CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, JUST PEACE, W.I.S.E., CREATION JUSTICE,
ANTI-RACISM, AND SANCTUARY CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOME

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

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

God is still speaking,

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

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ
3010 De Soto Boulevard, Coral Gables, Florida 33134-6317
Phone: 305.448.7421 ~ www.gablesucc.org

CCLI License # 11282912

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 16, 2022 *Our faith is over 2000 years old;* **11:00 a.m.**
Our thinking is not.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.
~Jim Watkins

Indicates all who are able may stand

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

THE WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Invite your family and friends around the world to worship with us online each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at gablesucc.org/live.
Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

Please know that your financial support of the church does great things not only within these walls but far beyond. If you wish to give on your mobile device today, please text "GABLESUCC" to 833.245.6434
or go to our church app. You can also give at gablesucc.org/give.
For those in the sanctuary, offering plates are at the front doors.

INSTRUMENTAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Festive Praise Susan Geschke
The Youth Handbell Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Children of God: welcome!
Many: Welcome to this place of love and grace,
One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.
Many: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,
One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:
Many: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.
One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Please remain standing for the opening hymn.

***OPENING HYMN** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: There are no strangers in God's House, just friends we have not yet met. Greet your neighbor with Christian love and let them know that you're glad to see them! And to those worshipping online, we are so very glad you are with us as well. Peace be with all of you.

Many: And also with you.

If you are in the sanctuary, offer a wave, bow, hand over the heart, smile, or nod to others.
If you are gathered with others at home, share words of peace with one another.
If you are worshipping individually, know the peace of Christ is with you.
Email, text, or message your family and friends and share the peace with them.

SUNG INTERLUDE from Taizé

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

THE GIFT OF MUSIC *Revelation 19* arr. Mark Hayes

The Chancel Choir; Seth Woods, percussion

Hallelujah, salvation and glory, honor and power unto the Lord our God.
For the Lord our God is mighty, and the Lord our God is omnipotent,
The Lord our God is so wonderful.
All praises be to the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords, is so wonderful.

THE GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 18:1-5* Scholar's Version

He told them a parable about the need to pray at all times and never to lose heart. This is what he said: Once there was a judge in this town who neither feared God nor cared about people. In that same town was a widow who kept coming to him and demanding: "Give me a ruling against the person I'm suing."

For a while he refused; but eventually he said to himself, "I'm not afraid of God and I don't care about people, but this widow keeps pestering me. So, I'm going to give her a favorable ruling, or else she'll keep coming back until she wears me down."

Friends, listen. God is still speaking!
Thanks be to God.

MORNING MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

CHORAL RESPONSE *Standing Firm* arr. Mark Hayes

The Chancel Choir; Seth Woods, percussion

Refrain: *Standing firm! On the rock of our Salvation, standing firm.*
For Jesus is the strong foundation, and in Christ we are secure.
Though we may not know what each day holds, we're standing, standing firm!

In our weakest moments, we're threatened by fear.
But God knows all earth's children and God keeps us near.
And though we may not understand, and we're tempted to run and hide,
our God still rules from heaven.

We know the Lord will listen and hear our cries.
In times of fiercest struggle, when darkness dims our view,
when we follow, trusting God, we will see what God can do!

For we will not be shaken, there's no cause for concern.
We'll fix our eyes on Jesus, and just stand firm.
Standing firm, for our God is with us,
standing firm, strongest in our brokenness,
standing firm in the midst of trouble
nothing is impossible! Let everybody trust God's Holy Word!

At this time, you may text your prayer requests to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or email her at 3059686482@vtext.com to be included in this morning's prayers and during the Called to Care prayer time on Wednesday.

MORNING PRAYERS AND OUR SAVIOUR'S PRAYER

Our Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

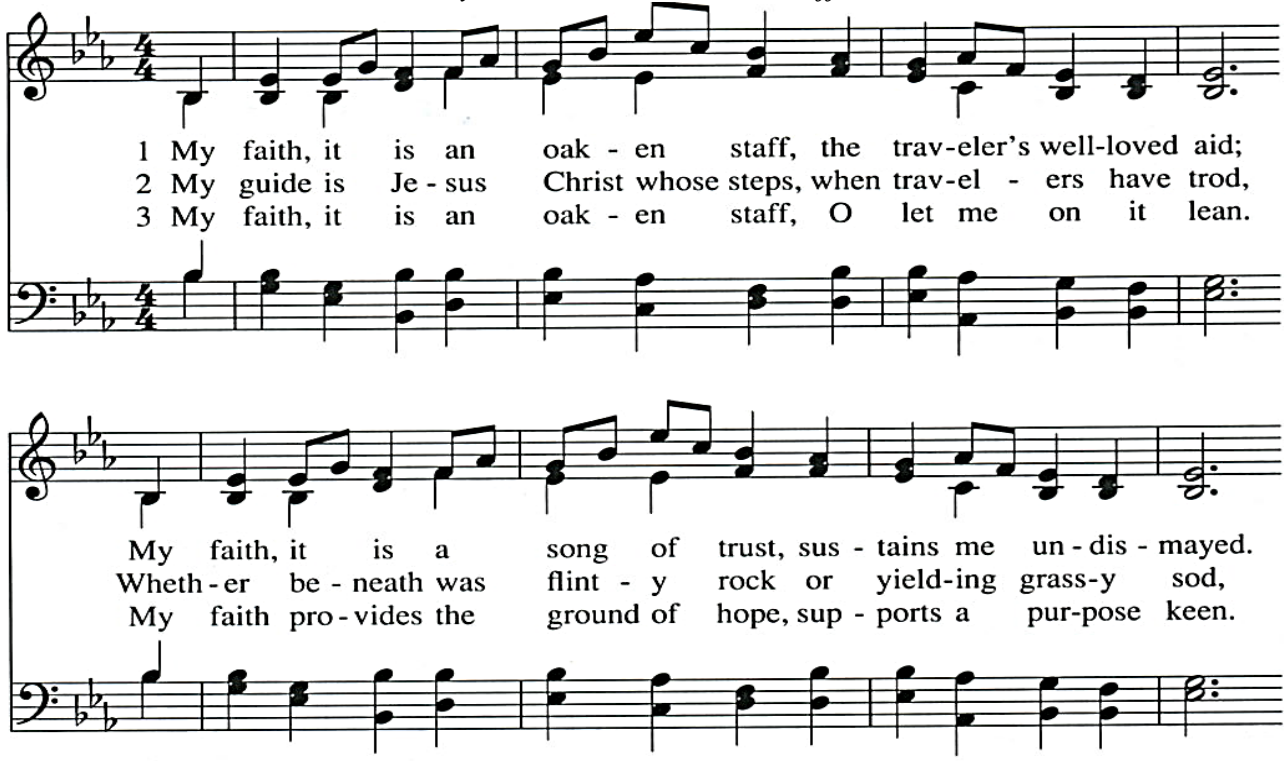
Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
With you no shadow of turning we see;
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

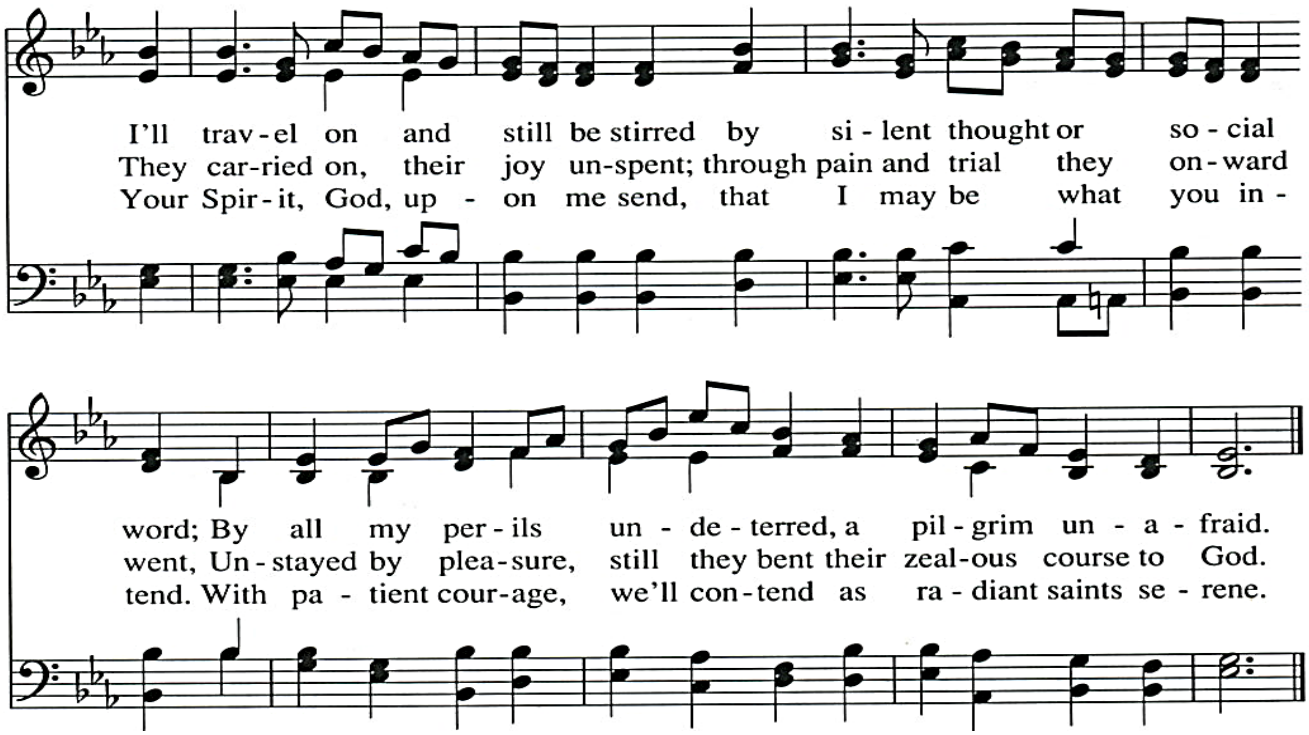
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

TESTIMONY Michael Maxwell

At this time, we invite folks to witness to the transformative, meaningful, or inspirational part this church has played in their life or to an experience that has meant something to them through a program or organization that is supported by Gables UCC. Please know that your financial support of the church does great things not only within these walls but far beyond into the larger world. If you wish to give online this morning, please go to gablesucc.org/give.

***CLOSING HYMN** *My Faith It Is an Oaken Staff*





***THE BENEDICTION**

Please be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE *Etude no. 6 in a minor* Paganini-Liszt

Following the service, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for our Connection Café.
Come, enjoy some refreshments as well as the chance to connect with others.

Visitors, we would LOVE to have you join us!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given by the Maxwell family in grateful living memory of Col. Earl Maxwell. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and mentor of deep ethical values, honor, and service to others above self. A humanitarian, he fought in three wars, so his children and the world could be free to wage peace and democracy.

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS

If you are visiting with us for the first time this morning, we welcome you. We are grateful we have found each other. And, if somehow, there is something in you, some still small voice seeking a place to live out your faith, to ask important questions, and to serve beyond yourself, we invite you into our community. For more information about the church or membership, please contact Pastor Laurie at 305.448.7421, ext. 116 or at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

We are also a large online congregation of expats from our congregation who have moved to places around the country and around the world, as well as folks who are actively involved in the church who have never set foot in our building, but are committed to our vision, values, and beliefs as a progressive, open-minded, and open-hearted Christian congregation. Whether an expat or "vurcher" (one who attends church virtually each week), please join us each Sunday for worship and for other programs and educational experiences online throughout the week.

No matter who you are or where you are in this world, you are welcome here.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP:

BOOK STUDY
***The Transgender Child* by Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper**
Sundays, through October 30 from 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
In-Person program in Havighorst Lounge

Ever since its initial publication in 2008, *The Transgender Child* has been lauded as the most trusted source of information for families wanting to understand and affirm their transgender, gender-expansive, or nonbinary child. Led by Kim Moore, this series is for anyone who cares about, or works with, a child who falls outside expected gender norms. Refreshments and childcare provided.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Sunday, October 16 at 12:15 p.m. in the Church 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.

MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT
Pierre Minn, author
Where They Need Me: Local Clinicians and the Workings of Global Health in Haiti
Sunday, October 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Haitian physicians, nurses, and administrative staff are hired to carry out global health programs, distribute or withhold resources, and produce accounts of interventions' outcomes. In their roles as intermediaries, Haitian clinicians are expected not only to embody the humanitarian projects of foreign funders and care for their impoverished patients but also to act as sources of support for their own kin networks, while negotiating their future prospects in a climate of pronounced scarcity and insecurity.

In *Where They Need Me*, Minn argues that a serious consideration of these local health care providers in the context of global health is essential to counter simplistic depictions of clinicians and patients as heroes, villains, or victims as well as to move beyond the donor-recipient dyad that has dominated theoretical work on humanitarianism and the gift.

Pierre Minn is an associate professor in the Departments of Anthropology and Social and Preventive Medicine at the Université de Montréal. His research interests include the moral dimensions of medical practice, transnational humanitarian aid, and global health education and practice. Books will be available for sale.

STAY IN TOUCH

Once a week or so, Pastor Laurie emails a pastoral letter, *Laurie's Lines,* to all members and friends, filling them in on the week's events, any special concerns that have arisen, and general church business. If you would like to be included, contact Elena at ElenaK@gablesucc.org.

OUR CHURCH APP

For all Apple and Android users, get your official Gables UCC App by going to the App Store or Google Play and downloading it. It's free! And it will keep you up-to-date and connected with church information, special announcements, calendar, and the staff. Need help? Contact Elena Korallis, our Communications Coordinator, at ElenaK@gablesucc.org.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember all those places of war, violence and unrest, as we continue to pray for peace for all people around the world. Today's prayers are especially with the people of Ukraine. A lighted candle on the altar symbolizes our prayers for peace, healing, compassion, and unity.

FOOD PANTRY

Your donations of food go a long way in helping the hungry of our community. Please drop off your bags of groceries at the church or you may also donate financially at gablesucc.org/give. Under the fund column, select "Food Pantry." We also LOVE getting boxes from Amazon or other places filled with canned goods.

FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

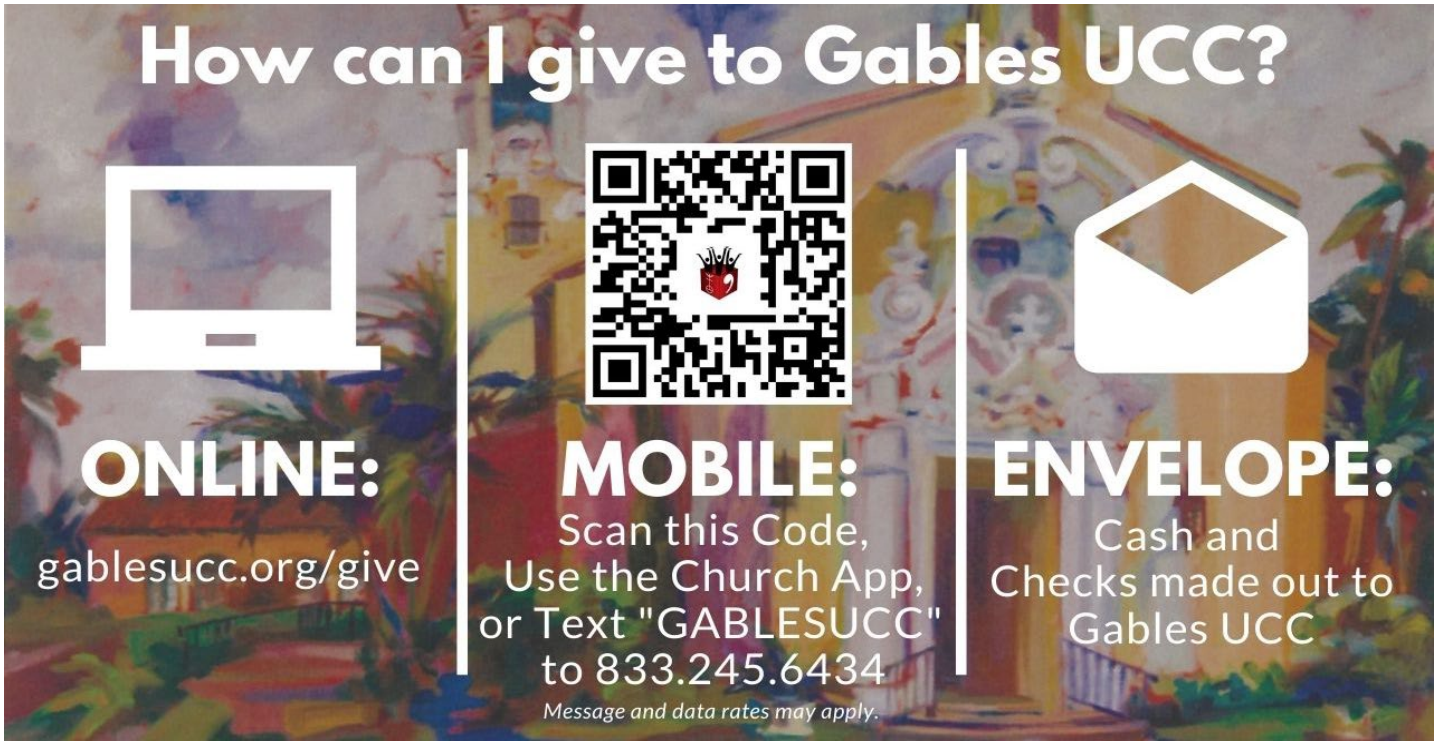
Open TODAY until 2:00 p.m.

New Fall Hours: Wednesday - Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Shop in support of our justice ministry. Each of your purchases helps artisans in developing countries build strong, local economies. These skilled workers are paid fair-living wages while crafting sustainable products that do not harm the environment. No child labor is used. Come, check out the beautiful and interesting hand-crafted items, clothing, and jewelry.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Weekly, the Called to Care Team receives prayer requests from church family and friends. Each **Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.,** they gather in prayer over Zoom to lift up these prayer requests, to pray for the church, and for the needs of the world. If you have a prayer concern to be prayed over by Called to Care, you may text it to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 or email Carol Fifield at miamifife@gmail.com.



LOTUS HOUSE

Our Sunday School children and youth are supporting Lotus House Homeless Shelter in Overtown, and we need your Help! In October, we are collecting new, full-size body lotion. Children may bring donations with them to Sunday School. Adults may leave donations at reception or ship them to Pastor Megan at Gables UCC via online retailers.

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, October 18 at 12:00 noon 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 Laurie for the Zoom link at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays, through November 16 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Pastor Megan, church members, and friends for a weekly walk around the Granada Golf Course and back, approximately 4 miles. We will meet outside our church's Fair Trade shop and leave the church together as we begin our walk. Friends always welcome! Bring a flashlight.

Sacred Conversations to End Racism

The journey continues

Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

We invite you to an all-church study of the book *How to be an Antiracist* by Dr. Ibram Kendi. Leading our conversation will be Dr. Edith Guffey, the former Associate General Minister and President of the UCC and one of the original authors of the UCC curriculum on Sacred Conversation. For the Zoom link please contact Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

GARDEN WARRIORS

Saturday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. on the Church Ground

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)!

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

4 What's Next: Because Change Happens

Sundays, through October 30 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 5

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.

BOOK STUDY

***The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching* by Thich Nhat Hanh**

Sundays through November 13 at 9:45 a.m. in the Catalonia Guest House

Join us for as we learn from the wisdom of Buddhism by reading *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching: Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy, and Liberation* by Thich Nhat Hanh. Each week, we will have in-depth discussions on how the teachings of Buddhism can enlighten our faith and help us grow in compassion and peace. Led by Bryan Hernandez.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sundays through October 30 at 9:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom

Join Pastor Aaron as we read Nadia Bolz-Weber's *Accidental Saints*, a book about finding God in all the wrong people. Bolz-Weber was the pastor of a Lutheran church in Denver when she wrote these stories of encountering God in everyday events and people. This class will prepare us for Bolz-Weber's lecture on Saturday, November 19. If attending on Zoom, please be in touch with Pastor Aaron at AaronL@gablesucc.org.

SISTERS ON SOJOURN

Saturday, October 22 at 9:30 a.m. at the Catalonia Guest House

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 to occasionally learn something. Pull on a pair of jeans and your favorite sweatshirt and join us at church for a little breakfast and the chance to be with in solidarity and fellowship with a great group of women. (Added incentive: childcare is offered if you let Pastor Laurie know). If you wish to be added to the Sisters on Sojourn email list for announcements about upcoming meetings or need childcare, please email Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

NEXT SUNDAY

Justice and Witness Fair

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!

CALLING ALL TRAVELERS

Sunday, October 30 at 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 after worship in the library or be in touch with Pastor Laurie.

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran pastor and public theologian. She writes and speaks about personal failings, recovery, grace, faith, and really whatever the hell else she wants to.

Saturday, November 19 7:00 p.m.

Bolz-Weber 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).

Sunday, November 20, 2022 during 11:00 a.m. worship, Nadia Bolz-Weber will offer the sermon.

Pre-Event Tickets:
$15 each through November 15

Event Tickets:
$25 each

Purchase your tickets:
gablesucc.org/nadia

3010 De Soto Blvd. Coral Gables, FL 33134 (across from the Biltmore Hotel)
Questions? Contact Pastor Megan at MeganS@gablesucc.org.