

*"The Church in the heart of the city with the city in its heart."*

# The Downtowner



## Pastor's Corner

Dear FUMC family,

I write to you with great excitement at my appointment to serve among you as your pastor. I have had the opportunity to visit FUMC and to hear some of your dreams for ministry. It was clear to me early on that God was drawing us together to serve the church and the world as partners. FUMC's strong history and commitment to ministry in the city is a powerful witness to God's continued hope-filled work in the midst of a hurting world. I trust the Lord will lead us to add hope and to heal some of these hurts in our ministry together.

I grew up the second child of four to a United Methodist pastor and a public school teacher. I knew from an early age that I wanted to become a pastor. I couldn't understand why anyone would want to "work" anywhere other than in a church – a place that, for me, was always associated with fellowship, community, fun and good food! I was blessed with Spirit-filled communities of faith as a child and youth that solidified my call to ministry.

Since my ordination thirteen years ago I have served churches in Connecticut, South America and the Kansas City and Wichita areas of Kansas. My husband's work brought us to South Florida two years ago and I have served Plantation UMC since that time as associate pastor. I am happy to be returning to worship in both English and Spanish and very much look forward to the opportunity to be in ministry in such a culturally diverse community as that of downtown Miami.

As a pastor, I have long seen myself as a bridge builder within communities of faith. I seek to build these bridges among people of diverse ethnic populations, among a variety of generations and backgrounds, as well as among the church and un-churched. In Jesus we have the example of a master bridge-builder among people and communities. It is from that example that I draw much inspiration and hope.

You will learn over time that I am an avid sports fan, a news junky and a terrible cook. I am married to Amauri Silva, a native of Brazil and naturalized U.S. Citizen, who is, quite fortunately, a wonderful cook. I am the proud stepmother to Aline, a religious studies major at the University of Kansas, and Felipe, a soccer playing sixth grader. All four of us are most proud of our youngest, three year old Mariana.

We are all thrilled to be joining you in ministry at FUMC. Grace and peace to each of you and I look forward to our years of service together.

### Pastor Cynthia Weems

### Our Vision

God's transforming grace in Jesus Christ calls us to become one dynamic church of diverse people in downtown Miami, offering a new life of Christian discipleship to the community.

### Our Mission

To proclaim the gospel in all we do; to encourage and build disciples.

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### SERVICE TIMES

<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b>	
Informal Service	8:30am
Spanish Service	*10:00am
Traditional Service	*10:55am
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	
Fellowship Dinner	5:45pm
Prayer and Praise	6:45pm
<b><u>SATURDAY</u></b>	
Contemporary	7:00pm

\*NURSERY PROVIDED