



# THE WORD

MIAMI BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH  
MARCH 2019

**REFLECTING AND HONORING OUR PAST WITH RENEWED ENERGY  
AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE**



## **MIAMI BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH PREPARES FOR ITS SECOND CENTURY OF FAITH AND SERVICE ON LINCOLN ROAD**

WE CONTINUE WITH OUR MULTI-LAYER RESTORATION OF OUR CAMPUS ON LINCOLN ROAD. A FULL RESTORATION OF OUR 1921 SANCTUARY – OUR LOVELY MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL BUILDING, DESIGNED BY FAMED ARCHITECT WALTER DEGARMO AND BUILT ON LAND DONATED BY CARL AND JANE FISHER.

AS MBCC APPROACHES OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN 2021, IT IS OUR HOPE AND PASSION TO CONTINUE TO SERVICE OUR COMMUNITY WITH RENEWED ENERGY, VISION, FAITH, LOVE AND A FULLY RENOVATED CAMPUS FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

Church services are being provided in Hice Hall during construction. Entrance is at 1620 Drexel Ave. We hope that you join us on this journey and help us to make new memories, friendships and traditions. **We are a church of the open door, open mind and open heart – Miami Beach Community Church.**

*Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.*

Isaiah 40:30-31

# GREETINGS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF MBCC



## **A Time of Reflection**

Spring is drawing near and the Lenten season has arrived, a time for spiritual renewal. It's traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. We have been given this wonderful opportunity during lent to draw closer to God and to receive the overflowing of his grace. We open our hearts to God first by allowing him to take charge of our lives and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. Secondly, by reading God's Word, fasting and prayer which helps us to grow spiritually.

Lastly we get to share in this extravagant welcome of God' love one to another. To show that same agape love which is sacrificial and unconditional. This is what Jesus gives to us each day of our lives. It is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. 1st Corinthians 13: 4-8 reminds us that, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails."

As we journey together to Good Friday and Easter let us remember the ultimate sacrifice Jesus gave for humanity. Jesus paid it all, and all to him we owe. Now that's love!

Many Blessings,  
Minister Cynthia Lee  
Designated Term Pastor





# RESTORATION UPDATE

## Miami Beach Community Church

The interior column restoration is almost completed. Due to the condition of the columns, it was necessary for each column to be restored one at a time instead of simultaneously as originally plan. This was the cause of some of the delays.



Replacing the roof and exterior repairs are ongoing



Restoration continues on the exterior north cast stone frontispiece.

**Estimated Completion of the Sanctuary - Summer 2019**

# New Member Orientation

March 17, 2019  
12:00 Noon  
Church Office

April 7, 2019  
12:00 Noon  
Green Library

Come join our community of faith and make our church your spiritual home?

*Meet Pastor Cynthia Lee and the Deacons after the service*



# New Member Welcome

March 24, 2019  
12:00 Noon  
Green Library

April 14, 2019  
12:00 Noon  
Green Library

For More Information Please contact Theresa Trantina @ 305-538-4511

Or

Check out our website at [www.miamibeachcommunitychurch.com](http://www.miamibeachcommunitychurch.com)

Or

Email [contactus@miamibeachcommunitychurch.com](mailto:contactus@miamibeachcommunitychurch.com)



# WHAT IS LENT?

We are now in the midst of Lent and many ask *what is Lent?* Lent is a time set aside to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer. It is the time of year, which we are reminded of what Jesus did for us. Christ's sacrifice and his subsequent resurrection are the true "cruxes" of the Christian faith. Without one there would be no salvation, without the other, no hope. We open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession of sins, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week. Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modeled after Christ's forty day fast in the desert. The 40 days are set aside to really examine areas of recurring sin in our lives that prevent us from being conformed to God's Will. The goal is to honestly examine your life in light of God's Word and to make a commitment to change in any areas you have not submitted to the Lord.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139: 23-24

## **Prayer:**

Prayer is our conversation with God. It is through prayer that we find the strength to fast or accomplish any goal we may have. It is through prayer that we develop a closer, more intimate relationship with God. This relationship makes us so grateful for the blessings he has bestowed upon us that we eagerly give to those less fortunate than us. Prayer is essential to any action we as Christians may undertake.

## **Fasting:**

Fasting is a way of denying ourselves the excesses of life so that we might be more attuned to the Lord's voice. It is also a way of disciplining yourself, strengthening your "spiritual muscles" so to speak, so that when temptations arise in life, you are already used to saying "no" to our desires. And finally, fasting is also a way of participating, in a small way, in the sufferings of Christ and can be particularly powerful when accompanied by prayer and confession. When thinking of fasting always take into account any medical conditions or nutritional needs when deciding what and how much to abstain from (consulting with a doctor is recommended).

## **Charity/Almsgiving:**

A very important element of the Lenten season is becoming aware of not only the suffering and sacrifice of Christ but also to the suffering of others. Between now and Good Friday, choose one way you can increase your giving to those in need. It could be through extra financial offerings, donating goods you no longer need or use to charity, or increasing your personal time commitment to a ministry or cause close to your heart.

**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2019**

**Join Us for  
Sunrise Service  
6:45 am**

The Beach and Lincoln RD

(For those interested, we are  
meeting at the church at 6:30am to  
walk down to the beach together)



**Easter Sunday  
Service  
10:30 a.m.  
Hice Hall**

*Celebrate the  
Risen Lord!*

The background is a dark blue field with a light green border. It features several stylized Easter eggs: one at the top center with purple polka dots, one at the bottom center with purple polka dots, one on the left side with a purple and yellow chevron pattern, and one on the right side with a purple and yellow chevron pattern. There are also yellow and purple floral shapes in the corners.

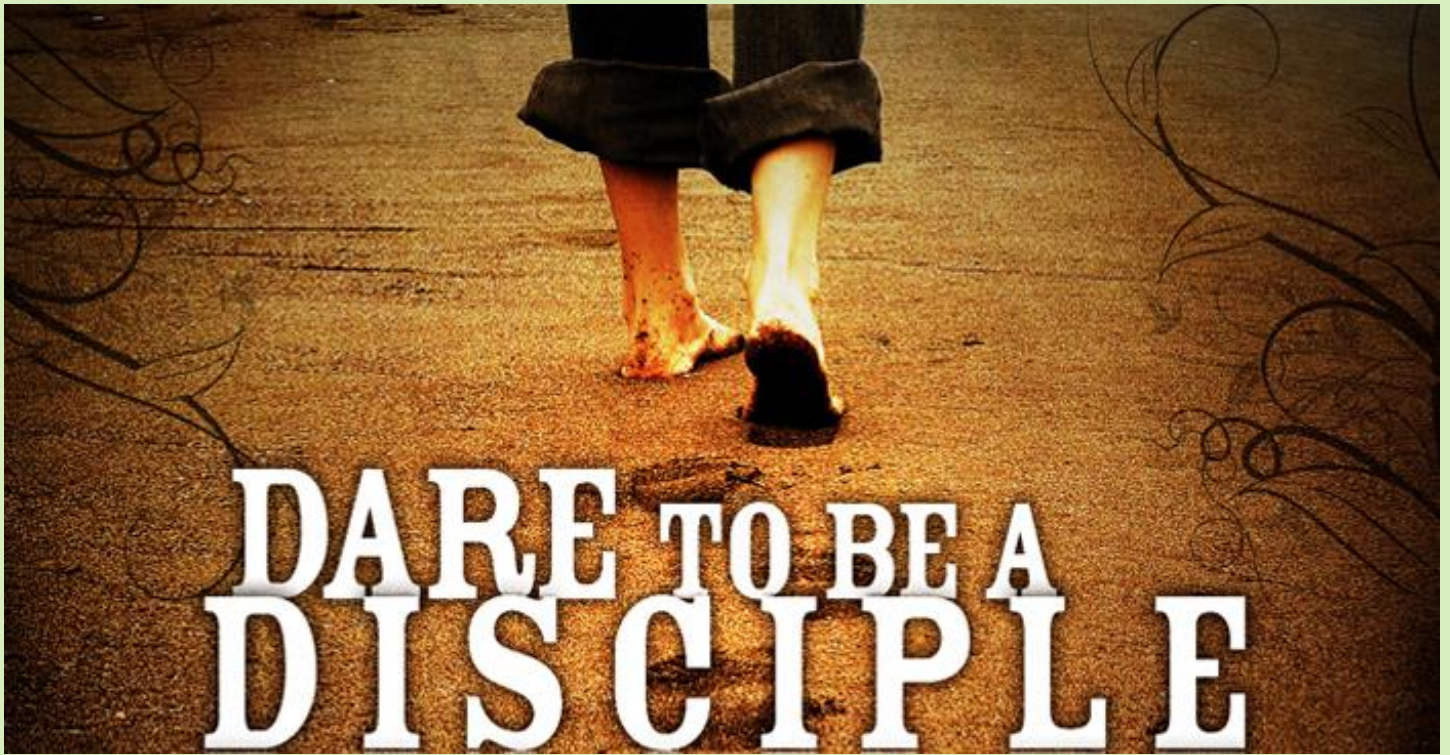
MIAMI BEACH  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT!

*Let's celebrate Easter Sunday  
with a community gathering!*

APRIL 21, SUNDAY  
12 NOON  
MEMORIAL GARDEN

Baskets will be provided for the kids  
and there will be a special appearance  
by the Easter Bunny!



**THURSDAYS**

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**GREEN LIBRARY**

**DISCIPLESHIP CLASS**

**Let's discuss the Bible openly, honestly,  
and without judgement**





# Inspirational Message

God is good in ways beyond our knowledge. We don't always see the good that God is doing behind the scenes. Sometimes what appears as trouble is not trouble at all.

When is trouble not trouble you ask? When it protects us from an unknown hazard on the road ahead, or shelters us from a sin that, unknown to us, lurks in our path waiting to tempt and trip us. Here are some example for you to ponder.

Trouble is not trouble when...

- When it makes you clean up collected clutter that you valued too much and did not have the courage to discard or destroy
- When it tears out of your life an unworthy friend whom you were unable to help and who was not a good influence on your life
- When it makes you furious enough to fight for a good cause you were too busy to serve
- When it frustrates you so that you quit a job that was too long hiding your real talents and forces you to discover new skills and hidden talents that were lying undetected
- When it causes two parties, long unspeaking, to bury the hatchet
- When it makes a person forget himself and start thinking of others
- When it makes a greedy person generous, a hard person compassionate, and a cold heart warm
- When it slams a door in our face and forces us out of a rut that we would never have had the courage to leave and leads us down a new road through an open door
- When it teaches us valuable lessons that we would have been too blind to see, too arrogant to believe or too stubborn to accept.

Trouble is not always trouble. It is often God's way of making us lie down, turn around, sit still, pray, work harder or start over again!

# YARD SALE

SPONSORED BY  
M25/LINCOLN RD HEROES

We are taking donations for "Gently Used" items  
Jewelry | Furniture | Vintage House Hold Items  
Scarfs | Handbags | Kitchen Items

## TWO DAY EVENT

**May 18. 2019 | Saturday | 10am - 2pm**

**May 19, 2019 | Sunday | 12pm- 3pm**

**HICE HALL/MEMORIAL GARDEN**

For more information contact Theresa Trantina @ 305-538-4511



Hot Dogs  
Popcorn  
Drinks  
For Sale

## OUR MISSION

“Modeling the teachings of Jesus Christ, Miami Beach Community Church is a progressive ministry of inclusiveness and compassion, committed to faithfulness, service to the community and life-long spiritual development.”

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA)

“Open and Affirming is a public covenant of welcome and invitation to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.”

## SERVICES

King Chapel open Tuesday-Friday 8-4 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. in HICE HALL  
Sunday School (Adult) 9:30 a.m. in King Chapel  
Sunday School (Youth) 10:45 a.m. in Room 203  
Thursday Discipleship Class 6-8 p.m. in Green Library

## STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister Cynthia Lee, Pastor  
Theresa Trantina, Office Manager  
Emilie O'Brien, Youth Coordinator  
Jim Littrell, Music Director  
Luis Forero, Facilities and Maintenance

1620 Drexel Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139  
(Mailing Address)  
305-538-4511 (Office)  
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## STAY CONNECTED

[contactus@miamibeachcommunitychurch.com](mailto:contactus@miamibeachcommunitychurch.com)  
[www.miamibeachcommunitychurch.com](http://www.miamibeachcommunitychurch.com)  
[facebook.com/miamibeachchurch](https://facebook.com/miamibeachchurch)  
[instagram.com/sobeucc](https://instagram.com/sobeucc)  
[twitter.com/miamibeachucc](https://twitter.com/miamibeachucc)  
Sign up for our Newsletter at:  
[contactus@miamibeachcommunitychurch.com](mailto:contactus@miamibeachcommunitychurch.com)

## ONLINE DONATIONS

<http://miamibeachcommunitychurch.com/giving>  
Write Great Reviews on Yelp and Google

*The WORD Newsletter is published quarterly. Please keep a copy for yourself or to share with family, friends, and visitors.*