



# UCJCI UPDATE

MAY 24, 2023

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



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## 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 REGIONS 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 MINISTRY 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 ACTIVITIES AND OTHERS TO COME. **SEE PAGE 2**





# CELEBRATING CHILD MONTH IN THE UNITED CHURCH

## 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 19:13-15-*Then 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.



## 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

# 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**

**EMAIL:  
UCJICCHILDRENSCOM  
MISSION@GMAIL.COM**

**CELL NUMBER:  
876-238-3588 (F)**

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL:  
UNITED KIDS FOR  
CHRIST**

**INSTAGRAM:  
UNITEDKIDS4U**



# SO SYNOD IS OVER.

## NOW WHAT

## WITNESS TO THE LOVE OF GOD



### ► Congregations

- Review ministries to children, youth and men
- Community outreach ministries
- Food security
- Education support
- Health and Wellness

### Regional Mission Councils

- 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, peace initiatives, 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 Gansuud and her Grandmother Oyundulam, from Mongolia. Baby Gansuud 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 Gansuud. The RDGS is the Chaplain for the group. Please keep Gansuud 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.



SEND NEWS OF YOUR CONGREGATION OR REGION, AND COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO [CITC@UCJCI.COM](mailto:CITC@UCJCI.COM)



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
OF THE WEST INDIES

## 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](mailto:jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm)  
[@utcwiconnect](#)



# SUMMER SHORT COURSES



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
OF THE WEST INDIES

## Certificate in DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP

### 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.

### 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.

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

@UTCWIconnect

Call us at 876-927-1724 / 2868

# 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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**



Meadowbrook United Church  
PRESENTS

# A Feast of Music

Meadowbrook United Church

Under the distinguished patronage of  
MR. COURTNEY CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT AND CEO  
Victoria Mutual Building Society

**04 JUNE**  
**6:30PM**  
at The Little Theatre  
4 Tom Redcam Drive, Kingston, Jamaica

**CONTRIBUTION \$4000**

**FEATURING**  
The University Singers

**COMPERE**  
Markland Edwards

**Tafane (Saxophonist)**  
D Major Paulette Bellamy Jon Williams Desi Jones & Friends YCATS Dance Troupe

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:**  
MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH - 2 Flemington Dr. Kgn 19  
876 925 5860 / 1876 969 6918  
www.meadumited.org

ANSWERS - Shop 1, Tropical Plaza, Constant Spring Rd.

PROCEEDS from this fundraising venture go towards assisting the education and other outreach activities of Meadowbrook United Church.



WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



in Association with Webster Memorial Basic School

## ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM



### PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN: CREATING SAFE SPACES IN SCHOOLS

**Thu. May 25, 2023**  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm**

**JOIN US!**  
via Zoom

**LIVE**

**PLEASE  
SUPPORT  
THESE  
UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



**DEEPA INNA CHRIST...  
FIRMA INNA FAITH...  
RESILIENT!**

*Help Send A Child to  
Camp*

**CAMP SUNDAY**

WALK-UP OFFERING

June 04, 2023

**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)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.  
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)

### 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. Mauleen Henry**