



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

October 26, 2022.

Is the church dead?

By Rev. Kraig De Leon Diedrick

The church today exists in a post-modern age or what some would characterize as a post-church age; one in which the relevance and effectiveness of the church is and has been called into question and even greater scrutiny. There are many amongst her members who are already conducting a post-mortem which suggests that those ‘many’ believe that she is dead. Instead of searching for her pulse, they are trying to determine where to cut.

In the landscape of churches, we are considered among the “Traditional” churches, mainly because of our long history as a denomination inclusive of our antecedents. Colloquially, we are seen as traditional because of the value placed on the singing of hymns and sometimes, the use of organ music. Not to mention the fact that “praise and worship” and the playing of the trap-set are fairly new phenomena. But even more so, we are seen as traditional because we do not necessarily run up and down and perform acrobatic feats in the aisle of the church.

The question that one is led to ask is “Is the church dead?” We are seen by many as a church without power and a church without a God. In essence, we are seen as dead. This question is one that confronts us as we examine the current reality of our church. We see the numbers in church or online on a Sunday morning or bible studies and even prayer meetings and oftentimes wonder what is the point. Ministers spend time in the word to unearth its truth to share with the flock but end up, many times, sharing it with the benches. They go to crusades and street meetings and few from the church show up. We struggle financially, many living from hand to mouth and paycheck to paycheck and like the mockers of the writer of Psalm 42, they ask us “*where is your God?*” *We are seen like that of Ezekiel’s vision in chapter 10 where the presence of God left Israel. Is the church dead?*

The answer to the question is simple. It is an emphatic NO! How can the church be dead when God has said, “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” – Matthew 16: 18; recognizing that even as the changing time may challenge our relevance and effectiveness, the gates of hell shall not prevail. Hasn’t God said in His word that, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” – Acts 1:8 Because the Holy Spirit has come upon us, “*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*” – 1st Corinthians 12:1-11

What many do not see are the times when we pray and healing and deliverance comes. They do not see those prayer meetings when the presence and power of God are on full display. They do not see when someone comes in possessed and leaves with the Spirit of God in their life. They do not see when we go into homes and by the power of God bring peace to its occupants. Many do not see when the people pray and communities at war become communities of peace. They do not see when persons come seeking silver and gold and leave not just with silver and gold but also with the Spirit of God having had a salvation experience. Many have not heard tongues being spoken and the

interpretation follows and confirmed by our believers. Some have not seen the discernment and wisdom being exercised. To suggest that we are dead is to say that God no longer has the power to change situations. To say that we are dead is to spit in God's face even after He has invested His Spirit in us. This is not to say that God is at our beck and call, but God works through us to further His will because He chooses to do so. We are not dead and cannot be dead. For us to be dead, God would not be God. God is not like man that He should lie and He honours His word even above His name so the church cannot be overcome.

Instead of determining where to cut to do the autopsy, let us recognize and find the pulse, tap into the Holy Spirit through repentance with humility, living lives that are pleasing to God and worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

Active at 104

Mr. Vincent Wilson, born March 27, 1918, is at present the oldest member of the Torrington United Church. At 104 years old he is still active, attending Church regularly. His church attendance could be described as extraordinary, considering that most times he would travel to church by public transportation.

All his years at Torrington he has been a faithful member of the Men's Fellowship. He cherishes his independence and even goes out to do his personal business such as paying his utility bills.



President General of the Women's Fellowship, 2022

Mrs. Cheryl Shaw of NERMC, from Boscobel United, the New President General of the Women's Fellowship.

The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of Synod,

invites you to the

Service of ORDINATION

for

Pastor Alja Dias

to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments



Ridgemount United Church
Thursday, November 10, 2022 || 2:00 p.m.

 YouTube: UCJCI's Channel

eDARE 2022: re(l)ease liberation theology

October 24, 26 & 28 2022 via Zoom

eDARE
discernment & radical engagement

CWM a partnership
of churches
in mission

re(l)ease:

liberation theology

eDARE Webinars October 24, 26 & 28 2022

**Registration for CWM's
eDARE 2022 is now open!**

We invite you to register using
the link below:

[https://forms.gle/
iWjf9BmB2FWLArw39](https://forms.gle/iWjf9BmB2FWLArw39)

We look forward to seeing you
DARE!

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Installation of Lay Pastor

Pastor Ormond Williams will be installed as the Lay Pastor for the North-East Charge on **Sunday, October 30, 2022**. A Joint Charge Service will be held at the **East End United Church at 10:00 am**. The Moderator, Rt. Rev Gary Harriott will be the Guest Speaker at the Service. Members of the Council are invited to attend the Service.



Liturgy For Worship At Home

October 30, 2022
Pentecost 21
Reformation Sunday

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10

Reforming Hope

Ultimately, salvation is the actionizing of our Hope in Jesus Christ. Whatever we believe is what we expect. Fixing our thoughts God-ward is therefore a sure way to overcome doubt and fears that can and will assail us. We will find that our faith is continually re-forming and being transformed.

(If focusing on the Reformation, note that Luther's desire for change translated in action, despite possible painful outcomes. It is the Hope that spurred him to action and opened up the Gospel to ordinary persons.)

Possible songs, 'All Creatures of our God and King', 'As long as I have breath', or 'A Mighty Fortress'



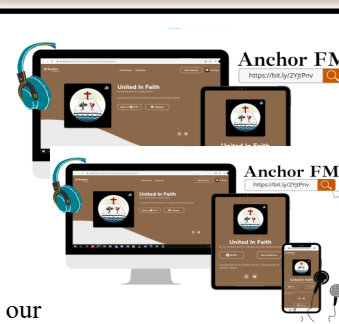
Members of the Bodden Town Girl's Brigade Company participated in the Service



D'Leah Cardoza signing to the 'Jesus Loves Me' Medley



**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.

our  Click the link either in Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp.

Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests

- Students, staff, parents and other members of the Oberlin High School community
- Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis whose mother, Mrs. Nellie Lewis, passed on
- The family of the late Karl Bright who passed recently
- Lay Pastor John Macmillan and Mrs. Itza Bodden, Youth Worker, in Cayman who both face health related challenges
- The family of Ms. Rose Spalding, who passed recently
- Rev. Dr. James Gibbs, who is recovering from illness and who lost his brother, Winston George Gibbs
- All who have experienced weather related to the passage of Hurricane Ian
- 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

Father God, we praise you for the wonderful future that you have prepared for us through the death and resurrection of you Son, Jesus Christ. We eagerly await the day when we will enter into your presence for all eternity with holy bodies untainted by sin. Please help us to not lose heart when we face the many pressures, anxieties, and troubles of life in this fallen world. Let us take great courage in the knowledge that you've given us the Holy Spirit to prepare our souls for our kingdom dwelling with you. Thank you for letting Jesus live in us. It is in his name that we pray,

Amen.

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

SYNOD ADMINISTRATION

MINISTRY & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Vacancy

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is seeking to fill the position of **Accounting Clerk within the Finance and Planning Unit in the Synod Administrative Centre**, and invites dynamic, highly motivated and qualified candidates to tender their applications.

Applicants are invited to submit their resumes/CVs via e-mail no later than **Wednesday, November 9, 2022** to synodhr@ucjci.com

-Only short-listed applicants will be interviewed



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
CHILD OF GOD

"Living The Word, Changing Lives ..."

TRAINING SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION:

Purpose of the Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..." Campaign/Ministry The intent of the **Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..."** Campaign/Ministry is to engender a lifestyle that physically brings to life the action/activities of the Spiritual teachings of Jesus Christ among the believer. **That is to empower** the believer to demonstrate the **"Fruit of the Spirit"** which are Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance. (Galatians 5 : 22 & 23KJV) through **The Development of "Active Spiritual Discipline"**.

Phase 2 – of the Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..." Campaign developed by the **Discipleship Ministry of Webster Memorial United Church** has been assigned to **Public Educational/Training Sessions** aimed at **Members and Adherents** of the Church.

Following on a successful initiation of the **Discipleship 'Child of God' Training Sessions** earlier this year at Webster on **"The Development of Active Spiritual Discipline"**; we are encouraged by the level of interest and thirst for knowledge demonstrated not only by the members and adherents of our Church Webster, but also by interested persons from other denominations locally and globally spanning participants from the **USA, Canada, and the Caribbean**. This has endorsed our contention that Training is not only needed but desperately wanted. Therefore, the Discipleship Ministry have responded to offering another series of Training Sessions under the theme **"The Fundamentals of Our Faith"**.

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME PURPOSE:

The Fundamentals of Our Faith is another response to the question: Who is a **Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..."**? As presented by the Ministry; a Definition of a **Child of God, "Living the Word, Changing Lives..."** is defined follows:
A Child of God is "someone who believes in God, dedicated to service, demonstrating a willingness to serve others through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, has faith in God, and is grounded in the Word of God through Prayer."

Training Sessions will be coordinated by **Mrs. Elaine Commissiong** under the guidance of Webster Senior Minister **Rev. Astor Carlyle**. Guest Presenters for these sessions are : **Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Rev. Norbert Stephens, Rev Henley Bernard, Rev. Lembe Sivile, Rev Dr. Collin Cowan** and **Rev. Dr Burchell Taylor**.

Presentations will begin on **Tuesday, September 27, 2022**.

Sessions will be held weekly thereafter on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. These Training Sessions will be in the Webster Sanctuary and on Zoom.

Vision: Instituting a Spiritual Lifestyle of Active Service among all Believers

Mission: Empowering a Physical Lifestyle of Actions/Activities, that is based on the Spiritual Teachings of Jesus Christ within all Believers.

THE UNITED CHURCH SENIOR CITIZEN HOME

WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!
 VACANCIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH
 MALE AND FEMALE SENIORS.



Send us an email to ucschome32@gmail.com or call the Director, Miss Bailey, at 876-373-8474 or 876-962-3768 to make your enquiries.

32 Villa Road, Mandeville P.O., Manchester

NOTICES



THE UNITED CHURCH IN
 JAMAICA AND
 THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



THE INTERNATIONAL
 UNIVERSITY OF THE
 CARIBBEAN

**LAY LEADERS
 GRADUATION 2022**

**SUNDAY
 NOVEMBER 13,
 2022**

RIDGEMOUNT UNITED
 CHURCH, MANDEVILLE
 3:00 P.M.

**GUEST SPEAKER
 - REV. DR. COLLIN COWAN**
 MINISTER, IMMANUEL/BOSCOBEL CHARGE

**COVID 19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES WILL BE OBSERVED.
 ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK.**

VIRTUAL VIEWING IS ALSO INVITED VIA THE UNITED CHURCH
 YOUTUBE CHANNEL



**International
 University
 of the
 Caribbean**

REBUILDING RELEVANCE, RESPONSIVENESS AND RESILIENCE

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- * BSc Business Administration
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- * MEd Educational Administration and Leadership

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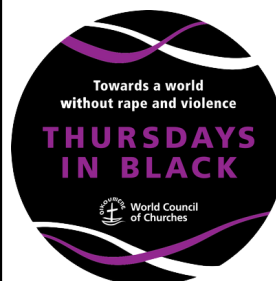
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**End Violence Against Women
 and Children**



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

#WCC, #UCJCI #evgw

#ThursdaysinBlack

#endviolenceagainstwomen



The Pringle Home for Children

100th Anniversary Calendar of Events 2022

"Pringle at 100: preserving a legacy of service"

Church Service July 31

Open Day August 24

Panel Discussion:
Child Care and
Protection in Jamaica November 24

Gospel Concert December



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022

RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH

GATHERING AT 1PM START TIME 1:30PM

Come worship, sing and dance for Christ

Refreshments on sale

MARLON ANDERSON SINGING MINISTRY

Presents

A Grand Gospel Fundraising Concert

on
Saturday, November 05, 2022



Cost: \$1,000.00
Time: 5:00pm

@ RIVERSIDE UNITED CHURCH

MC: Sis: Jamelia Haughton

Proceeds in aid of medical expenses for Tifelia Thompson

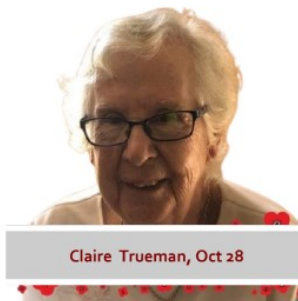
COME & RECEIVE A BLESSING



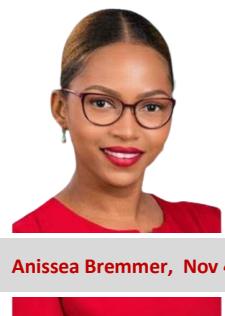
Rev Sylvan Hinds, Oct 26



Rev Godfrey Meghoo, Oct 27



Claire Trueman, Oct 28



Anissee Bremmer, Nov 4

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 || **Website:** www.ucjci.com

YouTube: UCJCI's Channel || **Instagram:** @UCJCI

We appreciate your feedback!
Please send your comments and input to
citc@ucjci.com