



UCJCI UPDATE

APRIL 19, 2023 VOL 10 ISSUE 12

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



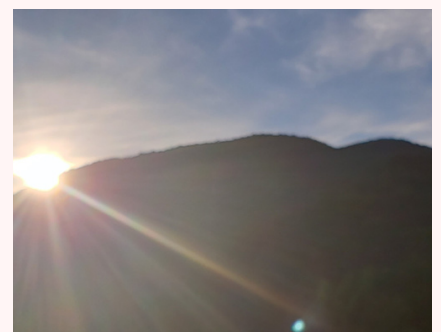
ON THE INSIDE

- SYNOD IN FOCUS
- YOUTH NEWS
- UCJCI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CWM
- COUNCIL NEWS
 - CELEBRATING 60 IN NERMC
 - LOOKING BACK AT HOLY WEEK AND EASTER IN CIRMC
- POINTS FOR PRAYER AND WORSHIP

UCJCI UPDATE

UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN OUR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND REGIONS, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND STUDY OF THE BIBLE, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

HE IS RISEN
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION





SYNOD IN FOCUS

Theme: Rooted, Resilient: Reignited by the Spirit

43RD SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS APRIL 23-30, 2023

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER



7 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

As our Church prepares to assemble to discuss matters pertaining to the direction of the Ministry to which Christ has called us, it is imperative that we fast and pray. Fasting and Prayer are Christian Spiritual Disciplines that position our souls to be open to the empowerment and leading of the Holy Spirit.

How will we engage the time of fasting and prayer?

- We will forego one meal for the day (if you are able to, as per doctor's advice)
- We will set aside some time each day to dedicate the daily prayer points to God. We are suggesting 12 noon each day.

FASTING CALENDAR

THURSDAY 20TH

Song: *You Are Awesome in this place*

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Pray for: The upkeep and effectiveness of the technology and the skill of the practitioners.

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FRIDAY 21ST
He Giveth More Grace

Pray for:

- safe travel, general safety and security and comfort for the attendees to the Synod and for the families and households in Jamaica and hosts in Cayman.
- Motions and the passage of resolutions which will support ministry to the poor and dispossessed in both societies.

Song: Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart

SATURDAY 22ND
Standing On The Promises

2 Peter 3:9 KJV The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Pray for:

Revelation from God for the way to challenge governments and societies in general towards integrity, righteousness and justice in Cayman and Jamaica.

Offer to God worship praise and thanksgiving for what God will do through Synod.

43RD SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS APRIL 23-30, 2023

CELEBRATING FAITHFULNESS

The United Church will celebrate persons who have served God in various ways and capacities over the years. This will include:

CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND WITNESS

Celebrating those who have served and are serving through the United Church. There will be memorials for Ministers and Synod delegates; Regional Awards two persons from each region and two others to be recognised for service to the Synod.

TENURE AWARDS

Celebrating Ministers (ordained and commissioned), and full-time lay pastors for their years of service to the United Church.

RESILIENCE AWARDS

Celebrating all Ministers, Lay Pastors and Synod staff who have served faithfully and diligently with resilience in the midst of the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic.

PUBLIC LECTURE

Celebration in alignment with the focus for the day on Wednesday - Stewardship. During the 43rd Synod Mr. Bryan Bothwell will be recognised for his stewardship of his gifts and skills and his work in the area of Stewardship.



Motif: MOVEMENT Main Symbol: SHIP

SEEKING RENEWAL AND REVIVAL IN OUR:

WorSHIP
FellowSHIP
DiscipleSHIP
LeaderSHIP
StewardSHIP

Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unjust, he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.

YOUTH NEWS

Message from the President of The United Church Young People's Fellowship (UCYPF)



Vanessa Blissett

**APRIL
IS YOUTH
MONTH IN
THE
UNITED
CHURCH**

Dear sisters and brothers,

A Happy Youth Month and I wish you an amazing National Youth Sunday service. For many it is a time for fresh starts, evaluating life and making plans to concentrate on the things that matter most to our youths and how impactful our ministry is. Being rooted and Christ-centered matters. Being resilient in hard times matters; and being on fire for Christ matters.

This message is not only for the scope of youths in your congregation but all youths whether by age or heart within the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. We have been coping with circumstances both new and familiar to us. Let us allow Christ to fuel the fire lit within us for Him. May our eyes be fixed on the cross and our arms open to receive God's richest, most bountiful blessings. Be encouraged to challenge the status quo and proclaim the gospel.

Our recent Synodical Sports Day is proof that we can indeed come together and achieve victories in Christ. Thank you to all who supported from promoting, attending and to participating in one way or another. I declare that you will find a way to be rooted in Christ, resiliently clinging to His Word and His teachings. *(Cont'd on page 5)*

YOUTH NEWS...

May we look to Him to guide, supply, encourage and motivate us.

- **Colossians 2: 6-7** reminds us "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
- **Joshua 1:9** says "I repeat, be strong and brave! Don't be afraid and don't panic, for I, the LORD your God, am with you in all you do."

Youth Ministry has been experiencing challenges that have impacted how frequently we meet, how often we execute events and how we appeal to persons to attend and RETURN to church. Without something to feed the fire it will evidently burn out. I encourage us to remember to carry our candles and go light our world. Let us participate in activities that fuel the flame whether it be to listen a Christian podcast, have group bible studies, host crusades and many other countless ideas. As Christ's Redeemed Youths, His Royal Priesthood - He has claimed us and may our fire inspire those we connect with to love God and their neighbours.

Let us live as deeply rooted Christians so that people of all ages aspire to be like us and come to cherish our mission. May we strive to exalt God and be resilient like bamboo even when we lack motivation. Being Christ-centered serves as a reminder that everything we do should reflect Christ and be in line with His mission. Remain in Him, look for and accept His heavenly wisdom and guidance. We are Youths, Rooted, Resilient, Re-ignited for Christ.

Grace and Peace
Vanessa Blissett,
UCYPF Synodical President



"Let us live as deeply rooted Christians so that people of all ages aspire to be like us and come to cherish our mission."

GIVING THANKS FOR 60 YEARS!



Stotrell and Alice Lowe are celebrating 60 years of marriage. On Sunday April 12, 2023 the morning service at Torrington United was dedicated to thanksgiving as the congregation comprised of members, family and friends, joined in celebrating with the couple.

Among those celebrating was Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson, retired minister in the United Church, who performed the wedding ceremony 60 years ago at Torrington United.

Rev. Carlington Keen, Interim Minister for the Torrington/Mt. Carmel charge greets the couple.



The Lowes received gifts in celebration of their diamond anniversary.

Rev. Stotrell Lowe, also a retired minister in the United Church, served as an intern at Torrington. It was during that time of his internship that he met Alice who had been invited to worship at Torrington by a friend.

In his sermon entitled: Giving Thanks, Rev. Carlington Keen focussed on Psalm 100. This is an excerpt from the sermon.

"The importance of thanksgiving is so wide and so deep that it applies to every person of every generation. Times of thanksgiving are opportunities to formally express our gratitude to God for what He has done in our lives . Thanksgiving is something we all need. Giving thanks to God puts everything else in a right perspective. When we give thanks to God for everything we receive, whether good or bad, other things fall into place.

So what better way to celebrate a diamond anniversary than to give God thanks in the form of a thanksgiving service. In verse 4 of the text we are encouraged to 'Enter His gates with thanksgiving', and in verse 5 we are told why - For the Lord is good and His love endures forever, His faithfulness continues through all generations.

This is the basis of our thanksgiving. Thanksgiving doesn't require bounty just a recognition of what God has done for us."



Congratulations expressed by Mrs. Cecilia Solomon, Congregational Secretary.



LOOKING BACK AT HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Maundy Thursday Gathering in Savannah

On April 6, 2023, congregants of the North-East Charge (East End, Gun Bay, North Side) and the Savannah-Bodden Town Charge gathered for the first time for a Maundy Thursday Service. The event provided an opportunity for those attending in-person and those via Zoom to remember and reflect on the Last Supper, Jesus' teachings of love, humility and service, and the events leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection.

Good Friday at Elmslie Memorial

In celebration of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary, the Cayman Islands Male Voice Choir presented a Good Friday Concert on April 7, 2023, at Elmslie Memorial United Church. The Male Voice Choir has been in existence for 49 years. The members of the choir hail from various denominations and congregations across the Cayman Islands. The concert featured a mix of contemporary and traditional choir music. Minister of the host Congregation, Rev. L. Christopher Mason, offered words of thanks at the end of the event. Mr. Denver Bloomfield and Mr. Antonio Sanchez served as accompanists of the choir. The concert was broadcast by Radio Cayman and can be viewed on the Elmslie Memorial YouTube channel.



Easter Sunrise Service

Worshippers of the Eastern Districts (Bodden Town, East End, North Side), representing various Churches gathered for the annual Easter Sunday Sunrise Service held this year at the Coe Wood Beach in Bodden Town.



THEME FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

YEARNING TO RECONNECT

Suggested Scripture: Luke 24:13–35

- He became food for them to satisfy their yearning
- Did not our hearts burn within us?

Think about current times – drought/floods/natural disasters etc. We are hungry for transformation. At times, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we lack clarity.

The text is an invitation to reconnect with the One Who causes our hearts to burn within us, whom we recognize as 'the Bread of Life' that was given to the Israelites in the wilderness and who takes us through whatever drought and famine we face, physically, morally, mentally, and spiritually.

'Fill my Cup Lord'

LET US PRAY FOR...

- The upcoming Synod of The United Church - discernment, worship opportunities, travel, technology, processes and sustained health of participants.
- The family, colleagues and friends of Lay Pastor John McMillian of the Cayman Islands who died this week.
- The sister of Rev. Delroy Harris - Rema Fisher - who has been hospitalised.
- Current drought conditions in sections of Jamaica which impact the livelihood of farmers and the budget of households.
- All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way.

UCJCI IN PARTNERSHIP



Discipleship has become a key issue across many ecclesial communities and their witness in communities. Discipleship is both a gift and a calling to be active collaborators with God for the transforming of the world and it is key to effecting transformation in our life together for the whole of creation. CWM's thematic focus recognizes this and affirms that God may be challenging churches to a more intentional commitment in response to God's love revealed in Christ and the new world of full and flourishing life that Christ embodies and invites us to share in.

A re-envisioning of Christian discipleship, however, has to take into account Christianity's part in colonizing violence and occupation. The era of colonial empires and their missions may have passed but the systems, dis-order, attitudes and even some practices they created, that is their legacies, continue to dominate. This is a spirit and praxis in discipleship which needs to be exorcised and converted.

At the same time, it should be noted that in the face of coloniality, disciples of all nations, came forward who recognized in Jesus the one who could lead them, their people, their land, indeed the whole inhabited earth to liberation and peace. This reminds us that the Gospel has a power and a horizon which is greater than the limitations imposed by those who proclaim it. It has the power, like Jesus, to confound the love of power.

WITH CWM

Excerpt from 'Rise to Life: Radical Discipleship and Transformative Spirituality' - A theme paper for the upcoming Council for World Mission Members' Mission Forum.

Rooting this vision of life flourishing communities in our contexts and making clear our witness to Christ in the changes we seek to bring in the midst of the crises our world faces, must mean our method becoming our habit (that which we inhabit and embody) and vice versa. This will be an inter (intra) cultural, inter(intra) religious, inter (intra)sectional and conversational one, grounded on the premise of partnership and driven by the movement of love.

As our habit becomes our method in our working together, we can discover/discern practices and ways to empower our visions so that further and deeper change can blossom and grow. We are commissioned by the Life Flourishing Spirit to seek her presence and wisdom in dialogue with others, the earth and our traditions, sharing and receiving each other's understanding of sacred truth, experiences, and treasures, and witnessing to Jesus that Babylon is fallen as Jesus rises amongst us and breathes his Spirit on us and sends us out to bring peace to a wounded, divided, but deeply loved world.

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION
CARIBBEAN REGION MEMBERS MISSION FORUM
Georgetown, Guyana
27 to 31 May 2023
Rise to Life: Radical Discipleship
and Transformative Spirituality

The Council for World Mission is a worldwide partnership of Christian churches. The 32 members are committed to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MISS MARSHA
MARTIN



REV. OBREN
THOMAS



APRIL 22

REV. WAYNE
WISDOM



REV. DR. ELSA
CLARKE



APRIL 23

APRIL 30

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
(PRESBYTERIAN, CONGREGATIONAL AND DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

CAMP MINISTRY presents **CAMP 2023**

**VENUE:
MADGE SAUNDERS
CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**COST PER CAMPER:
\$10,500**

**GET READY!
GET READY!!
GET READY!!!**

SCHEDULE:


- Children's Camp (Ages 8 - 10)**
 - Saturday July 8 - Thursday July 13, 2023
- Junior Camp (Ages 11 - 13)**
 - Saturday July 15 - Thursday July 20, 2023
- Facemaker Teens (Teens 1) (Ages 14 - 17)**
 - Saturday July 22 - Thursday July 27, 2023
- Discovery Teens (Teens 2) (Ages 14 - 17)**
 - Saturday July 29 - Thursday August 3, 2023



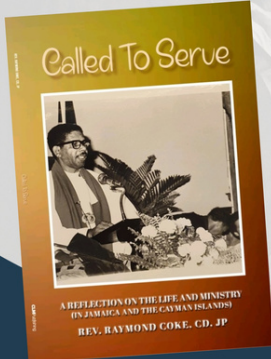
**CAMP MINISTRY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023
(Bring a special offering & help send a child to camp)**

MORE INFO COMING SOON!


MAY 28, 2023
At 5:00pm
Hope United Church

BOOK LAUNCH 

"CALLED TO SERVE"



A REFLECTION ON THE LIFE AND MINISTRY
(IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS)
REV. RAYMOND COKE, CD, JP



"An exciting read on the life of a modern day Moses - called to lead the Church body through change over many decades..."

Price: \$3,000 JMD

**Written by
REV. RAYMOND COKE, CD, JP**

Former Moderator and retired Minister of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

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ON THURSDAY WEAR SOMETHING BLACK



When you wear something black on Thursdays you join a worldwide movement committing to activism against rape and violence. On that day be ready to share with someone the reason you are wearing black.

TUNE IN TO UNITED IN FAITH

Sundays on RJR 94 F.M at 6:30 a.m.

**You can also listen on demand on Anchor FM:
The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.**



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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**We appreciate your feedback.
Please send your comments and input to
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