



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

August 24, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 33



Family News
Elmslie Memorial
United Church

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Feelings: Is Love a Feeling?

I remember as a small boy switching off as soon as I heard a preacher start speaking about love. I had no idea at that age what 'love' was! As I have become older, I have increasingly come to realise that many still have little idea! At least, as to what true love is.

The word love in the English language has many sides to it. It was CS Lewis who pointed out that our one English word covers four Greek ones. There is *eros* which indicates romantic or sexual love, *philia* speaks of brotherly love and friendship, and *storge* of affection or family love. God is the source of love, whatever form it takes. The problem is that sinful human nature so often twists and spoils it. We have misused and exploited it so that it has become something which may hurt and harm. Very often it ends up as simply selfishness - self-love.

The fourth is a word which was rarely found in contemporary literature of Bible days, let alone understood by those societies, but one found throughout the New Testament. It is *agape*. Its best expression is found in I Corinthians 13 where the King James Version calls it "charity" – but it is not charity as we usually think it. It is the love that God shows to us and which he commands us to show to others. It is self-giving love.

So, to the title: Is love a feeling? The answer is yes - and no! When we think of *agape* in particular, its basis is not in feelings. It has to do with acts of selflessness.

Last month, I stated that "the foundation of our faith is not our feelings but its unchanging truth, and that our relationship with the Lord is not based on how we are feeling at any one time ..." That is true of *agape*, too. Our love for God is not just something emotional. Nor should our love for others be based on how we feel towards them. Our love for God is a determination to honour him in everything. Our love for others will be seen in our commitment to their well-being.

Liturgy For Worship At Home

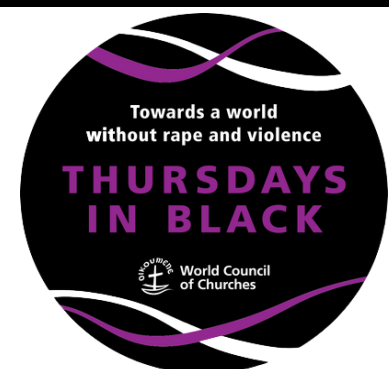
August 28, 2022

- Prov. 25:6-7 & Psalm 112
- Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
- Luke 14:1, 7-14

Responding With Humility & Generosity

The church's response must always be characterized by humility as we should never see ourselves as being "above" others. A humble church, that is generous with God's gifts and respectful of others, is what God expects us to be.

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 United in Faith
Sundays on **RJR 94 F.M**
at 6:30 a.m.

You can listen to United In Faith episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. Platform. Click the link either in our Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp.

How do you "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30)? Undoubtedly, feelings are involved, but these are not foundational. Listen to Jesus' answer: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). He said similarly a few verses later: "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching" (v. 23). This is the bottom line when it comes to loving God: it is not following our emotions but keeping his commandments. Obeying his teaching. It is an act of will. It has to do with our behaviour, our speech and our attitudes. It is doing God's will however we feel. So, when we sing in church songs like "I love you, Lord", we need to remember that we are expressing something more than nice warm feelings towards him.

The reverse must also be made clear: Any action which is not the will of God, is not true love. Disobedience to God is unloving.

And what about the next part of the command: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (v. 31)? First, note that these two instructions come together. You cannot truly love your neighbour in the way Jesus meant it unless you love God first. Second, the 'loving ourselves' in this context means we wish the best for ourselves. This is what Jesus is instructing us for others: we must seek their good regardless of how we feel about them. We may positively dislike them! Hence Jesus said we were not only to love our neighbours but to love our enemies, too (Matthew 5:44).

This kind of love often comes with a cost in emotional energy, time, personal comfort and, sometimes, to our reputation. It can be painful. We can be misunderstood and rejected.

And, by the way, don't forget that your husband or wife is your neighbour, too! So are your kids.

We shouldn't waste time deciding how we feel about our neighbour, whether we 'love' them or not; we are to act as though we did. When we behave as if we love someone, we may surprise ourselves to find that we actually come to love them!

As I indicated last month, I don't want to be misunderstood! Of course, there are feelings in a loving relationship. But mere emotions cannot and must not be love's foundation whether it is in human relationships or our love for God.

So, when we come to church, we can worship God even when our feelings are not upbeat and we don't feel particularly loving towards him. And our worship can and should continue when we leave church and live lives of obedience to him out in the world. It will include loving our neighbours. This is truly loving God.

Michael Bowerman

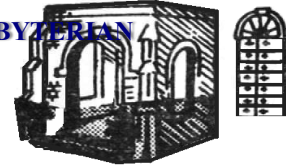


North Street United Church

CONGREGATIONAL, DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, PRESBYTERIAN

North & Princess Streets, Kingston

TEL/FAX (876) 922-6138



Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you well!

The North Street United Church, located at the corner of North and Princess Streets in Kingston has been ministering to its community for 185 years and will mark this milestone with special celebrations.

The Anniversary Theme: “185 Years.... Rooted, Grounded and Restored to Serve Christ”.

In collaboration with St. Paul’s United Church (Locket Avenue) we will be hosting a Community Health Fair on August 27, 2022. This includes:

- Dental – Teeth Cleaning
- HPV Vaccination
- Vaccination for Children
- Mental and Oral Health Sessions
- Back to School Treat and Medical Examinations
- Health checks
- FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Our Community Walk will be on September 10th 2022.

The Anniversary Launch will be on Sunday September 11, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. during our regular Church Service.

We invite you to come and celebrate our 185th Anniversary with “Jamaica Night” this will be on Friday September 16th starting at 6:30 pm at the St. Andrew High School for Girls Auditorium. Featuring The Jamaican Folk Singers. It will be a night of Great Music, Fellowship and Food. Please contact our church office for tickets.

The Cost: Children \$1500 and Adults \$2000.

Our Anniversary Church Service will be on Sunday September 18, 2022, starting at 9:30 a.m. The Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey. You are all invited.

Yours in Christ

Steve Riley

Co-Chair

185th Anniversary Committee



MINISTER – REV. JOEL DOWNER

(876) 922-6138

nsuc28@gmail.com

nsunited.org

VOCATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL HIGH-

ELMSLIE Memorial, CIRMC



Rev. L. Christopher Mason engaging the VBS participants



The Elmslie VBS Leadership Team



...and then for some games.



It is time for arts and crafts...

NERMC



Arts and crafts

Williamsfield United Church,



Group Activity

North Street United Church

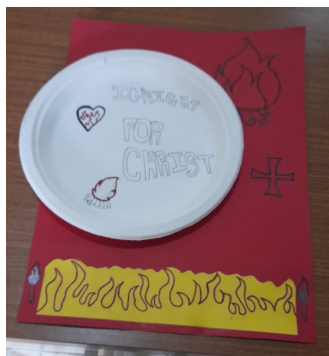
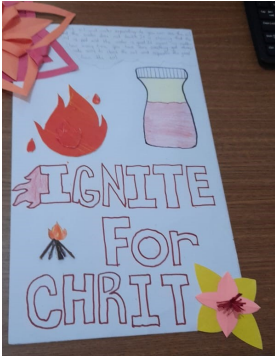


Arts and crafts

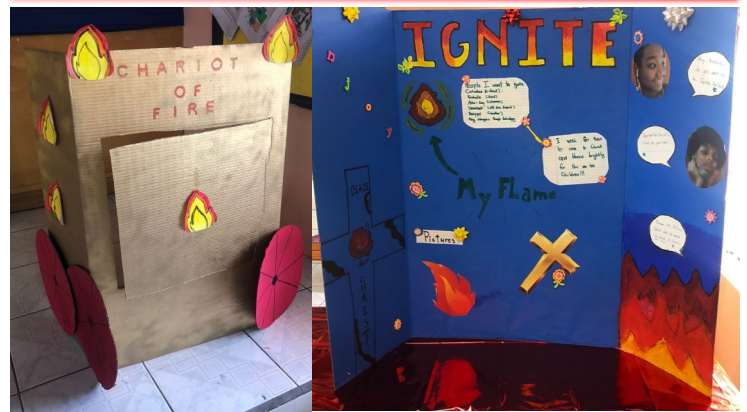


Group Activity

Bushy Park United Church



Portmore United Church



Duke Street United Church



Meadowbrook United Church



Prayer Corner

Prayer Request

- The Bulgin Family as they mourn the recent tragedy
- Rev Godfrey Meghoo, who is recuperating at home
- Rev and Mrs. Joe Crawford
- Rev Harry Bodden
- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who was ill and is recuperating
- Dr. Auma Folkes and family as they mourn the death of one of her sons, Albie Folkes
- Rev. Ranford Hewitt who is recuperating from illness
- Mrs. Rose Wedderburn who lost a relative
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who is back in the hospital
- Rev. Wendell McKoy and family as they mourn the sudden passing of his brother-in-law
- The family of Rev. Dr. Gilbert McKenzie, former minister of the UCJCI, who passed recently
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19
- People affected by the war between Ukraine and Russian
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and the security force and government as they respond

Prayer

Eternal and most faithful God, Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, You who led Joseph like a flock, we thank you for those who have gone on before us. Help us to remember that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. In His glorious name we pray. Amen.

eDARE 2022: re(l)ease liberation theology
October 24, 26 & 28 2022 via Zoom



Registration for CWM's eDARE 2022 is now open!

We invite you to register using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/iWjf9BmB2FWLArw39>

We look forward to seeing you DARE!

THE UNITED CHURCH SENIOR CITIZEN HOME

WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!
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NOTICES



GET THE FACTS ON MONKEYPOX

What is Monkeypox Disease?

A rare disease that is caused by an infection from the monkeypox virus

How is the Monkeypox virus transmitted?

It can be transmitted from animals to humans through:

- ◊ bites or scratches by an animal carrying the virus
- ◊ handling and eating meat from infected animals

It can be transmitted from human to human through close contact with:

- ◊ skin lesions e.g. rash, blister, sores, scab, etc
- ◊ body fluids
- ◊ droplets from respiratory secretions e.g. cough, sneeze, spit
- ◊ recently contaminated objects e.g. bed linen, clothes and frequently touched areas

What is the incubation period ?

The incubation period (time between infection and when the symptoms start) is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range as 5 to 21 days

What are the main signs and symptoms?

- ◊ Fever ◊ Chills ◊ Intense Headaches ◊ Extreme Exhaustion
- ◊ Muscle ache and Backache ◊ Swollen lymph nodes
- ◊ Rash (usually appears 1-3 days after the fever)

Symptoms can be mild or severe and associated skin rash can be itchy or painful

What is the treatment for Monkeypox Disease?

Treatment is based on the symptoms. If experiencing fever or pain, Panadol can be taken. Drink lots of fluids to maintain hydration

Who is at risk of being infected with the Monkeypox virus?

Any person in close contact with someone who has monkeypox

How can the risk of getting Monkeypox be reduced?

Key prevention measures include COVID-19 prevention measures:

- ◊ Wear your mask ◊ Wash your hands ◊ Physical Distance
- ◊ Frequently sanitise areas that are frequently touched ◊ Avoid crowds



Is there a Vaccine for Monkeypox?

- ◊ There is a vaccine against monkeypox that is generally available. A recently approved vaccine has been produced for research purpose only

Jamaica has no known case of monkeypox at this time.

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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

Come And Celebrate Our 185TH Anniversary!
 North Street United Church presents

Jamaica Night

+ Great Music
 + Fellowship
 + Food

Experience Jamaica
 In One Night!
September 16, 2022

Venue: St. Andrew High School For Girls
 10 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10
Admission: (Food and Drink Included)
 Children: \$1500
 Adults: \$2000
6:30PM

185th Anniversary
 NORTH STREET UNITED CHURCH
 28 North Street, Kingston

in collaboration with St. Paul's United Church

- Dental - teeth cleaning + dental hygiene packages
- HPV vaccination (helps prevent cervical cancer)
- Vaccination (children should take their immunization cards)
- Doctor's visit
- Mental & Oral Health Sessions

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, AUG 27, 2022
9:00AM - 2:00PM

AT NORTH STREET UNITED CHURCH

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

FREE HEALTH CHECKS
 FREE MEDICALS

BACK 2 SCHOOL TREAT

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Western Regional Mission Council Young Adults Action Movement

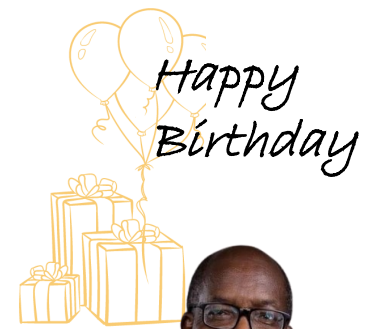
W.R.M.C. Y.A.A.M.

PRESENTS

"BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR"

FARM HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH
 SEPTEMBER 24, 2022
 10AM - 4PM

DON'T MISS IT!



Roderick Hewitt
 August 30

Rose Wedderburn
 August 31

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

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