



UCJCI UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 VOL. 10 NO. 17

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



SOUTHERN REGION YOUNG ADULTS ADDED MORE BEAUTY TO THE MOUNT OLIVET BOYS HOME IN THEIR WORK DAY RECENTLY. P.2

ON THE INSIDE

- MISSION WITH BOYS - YOUNG ADULTS IN ACTION
- NEWS FROM CAYMAN
- TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAY PERSONS
- AN INVITATION TO SHARE ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES
- FOR YOUR HEALTH
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

UCJCI UPDATE

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

FEATURE ARTICLE

THE ENVIRONMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS IN ONE'S BIOLOGICAL FAMILY ARE NOT ALWAYS POSITIVE AND HEALTHY. THANKFULLY THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE PLACES WHICH PROVIDE GROWING AND CARING SPACES AND RELATIONSHIPS FOR CHILDREN. THIS HAS BEEN PART OF THE MINISTRY OF UCJCI FOR OVER 100 YEARS. AUXILIARIES, CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HELP TO SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY. READ ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION YOUNG ADULTS AS THEY PLAY THEIR PART IN MISSION WITH BOYS **(PAGES 2 AND 3)**



PROMOTING TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS TO PREPARE THEM FOR SERVICE. SEE PAGE 4

MISSION WITH BOYS

YOUNG ADULTS IN ACTION



It's all smiles at the end of a work day for the young adults. Here they pose for a picture with RDGS Mrs. Janet McConnell with clean-up tools in hand.

On September 9, 2023, members of the United Church Young Adults Action Movement (UCYAAM) in the Southern Regional Mission Council came together for a grand clean-up exercise at the Mount Olivet Boys Home in Walderston, Manchester. Mount Olivet Boys' Home is one of two children's homes established by the United Church.

15 young adults from various congregations in addition to the Regional Deputy General Secretary cleaned indoor areas, the grounds and planted flowers. They also engaged some of the boys in the activity as a way of encouraging responsibility in the care of their surroundings.

The clean-up came as a reignition of mission for the young adults regarding the safety, protection, and wellness of the boys. During their conversations with the
(cont'd on p.3)



Adding natural beauty to the Home.

“I felt good seeing the group coming in to help clean up the space and it is appreciated.”



Image of the Mount Olivet Boys' Home building upgraded by the Yohan Blake Foundation.



President of SRMC UCYAAM, Ms. Ishama Pryce preparing refreshments.

(cont'd from p.2.) boys, the young adults realized that their skills in psychology, farming, communication, law, and education can contribute to

creating a multifaceted and meaningful ministry to the boys at the home. One of the boys said "I felt good seeing the group coming in to help clean up the space and it is appreciated." He indicated that he would love to see more groups helping at the home in whatever way such as with the cleaning of the place or to help with school work and/or different needs."

The young adults were joined by the Regional Deputy General Secretary Mrs Janet McConnell and the Board Chairman Ms. Sophia Morgan. Ms Morgan noted that "it was very heartwarming to see the young adults come out and execute the cleanup without any "negative thoughts" about helping...they were down to earth".

This initiative is but one way that the young adults of the region have been contributing to the Home. We are excited to see the other ways mission will be strengthened with the boys.



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS – NOVEMBER 2023

UCJCI LAY LEADERS CERTIFICATE COURSE - MODULES 2 AND 3 COMING

The Training of Lay Leaders continues in the conclusion of another cohort of Module 1 on August 30 with anticipated Graduation on Sunday November 12, 2023. Assessments are now being done towards the completion of the list of graduands.

Modules 2 and 3 will begin in November 2023. It is planned that both will run concurrently with the early topics in Module 3 being those without a corresponding pre-requisite in Module 2.

Topics will include Ministry with Children, Evangelism and Discipleship; Ministry with Youth and Communication. Both modules will be including periods of practicum. Module 2 will end in March 2023 and Module 3 will end November 2024.



For more information
Email: ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com

FROM CAYMAN REGION

A Reflection on Worship

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Please read Psalm 149

Psalm 149 is one of the five Hallelujah psalms found at the end of the Book of Psalms. The Psalmist uses the refrain 'Praise the Lord', at the beginning and end of the psalm to underscore the fact that the psalm is dedicated to the praise of God. The words of the Psalmist call us not only to a place of worship but to a life of worship in time and eternity.

David, the Psalmist, understood God's desire and invited the congregation of saints to sing a new song. David, a musician of immense talent, knew that the heart, soul, and mind needed to become engaged in worship through praise, using the voice, instruments, and dance. He also knew that the congregation, the gathered people of God, best presented this praise before God.

The Psalm is an integrated hymn of praise with two main divisions. Part 1, verses 1-5, is an invitation or summon to worship God intentionally and consistently, in joyful glory. Part 2, verses 6-9, however, would suggest that worship prepares one for victory over the enemy.

Realigning our Worship to bring Glory to God

This is, of course, a strange juxtaposition. It is almost as if worship enables us to participate in God's divine plan, not only over our lives but over the lives of those who are against God and God's people. The sword drawn for fighting, it seems, needs to be drawn foremostly in worship. Could this be God's way of assuring victory for God's people against those who attempt to foil God's plans? The battle then, against such foes seems to be the Lord's, not ours.

But we must contemplate this militant position in light of Jesus' Matthew 26:25 instruction, to 'Put your sword back in place, for all who live by the sword, will die by the sword'. Jesus' vicarious death for us on the cross won the victory on our behalf, which frees us to worship without alloy or and without plans to destroy the 'enemy'. It seems then that our duty is to seek God primarily in worship, and God will bring the victory!

When we realign our worship, we bring glory to God, and we are better able to commune with the other. Let us then consider the following:

(cont'd on p. 6)

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

•The word worship, proskuneó in Greek, means 'to move towards to kiss', or to lie prostrate on the ground before the object of worship.

• Worship indicates the awe, respect, and love expressed to the One that is worshipped.

• Worship is constant and unwavering.

• Worship is God's requirement, and it offers to God adoration and praise not only in song and with instruments but through prayers, meditation on God, reading of the Holy Scripture, and being in constant obedience to God in order to discern direction for life and living.

• Worship of God accomplishes 'man's chief end and brings glory to God. (Westminster's Shorter Catechism)

•Although the human being has a propensity to worship, sometimes we replace the object of our worship with idols and activities that tend to erase the Lord of Worship.

• Worship must be in spirit and in truth – John 4:24 reminds us, 'God is Spirit and those that worship God, must worship God in spirit and in truth.

• Worship informs and shapes our life and our perspective on life.

.(Excerpt from message on Back to Church Sunday)

WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH Vacation Bible School



Webster Memorial's VBS was held on July 3-7, 2023. The attendance over the week was 42 children and youth who were grouped into various classes. The VBS theme was Ready, Set, Move! Follow Jesus Here, There and Everywhere.

Day 1 – Matthew 7: 24-29 – We should always do what Jesus says!

Day 2 –Matthew 16: 13-20 – We need to believe who Jesus is.

Day 3 – John 21: 15-25 – We are here to show love to others. Love who Jesus loves.

Day 4 – Acts 2 – Share what Jesus did.

Day 5 – Acts 17: 16-34 – Like Paul, we should GO where God leads us.

Birthday Greetings



Rev. Glenroy Clarke
SEPTEMBER 15



Rev. Dr. Derek Davidson
SEPTEMBER 16

MINISTERS AND LAY PASTORS LET'S SHARE RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES



United Church congregations engage in vibrant and thought-provoking BIBLE STUDIES on a variety of topics each week.

Some congregations do not have those regular studies but their members would like to join in such a study.

Can we work together to bring the Word to those who are thirsting for it?

Let's reach beyond our communities by sharing the links to our online bible studies, with DATE, TOPIC, TIME, LINK Ministers and Lay Pastors, if you want to participate, please send information to ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com

Our Homes are Places of Worship



SEPTEMBER – REALIGN THE FAITH AND WIDER COMMUNITY

To realign the faith and wider community requires an encounter with God. The community depends on the Church to show the example of commitment and peace.

THEME THIS WEEK: THE REALIGNED FAITH COMMUNITY IS LED BY GOD

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

Exodus 14:19–31

Psalms 114

Romans 14:1–12

Matthew 18:21–35

● Angels and Clouds are powerful symbols of God's divine presence with God's people. Unless the Church understands God's presence, the Church lacks the capacity to lead the nation.

● Paul reminds us of how to live as Sisters and Brothers in the Church so that we have the credibility to lead those outside the community of faith.

- Rev. Rohan Kong who lost his grandmother last month.

Let us pray for:
Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte and Mrs. Carol Hoyte on the passing of Mrs. Hoyte's mother Mrs. Ena Campbell.

- Impactful ministry in our congregations

- Rev. Hyacinth Edwards

- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson

- Pastor Donald West whose mother has recently died.

- Mrs. Shernett Smith whose brother died and whose brother-in-law is sick.

- On-going challenges of drought in Jamaica

- Our preparedness and safety during the hurricane season.

For Your Health

SEPTEMBER 2023





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Schedule your appointment today	5	6	7	8 RAISE AWARENESS	9
10	11 RAISE AWARENESS	12	13	14 Schedule your appointment today	15	16
17 THE BLUE RUN Registration Now Open www.runningeventsja.com	18	19 Schedule your appointment today	20	21 RAISE AWARENESS	22	23
24 SAVE THE DATE 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 PROSTATE CANCER MEDICAL WEBINAR	25	26	27 RAISE AWARENESS	28	29 Schedule your appointment today	30


Prostate Cancer Awareness

STATISTICS IN JAMAICA

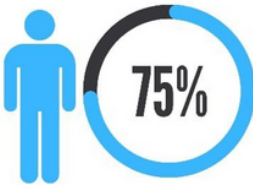
Prostate Cancer is responsible for more deaths in Jamaican men than any other cancer.

Prostate cancer mortality rates in Jamaica are high, and the rates for the Caribbean region overall are the highest in the world



304 of every 100,000 men in Jamaica will be diagnosed with Prostate Cancer



More than 75 percent of the cases are found in men over 65 years of age.

Bureau of Gender Affairs Jamaica

Meadowbrook United Church



64th

*Anniversary
Service*

ONE SERVICE AT 8:30AM

Sunday, September 17, 2023

○ THEME: "Rooted and Resilient: Ignited by the Spirit through our Love and Service",

Special Anniversary Offering

Preacher

REV. ANTHONY CHUNG

You may also join on Livestream or

 @MeadowbrookUnitedChurch



United Theological College of the West Indies

invites you to register for the Short Course

Issues in Gender and Preventing Gender-based Violence

Topics

Bible & Gender

Understanding Gender

Women Taking Their Place

Gender, Leadership & Power

Church, Gender & Human Rights



Cost:

USD 99

JMD 15,500

*September 30 -
October 28, 2023
Saturdays ONLY
9:00 A.M. -
12:00 P.M.*

Contact us at:

Tel: 876-927-1724/ 2868

WhatAspp: 876-585-5488

Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

Register Here

<https://forms.gle/Sie4uKW36YvRr8o66>

WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAY

TAKE A STAND

This is one way of demonstrating your stance against violence, especially against women and girls. Take the opportunity to explain to someone why you are wearing black.





HOPE UNITED CHURCH
INVITES ALL TERTIARY STUDENTS TO

BIG DAY

THE TERTIARY EDITION!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 | 8:00 A.M.

WELCOME! | WORSHIP! | FELLOWSHIP

221 OLD HOPE ROAD, KINGSTON 6
(876) 977-6134 | hopeunited@cwjamaica.com



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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