



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

# Weekly Update

January 5, 2021

Issue 9 Volume 01

## ***School in the Sanctuary***

From 2018, the Bushy Park United Church in Jamaica operated as a homework centre for children of varying ages, in and around the community, up until the start of the pandemic, when they started the ***School Support Initiative***.

During the week when school is in session, the computer room and the pews of the sanctuary act as classrooms for 18 students on average. Notably, this initiative has helped up to 50 students as they have been rotating in adherence to COVID-19 infection control and prevention measures.

Elder Carlos Shepherd shared that the Minister, Rev. Astor Carlyle and the Associate Minister, Rev. Delroy Harris, along with the members of the church, have been very welcoming of this initiative.

"The responses from the ministers have been favourable. They supported it, they were excited and they jumped on it from the get-go," he expressed adding that the church was happy that the children could get to go to school.

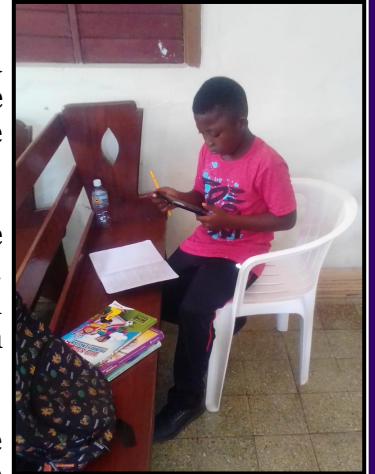
The weekly 10 a.m. prayer meetings and fasting services no longer take place within the four walls but members have been encouraged and facilitated while they pray and fast at home.



Bushy Park United Church is located in rural St. Thomas where reception is unstable and the public library is extremely far. Thus, as the face-to-face classes resumed across Jamaica on Monday, the sanctuary will remain open to facilitate the blended approach and students from the basic school in the community since the school building cannot accommodate them all with the need to social distance.

Teachers from the basic school, in partnership with the parents, have faithfully provided guidance and support to the students throughout this period.

This congregation of 70 active members, has championed several initiatives such as a back-to-school treat for over 50 people, that was largely funded by the VM Group and members of the community. School supplies and food items were provided. They also conducted a treat for the children last Christmas.



4th form student,  
Kingston College

“Seeing other children do their classes helps me to feel more comfortable and relaxed. When I am doing online class at the church I am more focused on classes because the Wi-Fi is very stable and I am coping with the teachers very well rather than being at home where the Wi-Fi is unreliable. That gets me out of focus, miserable, and less interested in classes. I am grateful for the use of the Wi-Fi at the Bushy Park United Church.”

3rd form student,  
Holy Childhood  
High School

“The internet programme at church has really assisted me to do my classes, homework and online studies”

***Join us in congratulating the new converts on their baptism!***



“Webster Memorial United Church's baptism classes don't just prepare you for the baptism but they prepare you for your Christian journey. The Survival Kit, which is a book that contains the principles of being Christ-like, taught us and molded us into the Christian that God wants us to be. The Survival Kit is a tool that we not only used for the baptism classes but it provides continuous guidance after the classes end. The teachers we had for the baptism classes made the scriptures so easy to understand and relate to. We were able to connect with each other, understanding the pitfalls we may face and how we can rise above them as Christians. We thank Webster for such an experience of preparing us for being a Christian in the faith.”

-April Channer

## PRAYER CORNER

## AT HOME LITURGY

- Rev Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Mrs. Karen Francis, whose husband Rev. Dr. Norman Francis has passed on.
- The climbing number of COVID-19 infections in the Cayman Islands.
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID 19.
- Gunshot victims and their families.
- The church and the various plans for the New year.

### A Prayer

*Lord, refresh and restore us as we embark on a new year. Open our ears to hear you that we may move in obedience in this new season.*

*Amen.*

**January 9**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**1st Sunday after Epiphany**

***Rooted and called to Remember our Baptism/ or to remember that we are not alone.***

☐ When the waters in our lives are troubled and we feel overwhelmed, let us call to mind that in our baptism, we became one with Christ and we need not be afraid.

☐ Baptism is a community event where promises are made to support the newly baptized and the benediction is for the living of a faithful life.

☐ When we are tempted to forget and when we feel overwhelmed, let us remember that baptism identifies us with Christ's death and resurrection.



**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**  
**AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA AND**  
**THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

**Cayman Islands**

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Cayman Islands since the start of the pandemic is 9,509. In addition, six COVID-19 patients were hospitalized as at midnight at Tuesday January 4. The Cayman Government has responded with regulations aimed at controlling the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. Consequently, indoor gatherings, including church services, are now restricted to 100 persons while outdoor gatherings are restricted to 250 persons.

**Jamaica**

There are 97,066 confirmed cases of which 3994 are active with 2,483 deaths. The Government of Jamaica, on November 16, 2021, announced amendments to orders under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA).

Please note and be guided by the following:

1. Church Services – The number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship should be determined by the physical distancing requirement of a minimum of six feet between persons, but should not exceed 100 persons.
2. Weddings – the maximum number of persons allowed is 100.
3. Funeral services are allowed with a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.
4. Burials are allowed for 30 minutes Mondays to Fridays between 9 am and 4 pm with a maximum of 20 persons at the graveside.

The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:

5. No physical crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.
6. Physical gatherings are limited to 10 persons.
7. Stay at home – persons 60 years and over. Fully vaccinated persons are exempt.

Please note that the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are still required for public spaces and gatherings.



# Notices

**UCJCI Lay Training Institute**

**TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS 2022**

Offered in collaboration with The International University of the Caribbean

*Get Ready to Serve!*

**MODULE 1 BEGINS FEBRUARY 12, 2022**

**TRAINING FEATURES**

- Weekend and Weekday classes  
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thursdays 6 - 8 p.m.  
(2nd and 4th Saturdays and Thursday in the immediate week following)
- Combination of Learning in Virtual Classrooms via Zoom and in Learners' own time

**ORIENTATION JANUARY 29, 2022**

**REGISTER NOW**  
through your Regional Mission Council office

For more information:  
nermc@ucjci.com; cirmc.info@gmail.com; wrmc01@yahoo.com; srmc@ucjci.com

Meadowbrook United Church

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH  
invites you to

**SEVEN DAYS OF DIVINE ENCOUNTER**  
Theme:  
**NEW SEASON  
NEW OIL**

Week of Prayer, Fasting & the Word | **2-8 JAN 2022** | **> 5:00 a.m. 12:45p.m. 6:00 p.m.**

**SPEAKERS**

Rev. Lembe Siville  
HOST PASTOR

Rev. Donovan McPherson

Rev. Nevroy Francis

Rev. Astor Carlyle

Rev. Jane Kaluba

Rev. Norbert Stephens

**Reflection & Daily Prayer**  
Zoom  
5:00 a.m. & 12:45 p.m.

**Closing Session**  
6:00 p.m.

WWW.MEADUNITED.ORG

f @MEADUNITED

**United Theological College of the West Indies**  
invites applications for the following short course:

**Music and Worship**

**What will you learn?**  
The technological fundamentals of church audio setup and use.  
The value of the digital world to church maintenance and growth.  
Locate the value of music in the functional life of church.  
How to identify the defining features of Caribbean church music.  
How music enhances church life.

**Why should you enroll?**  
**Expand** your knowledge of how music works in church life.  
**Broaden** your view of technological advances in music.  
**Acquire** skills in how technology enhances the use of music in different settings with focus on the Caribbean experience.

**For whom?**  
Choir Directors, Pastors, Deacons, Musicians  
Retreat Leaders, Lay Leaders, Choir Members  
Praise Team Members.

**Course Duration:**  
January 15, to March 5, 2022.

**Cost:** USD \$75.00

**7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7**  
Tel: 876-927-1724, 927-2868  
Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

**Registration closes January 7, 2022**

**United Theological College of the West Indies**  
invites applications for the following short course:

**Advanced Certificate in Leadership Skills for Church and Society**

**What will you learn?**  
Theory and practice of leadership.  
How to lead as decision-maker, motivator, and communicator.  
How to lead during chaos, crisis, and conflict.  
How to lead by design.  
How to lead as project manager and entrepreneur.

**Why should you enroll?**  
**Build** your capacity to be a transformational leader, and lead ethically.  
**Fulfill** your leadership potential through acquisition of a range of leadership styles, competencies and strategies.  
**Acquire** skills in team building, strategic planning and decision-making.

**For whom?**  
Managers and middle managers in schools to include: Principals, Vice Principals, Senior Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Work Experience persons, and others who aspire to leadership positions in their organization... Church, Service Clubs, Volunteers Organization, and other social or societal groups.

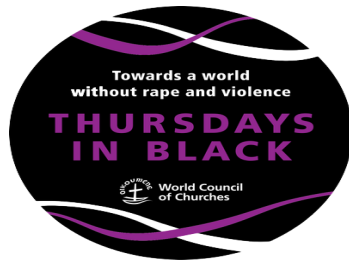
**Course Duration:** January 22, to March 6, 2022

**Cost:** USD \$300.00

**7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7**  
Tel: 876-927-1724, 927-2868 | Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

**Registration closes January 14, 2022**

End Violence Against Women and Children



Share your *Thursdays in Black* photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and tag us @ucjci

#WCC, #UCJCI, #evgw, #ThursdaysinBlack  
#endviolenceagainstwomen



*Tune in to Our  
United in Faith  
Programme.*

*Every Sunday on  
RJR 94 FM at  
6:30 a.m.*



HAPPY  
*Birthday*  
TO YOU



Rev. Karleen Thomas-Barnes  
Jan. 02



Rev. Alice Blair  
Jan. 03



Ms. Ceta Rose  
Jan. 03



Rev. I. Wayne Silvera  
Jan. 05



Rev. Laddia Young  
Jan. 08

**The United Church in Jamaica and  
the Cayman Islands**  
Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

**Moderator**

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

**General Secretary**

**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

**Regional Deputy General Secretaries**

◇ **Cayman Regional Mission Council-**

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

◇ **North-Eastern Regional Mission Council -**

Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

◇ **Southern Regional Mission Council-**

Mrs. Janet McConnell

◇ **Western Regional Mission Council-**

Mrs. Maureen Henry

***Contact Us***

**Address:**

12 Carlton Crescent,  
Kingston 10

**Telephone No:**

876-926-8734

**E-mail Address**

**[synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com)**

**Website:**

**[www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)**

**YouTube:**

**UCJCI's Channel**

**Instagram:**

**@UCJCI**