

#### **CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL**

## **WEEKLY UPDATE**

November 23, 2023

**REIGN OF HRIST** 

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 46

UCJCI 43<sup>rd</sup> SYNOD THEME - Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit (Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)



This coming Sunday is called 'Christ the King Sunday,' and with it, we arrive at the end of the Church's Liturgical Year. It is the conclusion of the Churches' annual liturgical journey, which takes us through the life of Jesus Christ and the message of the Gospel, marking the most significant steps along the way.

The name, 'Christ the King Sunday' reminds us of the eschatological dimension of our faith, namely, that at the end of time, our Lord will return to set in motion the unfolding of God's kingdom, as it will be established in all its fullness to the ends of the earth. In our reformed tradition, it is customary to incorporate in our worship services hymns like "Crown Him with Many Crowns" and "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" to mark this special occasion. On the following Sunday, the 1st Sunday in Advent, we begin our twelve-month liturgical/spiritual journey again as we look forward to the future with hope and expectation.

# Fan Christ's flame to the Glory of God

As Shepherd, Jesus not only rekindles us, but He also restores and reigns over us for God's glory. When we allow the flame of Jesus to be kindled in us by serving Him, we blaze in the Light of His Glory.

#### Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The passage speaks of God's care and compassion for God's people, likening God to a shepherd who seeks out and tends to God's flock. It emphasizes God's commitment to providing for and protecting the sheep, promising to rescue them from harm and guide them to green pastures. The passage also points to the promise of a righteous and just ruler, referred to as the "Davidic Shepherd," who will lead God's people with wisdom and righteousness.

#### <u>Psalm 100</u>

Psalm 100 is a joyful and celebratory psalm that calls for all people to enter into worship with gladness and thanksgiving. It encourages the recognition of God as the Creator, acknowledging God's goodness and faithfulness. The psalm invites believers to approach God with praise, knowing that

God's love endures forever, and it emphasizes the enduring nature of God's mercy throughout all generations.

#### Ephesians 1:15-23

The apostle Paul expresses gratitude for the faith and love of the Ephesian believers. He prays for them, asking God to grant them wisdom and revelation to deepen their understanding of God. Paul highlights the power of God, which was demonstrated in the resurrection of Christ, and emphasizes Christ's authority over all things, placing Him as head over the Church, which is His body. The passage underscores the exalted position of Christ, who fills all things and is the source of the Church's unity and spiritual fullness.

#### Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus describes the final judgment, portraying the Son of Man separating people as a shepherd divides sheep from goats. Those who show compassion and kindness to others are welcomed into the kingdom, while those who neglect the needs of others are separated. Jesus emphasizes that acts of love and service to the least among us are, in fact, acts done unto Him. The passage underscores the importance of compassion and selfless care for others as integral to one's relationship with God and eternal destiny.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who rescues, restores, provides for, guides and protects the members of His flock. Let us respond to Him with gratitude and praise. Kindling His flame in our hearts will lead to personal and collective spiritual fullness and unity.



A two-day training course was held on November 11 and 18, 2023, at the Council Office for those involved in Children and Youth Ministry. The purpose of the training was to deepen and broaden their knowledge and understanding of how to engage and nurture the spiritual and personal growth of the younger members of our congregations and communities. A total of twenty-one dedicated individuals attended the sessions.

The training covered various crucial topics facilitated by experts in their respective fields, each bringing a wealth of

knowledge and experience to the sessions. Dr. Ginelle Nelson addressed the importance of mental health awareness, while Ms. April Lewis, an experienced counselor, shared her expertise in counseling techniques, offering valuable tools and approaches. The third segment of the training focused on cognitive development, led by Mr. Denver Bloomfield, an expert with extensive experience in the field.



The sessions provided attendees with valuable insights and practical strategies to foster a supportive environment and enable them to tailor their ministry approaches to the specific needs they encounter in their ministry. The presentations were not only informative but also highly engaging.

A special note of gratitude goes to a generous donor whose contribution made this training possible. Looking into the future, the organizers hope to continue the training in early 2024.

\*\*\*

## Recognition of Service At the Savannah United Church

On Sunday, November 18th, the Savannah United Church expressed gratitude to Ms. Camile Watt, Youth Minister of the Congregation, for her nearly five years of exceptional service. She was described as one with unconditional love for the children and youth, a mentor and friend who is always available, has a kind and generous heart, and goes far beyond the call of duty.



# An Evening Of Music In support of the Lilla Nell Ebanks Music Fund

The John Gray Memorial Church Sanctuary (West Bay) filled to its capacity on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 6:00 pm as people from around the island gathered for an evening of music to celebrate the launch of the Lilla Nell Music Fund. The Fund was created to advance education in music and song amongst the children and young people of the John Gray Memorial Church, including its Youth Choir.



"One of those gifted individuals who stood as a testament to how music can impact our lives was the late Mrs. Lilla Nell Ebanks, who brought music to West Bay, particularly to the youth of the District, from 1947 to approximately 1980. Throughout those years, Ms. Lilla touched the lives of almost two hundred youths with her talent, discipline, integrity, and love.

This was at a time when the total population of the islands was less than 8,000! A number of those whom she taught to play on her beloved upright piano are present with us tonight, and some of her students serve on the Elders Board of our Church. Ms. Lilla saw life through a lens of love and forgiveness and, some say, with a 'song in her heart.'

As a faithful member of our Church and founding member of the Women's Fellowship (then known as the Women's Guild), Ms. Lilla spent her life giving her talents and skills to her Church and her community." (from the event brochure)

The program featured artists and musicians like the JGMC Sanctuary Choir, the Cayman male Voice Choir, pianists Mr. Glen Inanga, Ms. Abigail Parchment, Mrs. Christine Barnett, Mr. Andres Groves, Ms. Anabella Grace Voaden, and Ms. Nicole Bodden, violinists Ms. Katherine Inanga and Mr. Curtis Barnett, trombonist Mr. Lisvany Cisneros and soloists Ms. Freida Blake, Ms. Rebekah Jefferson, Mr. Reymar Latap, Mr. Arek Nicholson and Ms. Anika Conolly.

Following the program, refreshments awaited those who stayed behind for more fellowship. The event was a great success, not only because of the great interest and numbers in attendance but also financially, because the Fund received almost \$6,000 to begin its ministry. Congratulations to the organizing Committee and the John Gray Memorial Church for such a blessing enjoyed by so many.





\*\*\*



### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2023

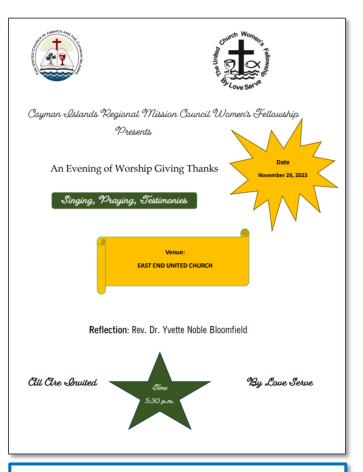
VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID: 861 7325 1669
Passcode: 939497

SESSION BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.

Information on Module Offerings, Schedules, Registration, Cost

#### WHO ARE MODULES 2 AND 3 FOR?

- PERSONS WHO HAVE COMPLETED MODULE 1
- PERSONS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HONING THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN SPECIALIZED AREAS SUCH AS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, YOUTH MINISTRY, EVANCELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, COMMUNICATION AND PIONEER MINISTRY WITH SPECIAL GROUPS (MEN, WOMEN, PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES)
- PERSONS WHO WANT TO OFFER TO SERVE AS LAY PASTORS



## Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please also include in your prayers especially those who are

The bereaved (especially Mr. Roy McGregor and his wife, Rev Anna Kay Henry McGregor)

The sick and ill

Those going through a challenging time Those before an important decision

Those needing guidance, support, or encouragement Those who feel lost and hopeless,

Those caught in the middle of armed conflicts, persecuted, mistreated, exploited, disenfranchised, or abused.



on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

November 26, 2023 Rev. Euthman Wray

**Published** by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands 292 Prospect Point Road

P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: <a href="mailto:rdgs@cicucjci.com">rdgs@cicucjci.com</a> or <a href="mailto:cirmcinfo@gmail.com">cirmcinfo@gmail.com</a>

Website: www.unitedchurch.ky/



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