



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 6: Issue 46

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian*

12 Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10

Tel: 926-8734

E-mail: synod@ucjci.com

Website: www.ucjci.com

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

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

UCJCI VALUES

Relationship with God

So we may know God and relate to God as a person, rather than an impersonal force, knowing Jesus to be Lord of our lives, so we may grow in grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit

(Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 3:16-

IN THIS ISSUE

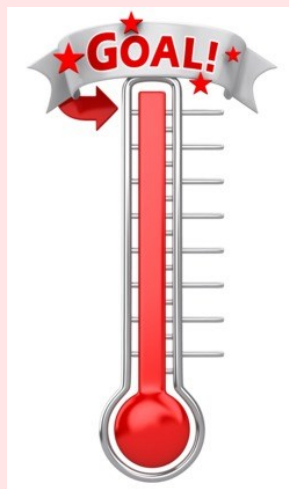
Faith and Economics 2

Worship on the Web 3

In the Next Issue 3

The Advent Season 4

UCJCI NEARS RELIEF RESPONSE TARGET



Members of the United Church have given J\$230,658 as we move towards the target of J\$250,000 in donations in response to the plea for help for communities in Bloxburgh and Bito in east rural St. Andrew in Jamaica

In November, Jamaica experienced heavy rains which caused significant damage to homes, roads and the natural environment. Rev. Carlington Douglas, minister of Harbour View Charge which is located in these communities, reported that persons were marooned and without food. In response, the United Church leadership decided to purchase foodstuff on credit so help could be provided as quickly as possible and then invited the United Church membership to donate funds to pay for the goods which had been secured.

The response was in cash and kindness. Staff members at the Synod office—Annie Leyow, Alisa Magnus, Monique Lofters and Joy Wil-



liams—got to work packaging the goods so that the food could be distributed to the communities. We give thanks to God for these team members, the Harbour View charge leadership who was alert to the needs in communities, the UCJCI leadership for the planned response and the wider United Church membership for responding with generosity.

Bloxburgh community expressed their gratitude for the acts of care by members of the United Church who "put their hands in their pockets" and prayed that God would restore to the givers in abundance.

Donations may be made to account number 231070486
National Commercial Bank, Cross Roads branch.

BEYOND THE PULPIT

Providing a space for leadership discussion of issues of faith in community

FAITH AND ECONOMICS

Christian economics begins with the theological premise that ultimately it is a good and loving God who supplies all our needs and ends with questions of who is my neighbour and what can we do so that all may have life in abundance? This premise precludes any idea that legitimizes ill-gotten gain or the hoarding of goods.

Capitalism, on the other hand, recognizes as god only the unrighteous mammon (money or wealth). That is why when the defeated president said "I am rich" this appeals to some Americans while Bernie Sanders' call for basic care for all disgusts them. The capitalists seek to gain wealth by exploiting others, especially the poor. They are unjust, unmerciful, unloving, uncaring and like Marxists - ungodly. Capitalism feeds avarice and rabid materialism. Its motif is profit. Ungodly wouldn't you say?

Economic themes are interwoven into the very fabric of the gospel and apostolic writings of the New Testament. The story of Zacchaeus, the story of the feeding of the multitude, the parable of the Good Samaritan, the parable of the shrewd servant, even the story of the cleansing of the temple give insights into the thinking of Jesus regarding the kind of economy that God in Christ approves of. Each may tell a slightly different story or may carry different nuances. It becomes very clear however, when taken together, that material wealth

does more good when it is shared and that God frowns on the rich who take and keep everything for themselves. Luke's account of the management of the economy of the church is consistent with the underlying principle that in God's economy it is not just the needs of the select few who are better off that must be met but all who are part of the household. *"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."* (Acts 2: 44 & 45) This is not Marxist, it is Christian. We must give to Marx the things that are Marx and to Christ the things that are Christ's. In this case, an economy that is characterized by caring for all and sharing with all is indisputably Christian.

"Our politics must not put us in alignment or agreement with those who are motivated by avarice and selfishness..."

Paul's understanding of the Communion in first Corinthians carries a similar economic motif. The Holy Communion symbolizes the sharing of the body of Christ. According to Paul, this must not be done in an unworthy manner, that is to say, in a manner that sets some ahead of others as having priority and privilege. *"Do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together"*(1Cor 11:22, 33)

When all of these are considered, should not Christian's in 2020 and beyond carry



Rev. Clifton Bailey

on the economic tradition of Christ and of the Christian church? Should we be the ones who condemn everything that appears to call for sharing and caring? Do not these things (caring and sharing) constitute the very core of who we are?

Our politics must not put us in alignment or agreement with those who are motivated by avarice and selfishness, who refuse to share in solidarity with the poor, marginalized, disenfranchised and disadvantaged.

The alternative for us is not Marxism as the partisan scaremongers would have us believe, because we recognize that unlike Marxism we begin with a premise that finds its logic in the nature of God and also in the message of Christ's Gospel. The alternative for us must be Christian economics because it is rooted in the Logos!

Rev. Clifton Bailey is the minister of the Mineral Heights United Church in the Southern Region Mission Council.

For feedback, please email ucjciupdate@gmail.com

Follow us on



@ucjci

CELEBRATIONS!



THE FIRST UNION WHICH LED TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF JAMAICA AND GRAND CAYMAN took place on **December**

1, 1965. On that day, the Presbyterian Church in Jamaica and the Congregational Union of Jamaica united. We celebrate the continued witness of a community of faith which later became The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands following union with the Disciples of Christ on December 13, 1992. **To God be the glory!**



Rev. Rohan Kong
December 4



**IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
UCJCI UPDATE...**

BUILT TO BEND
Responsive and
Resilient Witness in the face of
COVID 19

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!



The United Church in Jamaica
& the Cayman Islands

Presents a Digital Expression
of the Living God

El Chay

"Gather the family, share with your friends,
& start a discussion about the Living God"

PREMIERES

NOV 29, 2020 | 5:00 PM

FEATURING BLOSSOM HOAD | PASTOR MARCIA POWELL |
REV. DR. DAVE HAZEL & REV. DELROY JOHNSON | WRITTEN
& DIRECTED BY REV. KEVIN "NANA MOSES" CALVERT

KAIROS
CREATION
PRODUCTION

Worship on the Web!!

The United Church launched an innovative and creative family worship approach on Sunday November 29, 2020 via YouTube. *El Chay—The Living God*, was written and directed by Rev. Kevin 'Nana Moses' Calvert the newly-appointed UCJCI Minister for the Visual and Performing Arts. The production brings to the virtual space the House Worship Liturgy from the series—*Names of God* and features members of the United Church including the performing arts ministry of Lincoln Kirk United Church. *El Chay* heralds the production of a series of audiovisual productions, as the United Church explores new ways through which it may connect with the public, at a time when normal regular contact in church buildings has been limited by restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic. *El Chay* may still be viewed on the UCJCI YouTube channel.

COMING SOON...A CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION.

Send comments and news about your congregation to: ucjciupdate@gmail.com

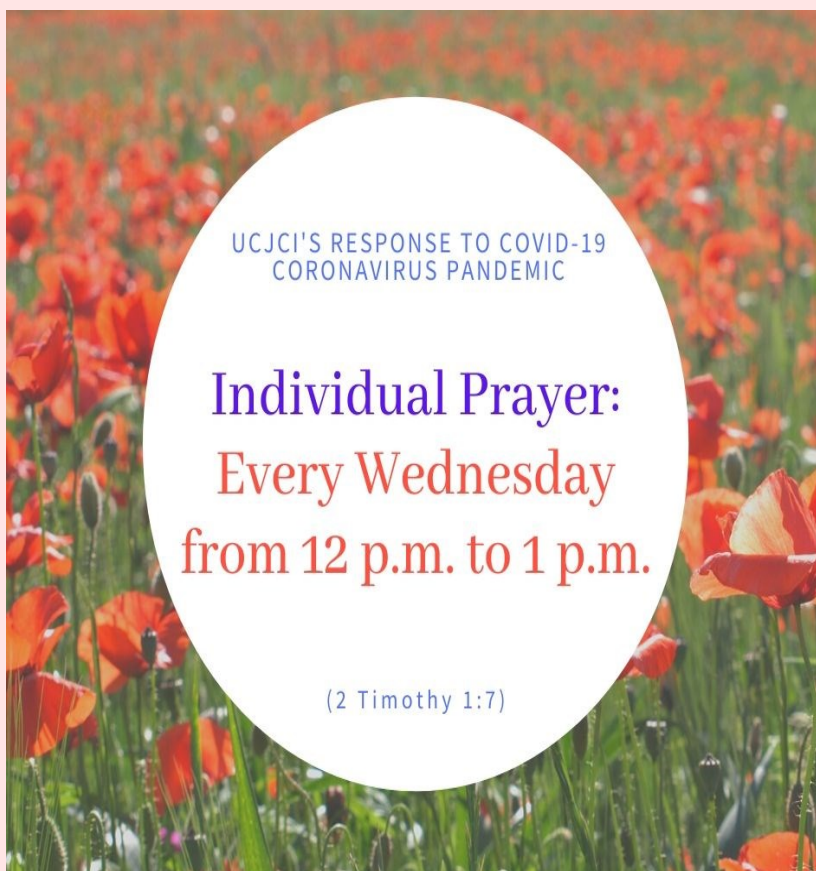
The Season of Advent



The supreme message of HOPE

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16 (NIV)

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING:



LET US PRAY FOR:

- ◆ Rev. Donovan Myers, Minister of John Gray Memorial (Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council) and his family
- ◆ The family, colleagues and friends of Lesley Hare.
- ◆ Communities across Jamaica struggling with the on-going challenges following heavy rains
- ◆ Families in Cayman, Jamaica, and across the world wrestling with the realities of COVID 19
- ◆ Wisdom, safety and good decision-making in this Advent and Christmas season