



# UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational  
Disciples of Christ and  
Presbyterian

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OUR VISION: "Touching  
lives, Nurturing Disciples,  
Seeking Transformation  
through Christ."

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## PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels** who lost two relatives in the recent Grange Hill shootings.
- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well.
- **Ms. Joy Williams** (NERMC) who lost a niece recently.

# PENTECOST SUNDAY



**T**he Church will celebrate the **Day of Pentecost** this Sunday. **Pentecost** recalls the time when the Holy Spirit descended on the Disciples who were gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, awaiting the fulfillment of Christ's promise. In John 14:26, Jesus had indicated that the Father would send the Holy Spirit, the **Paraclete** in His name.

The word Paraclete is derived from the verb in Greek which means 'I call alongside' - the Spirit therefore accompanies us in all that we seek to do in the name of Christ. **The Paraclete is the Spirit of Truth**, which comes alongside us as helper, counselor and friend. This Spirit of Truth clarifies and differentiates good from evil, righteousness from unrighteousness, holiness from that which is tainted or incomplete.

Traditionally, the Feast of Pentecost was a Jewish Festival celebrated 50 days after the Feast of the Passover. Also known as the 'Feast of Weeks', in ancient Israel, it celebrated the Giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. Traditionally, many Jews from all over the then known world would gather in Jerusalem for this Festival. The Disciples were huddled in

fear following the resurrection of Christ and particularly after His ascension. Although Christ had promised them power and had given them the mandate to be witnesses and had charged them to proclaim the good news of salvation in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world; they were still fearful. They had to have a new lived experience in order to become the fore-tellers and the forth-tellers of the gospel.

In Acts 2: 1-4, we read:

'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them'.(NIV)

**The presence of the Holy Spirit brought power, transformation and the capacity to proclaim the gospel in new and dynamic ways.** Fears were removed, doubts were cast aside and with boldness Peter and the Disciples proclaimed the Lordship and Christ and the power of salvation.

The great mystery or miracle on the Day of Pentecost was the descent of the tongues of fire that rested on the heads of the Disciples, filling them with the Holy Spirit. The place of fear became a public space of exposure which attracted the attention of the spectrum of the Jewish community thus gathered for the traditional agriculture celebrations.

The truth speaking began and the Disciples had to disabuse the thoughts and accusations that they were drunk as well as the racial slur that they were mere Galileans, uneducated fisher folk who could never have the capacity to speak the languages of the educated and the sophisticated. **There is no denying that the power of the Holy Spirit changed the conversation and the context as the Spirit does each time we read of the Spirit's presence in the Word of God.**

We note that the Spirit of God is mentioned many times in Hebrew Scripture and each time transformation takes place.

- The Spirit first appears as the 'Breath of God' at the beginning of Genesis Charging all of creation with life!
- The Holy Spirit came to Moses to set God's people free...

**CELEBRATION-**



**70:**

**Mrs. Doreen Barnett,**

**Rev. Kimberly Hines,**

**May 19;**

**Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason,**

**Rev. Raymond Coke  
May 20;**

**Rev. Lembe Sivile**

**May 22**

**PENTECOST...**

•The Holy Spirit appeared to Moses' followers as tongues of fire, causing them to prophesy... So we know that the Holy Spirit existed from the beginning of time!

The Spirit, on the Day of Pentecost gave birth to the Church, the ecclesia, the called out people -those so endowed with the Spirit to make a difference in the world. On this Pentecost Sunday, Church must keep faith with the mandate to proclaim the gospel, and perhaps, particularly against the complications and chaos in Jerusalem. In the context of bloodshed, death, and the absence of peace, what is the Spirit saying to and through the world Church? What are the just solutions and what are the ways of peace for Jerusalem – the city of peace and indeed the Middle East and other parts of the world where peace is elusive? What is the mission of the Christian Church in the midst of what for some is 'naqba'- catastrophe and for others celebration? The world is gathered and watching,

awaiting the presence of the Holy Spirit in the turmoil of today.

**We therefore need to remind ourselves of THE PURPOSES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

1. Jesus promised, that the Holy Spirit would be our **COUNSELOR**.

"The Counselor will teach you all things, will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14 v. 26), promised Jesus. In all of life's circumstances, the Spirit brings to mind the appropriate and timely word from the Lord. -He is our guide. He is discernment.

2. John describes the Spirit is the **ADVOCATE**, the continuing and comforting presence of Jesus with the Church, and the **SOURCE OF PEACE**. As our advocate, The Holy Spirit is summoned to our side to plead, argue, convince, and instruct. **The Holy Spirit is the vehicle for the presence of both Father and Son in our lives.**

3. For the Apostle Paul, The Spirit is **that which unites us** to Christ, makes us into His body, and gives particular gifts to each person for the sake of the wider community.

4. For Luke & Acts, the Spirit is **the Power of God**; the mighty burning Wind, that blows the Church into new and unexpected places of ministry.

5. The Holy Spirit **is all around us** charging creation with His energy.

**The Holy Spirit is God's energy at work in the world today to bring the gospel of peace and hope to the weary, the fearful, those in doubt and those living in chaos.**

**AD CORNER**



MOUNT OLIVET CHARGE OF UNITED CHURCHES

PRESENTS

IT'S ANNUAL **ONE DAY EVANGELISTIC CONVENTION**

Theme: RETURN TO GOD Zachariah 1:3

SUNDAY **MAY 27** 2018

Baillieston United Church  
Baillieston, Clarendon

**SPEAKERS:**

**BISHOP STEVE HEPBURN (MORNING SESSION)**

TIME: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

**REV. KEVIN CALVERT (AFTERNOON SESSION)**

TIME: 2:00PM - 4:00PM

COME AND EXPERIENCE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

JESUS CHRIST: IS STILL THE ANSWER

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

**GREENDALE UNITED CHURCH**

In association with **The COMBINED DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION**

**PRESENTS A DISABILITIES AWARENESS SEMINAR**

Saturday, June 16, 2018

9:00 am-12 noon.



**CONTACT: 749-1737**

**BENEFIT CONCERT**

**HELP NYLE BEAT CANCER**

Greendale United Church  
7 Content Drive, Spanish Town

June 2, 2018

Starting Time 5pm



Adm :\$1000



Featuring: Praise Singers from Greendale United Boulevard United, Webster United and many more...

MC: MARKLAND "ACTION" EDWARDS

CONTACT 5776015 FOR TICKETS

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### The Law of Connection

When it comes to working with people, the heart comes before the head. That's true whether you are communicating to a room full of people, leading a team meeting, or trying to relate to your spouse.

Think about how you react to people. If you listen to a speaker, do you only want to hear a lot of facts, or would you rather the speaker engaged you on a human level – maybe with a story or joke? If you have been on any kind of winning team, you know that the leader didn't simply give instructions and then send you on your way. No, he or she connected with you on an emotional level. For leaders to be effective, they need to connect with people. You can't move people to action unless you first move them with emotion. That is the **Law of Connection**.

Good leaders work at connecting with others all of the time, whether they are communicating to an entire organization or working with a single individual. The stronger the relationship you form with followers, the greater the connection you forge – and the more likely those followers will be to want to fulfil the mission and vision that you cast. You develop credibility with people when you connect with them and show that you genuinely care and want to help them. As a result, they usually respond in kind and want to help, and join with you. Think of how Jesus Christ connected with the Samaritan woman at the well in St. John 4, who then went on to tell her community about Him. He connected with her personally, and on the deepest level, and consequently propelled His mission.

One key to connecting with others

is recognizing that even in a group, you have to relate to people as individuals. **How then do you connect?**

#### **Connect with Yourself**

You must know who you are and have confidence in yourself if you desire to connect with others. People don't heed the call of an uncertain trumpet. Be confident and be yourself. If you don't believe in who you are and where you want to lead others, work on that before doing anything else.

#### **Communicate with Openness and Sincerity**

People can smell a phony a mile away. Authentic leaders connect. Offer sincere praise, openly.

#### **Know Your Audience**

When you work with individuals, knowing your audience means finding out about their histories and asking about their dreams. You want to speak to what they care about, not only what you care about.

#### **Live Your Message**

Perhaps the most important thing you can do as a leader and communicator is to practise what you preach. That's where credibility comes from.

#### **Go to Where They Are**

A person's method of communication can be a barrier. Whether you are speaking from a platform or sitting across from someone in an office, try to speak the other person's language – go to that person. Be attuned to others' culture, background, education, and so on. Adapt to them.

#### **Focus on Them, Not Yourself**

You will always connect faster when your focus is not on yourself. Focus on the needs and desires of those you wish to follow you.

#### **Believe in Them**

It's one thing to communicate to people because you believe you have something of value to say. It's another to communicate with people because you believe *they* have value. People's opinion of us has less to do with what they see in us than it does with what we can help them see in themselves.

#### **Offer Direction and Hope**

When you give people hope, you give them a future, and their hearts will be turned to you.

Successful leaders who obey the **Law of Connection** are always initiators. They take the first step with others, and then make the effort to continue building relationships. That's not always easy, but it's important to the success of the organization. A leader has to do it, no matter how many obstacles there might be.

Find times to make yourself available to people. Tell them how much you appreciate them. Find out how they're doing. Most important, listen. Leaders who relate to their people and really connect with them are leaders who people will follow beyond bounds.



— THE —  
**POWER**  
*Of Connections*

Source: "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" by John C. Maxwell