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.

From wherever you join us today, whether in-person or online,
please know that the worship of God
is enhanced because of your presence and participation ….

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 12, 2026 *Our faith is over 2000 years old;* **11:00 a.m.**
Our thinking is not.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In You O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame.
~ Psalm 7:1

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

We Are Called arr. Mark Hayes
Nicole Bartholomew, Hernan Degouveia, Brandon Mowry, Alex Woods
with Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Woods, percussion

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—
Many: outsiders and insiders,
old-timers and new-comers,
the young, old and the in-between.
One: Come as you are, for this is God's house—a house of prayer for all people.
Many: God welcomes each one of us in this place.

***OPENING HYMN** *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's new creation shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb,
the wolf shall like down with the lamb.

The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace;
The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea, the sea,
as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn grow wild, grow wild,
the brier and the thorn grow wild.

God bring to fruition your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or destroy,
That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy,
your people shall go forth in joy.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Friends, this is a place of peace, a place where all are welcome. Let us greet one another as a sign of that peace and our shared friendship by saying, *"Peace be with you."*
Many: And also with you.

If you are in the sanctuary, offer a wave, hug, handshake, smile, or nod to others.
If you are worshipping individually, know the peace of Christ is with you.

At this time, all children and youth through 5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School.
Please go to the Fellowship Hall and you will be taken to your classrooms.
Note: Childcare is available each Sunday for children pre-K and under in the Education Wing.

SUNG INTERLUDE *Halle, Halle, Halleluja!*

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 4:21-20*

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

THE MORNING MESSAGE

The Rev. Melanie Marsh

GIFT OF MUSIC *We Can Be Kind* arr. Kirby Shaw

Nicole Bartholomew, Hernan Degouveia, Brandon Mowry, Alex Woods
with Alex Woods, soloist; Greg Taylor, piano; Seth Woods, percussion

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 on the church prayer list which is prayed over by the Called to Care Team during the week.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSING WORDS

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 may also give at gablesucc.org/give. For those in the sanctuary, offering plates are at the doors.

***THE DOXOLOGY**

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

***HYMN** *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

The church of Christ in every age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
Must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

***BENEDICTION**

***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 in C Minor Op. 23 No. 7* Sergei Rachmaninoff

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

Following the service, we invite you to come to the piano to enjoy the postlude. 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.

TODAY: GREEN CHRISTIANS

Plastic Free July ~ Join the Movement!

The Green Christians invite you to take part in **Plastic Free July!** Stop by our table in Fellowship Hall after worship on **Sundays, July 12 and 26** to discover simple, impactful ways to cut down on plastic and care for God's creation. Plastic Free July is a shared global movement that helps millions of people to reduce plastic waste through simple, everyday choices and be part of the solution to plastic pollution. Let's be the change. Let's be Green Christians

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: IMPROV GROUP

Sunday, July 12 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5A

Come learn all about improv! Led by church member Jeff McNabb, co-founder and artistic director of the Parliament Room (an Improv group based in downtown Miami), Jeff has eight years' experience as an Improvisor and coach. All are welcome, any age.

TODAY: SERVE A MEAL AT CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP

Sunday, July 12 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. Please note: Anyone who volunteers at Chapman Partnership must be registered with them as well. Please go to their website and register before your date of volunteering.

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.

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.

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!

SING IN THE SUMMER CHOIR

Sundays, July 19, August 9, August 23
Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

If you love to sing… but think you can't… or you can… the chancel choir is for you! This summer, try us on! We guarantee a fit! Come as you are and join us. We gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for rehearsal, prior to the 11:00 a.m. service. For more info, contact Music Ministry Coordinator, Dr. Charmyn Kirton at 305.448.7421, ext. 121. After the Summer, you'll fall for us!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

How Congregational Music Shapes Faith, Community, and Justice

Sunday, through July 26 at 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in Havighorst Lounge or on Zoom

This series explores how congregational music shapes faith, community, and justice through the hymns, anthems, and musical practices of Gables UCC. Led by Nicole and Zach Bartholomew, the series combines stories, discussion, live musical demonstrations, and reflections on why music remains central to Christian life.

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? Folks have submitted their questions about the Bible, church, theology, ethics, and life, awaiting an honest and personal answer back from Pastor Laurie through her Sunday sermons in August. As always, these questions are intriguing, thoughtful, challenging, and this year, a bit whimsical. Be sure to join us in August for worship, followed by Sermon Feedback Café and your chance to share how you would respond.

WORSHIP WITH US EACH WEEK
One Church ~ Three Congregations:

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - We gather 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 calls us to our authentic selves. Join us online at 11:00 a.m. at gablesucc.org/live.

10:00 a.m. Spanish-Language Worship - Spanish language worship is available each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Under the leadership of Pastora Mairolet Vega, the congregation is a warm, supportive, and caring community of those who enjoy worshipping in Spanish.

German Language Worship - If you are part of a German-speaking family or would like to worship in German come and join us for services, Bible studies, and cultural activities conducted in German. For more information contact germanministry@gablesucc.org.

A TIME WITH OUR THEOLOGIAN IN RESIDENCE

JULY 13 - 16

BIBLE & BEER:
SCRIPTURE, THE FOUNDING, AND THE MYTH OF CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

MONDAY, JULY 13 FROM 7:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M. AT PASTOR LAURIE'S

Grab a pint and dig into the Book. Join Theologian in Residence Brandan Robertson for an evening of honest, unhurried conversation about the Bible verses invoked at America's founding and how they've been twisted into the modern movement we now call Christian Nationalism. Rev. Brandan will walk us through the history, deconstruct the theology, and help us reclaim a faithful reading of these texts that doesn't require empire, nationalism, or fear. Come with questions, doubts, and an open mind.

VURCHERS MEETING WITH REV. BRANDAN

TUESDAY, JULY 14 FROM 5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

Rev. Brandan, also known as the "TikTok Pastor," will be meeting with our Vurchers group, our congregation's online community, to talk about how we can continue building this group, be in deeper relationship with one another across the miles, and strengthen our online presence. We hope you'll join us for this important conversation about who we are and who we're becoming together online. Contact Pastor Laurie for the Zoom link.

TIME WITH REV. BRANDAN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 FROM 8:30 P.M.–10:00 P.M. IN HAVIGHORST LOUNGE

Join us after the Books & Books event with Ocean Vuong in our sanctuary for further conversation and reflection around his new book, "The Emperor of Gladness." We will discuss with Rev. Brandan what it means to "exist on the fringes of society and to reckon with the wounds that haunt our collective soul," the theme of Vuong's new book.

Tickets for Vuong with a book are available at gablesucc.org/bnb. If you wish to attend the author event at 7:00 p.m. without a book, please register with Pastor Laurie. Please note that tickets are limited and you must RSVP either with Books & Books or Pastor Laurie for entrance into the author event.

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM:
A FAITHFUL PROGRESSIVE RESPONSE

THURSDAY, JULY 16 FROM 7:00 P.M.–8:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL

Christian nationalism is shaping our politics, our churches, and our headlines but what is it actually, and where did it come from? Join Rev. Brandan Robertson in conversation with Dr. Greg Koger, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Hanley Democracy Center at the University of Miami, as we unpack the history, theology, and political strategy behind this movement, and explore what a faithful, progressive Christian response looks like in this moment.

Whether you're trying to make sense of the news, navigate conversations with family, or figure out your own faith and political understanding amid all the noise, this conversation is for you. Come ready to learn, ask questions, and leave with some hope.

CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL UCC STAFF DIRECTORY
305.448.7421 (Extensions listed below)

Ministers
All Members of the Church

Ministry Team
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. Lisa LeSueur, Assistant Pastor for Congregational and Staff Care
LisaL@gablesucc.org ext. 150
The Rev. Melanie Marsh, Assistant Pastor for Emerging Generations
MelanieM@gablesucc.org
The Rev. Brandan Robertson, Theologian in Residence
br@brandanrobertson.com
The Rev. Mairolet Vega, Spanish Language Worship Mairoletvega@gmail.com

Program Staff
Mark Hart, Exec. Dir. of the Community Arts Program MarkH@gablesucc.org ext. 120
German Language Worship Information GermanMinistry@gablesucc.org
Brooke Bagnall-Koger, Director of Early Childhood Center
BrookeB@gablesucc.org ext.315
To contact Early Childhood Center, please call: 305.444.9792

Support Staff
Mariana Broadmeadow, Life Events Coordinator MarianaB@gablesucc.org ext.114
Anthony Cabrera, Minister of Liturgical Arts Cabreraa25@att.net
Kris Coney, Sound Technician info@gablesucc.org
Allen Feldman, Pew Organizer
Elena Garcia and Raul Hernandez, Daily Hospitality Team
Dr. Charmyn Kirton, Music Ministry Coordinator CharmynK@gablesucc.org ext. 121
Elena Korallis, Communications Coordinator ElenaK@gablesucc.org ext.113
Cristina Morales, Children's Choir Director CristinaM@gablesucc.org
Seth Patterson, Youth and Adult Bell Choir Director smpatter@samford.edu
Dennis Rodrigues CPA, Business Manager DennisR@gablesucc.org ext.130
Geneviève Savain, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor
GenevieveS@gablesucc.org ext.153
Dr. Gregory Taylor, Parish Musician Gregpiano1@aol.com

Maintenance and Custodial Team
Rene Dominguez (Lead Custodian)
Jesus Balladares, Eddie Oviedo, and Hortensia Piloto Lopez

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.

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.