THERE'S A SEAT FOR EVERYONE AT GOD'S TABLE.

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

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

ALL are welcome to this time and place of worship.
Know that in this church you are welcome as you are and for who you are.

As followers of Christ, we are compelled by the Gospel to seek
reconciliation and wholeness in a world that is all too often an unloving place.
Therefore, whether you are gay, straight, or in-between;
whatever your country of origin or ancestry;
whether you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker;
in Christ's love, we welcome you, so that by the power
of the Holy Spirit we can work together to
usher in God's Reign of justice, peace, and mercy.

Whether you join us today in-person or online, please know that our worship
is enhanced because of your presence and participation.

There's a seat for everyone at God's table and at ours!

Pull up a chair, the simple command.
A turning point from standing still,
An offer made with open hand,
For stories shared and burdens spilled.

The table knows the silent ache,
The weight of sorrow, sharp and deep,
A place where grief here comfort takes,
And secrets that the heart would keep.

The table knows the joyous sound,
Of laughter that can fill a room,
Where new discoveries are found,
And new traditions start to bloom.

And so the invitation stands,
For all the world, or just for you,
To place your heart in loving hands,
And know that what is broken can be made new.

So come and take your seat at the table!

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

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

November 9, 2025 *Our faith is over 2000 years old; Our thinking is not.* **11:00 a.m.**

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Everyone is invited. Everyone is needed. Everyone has something to give.

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Gregory Taylor, piano

WORDS OF WELCOME

Please check in on Facebook or Instagram 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 and Instagram.

CHORAL CALL TO COMMUNITY

For Everyone Born arr. Tom Trenney

The Vocal Ensemble with Stephanie Jaimes, cello

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, beloved children of God, and rejoice!
Many: There is a seat for everyone at God's table—no one is excluded.
One: And there is a place for everyone here in this church family—
treasured and valued.
Many: Jesus welcomes all to feast on grace, love, and mercy.
One: Today, we gather in celebration of the open invitation of our Lord.
Many: Let us lift our hearts with joy and gratitude, for in God's presence and in this community, there is a seat for all!
One: Come, let us worship with gladness and praise!

***OPENING HYMN** *All Are Welcome* Marty Haugen

Sarah Davies, organist

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live;
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace.
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Continued…

Let us build a house where prophets speak
and words are strong and true;
where all God's children dare to seek,
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and a symbol of God's grace.
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat.
A banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: As people of faith, we recognize that we are called to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. In this spirit, our familia of faith extends hospitality and affirmation to all people regardless of race, cultural heritage, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, gender identity, physical or mental health, socioeconomic status, or religious tradition. Let us embrace our differences and welcome the stranger and the familiar with those in this space and those joining us virtually, by saying, "Peace be with you."

Many: And also with you

Please share words of peace or welcome with those around you.

During the passing of the peace, all children and youth through 8th grade wishing to attend Sunday School are invited to exit into the Fellowship Hall.
Childcare is available for children Pre-K and under in the Education Wing.

***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 SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 14:12-14* Translation: *The Message*

Then he turned to the host. "The next time you put on a dinner, don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You'll be—and experience—a blessing. They won't be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God's people."

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

THE MORNING MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner

CHORAL RESPONSE *Room at the Table* arr. Mary McCarty

The Chancel Choir with Alex Woods, soloist, Zach Bartholomew, synthesizer;
Rico Suarez, bass; Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Patterson and Seth Woods, percussion

You may text your prayer requests to Pastor Laurie at 305.968.6482 to be included in our morning prayers and the church prayer list which is prayed over by the Called to Care Prayer Team each week.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OUR SAVIOR'S PRAYER

You are welcome to use the language or words of your tradition or choice.

Our Creator, who is in heaven,
hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

Come and fill all my life, Come and fill all my life.
Each and every ten-der place: Holy Breath, move through me.

Come and fill all my life, Come and fill all my life.
Pouring gently, rushing strong; Holy Breath, move through me.

INVITATION TO GIVE, SERVE AND BELONG

Testimony: Anessa Ahamad

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.
Offering plates are available at the doors for your gifts as well.
Thank you for your generosity and support of the work and ministry of Gables UCC.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above the heavenly host
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepteed and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart,
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance for righteousness and bread.
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on,
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

***THE BENEDICTION**

One: May the grace of God fill our hearts with hope and openness.
Many: May we always remember that no one is left out,
and everyone has a place at God's table.
One: May we go forth equipped with a spirit of unity, hospitality, and faith, welcoming all with open hearts, trusting that the divine calls us to embody love and inclusion in all that we do. **Amen.**

***THE SUNG BENEDICTION** *Alleluia*

As we end our service, you are invited to join hands with your neighbor as an expression of our unity in Christ and lift them up in glory to God on the second verse.

***POSTLUDE** *Prelude No. 7, "Ce Qu'a vu le vent d'ouest"* Claude Debussy
Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

During the postlude, you are invited to come forward to the piano if you wish to enjoy the music. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for our Connection Café. A time to connect over conversation and refreshments. ***Visitors, we would LOVE to have you join us!***

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.

No matter who you are or where you are on your life journey, there is a seat for you here!

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. A lighted candle on the altar symbolizes our prayers for peace and unity.

TODAY…

Please be sure to visit our Justice and Witness Table in the Fellowhsip Hall to sign up for the shuttle to the prayer vigil at the cruelly named Alligator Alcatraz next Sunday. More information on page 11 of this bulletin.

NEW YOUTH CHOIR

We are so excited to announce a new youth choir for middle school and high school youth! We kick-off our rehearsals **TODAY**, **November 9 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. in Room 5A** as we prepare to sing for Christmas Eve and other occasions

FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE:
Open TODAY 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. ~ Located outside the Fellowship Hall

Come and 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 used.

EXPATS AND VURCHERS GATHERING
TODAY, November 9 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
Whether you are living 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 and support group.

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. Email Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org for the Zoom link.

GERMAN MINISTRY: ST. MARTIN'S LANTERN CRAFTING AND PARADE
St. Martin's Lantern Crafting
TODAY, November 9 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Come and make your St. Martin's lantern for our lantern parade. We will be selling five-piece lantern kits on a first-come-first-served basis. The cost is $10 cash or $11 credit card. Bring canned goods or other items to share with our church food pantry. All are welcome!

St. Martin's Lantern Parade
Tuesday, November 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Bring your lantern for our yearly St. Martin's lantern parade. We will begin with the story of St. Martin, a play, and a sing-along in the church. Then we will parade around the church and meet up again in the courtyard for the famous Bread Men (Stutenmaenner) pastries. Admission is $10 cash or $11 credit card per family. All proceeds go to the church's food pantry. Stutenmaenner will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis for $5 cash or $6 credit card. All are welcome!

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.

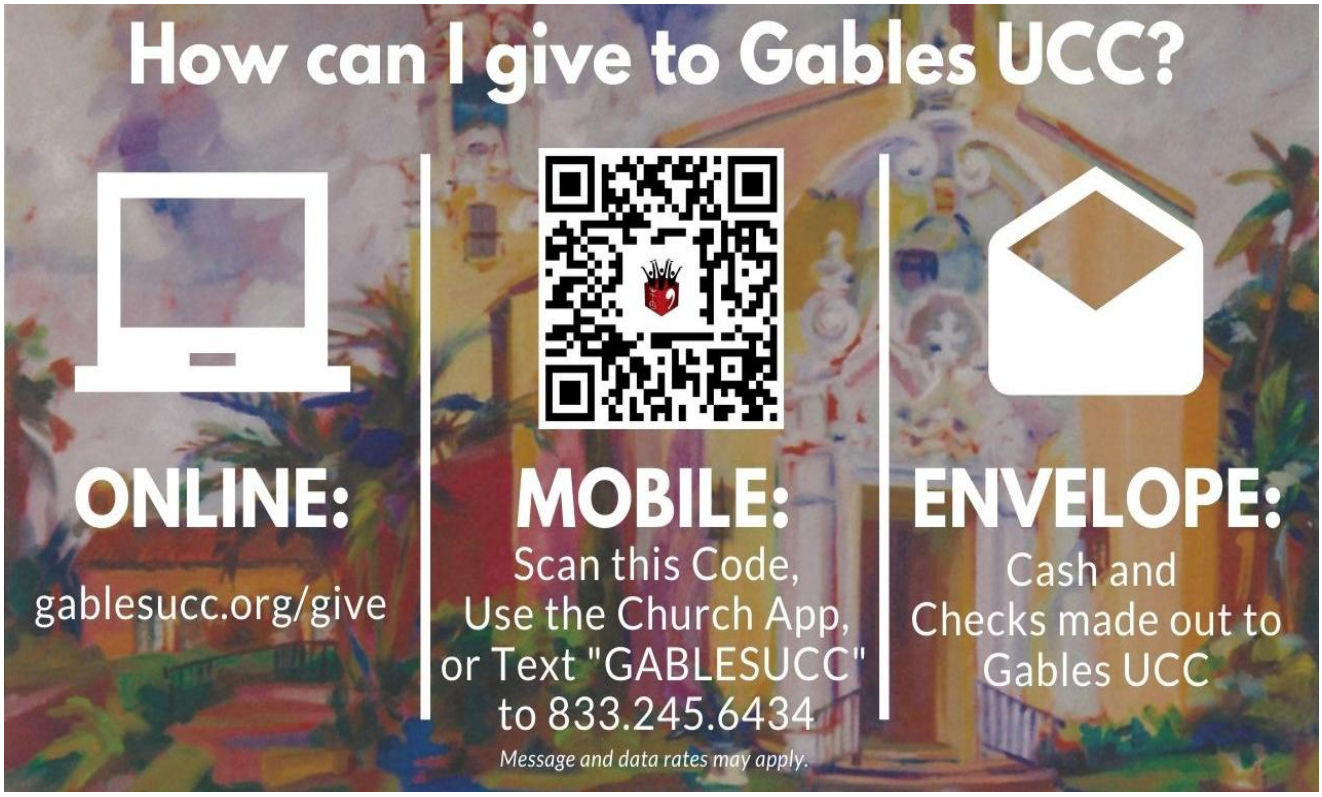
CHURCH APP

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.

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW…
How do I become a member of the church?

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 our next Inquirer's Gathering **on Saturday, November 15 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** in the Church Library. Join us for a light lunch and the opportunity to learn what it means to be a member of Gables UCC, to discover our rich history, and what we value and believe. Please let Pastor Laurie know you are coming at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.



Please know that your financial support of the church does great things not only within these walls but far beyond. Offering plates are also available at the doors for your gifts.

Thank you for your generosity and support of the work and ministry of Gables UCC.

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, the Called to Care Coordinator at miamifife@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY

We are always in need of non-perishable food for our food pantry especially in these difficult times as SNAP benefits have been eliminated. We rely on our church members, family, and friends to provide the needed donations for the many Miamians suffering with food insecurity.

We have created an Amazon wish list to make donating even easier! Please go to *Laurie's Lines* for the link. If you prefer to shop in-person, please drop off donations at the church reception. You may also donate financially at gablesucc.org/give. Under the fund column, select "Food Pantry."

LOTUS HOUSE COLLECTION

Our Sunday School children and youth are supporting Lotus House Homeless Shelter and need your HELP! Every month, we will be collecting a different item that the women, children, or LGBT+ youth need. **In November, we are collecting new hairbrushes and combs.** Children may bring donations with them to Sunday School. Adults may leave donations at the church reception desk or ship them to Pastor Megan at Gables UCC via online retailers. Thank you for helping us help the unhoused in Miami.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Monday, November 10 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Church Library

We continue to meet through the summer to knit or crochet beautiful prayer shawls to share with members of our church family who are ill or starting a new chapter in their lives. You do not have to know how to knit or crochet – someone will teach you. Come and help wrap someone in God's love by creating a beautiful prayer shawl.

MIDDAY STUDY: WOMEN OF THE TORAH

Tuesday, November 11 at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

Using the book *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne* by our 2025 Visiting Scholar, Rev. Wil Gafney, PhD, we explore the stories of the women in the Torah. Womanist Midrash is an in-depth and creative exploration of the well- and lesser-known women of the Hebrew Scriptures. To receive the Zoom link, please be in touch with Pastor Megan.

WALKING GROUP

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Megan, church members, and friends for a weekly walk around the Granada Golf Course and back, approximately a 5K or three miles. We will meet outside our church's Fair Trade shop on Columbus Blvd. and leave the church together as we begin our walk.

HAITI MISSION POSSIBLE

Join Us for a Powerful and Informative Documentary: The Creole Pig

Wednesday, November 12 in Havighorst Lounge

6:00 p.m. - Haitian light fare and Rhum Barbancourt cocktails

6:30 p.m. - Movie screening followed by discussion

Join us for this powerful documentary, directed by Dudley Alexis, that traces a direct link between the rise of today's urban gangs to the eradication of the Creole pig, known in Haiti as the farmers' bank. Featuring interviews with farmers, economists, educators, and political analysts, the film delves into Haiti's history and politics to unpack the profound impact of this tragic event. RSVP to Geneviève at GenevieveS@gablesucc.org or sign-up in the Fellowship Hall **TODAY.**

I WANT TO DO THAT JUST NOT ALONE…

Join us at we go to the FIU Art Museum for the Exhibit:

Harmony of Nature and Art: The Bridge of Spiritual Connection **on Thursday, November 13**

This exhibition brings together works by artists from Florida and Japan, including traditional Noh masks by master carver Hakuzan Kubo, netsuke miniature sculptures from the Frost Art Museum collection, paintings by the Florida Highwaymen, and works in a range of media by contemporary artists. The shuttle will leave the church at **10:30 a.m.** or you can meet us there at **11:00 a.m.** The museum is located on the FIU Modesto Maidique Campus, 10975 SW 17th Street, Miami, FL 33199. We will have lunch at the museum café. Please email Geneviève to reserve your seat on the shuttle GenevieveS@gablesucc.org

Join us also as we go to GableStage to see *Left on 10th*

Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. - Reception; 7:30 p.m. - Showtime

This is a fundraiser for WLRN and Gables UCC members and friends are invited. Join in a pre-show reception at 6:30 p.m. at the theatre and then at 7:30 p.m. for the final dress rehearsal of this charming adaptation of Delia Ephron's best-selling memoir of a second chance at life, and love. Purchase your ticket at Gablestage.org and use code UCC25 to receive your special-priced $25 tickets.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Friday, November 14 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a time to hang out, talk, eat snacks, plan our summer trip to Germany, and just be together in a safe space. All senior high youth and friends are welcome.

SISTERS ON SOJOURN

Saturday, November 15 at 9:30 a.m. at Catalonia House

All women, regardless of age, are invited to join in this relaxed and easy-going group coming together to hear each other's stories, provide support and encouragement, and to occasionally learn something. If you wish to be added to the Sisters on Sojourn email list for announcements about upcoming meetings, please email Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room

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 for a safe and confidential place to find mutual support and care.

NEXT SUNDAY: A SPECIAL SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED
For ALL Church Members
Sunday, November 15 at 9:45 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and on Zoom

Join Pastor Laurie us as we dream together the future of Gables UCC. This is an exciting opportunity to share your heart and help shape the direction of our ministry, missions, outreach, and witness. Together, we can dream bigger and work harder to fulfill God's calling to build a church that impacts lives now and for generations to come. Childcare is available.

INTERFAITH VIGIL
The Cruelly Named "Alligator Alcatraz" is Not Closed!
Come witness with us as we pray for a just approach to immigration.
Sunday, November 16: Shuttle Leaving Gables UCC at 2:00 p.m.
Vigil from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We are returning to Alligator Alcatraz, this place of inhumane treatment, built on sacred and protected grounds, to pray for and remember those detained, and to witness to our justice-seeking, mercy-giving faith. On Sunday, November 16, once again Gables UCC will lead the vigil while being joined with other faith communities from across the state. If you have any questions, please be in touch with Pastor Laurie. All are welcome to this peaceful gathering. You can meet us there or ride our church shuttle. Please register for the shuttle at Laurieh@gablesucc.org.

DR. GREGORY TAYLOR IN CONCERT
Friday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
A freewill offering will be gratefully received.

GIVE MIAMI DAY
The Centennial Campaign is Coming to Give Miami Day!
You can donate Saturday, November 15 through Thursday, November 20.

Please make a gift to stop the roof leaks and finish all of the projects that celebrate the beauty and community spirit that are the hallmarks of Gables UCC. Your gift of $25 and above is matched by $25, increasing the impact of your gift. Please go to the Give Miami Day website and put in Coral Gables Congregational Church or click the link in *Laurie's Lines* this week.

THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, November 25 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 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 $20. There is also pick-up service if you need a ride to the church. Just let Pastor Laurie know. RSVP at gablesucc.org/lunch.

Check this week's *Laurie's Lines* for ways you can volunteer on Thanksgiving morning which includes setting up, meal packing, delivering meals, packing shower kits, baking pies, and so much more.

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