THE CHURCH OF MY HEART

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
Matthew 6:21

GIVING FROM THE HEART TO THE CHURCH OF MY HEART....

You are invited to consider prayerfully your own pledge to the ministry of Coral Gables Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and as you are able, to grow your giving each year.

Thank you for your faithful generosity!

The CGCC Stewardship Team

Coral Gables Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
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There are many things in life that will catch your eye, but only a few will catch your heart...pursue those.

William Nelson

GOOD NEWS

Come and see.
John 1:38b

We think we have good news to share of a church that has a bold witness and safe sanctuary: of a place that proclaims God is still speaking, and extends hospitality to all those seeking a church home. Your giving spreads the Word and deepens our reach, showing the way for new generations finding a path to our door: The Good Tidings and Laurie’s Lines...membership classes and new member dinners...CGCC in the news and community relations, Still-speaking ads and a banner out front... handwritten notes and personal invitation...

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here...It’s about helping others find their heart!
Everyone knows that I love to tell the story of Coral Gables Congregational Church, and most of the time I use words. In the pulpit, The Good Tidings, and Laurie’s Lines, not to mention personal conversation and public speaking, I love to share the marvelous ministry that thrives here in this congregation. God is indeed still speaking, and still doing great things, right here in our midst!

Each January, we provide a detailed budget for the coming year that lists our projected income and expenses. Those lines and numbers tell the story, too, in their own way. This booklet, however, is still another way to describe the amazing things that happen, day in and day out, here at CGCC, because of your generous and faithful giving to its ministry.

We hope these pictures and words paint a beautiful family portrait of our church – not a still-life portrait, but a vibrant and inspiring image – a motion picture, really – that will draw you in and encourage you to spend thoughtful, prayerful time considering how God is calling you to give back a portion of what you have received, in gratitude and commitment, in compassion and care.

I want to thank you for your extraordinary generosity throughout the years and for the many ways you share your time, your talents, and your treasure here. Watching you each day, giving so generously, is like watching a great miracle unfold.

May each of you say of this place, “this is the church of my heart.” And in turn, give from your heart.

Blessings and gratitude

Pastor Laurie
HOME

O God, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.

Psalm 26:8

Your giving opens our doors and sets the table for so many feasts: dinners and pancake breakfasts, coffee cups and Mardi Gras beads... church administration, copying and computing, custodial care and landscape maintenance...equal access for all: ramps, chairlifts, and accessible restrooms...space for the Community Arts Program and the Early Childhood Center...community meetings and neighborhood forums...

Open hands, open minds, open doors...it’s about opening your heart!
WORSHIP

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

John Newton

It’s the heart of our faith community, in the church of our hearts. Your giving provides what is needed for sacred space to embrace sacred time: bread and cup, flowers and candles, air and light...great music – both brass and jazz, choral voices young and old raised in praise...worship bulletins that keep us all on the same page, fine preaching amplified by a sound system...worship thoughtfully prepared and prayerfully led that speaks to our intellectual, emotional, and spiritual lives.

Word and Sacrament, and the work of the people...It’s about heart!
EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.

Emma Goldman

Growing hearts and minds, youthful wonderment and a legacy of wisdom, nursery games and grown-up discovery, telling the story and hearing it anew. Your giving sustains our teaching ministry: Sunday School, Sunday Morning Adult Study...Book Club, Movie Night, Bible Study and Mystic Monday...Lenten and Advent Series and Praise, Prayer and Potluck...youth activities and Confirmation classes, a lending library and outstanding speakers...

Our faith is over 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not...It’s about engaging your heart!
COMMUNITY

We shall overcome, we’ll go hand in hand, we shall live in peace someday: Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, our God will see us through someday.

Traditional

As a welcoming and inclusive Christian community we open our life to all who seek to journey with us. Believing in radical hospitality, we grow intentionally in our welcome by breaking down barriers regarding race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. Rooted in the United Church of Christ we make a spiritual home for all that find themselves in exile and we pledge ourselves to greater connection with the whole church as it seeks to create a Christian community of compassion and care.

*Hospitality and celebration, the life of the church...It’s about having heart!*
OUTREACH/WITNESS

Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

I John 3:18

Because we, as a church community, are committed to an informed and intentional Christian life, we engage in meaningful outreach and develop significant partnerships within the broader community. We provide opportunities for individuals to identify their gifts, engage their passions, be challenged in faith, and grow in real service. Our call is to enhance and encourage learning and spiritual growth that impacts the world beyond our walls. We address the immediate needs of others by compassionate giving and confront oppression by seeking justice.

Work and prayers for the world...It’s about sharing your heart!