will provide education on psychotic spectrum disorders, as well as offer techniques to cope with mental illness.

AA Groups
**Tuesdays and Saturdays**
**7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

These are open meetings, and all are welcome.
Leave a Legacy of Guidance for Your Family and Friends

Sunday, November 7
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Havighorst Lounge

The church is always present in people’s lives both in good times and in difficult ones. While many occasions in the church come with special planning and preparation such as weddings, baptisms, confirmations, etc., too often, families come to the church on the passing of a loved one not knowing what to do or the wishes of their loved ones.

Therefore, the Legacy Committee of the church, along with Pastor Laurie, has prepared a booklet entitled *My Funeral/Memorial Service Requests* to help provide guidance and support to your loved ones by offering information about what you would like to have at your own memorial/funeral service.

Such pre-planning enables you to give expression to your faith through choosing and ordering what is to take place. It becomes a witness to your life for your loved ones and to all those who participate in and attend your funeral/memorial service. And there’s more. Planning now for your service eases the burden on your loved ones by eliminating the pressure of decision-making, particularly the need of trying to do things “the way you would have wished.”

The Legacy Committee cordially invites you to a special luncheon on **Sunday, November 7 at 12:30 p.m.** in Havighorst Lounge to help you begin thinking about your final plans. Pastor Laurie and Dr. Ron Morgan, Director of Music Ministry, will lead you through the booklet and help offer guidance, suggestions, and information about funeral/memorial services. If you are unable to attend and would like a copy of the booklet, please contact Pastor Laurie. You can receive a copy from her or it can be found online at gablesucc.org/service-planning.

**NEAT - Network, Empower And, Transition**

NEAT provides practical, motivational, emotional, conscious, and spiritual support to professionals in transition. During the pandemic, we offer one-on-one “calls on demand,” to serve you better. Send an email to suely@crownecoaching.com to set a time to connect via audio or video. Please include your phone number. Visit crownenergycoaching.com for more information.

**8 Dimensions of Wellness**

- **EMOTIONAL**
- **SPIRITUAL**
- **INTELLECTUAL**
- **PHYSICAL**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL**
- **FINANCIAL**
- **OCCUPATIONAL**
- **SOCIAL**
Justice & Witness
Making God’s Shalom visible in our community, nation, and world.

For any questions about Justice and Witness events and ministries, please contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

Food for the Soul

The Third Sunday of the Month
After 11:00 a.m. Worship in Havighorst Lounge

Each month, the Board of Justice and Witness hosts a lecture, presentation, or action about a social justice issue or concern facing our community or our world. This monthly series gives our congregation the opportunity to learn about issues of faith and justice as well as to take action for change.

Second Chance Recovery Group

Starting in September

Hosted by Riverside Christian Ministries, this group aims to help those facing hardships, including needing help to find a job because of background or lack of skills, facing difficulties with family unification, needing better communication skills, needing life skills training (time management, interview skills, etc.), and transitioning from prison back into society.

This group plans to start meeting in September to study, pray, and discuss hard topics to help break away from the difficulties faced in current or past circumstances and work towards finding true freedom and purpose in Jesus.

Contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org if you or someone you know is interested.

Recycle Your Electronics

We have made arrangements with a local company to collect all your electronic waste so it can be recycled. Many of the items are considered hazardous waste and should not be simply thrown away. This e-waste recycling program includes end-of-life and non-working batteries, cameras, cash registers, desktops, external hard drives, facsimile machines, flat TV screens, ink/toner cartridges, keyboards, laptops, monitors, phone chargers, printers, radios, routers, scanning devices, servers, tablets, telephones, small cathode ray tube televisions, video cassette recorder/players, and video game consoles. That about covers anything electronic! We have a large collection bin outside the Fellowship Hall in the Courtyard for your items.
October is Hunger Awareness Month

A long-time commitment of this congregation is working to end hunger in South Florida and around the world. In observance of October as Hunger Awareness Month, the Board of Justice and Witness has three ways you can engage with our church toward ending hunger.

Feeding South Florida Volunteer Event
Saturday, October 2
7:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Meet in the Church Parking Lot

A group of volunteers will leave the church at 7:45 a.m. and journey up to Feeding South Florida in Pembroke Park for a morning of packing canned goods for those in need. This is a great volunteer event if you are looking to help out the community and do some physical work. We will gather after for lunch together.

Volunteers must be 12 years of age or older. We have ten spots available. Please register by September 24 by contacting Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

World Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 3

Join us for a special presentation on World Communion Sunday, to learn about the effects of hunger in South Florida and worldwide. We will lift our prayers and give our support for an end to hunger as we celebrate this important day in the life of the church.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing
Saturday, October 23
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Rise Against Hunger is an international organization that supplies meals for people in need around the world. We will set up meal-packing stations in Fellowship Hall for this fun, engaging volunteer event. All ages are invited to attend and make meals with no experience needed! A donation of $10 per participant is welcome to help cover the cost of supplies. Register for one of two shifts at gablesucc.org/rah.
Thanksgiving Lunch Making Extravaganza!

Thursday, November 25
Meal Making 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Hygiene Kits 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on the Green

Spend Thanksgiving morning serving those in need. This year, we are partnering with First United Methodist of Miami and Branches to make take-home meals of turkey, mashed potatoes, and more for those around Miami, in addition to bag lunches and hygiene kits. If you are interested in being a team leader, contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build

Thursday and Saturday, February 17 and 19

Help us build affordable housing in Miami with other congregations on either of these days. Over 1,000 volunteers will join forces to build 8 brand new Habitat homes in just 2 weeks! With so much need for quality, affordable housing in our county, this volunteer project is a great opportunity to help build a house for a family. No experience needed! Find more information on our website, bulletin, church app, social media pages, or Laurie's Lines.

Miami Beach Pride Parade

Sunday, April 10

Join us in the annual Miami Beach Gay Pride parade and celebrate the rainbow of God’s love! You can ride in the church shuttle, walk with in the street, or join the dance troupe. This is a great way to evangelize to the community about our Open and Affirming status as a congregation as well as have a fun time marching in the parade!
Bread for the World - Mother’s Day Offering of Letters

Sunday, May 8
Following Worship in Fellowship Hall

Gables UCC is a partner congregation with Bread for the World, an organization that stands in a long, biblical and prophetic tradition of those who speak out boldly in defense of people who are poor, hungry, and considered to be on the margins of society.

Each year, we write letters to members of Congress on Mother’s Day as part of the Bread for the World campaign against hunger. All church members and friends are invited to participate and to encourage our elected officials to work toward ending hunger in the United States. For more information, go to bread.org.

PACT Organizing for Justice

Our congregation is blessed to work in partnership with 35 other churches, synagogues, masjids, and universities for justice in Miami-Dade County. Through PACT, we organize for affordable housing, gun violence prevention, community IDs, reducing arrests, and environmental justice.

Throughout the year there are a number of opportunities to show up for justice with PACT. Below is our yearly-process with dates/times to be announced as the event approaches.

Listening Sessions - In September and October, we gather in small groups to express the problems facing our lives and communities.

Annual Meeting - All PACT congregations gather to vote on our focus issues for the year and hear updates about our work with public officials.

Network Member Meeting - In winter, all Gables UCC Network Members gather to plan our strategy for getting our church members and friends to attend the Nehemiah Action.

PACT Rally - All PACT congregations gather to rally our energy and plan the agenda for our Nehemiah Action.

Nehemiah Action - In spring, over 1,500 Miami-Dade County residents come together to hold our public officials accountable for the social justice issues facing our neighborhoods. This is the event of the year!

Celebration - We gather for a meal and a time of celebration for the progress we’ve made and the victories we’ve won!
JUSTICE & WITNESS

We are Out-of-the-Box People

JUSTICE & WITNESS
We are Out-of-the-Box People

Thursday in Black

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence. Globally, 30% of women experience physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, according to data from the World Health Organization. Such violence can increase during public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that everyone is safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

“Thursdays in Black” grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women’s resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries and our partners in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause: Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray: Pray with us: We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence. We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post: Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233).

Sacred Conversations to End Racism

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound... let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of... how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss...

~ Dr. Yolanda Pierce

Gables UCC seeks to be a part of the solution to the ongoing scourge of racism in our nation and world. And while such work is often hard, challenging, and uncomfortable, as people of faith we are called to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Or, as Edith Guffey, one of our leaders in Sacred Conversations has reminded us, “there are many ways to witness toward the dismantling of racism, but first and foremost, we have to show up!”

Therefore, we invite you throughout the year to be a part of these Sacred Conversations to End Racism, a series of programs, events, and dialogues for gaining insight into the depth of systemic and institutional racism, white privilege, and the destructive impact of racial injustice. We hope and pray that our work together will be a symbol of the healing love of Christ through the Holy Spirit.
Haiti: Mission Possible

Over the past years, our church has helped provide compassionate care and resources through the leadership and guidance of our Haiti: Mission Possible Committee and our partners in Haiti. Presently, we partner with two outstanding organizations, both doing life-changing and amazing work. Because we have seen them in action and are in contact with them, we are assured that, when donations are received, they will be used to directly support those in crisis and need. The two organizations are:

The Roger Dunwell School serves the coastal community of Aquin. Roger, a member of this congregation until his passing in 2012, was an inspiring advocate and philanthropist for the children of this community, where all students and families live under the poverty line. The parents are mostly farmers and the hurricane has destroyed crops leading potentially to famine. The school, about 15 years old, has about 200 children with eight teachers. One of our hopes is to establish a continuing school feeding program through resources given.

The Haitian Education & Leadership Program (HELP) provides merit-based university scholarships in Haiti for top high school graduates from severely disadvantaged backgrounds. HELP serves bright, motivated, young men and women with a proven record of academic achievement for whom the only obstacle to a university education and a better future is the lack of financial resources. Part of the agreement of the scholarship is that the student, upon graduation, will stay in Haiti and use their knowledge and studies to the benefit of the country. Recently, we supported Erdjanie Joseph, who comes from Saint-Marc, a poor coastal town. She graduated with her degree in agro-economy, and her dream is to “make Haiti a luscious and verdant place full of trees.”

Green Christians: Becoming a Creation Justice Church

In the summer of 2021, our Green Christians started the process of becoming a Creation Justice Church. Much like when our congregation become Open and Affirming for LGBTQ+ people, as well as a Sanctuary Church for undocumented immigrants, this process will include education, discernment, prayer, action, and creating a covenant through which we will live out our commitment to protecting the environment as a church.

Throughout the winter of 2021 and spring of 2022, our Green Christians will lead educational opportunities, advocacy events, and publish a “green household” guide as ways in which members of this church can be engaged in our environmental work.

If you are interested in joining the Green Christians, please contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.
Food Pantry

Gables UCC has a food pantry to help the many who come to our door seeking nourishment for their families. Food scarcity is a serious problem in South Florida and we believe that Jesus’ call to feed the hungry is one of the most important things we can do as a congregation. Many of the local food pantries have closed recently, so ours is one of the only ones remaining open. Your support and help in keeping our shelves stocked is important to this ministry.

Items most needed: canned chicken, tuna, Spam, ready-to-go meals like beef stew and chili (pull top lids are the best), canned vegetables, canned fruit or individual fruit cups and applesauce, cans of beans, Vienna sausages, peanut butter, soups, instant oatmeal, grits, etc.

Please place your food on the reception desk at church. And thank you to those who are sending us food through Amazon and Amazon Smile. We love receiving boxes of items needed for the pantry! Please just mail them to Coral Gables UCC, 3010 De Soto Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134.

Support us with Amazon Smile

Fair Trade Marketplace

The Fair Trade Marketplace is in its fourteenth eco-friendly year! Your purchases in the shop have assisted 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. In some countries, they are able to pull young women from human trafficking/prostitution rings and retrain them in merchandise production. Support your church outreach by purchasing beautifully-unique and affordable merchandise.

Hours
Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We are always looking to train volunteer substitutes to help with the shop. Contact Mary Eaton at hollis07@bellsouth.net for further details.
The mission of our award-winning Community Arts Program (CAP) is to serve a diverse community with educational and culturally-enriching experiences through the transforming power of the arts. CAP’s various offerings include the CAP Summer Concert Series, CAP Summer Master Classes, CAP Records®, and the CAP Conservatory for the Arts and Miami Jazz Institute. With these, CAP provides South Florida children and youth, the community, and the world with outstanding learning and culture.

Throughout COVID-19, the Community Arts Program (CAP) maintained a virtual iteration of its programming. Students enrolled in CAP remained hardware- and connectivity-ready, either through their family or through assistance provided by M-DCPS and CAP. Student performances moved forward with each student’s part done through at-home Saturday and Monday recording and learning sessions. Videos were added to student, team-produced virtual concerts broadcast over CAP’s CAPcast website page and social media. Likewise, the CAP 2020 and 2021 Summer Concert Series were virtual events that employed stellar local musical and technical artists for 12 evenings of worldwide concert broadcasts over CAP’s website, Facebook, Instagram TV, and YouTube. Throughout all, CAP told its story more broadly, and showcased its work to the world.

As the Community Arts Program (CAP) begins its FY2021-22 (September-August) season this fall, it will begin again on-ground, and implement all good, safe practices within our Arts & Education Wing and Early Childhood Center. CAP will continue to reach children and youth from over 50 Miami-Dade County schools and of all ability. With a faculty of 31 instructors, students will attend CAP Saturday Music and Miami Jazz Institute classes (one-on-one instrument study, music theory, and harmony) and Monday evening CAP Creative Strings I, II, and III; CAP Jazz PREP Band; and CAP ALL-STAR Jazz Ensemble rehearsals. Looking ahead to summer 2022, a re-entry on-ground in our sanctuary with Thursday evening CAP Summer Concert Series events and Friday morning CAP Summer Master Classes are planned, June 9 through August 19, 2022.

It’s important to also note that CAP continues its commitment to CAP children and youth with special abilities/disabilities, and prepares CAP instructors with training and with the mentorship of specialized therapists. This remains front-of-mind, so that all children and youth — no matter what their circumstances — receive an appropriate, engaging, and impact-filled CAP learning experience.

For all details, updates, and/or to join the Community Arts Program (CAP), please visit CommunityArtsProgram.org. Or, contact CAP’s Executive and Artistic Director, Mark Hart, at 305.448.7421, ext. 120 and MarkH@CommunityArtsProgram.org.
Weddings and Baptisms

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ opens its doors for wedding and baptism ceremonies to those looking for a church to celebrate such milestones.

We welcome all couples, regardless of preferred faith, sexual orientation, race, or language to be married in our church.

In our Christian denomination, the United Church of Christ, people are baptized either as children or adults. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their new growth into full Christian faith and life.

Built in 1923, Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ is the oldest church in Coral Gables and is a designated landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you or someone you know is looking to get married, baptized, or have their child baptized in a beautiful, historic sanctuary, please contact Drew Sandbulte, our Events Coordinator, at 305.448.7421, ext. 114 or DrewS@gablesucc.org.

Early Childhood Center (ECC)

The Early Childhood Center is our NAEYC accredited preschool serving children ages 2 years through Kindergarten. ECC has been a community school for over 55 years. We offer a program that provides a child with the ability to learn through play with many opportunities for socialization and intellectual growth. We feel it is important to provide activities for social growth, positive self-image and the development of school readiness skills, which can lead to future academic success.

Please call us for a tour at 305.444.9792. Check out our website at gablespreschool.org.
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 Sandbulte at DrewS@gablesucc.org.
Staff Directory

305.448.7421 (Extensions listed below)

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. Director of the Community Arts Program.................. MarkH@communityartsprogram.org, ext. 120
The Rev. Yoli Izquierdo-Yglesias, Spanish Worship.................................. Valevosly@gmail.com, 786.506.9890
The Rev. Lisa LeSueur, Pastor 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, ext. 314
To contact the Early Childhood Center, please call 305.444.9792.

Support Staff
Anthony Cabrera, Minister of Liturgical Arts..................................................... Cabrera25@att.net
Kris Coney, Sound Technician............................................................................ info@gablesucc.org
Elaine Cottle, Volunteer Church Social Worker................................................. info@gablesucc.org
Allen Feldman, Pew Organizer.......................................................................... info@gablesucc.org
Raul Hernandez, Volunteer Church Immigration .............................................. info@gablesucc.org
Elena Korallis, Director of Communications.................................................. ElenaK@gablesucc.org, ext. 113
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. 114
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, and Rosario Noriega

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

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