HONORING
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY

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 the worship of God
is enhanced because of your presence and participation from wherever you are….

ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 14, 2026 *Our faith is over 2000 years old; Our thinking is not.* **11:00 a.m.**

THE COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH

There are still many causes worth sacrificing for, so much history yet to be made.
~ Michelle Obama

GATHERING MUSIC

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

WELCOME

The Rev. Megan Smith

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 and Instagram.

CHORAL CALL TO COMMUNITY

Hymn to Freedom arr. Paul Read

Chancel Choir with Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Woods, percussion

WORDS OF COMMEMORATION

Harold Bunton and Alice Keller

***OPENING HYMN** *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Inspired by witnessing the Union troops and their fervor for the cause, Julia Ward Howe wrote these lyrics in 1861, during the Civil War. The song portrays the Union as a force of righteousness, fighting to end slavery and restore the nation. Since then, this song has been used in various social movements throughout history, including the Civil Rights Movement. It continues to be performed and referenced in contemporary discussions about justice and faith.

Choir and Congregation:

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on.

Chorus:

Glory! Glory hallelujah! Glory! Glory hallelujah!
Glory! Glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

Men:

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
God's day is marching on. (Chorus)

Women:

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before His judgement seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. (Chorus)

Vocal Ensemble:

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make all holy, let us live to make all free,
While God is marching on. (Chorus 2X)

Choir:

Amen. Amen.

Please remain standing for the passing of the peace.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: When we say peace be with you, we are also saying: justice be with you, mercy be with you, compassion be with you, love be with you, and God be with you. And so my friends, "Peace be with you and so much more."

Many: And also with you.

Please greet one another with words of welcome and peace.

All children through 5th grade wishing to attend Sunday School are invited at this time to exit into the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is available for children Pre-K and under in the Education Wing. Middle School and High School students may stay in worship today.

SUNG INTERLUDE Tune: *Gift of Love*

Come, let us dream God's dream again.
Come, one and all, let us ascend,
the mountaintop where those of old
saw God's new day on earth unfold.

THE GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 4: 16-19*
The Rev. Melanie Marsh

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Friends listen. God is still speaking.
Thaks be to God.

REFLECTION
Alice Keller and Harold Bunton

CHORAL ANTHEM *Wade In the Water* arr. Mark Hayes
Vocal Ensemble with Jon Dadurka, bass; Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Woods, percussion

REFLECTION
Alice Keller and Harold Bunton

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM THE ANTI-RACISM STATEMENT

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.

~Statement of Commitment to the Work of Anti-Racism
Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ, July 2020

***ANTHEM** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* arr. Greg Gilpin

Chancel Choir with Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Woods, percussion

Choir and Congregation

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmony of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Choir

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers signed?

Choir and Congregation

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, let us march on,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Choir

Let us march on!

REFLECTION

Alice Keller and Harold Bunton

ANTHEM *Soon We Will Be Done* arr. Kyle Pederson

The Vocal Ensemble with Greg Taylor, piano

Done with hatred and done with war;
Come lift the lonely, come lift up the poor.

Soon we will be done with the troubles of the world
When heaven comes to earth.
No more weepin' and wailin'
When heaven comes to earth.

Done with the racism, and sexism, and all the isms and prisons that bind us.
That blind us from the hurt of another

I want to be done,
With addiction, with any affliction that takes a hold and won't let go
And speaks in lies and fiction.
I want to be done,
With the things that divide us instead of unite us,
Like the walls we build, the hate instilled,
We fill with judgment inside us.
I want to be done,
Done with the violence, and the silence when facing injustice,
But I wonder if you'd trust us if love was our compass

Soon when we come together, when WE stand up for each other,
We WILL offer these hands and feet and BE love and compassion and grace;
Come heaven to earth, oh, Thy will be done.

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 the Called to Care Team prayer list which is prayed over weekly.

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 glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Jack Schrader

Chancel Choir with Jon Dadurka, bass; Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Woods, percussion

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MOMENTS OF GRATITUDE

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.

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Shall Overcome*

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll walk hand in hand someday.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace someday.

*BENEDICTION

One: May the blessings of freedom and liberation rest upon us all. May the spirits of those who have witnessed to and fought for the liberation of people, guide us, and may their struggles inspire us to continue building a more just and equitable world.

Many: We pray for healing, reconciliation, and unity, and that the legacy of Juneteenth will be one of hope and progress for generations to come.

One: May God bless you, and may God bless our nation, for all of our people.

Many: Amen.

***THE SUNG BENEDICTION** *Alleluia*

As we end our service, you are invited to join hands with your neighbors, then lift your hands up in paise to God on the second verse.

***RECESSIONAL** *This Little Light of Mine* Traditional

Greg Taylor, piano; Jon Dadurka, bass; Seth Woods, percussion

Following the service, we invite all church members and friends to stay seated for a brief update on the Centennial Campaign.

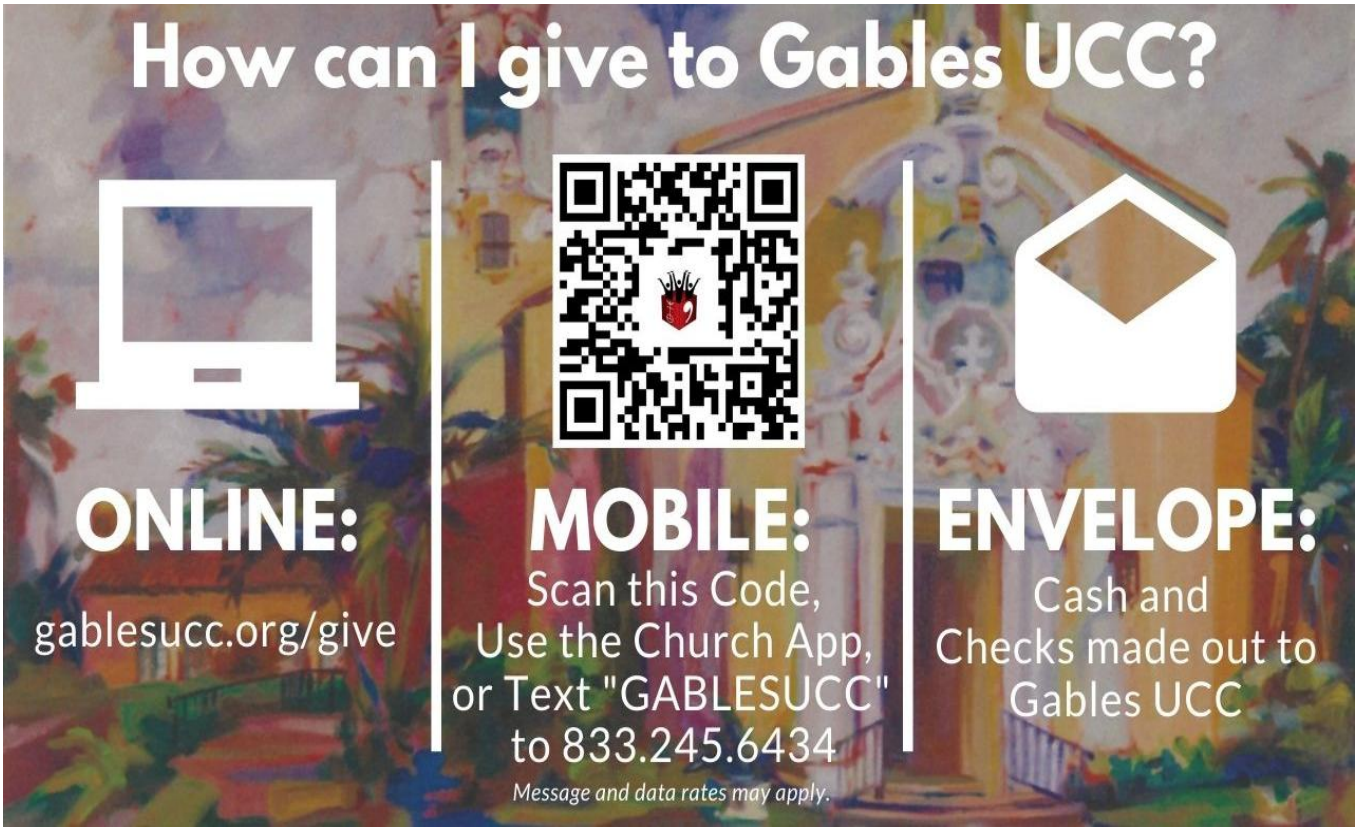
Then, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for our Connection Café.
A time to connect over conversation and refreshments.
Visitors, we would LOVE to have you join us!

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.

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 on your life journey, you are welcome here.



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 is used.

TODAY…

A COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH

We gather on this day to commemorate Juneteeth and to recommit ourselves to being an anti-racism church. Juneteenth marks the end of slavery in the US and is the oldest known celebration honoring the enslavement of people of African descent. While Juneteeth celebrates freedom, it also reminds us of the many ways in which the legacy of slavery still lives in our national life. We remember that many promises of freedom were not kept; that we have yet to live up to our ideals of "liberty and justice for all."

THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS TABLE

Please visit the Justice and Witness table in the Fellowship Hall follow worship this morning to register to attend the vigil at the cruelly named Alligator Alcatraz on **Sunday, July 5 at 4:00 p.m.** The church shuttle will leave at **2:00 p.m.** Once again Gables UCC will lead the vigil while being joined with other faith communities from across the state as we pray for and remember those detained, and witness to our justice-seeking, mercy-giving faith. If you have any questions, please be in touch with Pastor Laurie.

We also invite you to sign the petition available at the table to help expand access to life-saving Medicaid coverage, giving working Floridians the care they deserve.

EXPATS AND VURCHERS GATHERING

Sunday, June 14 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. For the Zoom link, please be in touch with Pastor Laurie.

SERVE A MEAL AT CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP

Sunday, June 14 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Join members of Gables UCC in serving a meal for residents at the downtown location of Chapman Partnership, a shelter for people experiencing homelessness. We will carpool from the church at 4:00 p.m. or you can meet us there, serve at 5:00 p.m., and then we will help clean up. To RSVP, please contact Zilkia-Marie Denis McNabb at zdeni001@gmail.com.

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 to raise your family…
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, please be in touch with Pastor Laurie at LaurieH@gablesucc.org.

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.

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 COLLECTION

We are collecting non-perishable food for our food pantry. 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! You can shop online here: https://gablesucc.org/pantry/ If you prefer to shop in-person, please drop off donations at the church reception. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need!

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

***The Bible With and Without Jesus:* A Book and Video Series**

Sundays, through June 28 from 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom

Facilitated by Pastor Megan

In this book and video series, esteemed Bible scholars and teachers Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Z. Brettler take readers on a guided tour of the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts. Passages include the creation of the world, the role of Adam and Eve, the Suffering Servant of Isiah, the book of Jonah, and Psalm 22, whose words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," Jesus quotes as he dies on the cross.

NEXT SUNDAY: MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 21 at 11:00 a.m.

As we often humorously say, on this day we honor and appreciate our choirs and instrumentalists by making them sing, ring, and play more! It's always a beautiful, festive, and awesome day as our choirs share with us some of our favorite (and theirs) anthems and music from throughout the year before they take a well-deserved summer break.

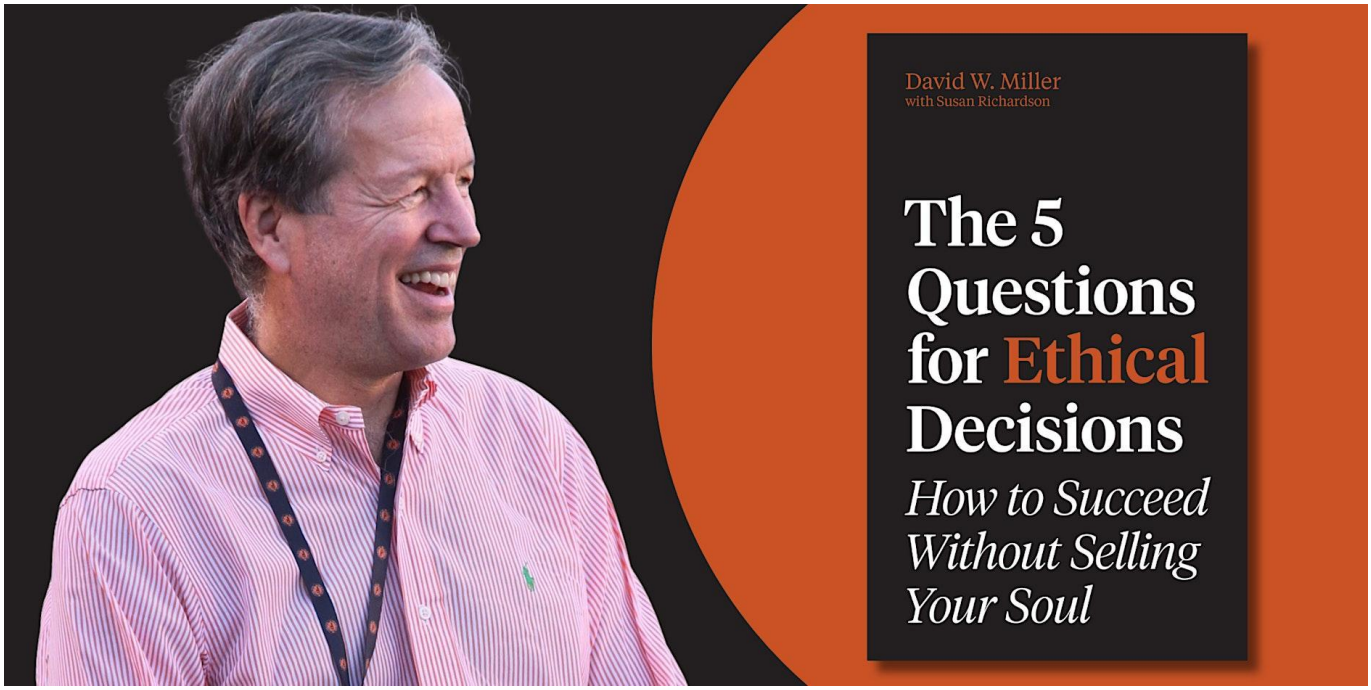
Please join us for a music-filled morning!

THE ELEPHANT RETURNS THIS SUMMER!
Sundays in August

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 to not have to change ourselves… kind of like that proverbial elephant in the room or, in this case, in the pew.

Email, text, or call Pastor Laurie to ask your question. She just might preach on it! Then join us after worship on these Sundays in Havighorst Lounge and Zoom for the Sermon Feedback Café.

AUTHOR PRESENTATION
Thursday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Books & Books Coral Gables



Join us for an evening with author and Gables UCC friend David W. Miller for the release of his new book, "The Five Questions for Ethical Decisions." This event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase the night of the event. An RSVP grants general entry, but seating is not guaranteed, so please try and show up early. Please RSVP at the Books and Books website.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
A Very Special July Fourth Weekend Service and Celebration
Sunday, July 5 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

As our nation marks its historic 250th birthday, how do we navigate our dual callings to be both deeply faithful and actively engaged citizens? On **Sunday, July 5**, join us for a special worship service addressing the sacred, messy, and necessary intersection of faith and politics. Then be sure to join us following worship for a special party including ice-cream, hotdogs, lemonade, and of course, Cortadito! There will also be a pool party for the kids! Watch for future updates.

Summer 2026

In-Person Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)

Sundays, June 14–August 9, 12:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m., Retreat: Saturday, August 15

CORAL GABLES UCC and MIAMI MINDFULNESS invite you to deepen your awareness, resilience, compassion and connection

JOIN US for the internationally renowned Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Program pioneered by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn in 1979 at UMass Medical.

MBSR is an evidence-based, experiential, 10-week health intervention (Orientation, 8 classes and Day Retreat) that teaches practices, skills and mindful living. Over 47 years of research studies demonstrate positive improvements in symptoms, attitudes and behaviors.

Reduce anxiety… depression… chronic pain… reactivity… physical, psychological & emotional distress. Improve immune function… awareness… focus… memory… executive function… emotional regulation… compassion… ease of being… resilience… and balance in busy lives.

- Weekly, "in-person" sessions, Sundays, June 14 - August 9, 12:30 - 3:00 pm. Day Retreat on Saturday, August 15, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. *Minimum of 12 participants required.*
- Program includes classes, guided meditation audio files and workbook.
- Registration required. Please register: gablesucc.org/MBSR
- Fee: See Registration above. Some scholarships may be available for those in need.
- Coral Gables Congregational Church, 3010 De Soto Blvd., Coral Gables, 33134
- Contact Valerie at ijourney@att.net or 305.968.0534.

Teacher: Valerie York-Zimmerman, Senior MBSR Teacher & Trainer, awarded certification by The Center for Mindfulness at UMass Medical School – Affiliated with the Mindfulness-Based Professional Training Institute (MBPTI) at University of California San Diego where she is a Teacher, Trainer, and Mentor for teachers-in-training – Former Member of and advocate for the International Mindfulness Integrity (IMI) Network, a global network informing the ethics and standards of mindfulness training and teaching.

MIAMI MINDFULNESS

CORAL GABLES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTERFAITH VIGIL

OUTSIDE THE CRUELLY-NAMED

ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ DETENTION CAMP

Sunday, July 5

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

54575 Tamiami Trail E (Rt. 41)

People of faith and conscience from across Florida are invited to gather outside the detention center to pray and witness against the inhumane and unconstitutional treatment of our neighbors.

The bus will leave Gables UCC (3010 De Soto Blvd) at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to reserve a seat, please sign up at **gablesucc.org/vigil** or using the QR code above.

All are welcome to this peaceful gathering. Park on the side of the road near the detention center.

JUNE 11 – AUGUST 20, 2026

Thursday, June 11
Empire Wild
Epic genre-busting cellists! From Bach and Gershwin, to the Beatles and beyond!

Thursday, June 25
Langston Hughes II
Remarkable saxophone player. An evening of pure, traditional jazz joy!

Thursday, July 9
Warren Wolf
Outstanding vibraphone artist. Celebrate America250; Americana jazz and surprises.

Thursday, July 23
Leonela Alejandro
Multi-award-winning classical guitarist. Powerful and energetic!

Thursday, August 6
Clayton Stephenson
Van Cliburn artist. Dazzling and brilliant!

Thursday, August 20
Kate Kortum
2025 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition first-prize winner!

Community Arts Program
2026
SUMMER
CONCERT SERIES
41st Year

Reserve your tickets today, before they SELL OUT!
305.448.7421, EXT. 120 / CommunityArtsProgram.org

Tickets $35 - $50
Packages Available

7:30 p.m. Concerts at:

Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ
3010 De Soto Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(Across from the iconic Biltmore Hotel)
Free & Convenient Parking

LADY SUZANNA P. TWEED AND CARLETON TWEED CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF ANTI-RACISM
July 2020

Black Lives Matter. This is a truth we speak to ourselves, to the Church, and to the world as we witness racism continue to take the lives of Black people in America.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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