2022-2023
Coral Gables
United Church of Christ
ASSET BOOK
What a joy it is to welcome you to Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ (Gables UCC) and to share with you the many programs, worship opportunities, events, and study groups offered this 2022-23 program year.

This is a very special year as we prepare for the 100th anniversary of the church. As the son of a Congregational minister from New England, our founder George Merrick understood the Congregational tradition of making the church a “Meeting House,” with the dual purpose of worship and a place for public gatherings, discourse, and programs.

As you read through this booklet, you will discover that we still live out that tradition of opening our doors to the community and providing a place where people can have life-changing, transformative, and meaningful experiences.

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.

We love our children and young people, seeking to create a place for them of self-acceptance, Christian-nurture, and affirmation. We respect those with the wisdom of years, learning from their experiences and acknowledging their gifts. We are a witness to justice, believing that all people are beloved children of God. We commit ourselves to spiritual practices and worship that affirms love, offers thanks, and builds up the soul. 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, has a great sense of humor, laughs often and easily, and can even be found (yes, wait for it), dancing!

We invite you to attend a service and catch a glimpse of who we are. Attend one of our fellowship times, and get connected. Find the perfect place to volunteer, to engage your family in one of our many children and youth programs, or discover a place to grow your own faith. And if you are facing a difficult season, Gables UCC is also a safe place to get practical help.

More than anything else, 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 our 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.
Coral Gables Congregational UCC: From Generation to Generation Celebrating 100 years!

In December 1923, George Merrick, the visionary behind the city of Coral Gables, held the first service of the newly founded Coral Gables Congregational Church in his home, a few blocks from where the church now stands. Merrick and that early band of folks envisioned an iconic church to serve its members and the wider community in the heart of the city.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of that first gathering, we know now that the generations that followed continued to build a church with a reputation for an unparalleled commitment to progressive thought, spiritual nurture, social action, hospitality, and the work of justice.

We will kick-off the year-long commemoration with a very special worship service on Sunday, December 18 as we gather for celebratory worship telling the stories of each decade and generation that helped shape the church. Following the service, we will bring back the much beloved tradition of The Silver Tea.

Join us throughout the year for opportunities to remember, to celebrate, and to envision an even greater future.

We do believe that God can blow the lid off any box and turn it into a dance floor. We are out-of-the-box people!
Who We Are

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ seeks to be a diverse and faithful community in which all can find support for and nurture 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).
Black Lives Matter. This is a truth we speak to ourselves, to the Church, and to the world as we witness racism continue to take the lives of Black people in America.

With grieving hearts, we speak their names: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Corey Jones, Atatiana Jefferson, Trayvon Martin, and countless other victims of racist violence, both known and unknown, listened to and ignored. The voice of their blood cries out from the ground, and we join this cry for justice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the name of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we re-affirm our commitment to dismantling racism in our nation and to the work of justice and witness for all people. Amen.
A Word About COVID-19

The words of the poet James Russell Lowell have never been truer, “new occasions teach new duties.” Over the past couple of years, 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, has 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.

As we give thanks for vaccines and boosters and folks lovingly care for one another by keeping distance or wearing masks when not feeling well, we continue to carry on with in-person events. As always, we encourage you to use the hand sanitizer stations around the building and to not attend any church function if you are feeling ill, running a temperature, or have been exposed to COVID-19.

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 loving our neighbor as ourselves!

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 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 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 Hispana - a través de una teología progresista - con las enseñanzas de amor y esperanza de Jesús. Liderado por uno de nuestros pastores de habla español, 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.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 18</td>
<td>03:00 pm</td>
<td>German Creation Justice CS and Kindertreff</td>
<td>Chapel &amp; Room 2</td>
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<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Contribution to World Communion CS</td>
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<td>Nov 6</td>
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<td>Kindertreff “Make your own lantern”</td>
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<td>German Christmas Market and Kindertreff</td>
<td>Outdoor (Fellowship Hall)</td>
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<td>German Christmas Carols</td>
<td>UCC Courtyard (Chapel)</td>
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<td>German New Year CS and Kindertreff</td>
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<td>Discovering God’s tracks in everyday life DG</td>
<td>Havighorst Lounge</td>
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<td>Kindertreff Carnival</td>
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<td>Apr 2</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday Family Devotional</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
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<td>Apr 9</td>
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<td>Havighorst Lounge</td>
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<td>German Pentecost CS Kirche Florida</td>
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CS: Church Service  –  DG: Discussion Group  –  tba: to be announced
Changes are possible. Please contact germanministry@gablesucc.org if you would like to be added to our newsletter
An Interfaith Service of Remembrance, Hope, and Peace

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

On this 21st anniversary of 9/11 we will gather to pray side by side—Christian, Jew, Muslim, and all people of faith—to share grief and gratitude, to offer hope and healing, to forge the scars of conflict and loss into the sacredness of wholeness and peace, and to proclaim that love is stronger than hate.

Following the service, a fellowship meal will be served as we share in blessed community with one another. Join us as well for an opportunity to create art for social change. Artists from Design Matters, a local organization that engages everyday people in creating socially-conscious art, will lead us in making yard signs, bumper stickers, t-shirts and more with a message of ending gun violence. We will provide art supplies, and no artistic expertise is necessary!

There will also be a rock-climbing wall and train for children (of all ages!). A great morning for all!

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 2
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.

Celebrating our Four-Way Covenanted Ministers

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

In the UCC, there are many ways that ordained clergy are authorized for ministry. Of course, there are those who are called to parish ministry and to serving in a church setting. Others feel called to non-parish employment such as non-profit work, social work, counseling, chaplaincy, or other forms of ministry. We are privileged in our congregation to have ordained ministers who share with us in a four-way covenant, which in our UCC tradition means they have a covenantal relationship with the support of their home church, their employer, and the UCC Florida Conference. This ensures their ongoing standing as a minister of the United Church of Christ.

On Sunday, October 9, we will introduce you once again to our four-way covenanted ministers as they share in our morning worship.
Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 30
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 6
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 2021. As part of our recognition, candles will be lit for those who have passed away over the past 12 months. If you would like to remember a loved one, please contact Pastor Laurie at 305.448.7421, ext. 116 or LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

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.
Longest Night Service

Wednesday, 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.

Advent: From Generation to Generation

Surely, from now on all Generations will call me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
And holy is God’s name.
God’s mercy is for those who fear God
From generation to generation.
Luke 1:48-50

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faces, Mary, the mother of Jesus, could glimpse the scale and scope of good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God’s reception is still at work. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

This Advent season, we will reflect on the lives, histories, actions and stories that form the Advent narrative as they are intertwined with our church’s story as we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Dinner Church

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7 and 14
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Catalonia House (1210 Catalonia Ave.)

In the Gospel According to Luke, there is a story about Jesus meeting two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus, and they did not know him. After walking a whole day together, they stopped to eat dinner. As they sat down to dine, Jesus broke a loaf of bread and, in the breaking of the bread, the disciples knew it was him! At Dinner Church, we will gather to share a sacred meal as the first followers of Jesus did. Simple, unaccompanied music will be sung, scripture explored, and prayers offered, all in the context of a home-cooked meal.
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 and the children of the church will present their annual Christmas Eve musical.

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 quartet, 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.
Christmas Day Worship

**Sunday, December 25**
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Jesus is the reason for the season, so take a break from your Christmas morning festivities and join your church family for a brief service of lessons and carols to truly remind us what the day is all about. Don’t worry about dressing up, bring the kids in their pajamas, wear yours if you dare, and let’s celebrate the joy of the day together in this family-friendly service. If you have any left-over cookies or unwanted fruitcake, bring them too! Drop them off in the Fellowship Hall on your way in and we will do a cookie exchange on the way out!

New Year’s Day Worship

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

It’s always hard to believe another year has passed. As we look back on the year that was, we know there have been triumphs and defeats, there have been times of laughter and times of tears. Now we set our sights on a fresh New Year, filled with possibilities and hopes, with dreams and fresh beginnings. Let’s start 2023 together in worship, singing songs of faith, hearing God’s words of promise, offering prayers of thanksgiving, and sharing together in Holy Communion.

Epiphany Sunday

**Sunday, January 8**
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

After a glorious Christmas Season, we begin a new season: Epiphany. Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar story of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the Day of the Kings (Dia de los Reyes). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for the twelve days after Christmas. There will be an appearance by the Wise Ones, gifts for the children, and a special Epiphany party with a piñata following worship. This is an event for the whole family.
A Weekend Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The weekend of January 14-15 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 14 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 14 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on the Green

As part of our Hunger Vigil, 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 online beginning in December.

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday, January 15 at 11:00 a.m.

We gather on this Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Sunday to recommit ourselves to the principles, vision, and dreams of Dr. King.

During the 11:00 a.m. service, distinguished American baritone, Anthony Brown, a classically trained singer and international promoter of peace will present, I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in his Words and Songs.

Through song, Anthony will tell the story of Paul Robeson, who, in his time, was an exceptional athlete, actor, singer, cultural scholar, author, and political activist. Yet his radical political beliefs all but erased him from popular history. At the height of his popularity, Robeson was a national symbol and a cultural leader in the war against fascism abroad and racism at home. While admired by Eleanor Roosevelt, W.E.B. Du Bois, Lena Horne and Harry Truman, his outspoken defense of civil liberties made him enemies including Senator Joseph McCarthy, who sought to silence and discredit him.

Today, more than one hundred years after his birth, Robeson is beginning to receive the credit he is due and to be recognized for the courage and dignity with which he struggled for his own personal voice and for the rights of all people.
Annual Meeting Sunday Worship and Meeting

Sunday, January 22
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 2023, and celebrate the vision and possibilities of the year ahead.

Pet Blessing

Sunday, February 12
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. Each participant will receive a picture of themselves and their pet. There will also be a special part of the service to acknowledge the pets who died this past year. 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 Pierce Stith at adelaspozas@gmail.com for more information.

Mardi Gras Sunday

Sunday, February 19
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!

Following worship, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for a Cajun-style luncheon (free-will donation) with jambalaya, biscuits, slaw, and alleluia cake. Whoever finds the prize in the cake will be crowned “Keeper of the Alleluia” during Lent. Bring your family and friends.
WORSHIP
We are Out-of-the-Box People

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22
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 child-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.

The Season of Lent

It has been said that Lent is a time to “wipe our feet” before entering the glory of Easter by taking time for introspection, self-examination, and reflection. In this holy season, we offer opportunities to nurture your faith, grow your heart, be in community, and discover the depth and joy of Easter.

Prayer - Porridge - Presentation

Wednesdays, March 1-29
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Be with us each Wednesday evening in Lent as we share together in a time of evening prayer, some porridge (we promise it won’t be gruel but a delicious soup and accoutrements), and an opportunity to hear a brief presentation from one of our church members.

It was at the beginning of Lent in March 2020 that the global pandemic upended all of our lives. As we now come to the second anniversary of living with the virus, we have asked a member of the church community to share with us each evening a reflection on how these past two years have changed them, and what will stay with them about this unprecedented time in the years to come.

This time together offers the perfect peaceful break we need from the stress and noise of life around us, and to get to know one another while sharing in a time of community. Please join us!
Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Worship
Sunday, April 2
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for joyous worship as we begin our Holy Week journey by remembering Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. We will wave our palm branches and shout our hosannas!

Palm Sunday Processional
10:30 a.m. from Salvadore Park

Our celebration begins with a modern-day parade as we follow a donkey through the streets of Coral Gables, arriving to choirs and antiphonal trumpets. Meet at Salvadore Park, 1120 Andalusia Avenue, by 10:30 a.m. to walk in the processional. The shuttle bus will transport walkers from the church parking lot to Salvadore Park between 10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Online

As the sun is setting for the day, we gather in the rustic beauty of our sanctuary to recall the disciples with Jesus in the Upper Room for the last time. This special service weaves song, communion, prayer, and scripture into a beautiful tapestry of quiet reflection and thoughtful worship. A light soup supper will be served in Fellowship Hall from 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday, April 7
Noon in the Sanctuary and Online
Trilingual Worship in English, German, and Spanish

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 9

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

9:00 a.m. - Outdoor Family Easter Worship
On this most festive day, we celebrate the wonder of infinite possibility, of unquenched hope, and of eternal resurrection as we gather outdoors in the beauty of South Florida’s tropical paradise. This is a service that will touch all ages. Immediately following the service, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for children, a special reception for youth, and mimosas and Florida OJ for adults. Be sure to take your annual Easter photo at the flowering Easter cross.

10:00 a.m. - 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 Jesucristo nos concedió. Este es un momento increíble para compartir las buenas nuevas de Jesús en nuestra comunidad, en nuestro hogar y en esta congregación. ¡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 defiantly and meaningfully as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with full and grateful hearts. Bring your neighbors, friends, and family for a stunning service filled with resurrection joy through festive music, inspiring words, and thoughtful prayers. 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.

3:00 p.m. - German Language Easter Worship
Die Deutsche Christliche Gemeinde in Miami lädt alle herzlich ein, in diesem Familien-gottesdienst mit Abendmahl das älteste und wichtigste Fest im Kirchenjahr gemeinsam zu feiern: Ostern, das Fest der Auferstehung Christi!
Easter TOO Worship

Because one Easter service isn’t enough!
Sunday, April 16
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

It has been said that, as Christians, “we are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.” And as members and friends of Gables UCC, there is nothing we love more than a great celebration. So, let’s do it all again! On this first Sunday after Easter, we will sing our alleluias, hear the resurrection story, rejoice through word, song, and brass that Jesus is risen, and celebrate the fullness of Easter worship one more time!

The Gospel According To...

Sunday, April 23
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; Fleetwood Mac; and others. Who will it be this year? Mark your calendar for this very special, celebrative, and musical Sunday.

Jazz Sunday

Sunday, April 30
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, May 28
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

While it doesn't get the glory of Christmas or Easter, Pentecost is integral to our faith as it is considered the birthday of the Church. The day that the Church of Jesus Christ was birthed in the world for all people, regardless of culture, race, language, and all the other things that so often separate folks form one another.

So as a church that is always looking for a reason to party, we can’t think of a better one than the birthday of the church. Please join us for a morning that celebrates the music, prayers, rituals, and stories of our faith! And because it’s a birthday, there will be cake!
PRIDE Sunday with our Chancel Choir

Sunday, June 11
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

On this special PRIDE Sunday, the Chancel Choir will present *Considering Matthew Shepard*, a choral work by Craig Hella Johnson, a Grammy-award conductor and composer. Matthew Shepard was a young, gay student at the University of Wyoming who was kidnapped, severely beaten, tied to a fence, and left to die in a lonely field under a blanket of stars. Five days later, when Matt passed away, the world was watching. On the eve of the 20th anniversary of Matthew’s passing, Craig Hella Johnson responded with this meaningful work, *Considering Matthew Shepard*. Join us on this Sunday as we explore what it means to stand in holy Pride and our commitment to ongoing liberation.

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.
Music

With music, we express the things that are most meaningful in our lives, and find in its gifts a meaningful ministry of the church.

Adult Chancel Choir

Our Chancel 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 for worship, including special music for the Advent, Christmas, Lenten, and Easter seasons. We rehearse on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and hold extra rehearsals throughout the year to preview and get a head-start on new anthems. The songs of the church 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 rehearsal schedules, and worship participation dates.

No auditions – just show up with a song in your heart!

Adult Bell Choir

Our Adult Bell Choir rehearses on Sundays after 11:00 a.m. worship, with occasional bell choir retreats to get an advanced look at music for upcoming seasons. We play in worship monthly and at special services through the year. 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.

Music reading ability is necessary for Adult Bell Choir participation!
Children’s Music Ministry

Our children’s music ministry, under the ongoing and enthusiastic leadership of Alexandra Woods, is integrated into the Sunday School curriculum and sometimes culminates in sharing some of that music in our 11:00 a.m. worship service. The Christmas Eve musical presented at our Family Christmas Eve service delights us annually with the energy and enthusiasm of our young singers. As with all ensembles, watch the bulletin, *Laurie’s Lines*, and our social media platforms for upcoming dates.

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. There is a lot of fun, learning, and satisfaction to 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.
Sunday Morning Adult Spiritual Formation Classes

Sunday Mornings
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Simultaneously on Zoom
Refreshments and childcare always provided for the in-person program

Join other spiritual seekers each Sunday for a time to cultivate your own spiritual formation and explore our collective spiritual development. Our weekly offerings vary with topics and courses on the Bible, interfaith studies, book studies, contemplative practices, LGBTQ+ Bible study, to name just a few. We also have guest presenters, and we utilize a variety of media to enhance our shared learning experience. All are welcome. Find the most current study on our church website, the weekly Laurie's Lines email, or contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time

Sundays, September 18, 25, and October 2
9:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom

As children, many of us received a Bible and were told everything in it was true. Then we grew up. What was oh-so-simple then is...well, it's not simple. Many mistakenly believe there are no choices for reading the Bible other than fundamentalism or simply rejecting it as something that can bring meaning to our lives.

Using the title of the late Marcus Borg's seminal book on this subject, we will see how it is possible to reconcile the Bible with both a critical way of thinking and with our deepest spiritual needs as experienced through the sacred text.

During these sessions, we will examine the biblical texts that are often used to judge, sometimes condemn, and often marginalize the LGBTQ+ community, women, and other faith traditions. You are invited to join this study series to “firm up” your own faithful understanding of scripture. After all, it's in the Bible!

The Owl

The Meeting Owl Pro, affectionately nicknamed “Balthazar” after the Wise Man, is a piece of technology that we have been using for hybrid events. 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!
One Hundred Years: From Generation to Generation
Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going

**Sundays, November 6 and 13**
9:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom

The celebration of an anniversary reminds us that Christian people living in the midst of the world's history are like Janus of Roman mythology, who looked simultaneously forward and backward. Our look back at one hundred years of this congregation's life gives us courage and hope for the next hundred years. And while we have certainly been formed and shaped by our history, the meaning of that history is determined by the future and where it is leading us.

As we stand on the cusp of our 100th year as a church, let's take time to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and our dreams and hopes for the future.

For two 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 two sessions will lead us into our annual Commitment Sunday, when we re-commit ourselves to the work, ministry, and mission of Coral Gables Congregational UCC.

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**Lunchtime Bible Study**

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

Join one of our pastors for a time of fellowship and discussion on a specific Bible passage of their choosing. Find out why they chose that particular passage as you take an in-depth look at the verses with them. Contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org for the Zoom link.

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**Midday Devotions with Pastor Megan**

**Advent Midday Devotions via Zoom**
Tuesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

**Lenten Midday Devotions via Zoom**
Tuesdays, February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 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.
Theologian in Residence: Nadia Bolz-Weber

Saturday, November 19: Evening Talk with Q&A beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 20: Sermon at 11:00 a.m. Worship

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor and public theologian. She is the founder of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, CO, the creator and host of *The Confessional* and the author of three NYT best-selling memoirs: *Pastrix; The Cranky, Beautiful Faith Of A Sinner & Saint* (2013 and re-released in 2021), *Accidental Saints; Finding God In All The Wrong People* (2015) and *SHAMELESS; A Sexual Reformation* (2019).

For tickets and more information please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

Adult Confirmation

In our faith tradition, Confirmation is a program by which young people have the opportunity to make a *firm* decision whether they will claim the name Christian for themselves and will offer up their prayers, presence, gifts, and service as a member of the United Church of Christ. For years, adults who have not grown up in the UCC or even in the Protestant tradition; or who are just interested in a well-rounded survey course in Bible, church history, comparative religion, the United Church of Christ, ethics, mission, worship, and faith formation, have asked, “Is there an adult confirmation class?”

While it’s been a few years, we can once again answer, “Why, yes there is!” Beginning in September, the pastors will offer an eight-session adult confirmation class that will parallel the class schedule of our confirmation program for young people. We are using the “adult” version of the confirmation materials that the young people use. At the end of the year-long study, a special service of blessing will be offered to the participants. To receive the schedule, information, or to register, please contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.
Children and Youth

Bound by Friendship, Growing through Giving, Exploring our Faith.

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 on Sunday mornings to greet members and visitors. Register your child at gablesucc.org/cy-ministry-registration.

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.

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. 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, a.k.a. 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 enhancing 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.
Sunday School Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop Off: Infants through eighth graders will enter between 10:45 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 online, if they have not already done so. 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 Sunday School 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 10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. where they will be welcomed by their teacher.

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.

For information and to sign up for our weekly Sunday School email, please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.
**Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education**

Sundays, September 25 - November 6, 2022 from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
*Kindergarten through Second Grade: Room 4  
Fourth and Fifth Grade: Room 5*

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* is led by a trained *OWL* church member team and Pastor Megan.

Want to learn more? You are invited to attend a Parent Information Session on **Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m.** or **Saturday, September 10 at 11:00 a.m.**

For information please contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.

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**Bible Sunday**

*Sunday, November 27  
11:00 a.m. 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 statement of their growing faith development and as recognition of their 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.
Family Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9
Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Outdoor Family Easter Service on the Church Grounds
Toddlers through Fifth Graders

This is an annual celebration for children and their families. Come and enjoy the excitement of a traditional egg hunt and lots of family fun. Do not forget to bring your own basket. Questions? Contact MeganS@gablesucc.org.

Vacation Bible Camp

June 12-16
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
For Children Entering Pre-K 4 - Entering Sixth Grade in August 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!

Parent and Pastor Connection

The First Thursday of Each Month, October - May
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.
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 70+ 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 LGBTQ+ youth need.

- September - New Hairbrushes and Combs
- October - New, Full-Size Body Lotion
- November - Full-Size Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- December - Support our Angel Tree Outreach Project
- January - Deodorant
- February - Full-Size Shampoo Bottles
- March - Socks for Both Children and Adults
- April - Full-Size Body Wash and Bars of Soap
- May - Disposable Diapers in Sizes 4, 5, and 6

Please place your items on the Lotus House Table in Fellowship Hall, or send your items to Pastor Megan at Gables UCC via a delivery service like Amazon, Target, Walgreens, etc. Thank you for helping us support the homeless in Miami.

Annual Angel Tree Outreach Project

November 27 - December 18

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

Youth Confirmation Opening Retreat

Friday, September 16-Saturday, September 17

Confirmation is the program by which young people in 8th or 9th grade prepare to “confirm” the baptismal vows that their parents took for them when they were much younger. It is their chance to say “yes” to their baptism and for the church to say “yes” to their growing faith. This fall, we will start a new confirmation class, with an opening retreat in September. If your child is interested in confirmation, please contact Pastor Aaron.

Youth Group Kick-Off Cookout

Friday, September 23
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Courtyard and Fellowship Hall

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. Younger siblings are invited too. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends!

Middle School Friday Night Youth Group

Fridays, October 7, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, and May 5
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Youth Garage (1210 Catalonia Ave.)

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 14, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Youth Garage (1210 Catalonia Ave.)

Every month we gather for dinner, games, fellowship, and faith reflection. All high schoolers are invited! Friends are welcome too!
4 What’s Next: Middle School Mental Health

Sundays, October 9, 16, 23, and 30
11:00 a.m. in Room 5A

The WISE Ministry will be sponsoring a special Sunday School series on youth mental health for our middle schoolers. Designed by the Jordan Porco Foundation, this curriculum is designed to help prepare middle school students make the next transitions in their lives by teaching them skills that build resilience and coping, giving them valuable tools to handle the stress and distress of their lives. For more information, contact Pastor Lisa or Pastor Aaron.

Conference Youth Retreat

Friday, November 4 - Sunday, November 6

All middle and high school youth are invited to join with UCC churches from across the state of Florida for this fun-filled weekend! We’ll spend our time outdoors in fellowship with God and one another. Cost is $50 with scholarships available.

Christmas Luminary Making

Saturday, December 24
10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard

Come create the luminaries for our Christmas Eve worship services that will line the outside of our church with a radiant glow. Parents and friends are invited to attend as well!

MLK Hunger Vigil Volunteer Event

Saturday, January 14

All middle and high school youth can volunteer as part of our annual Hunger Vigil Food Drive. Throughout the day, we will have opportunities to receive donations, sort canned goods, pack bags, and sell baked goods.

Blessed Youth Book Study for Parents

During Lent, Pastor Aaron and Pastor Lisa will lead a book discussion using Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund’s book Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness with Children and Teens. In an effort to reduce the stigma and shame of youth mental illness, Lund shares stories from children, teens, and parents who have navigated this journey. She provides helpful information for parents, such as warning signs, resources, prayers, and tips for having age-appropriate conversations with youth.
Calling All Travelers

Sunday, October 30
12:15 p.m. in the Library

Got an itch to go traveling again? So do we! 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.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the church we have plans to visit some historic, meaningful, and important places to our church and to our faith. These are both domestic and international, so there is something for everyone. Come hear about the plans on Sunday, October 30 after worship in the Library, or be in touch with Pastor Laurie.

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)!

Expats and Vurchers

The Second Sunday of Each Month
12:30 p.m. via Zoom

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.
Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Third Sunday of Each Month
October - May
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Library

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. A light lunch will be served. There will be a welcome back gathering on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Pastor Laurie’s home. Email Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org if you would like to be added to the email list.

Sisters on Sojourn

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.

This year, two groups are forming: one for those who prefer Zoom and one for those who prefer gathering in person. For those on Zoom, you can just roll out of bed, stay in your pajamas, grab a cup of coffee, and join us from your home.

Those wanting to meet in person, pull on a pair of jeans and your favorite sweatshirt and join us at church for a little breakfast and the chance to be in solidarity and fellowship with a great group of women. (Added incentive: childcare is offered).

Watch all the places where we announce things for times and dates of these meetings or contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org and she will put you on the email list!

LGBTQ+ Luncheon for National Coming Out Day

Sunday, October 9
12:30 p.m. at Pastor Laurie’s Home

“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 11 at 12:30 p.m. for a national Pride Month gathering and luncheon at Pastor Laurie’s.
Thanksgiving Fellowship Lunch with Live Entertainment

**Tuesday, November 22**
**12:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

Join us for a special catered Thanksgiving luncheon with all the fixings including turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and of course, pie! The luncheon will include entertainment, as well as games, prizes, and a holiday sing-along. This is sure to get you in the Thanksgiving spirit. Cost for the meal and entertainment is only $12. There is also pick-up service if you need a ride to the church.

Hanging of the Greens

**Tuesday, November 22**
**Beginning at 4:30 p.m.**

Help us decorate the church for Advent/Christmas. Come when you can. All hands welcome!

German Christmas Market

**Saturday, December 3**
**Beginning at 3:00 p.m.**

If you enjoy German traditions like Octoberfest, you will love our authentic German Christmas Market. Support our German ministry and enjoy traditional German food, Glühwein, 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. Be sure to order your Advent wreath on the church website. Interested vendors should contact Yvonne Visser-Guerrero at VGYvonne@gmail.com. If you can volunteer, please contact Daniela Kuczurba at DanielaKuczurba@gmail.com.

9:00 a.m. Chapel Attendees Brunch

**Sunday, December 4**
**9:45 a.m. at Pastor Laurie’s Home**

Each Sunday morning, a faithful group of folks gather at 9:00 a.m. for worship in the Chapel. Since it is a smaller, more intimate group, we have gotten to know each other well through our shared prayers, the passing of the peace, and our weekly conversations. Now, let’s share a meal together. All 9:00 a.m. worshipers are invited to Pastor Laurie’s home for brunch. Let’s be in community with one another as we break bread (or pastries!).
Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18
Shuttle leaves church at 1:30 p.m.

Join us as we bring carols and good cheer to our home-bound members and friends. We will meet at the church at 1:30 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!

Three Kings Celebration

Saturday, January 7 from 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
$25 pre-sale (includes dinner, one drink and dancing)
$30 at the door to benefit our mission work

Let’s dance, sing and be merry Latino style ... well almost. Join us for the annual Three Kings Party and enjoy good, traditional Latino food, drinks, and music. Join us for contagious laughter, rhythmic music, swaying hips, and mouthwatering food that can only be washed down with mojitos prepared by the best bartenders around. Sorry, but this is an adult party. Childcare is not provided.

All-Church Picnic

Saturday, March 11
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Tropical Park

Join us for a time of fellowship and fun. There will be food, face painting, crafts, relay races, and music! So, bring your folding chairs, blankets, soccer balls, jump ropes, frisbees, and don’t forget your sunscreen!

Spring High Tea

Saturday, March 25
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
in the Catalonia House (1210 Catalonia Ave.)

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. Formal invitations are forthcoming!
I Want to Do That... Just Not Alone

This new group started 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.

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 our church. Periodically, we also host book clubs, social outings, and educational events. If you are a college student or young adult and would like more information, contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

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.

Gables UCC is also home to outside groups such as Rise Up Florida, Books and Books Author Events, Candlelight Concerts, and so much more. Visit our website for the most up-to-date information for upcoming community events.
Inquiring Minds Want to Know
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 relevance...
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 yet 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.

Out of the Darkness Walk to Fight Suicide

Sunday, September 18
9:00 a.m. at Tropical Park

Join the Coral Gables UCC Team for Mental Health in this family-friendly event of hope, healing, and help for those who need it. The walk is a united effort to end suicide, while showing up for yourself, recognizing and honoring those you love, and raising awareness about preventing suicide. Resources and information are available.

QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Tuesday, October 11
7:00 p.m. via Zoom

NAMI Miami will present this Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Training. This 90-minute program will teach participants the myths and the warning signs of suicide, as well as how to begin a conversation with someone who might be considering suicide, persuade them to get help, and the resources available.

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.
A Morning of Support for Those Living with Cancer

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.

#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.

Gables UCC Walking Group

Wednesdays,  
September 14 - November 16  
January 11 - May 17  
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 on Columbus Blvd. 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.

AA Groups

Tuesdays and Saturdays  
7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

These are open meetings, and all are welcome.
University of Miami/Gables UCC Therapy Study

Through a partnership with the University of Miami Graduate Psychology Department, we are pleased to offer three free therapeutic opportunities over Zoom.

General Group
Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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

SMI Group
Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

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

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS.

8 Dimensions of Wellness

EMOTIONAL SPIRITUAL INTELLECTUAL PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCIAL OCCUPATIONAL SOCIAL
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 concern to be prayed over by Called to Care, you may text it to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482.

Leave a Legacy of Guidance for Your Family and Friends

Sunday, February 26
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Havighorst Lounge

Perhaps getting organized is a New Year’s resolution for 2023? Maybe your resolution is to make some challenging but important decisions about life ahead of you and to assist your family by letting them know what would make a meaningful life for you even at the end.

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 this special luncheon 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 or view it online at gablesucc.org/service-planning.
Green Christians: Becoming a Creation Justice Church

This fall, our congregation will vote on becoming a Creation Justice Church. Much like when we voted to become Open and Affirming or a Sanctuary Church, this process includes education, discernment, prayer, and action for the healing of creation and our commitment to act for environmental justice.

On **Sunday, September 4**, we began the Season of Creation, a time in the liturgical calendar where we focus on God’s creation and our work for protecting the environment. After worship, we had a special educational session in Havighorst Lounge to detail the progress of our work on becoming a Creation Justice Church and to introduce the covenant.

The covenant is our commitment to live out the values of Creation Justice through our worship, prayer, building, policies, and action. On **Sunday, October 2**, we will vote on the covenant to be a Creation Justice church during our worship service. If you are interested in join the Green Christians, please contact Pastor Aaron.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing

**Saturday, October 8**
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 $20 per participant is welcomed to help cover the cost of the meals prepared. Register for a shift at gablesucc.org/rah.

Justice and Witness Fair

**Sunday, October 23**
12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Our congregation is blessed to work in partnership with a number of local organizations doing justice in Miami and beyond. Join us after worship in Fellowship Hall to meet some of these partners and learn about what they are doing and how you can be more involved. We plan to have tables from MUJER, Refugee Assistance Alliance, Miami Street Medicine, The Lucy Project, PACT, and more!
Thanksgiving Lunch Making Extravaganza!

Thursday, November 24
Meal Making 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Hygiene Kits 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Columbus Blvd.

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

February 2023

Help us build affordable housing in Miami with other congregations. Over 1,000 volunteers will join forces to build eight brand new Habitat homes in just two 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 or contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

Miami Beach Pride Parade

Sunday, April 16

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 congregation’s Open and Affirming status, as well as have a fun time marching in the parade!
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 Sunday - On Sunday, September 25, join us after worship as we gather in small groups to express the problems facing our lives and communities. Lunch will be provided.

Fall Action - In October, Gables UCC will organize with other congregations near us for a social justice action in our area.

Network Member Meeting - On Sunday, January 29, all Gables UCC Network Members gather to plan our strategy for getting our church members and friends to attend the Nehemiah Action.

PACT Rally - On Tuesday, February 28, our south Dade PACT congregations gather to rally our energy and plan the agenda for our Nehemiah Action.

Nehemiah Action - On Monday, March 13, over 1,500 Miami-Dade County residents will 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!

Food for the Soul

Throughout the year, the Board of Justice and Witness hosts lectures, presentations, or acts of service after worship. From climate change to world hunger to politics in Haiti and Cuba: we cover diverse topics that address the issues of our time and inspire our members to act. If you have an idea or suggestion for a Food for the Soul topic, please contact Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

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 cameras, 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.
Household Batteries Recycling Project

Officials state that it is safe to dispose household batteries in your trash, because a single battery contains only a small amount of toxic ingredients and, therefore, is not harmful for the environment. However, if you think about the fact that about three billion batteries are sold annually in the United States, then it becomes a totally different story.

We want to take a step forward in solving this problem and set up two recycling containers for household batteries. One is at the entrance of the Sunday School. The other one will be in the Fellowship Hall during weekdays and at the entrance of the Sanctuary on Sundays. So, please do not dispose of household batteries in your household trash, but bring them to church – and spread the word to get more community members involved. If you want to fund a household batteries recycling container ($100) to be set up in other locations please contact us at greenchristians@gablesucc.org.

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.”
Thursdays 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).

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 Attention: Pastor Megan at Coral Gables UCC, 3010 De Soto Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134.
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.

Be with us on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary as we partner with Books & Books in presenting Ibram X. Kendi, author, professor, anti-racist activist, and historian of race and discriminatory policy in America. In July 2020, he assumed the position of director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University and that same year was included in Time’s 100 Most Influential People. He is author of Goodnight Racism and Stamped from the Beginning, among many other books. We will follow up his presentation with a study on his book, How to be an Antiracist on Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Fair Trade MarketPlace

The Fair Trade MarketPlace is in its fifteenth 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 beautiful, unique, and affordable merchandise. Check the church website for our current hours.
Covenanted Ministries

Faithful partners in ministry to the community and beyond.

Community Arts Program (CAP)

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 Conservatory for the Arts and Miami Jazz Institute, and CAP Records®. With these, CAP provides South Florida children and youth, the community, and the world with access to outstanding music learning and listening.

As the Community Arts Program (CAP) engages in its FY2022-23 (September-August) season, it continues its Conservatory for the Arts and Miami Jazz Institute. With children and youth (ages 5-18) from over 53 Miami-Dade County Schools and varying socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, participants of all ability include children and youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Down syndrome, and other physical and emotional challenges. With over 30 CAP Teaching Artists, students attend CAP Saturday Music and Miami Jazz Institute sessions (one-on-one instrument study and classes in music theory, harmony, and composition) and Monday evening CAP Creative Strings I, II, and III; CAP Jazz PREP Band; and CAP ALL-STAR Jazz Ensemble rehearsals. With these, children and youth bring many musical interests, perspectives, and abilities that build greater, creative synergies and deeper understandings of each other’s differences and journeys. CAP also pairs teaching artists with licensed behavioral therapists to develop individualized learning plans. These ensure best practices, expert guidance, and results born through the lens of embracing how each student learns given their ability and need. CAP Records® is a grassroots label for releasing recordings by adventurous artists of distinction. It also provides CAP students with a platform for recording and releasing their work. The Community Arts Program (CAP) Conservatory for the Arts and Miami Jazz Institute is housed within the Church’s Early Childhood Center (ECC) and Arts & Education Wing. Five, free public performances by students take place throughout the year - in venues across Miami-Dade County, including the Church.

Each summer (June through August), the CAP Summer Concert Series and CAP Summer Master Classes bring Thursday evening concerts and Friday morning master classes. Artists performing and teaching are renowned classical and jazz musicians – from the brightest new to seasoned, GRAMMY®-recognized. The CAP Summer Concert Series and CAP Summer Master Classes take place in the Church’s sanctuary.

For more information about 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.
Early Childhood Center (ECC)

The Early Childhood Center is our NAEYC accredited preschool serving children ages 18 months 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.

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 Mariana Broadmeadow, our Life Events Coordinator, at 305.448.7421, ext. 114 or MarianaB@gablesucc.org.
Laurie’s Lines

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 Elena Korallis at ElenaK@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. Mairolet Vega, Spanish Worship................................................ info@gablesucc.org
The Rev. Lisa LeSueur, Assistant 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.......................................... Cabreraa25@att.net
Kris Coney, Sound Technician................................................................. info@gablesucc.org
Elaine Cottle, Volunteer Social Worker..................................................... info@gablesucc.org
Allen Feldman, Pew Organizer............................................................... info@gablesucc.org
Raul Hernandez, Volunteer Immigration Specialist............................. 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 and Reception Coordinator....................................... TonyP@gablesucc.org, ext. 100
Dennis Rodrigues CPA, Business Manager........................................... DennisR@gablesucc.org, ext. 130
Mariana Broadmeadow, Life Events Coordinator................................. MarianaB@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

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ
3010 De Soto Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33134
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
Gables UCC Campus Map

Locations
1. Sanctuary
2. Havighorst Lounge
3. Fellowship Hall
4. Kitchen
5. Courtyard
6. Fair Trade MarketPlace
7. Arts and Education Wing
8. Chapel
9. Office Wing
10. Library
11. Pastor Laurie's Home
12. Pastor Aaron's Home
13. Early Childhood Center
14. Catalonia House
15. Youth Garage

Key
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Restrooms
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

CORAL GABLES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Coral Gables, FL 33134
Telephone: 305.448.7421
gablesucc.org