

# UCJCI UPDATE

MAY 24. 2023

VOL.10 ISSUE 15 THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



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- UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **UCJCI UPDATE**

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

#### **FEATURE ARTICLE**

IN THIS MONTH WHEN CHILDREN ARE SPECIALLY REMEMBERED, THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES. THE COMMISSION HAS ALSO REACHED **OUT TO VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO BE ACTIVE IN** COMMUNICATING TO CHILDREN HOW SPECIAL THEY ARE AND THAT THEY ARE LOVED AND PROTECTED. READ ABOUT PAST ACITIVITIES AND OTHERS TO **COME. SEE PAGE 2** 



## CELEBRATING CHILD MONTH IN THE UNITED CHURCH





## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

#### **May 24**

National Day of Prayer for our children

#### **May 25**

National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Day

#### June 17

Camp Leaders' Training

#### **July 8-13**

Children's Camp

#### **July 15-20**

**Junior Camp** 

#### **November**

Church School Month

### RE-IGNITED BY THE SPIRIT TO LOVE AND PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

May is Child Month and this year our church is celebrating Child Month under the theme, "Reignited by the Spirit to Love and Protect Our Children".

This Child Month we want to make our children feel extra special, loved, and protected. In keeping with the Ministry of Education Daily Tips, here are some methods to do so.

- Remember to say "I love you" to your child/ward daily.
- Encourage your child/ward to say "no" in situations where they feel uncomfortable.
- Educate your child/ward on the importance of setting boundaries.
- Children need affection. Give your child/ward a hug.
- Teach your children that it is okay to confide in you.
- Spend quality family time with your children.
- Attend church with your child/ward.
- Together, prepare a list of persons to contact in case of an emergency.
- Give your child/ward hugs frequently.
- Teach children to value and respect their teachers.

Let us embrace the Bible Study from Day 2 of the 2023 Synod which encouraged us to "Reconnect Our Relationship with Our Children" under the following:-

- **Recognise** and teach your children that they have value and are a part of the Kingdom of God. Matthew 18:4-Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- Include your children in the regular worship experience, not only Children's and Girls'/Boys' Brigade Sundays. Matthew 19:13-15Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
- **Guide** your children to God. Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Sisters and brothers, as we reconnect and reinforce our love and protection for our children, our parents and church school teachers will be paying tribute to them. Our children will also be given an opportunity to make a difference in our church with their talents and gifts from God.

#### **CELEBRATING CHILD MONTH**

#### PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN

On each Sunday starting May 14, one Church School superintendent or teacher will pray for our nations' children and each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, three children will say a prayer, a Bible verse or do an item. The prayers will end on June 9. This should be done by audio recording and will be circulated throughout the United Church



## DYNAMIC KIDS IN ACTION FOR CHRIST



We will be hosting another virtual Dynamic Kids in Action for Christ on May 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Zoom credentials will be available through Church School Superintendents

#### **CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN**

The Commission is encouraging the Church Schools to celebrate our children this Child Month by highlighting at least one child with a tribute from a parent(s) during the worship service for the remaining Sundays in May. The Commission is requesting that the profile of one of these children from each Region be sent to the Commission each week as this will be shared with the wider United Church.

CONTACT
INFORMATION FOR
THE CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
COMMISSION

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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: UNITED KIDS FOR CHRIST

> INSTAGRAM: UNITEDKIDS4U



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#### ·Education support ·Health and Wellness

·Food security

#### Regional Mission Councils

·Community outreach ministries

- ·Training
- **·Education**
- ·Peace Initiatives

#### **Synodical Leadership**

- ·Food Security
- ·Moral issues
- ·Persons with Disability Policy
- ·Finance
- ·Health and Wellness
- ·Haiti Response
- .Peace Initiatives in Schools

## PRIORITIES FOR WITNESS

Bearing witness to the love of God is a priority for all believers. Witness incorporates work among Children and Youth; Evangelism, Education, and Outreach.

Synod discussions, discernment and decisions embraced a variety of areas which we aim to impact with the love of God. Priorities include advocacy through outreach, food security, education, collaboration, initiatives, peace moral issues including abortion and human sexuality. Evangelistic and discipleship strategies will be shaped around these identified priorities.

# COUNCIL NEWS FROM CAYMAN



#### **MISSION NEWS**

We welcome Baby Gansuvd and her Grandmother Oyundulam, from Mongolia. Baby Gansuvd had surgery on Friday, May 19, 2023. Enkeelei who is their interpreter is also with them. The group is currently at the Health City Hospital and post-surgery she is well enough, they will relocate to the Beth Shalom Mission House. Thanks to Mrs Olga Gourzong and Ms Angela Martins for hosting Baby Gansuvd. The RDGS is the Chaplain for the group. Please keep Gansuvd in your prayers.

#### **HELPING YOUNG FAMILIES**

On Saturday, May 13,2023, a special Mother's Day treat awaited the participants of the Young Families Programme, operated by the John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay) in partnership with the South Sound United Church.

On average, 25-30 young families benefit from this initiative, introduced five years ago.



The twice-monthly meetings include devotions, pantry ministry, soup kitchen, and providing supplies much needed by those raising young children.

The Congregation also partners with the Family Resource Centre of the Cayman Islands Government, assisting young parents in accessing information, resources, training, and essential tools to navigate the challenges of young parenting.





#### Certificate in Basic Chaplaincy Care

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will assist participants to define the theoretical framework and practice of a chaplain and to be introduced to the practice of spiritual care services in healthcare, workplace, disaster and emergency management, prison, disaster, law enforcement, sports, and educational institutions.

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

All levels of congregational leaders (including clergy, theological student)

Firemen

**Healthcare Professionals** 

Law Enforcement Officers

**Jail & Prison Community Officers** 

Corporate/Industrial Employees including Human Resources Personnel

Cost: USD 75 OR JMD 12,000

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON

Date: June 3 - June 24, 2023

(Saturdays Only) **Delivery: Online** 

Tel: 876-927-1724/ 2868

Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

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#### TARGET AUDIENCES

All levels of congregational leaders (including clergy)

Information Technology specialists within the congregation.

General church membership interested in exploring the possibilities of digital media as a tool for discipleship.





Market

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Call us at 876-927-1724 / 2868

# Certificate in

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to offer participants opportunities to learn about the vast potential of social media as a teaching and instructional tool for influencing a digital audience with appropriately designed social media content amidst the continuous changes in teaching and learning globally.

#### **COURSE GOAL:**

Participants will become familiar with the concept of digital discipleship, be able to assess the advantages and disadvantages of various social media platforms with respect to their intended audience, and successfully implement a programme of nurturing disciples digitally.

June 24 - July 29, 2023

(Saturdays Only)

**9AM - 12PM Duration: 6 Weeks Delivery: Online** 

#### Registration:

Early Bird (ends June 2) JMD 15,000 Regular: JMD 17,000



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## THEME FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

#### DAY OF PENTECOST - RECONNECT WITH POWER

Suggested Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39

The power that was promised, for which the Disciples gathered and waited in earnest anticipation, burst forth on the Day of Pentecost. Peter and the other Disciples spoke with power and authority by the Holy Spirit. That same power is available to us as we reconnect with God and are re-ignited by the Spirit. There is wonder-working power in the blood of Jesus!

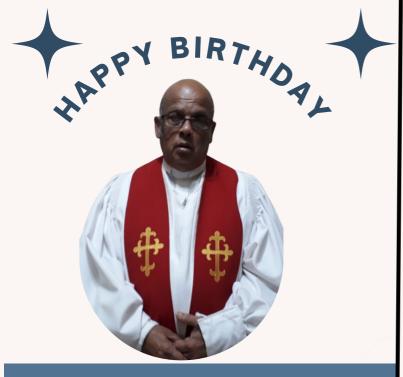
The Holy Ghost's Power is Moving Just like a Magnet



#### LET US PRAY FOR...

- The nation of Guyana and our partner church in CWM
   Caribbean and CANACOM -Guyana Congregational
   Union as they witness in the midst of pain following the death of 19 children who perished in a fire.
- Rev. Henley Bernard and wife Pat. Pat lost her brother Owen Gilbert.
- Rev. Nicole Ashwood, family, friends and members of Greendale United Church at the death of Nicole's mother, Mrs. Myrtle Ashwood Johnson

- Our members and leaders as we set to the task of ministry and mission following the recent Synod.
- Children in both nations; for their safety, provision, nurture and care.
- Preparedness of vulnerable nations for the upcoming Hurricane season.



Rev. Garwell 'John' Bacchas MAY 28 Praying for your peace and joy as you celebrate your birthday



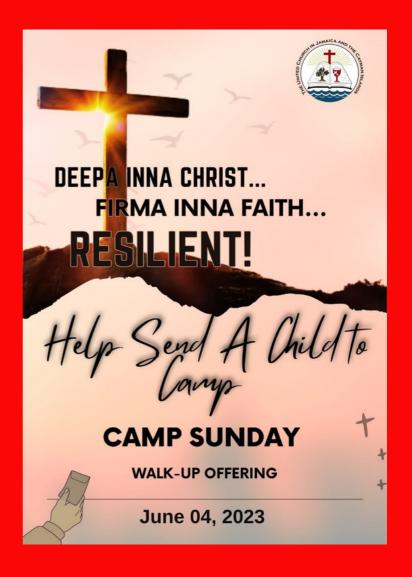
Remember to wear black on Thursday. Take a Stand! Work for a world without violence.

## PLEASE SUPPORT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS





## PLEASE SUPPORT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS



BUFF BAY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## ONE DAY CONVENTION

Sunday May 28, 2023 at 10 a.m. Buff Bay United Church, Portland

Come expecting to be richly blessed!



## SYNODICAL THEME: Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit

(Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

# OUR VISION Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

## The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

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