



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

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

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

REFLECTING AND CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION

Across the world approximately 80 million Christians belonging to the World Communion of Reformed Churches on Sunday October 26 paused to remember, reflect and celebrate the Reformation.



Jesus in answering their question, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law," opened up the Word for them, knowing they had neglected to love God, with all their heart, soul and mind and their neighbour. It was a sobering moment for them, even though they

resented the fact that Jesus always pointed them to the truth and they could not dispute it.

At the centre of the Reformation is God: God's Word, Way and Will. The Reformation continues to deepen and transform our understanding of who God is and what God requires of each of us. God transcends all our biases and prejudices and invites us to reflect God's nature and character that moves us to an uninhibited place to worship God and bear witness to God's grace, love, mercy and compassion in our lives. Particularly in these times when our faith is being challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic and its implications for all our lives, along with the other ills of life.

While the process of the reformation started long before Martin Luther's posting of his 95 theses on the Wittenberg church door in Germany, his theses ignited a revolution that lead to the reforming of the Church then that continues to this very day. Luther was very indignant with the Papal leadership at the time as it related to their ecclesiastical, theological and leadership stewardship of the Church. The Church had lost its moral authority to be the Church, in Luther's eyes. There were political, economic and social issues, but it was the corruption of the papacy that caused Martin Luther to write his 95 theses, identifying the illicit practices of the Church in opposition to the Word of God.

In St. Matthew's Gospel, 22:34-40, Jesus pointed the Pharisees, those who claimed to have authority on the Word, to the Word, as they asked him a question and he answered. Their question, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law," was one with the intention to defeat Jesus rather than learning the truth, since Jesus has been successful in previous verses in answering the questions asked by the Herodians and the Sadducees. The Teachers of the Law had distorted the meaning of the law, which in Hebrew is also translated as *word* to serve their purpose by seeking to solidify their position and purpose in the society. Likewise, the Church leaders of the 15th/16th century had done the same.

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Reformation 1-2
- Leadership Corner 3
- Family Ad Corner & COVID-19 Feature 4

PRAY FOR:

*The family of **Rev. Millard Edwards**, who has passed on.

***Rev. Icylyn Parkinson**, whose husband, **Mr. Godfrey Parkinson**, has passed on.

***Rev. Kimberley Hines**, whose aunt-in-law, **Mrs. Avis Lynch**, has passed on.

***Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans**, who is recovering from surgery.

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Miss. Claire Trueman
October 28

UCJCI VALUES

In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

The Work and Worth of All People: Displaying unconditional love to all people, acknowledging all in the ministry of Christ, affirming the priesthood of all believers, embracing the gifts of the Spirit, and enabling each person to participate to the fullest extent possible (Matthew 12:28-31, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Ephesians 4:7-13, 2 Corinthians 1:12-14).



THE REFORMATION

(continued from page 1)

The spirit of the Reformation is to incite constant renewing and transformation of the body of Christ. Guided by the 5 tenets known as the Solas of the Reformation:

- Sola Scriptura – only scripture
- Sola Fide – by faith alone
- Sola Gratia – by grace alone
- Solus Christus – through Christ alone
- Soli deo Gloria – glory to God alone

I believe at the heart of Luther’s discontent with the Church as he studied the word, was that he did not or hardly saw evidence of the Church loving God with all their heart, soul and mind and their neighbour. At the heart of the Reformation is our love for God: God’s Word, Will and Way... that is demonstrated in how we care for and treat each other, particularly in these days.

Reach out to someone today, not only because you have heard the Word, but the Word has lead you to confession and conviction. Let the love of Christ dwell richly within us and be expressed through our kind thoughts, words, deeds and actions towards each other and particularly those who are disenfranchised. Like Luther, be indignant when you hear and see acts of injustice, oppression, exploitation and abuse. Let the Reformation spirit rise up within you and fight for what is right, true and just.

Hear Jesus through the text, if you truly love God and neighbour, you will naturally keep the commandment to... “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... love your neighbour as yourself.” Amen!

(Contributed by Rev. Tara Tyme, Minister of St. Paul’s/Norwood Charge of United Churches)

Family House Worship
November 2020 Schedule
The Names of God

FOR WEEK	FOCUS
November 1	Yahweh Nissi —The Lord my Banner
November 8	El Chay — Living God
November 15	Yahweh Rophe —The Lord Who Heals
November 22	Yahweh Shamma —The Lord is There
November 29	Emmanuel —God is with us

LEADERSHIP CORNER

9 Evidences That Popularity and Fame Are Getting the Best of You

I write to my own heart first today. I can easily fall into the trap of ego, and I can just as easily long for more recognition. I try to monitor my heart, but my heart can be deceitful at times. Maybe these characteristics I watch for in my own life will challenge you as well:

- 1. You increasingly isolate yourself from all but a select few.** Sometimes the folks you isolate from are even loved ones you know care deeply for you, but you don't need them now that you're more successful. The only people you hang around are those who prop up your name and work.
- 2. You tend to judge others more harshly than you once did.** That's because it's easier to see wrong in others when you think you're something. Self-righteous, important people set themselves up as the judge.
- 3. You immediately "bow up" if someone points out something wrong in your actions or words.** You're no longer teachable; after all, you think, the Lord has been using you more than anyone to build His church.
- 4. You subtly—and sometimes not so subtly—let others know what great things you've accomplished.** Some folks often do this in the form of praise: "I praise the Lord for using me to do," when what they're really saying is, "Make sure you don't miss how important I am."
- 5. You have no time any longer for the "little guy."** You used to minister to people regardless of their status in life, but your time won't allow you to do that anymore. Others will have to minister to them because you have more significant things to do.
- 6. You like the stage, but you're not so fond of quiet times alone with God.** The former puts you on the platform before others, but the latter convicts your soul. Aloneness with God slowly disappears for the person drawn away by fame and popularity.
- 7. Genuinely godly people tend to quietly walk away from your leadership.** You blame them for their choice, but their concern is they see something in you that's not God-honoring. Right or wrong, they choose to walk away because they assume confronting you will be unsuccessful.
- 8. No matter what your current position is, you're not satisfied.** That is, you always think there's something greater, something more influential, something more national or global for you to do. You can't settle where you are as long as you're seeking more fame.
- 9. You get jealous when somebody else receives recognition you think you deserve.** It's again the hunger that fleeting fame produces; not only do you long for more, but you also get frustrated when others get more.

Source: **Chuck Lawless** (Church Leaders)

"Authority exercised with humility, and obedience accepted with delight are the very lines along which our spirits live. "

C. S. Lewis

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Individual Prayer:
Every Wednesday
from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * A stop to the spread of the disease.
- * Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- * Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- * Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- * That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- * That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- * Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * Safety of all elderly persons, those with comorbidities and our tourism workers.
- * Provision for the needy, those in quarantine and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.

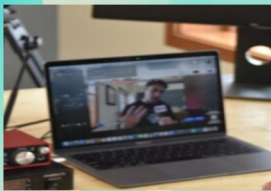


UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

LIVESTREAMING

Worship Services

Webinar



PRESENTER
REV. KRAIG DELEON
DIEDRICK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2020

10 AM - 1 PM

REGISTER IN ADVANCE AT
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xleqOsa_Rs2yMG6T-GfdjA



A UCJCI LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



RESTARTING SOON!

*

Training for Lay Leaders
through the United Church in
Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Lay Training Institute

*An empowering Christ-centred leader, producing a transformed
Christ-centred church.*