



UCJCI UPDATE

JANUARY 10, 2024 VOL. 11 NO. 1

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

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A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS 'FREE MARKET' (READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 8)

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

A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS. THE FIRST PART OF THE UCJCI'S VISION - 'TOUCHING LIVES' - REFLECTS THE COLLECTIVE ASPIRATION OF OUR CHURCH IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO MANY LIVES AT A TIME. OUR FEATURE STORY TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON AN EXAMPLE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE DILIGENT LABOURS OF WORKERS, VOLUNTEERS, GOVERNORS, WELL-WISHERS AND INTERCESSORS THROUGH THE PRINGLE HOME FOR GIRLS. WE CELEBRATE THAT FROM THE LIPS OF A FORMER RESIDENT COME HOPEFUL WORDS OF DETERMINATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH A CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS YOUNG JAMAICAN WOMAN WILL ACHIEVE HER DREAMS AND THAT THE WORK OF THE PRINGLE HOME FOR GIRLS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN DEMONSTRATING THE LOVE OF GOD BY PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE FOR LIVING AND THRIVING FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE IN NEED.



FORMER RESIDENT OF PRINGLE HOME FOR GIRLS PREPARES TO 'PAY IT FORWARD'. (PAGE 3)



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

REV. OTTO MENKO

According to the Church's Liturgical Calendar, on January 6, 2022, we enter into the Season of Epiphany. The word 'epiphany' means manifestation revelation. It also means a sudden, profound understanding or realization of something.

Thus Epiphany refers to the assurance of our Christian faith that Jesus is God's self-revelation to the world in human form. In Western Christianity, Epiphany commemorates the visits of the Magi (Three Kings), who followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet Jesus. Their encounter with Jesus symbolizes the physical manifestation of the Saviour of the World to the Gentiles.

In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany is associated with the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. This event is seen as His manifestation as the Son of God to the world.

Like the Magi, may we, too, be open to being surprised as we continue on our journey. Like those at the river Jordan, may we have an 'eye' to see Jesus in the common and ordinary. May we also be rooted and resilient as we (Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite) respond to the many challenges we face in our personal lives and collectively as a Church.

Spotlight on

PRINGLE HOME FOR GIRLS



Johneen Fray says, “Never give up on your dreams”.

How would you describe your experience at Pringle Home?

Experiencing challenges that shaped my growth in unexpected ways, my time at the Pringle Girl's home was a transformative chapter in my life. Entering Pringle was a huge change for me because I was coming from a place where I didn't socialize as much. It was the catalyst that drove me to pursue social development. Getting used to this new environment took some time. My friendship with the girls developed into something that was almost like a family bond. Although disagreements are bound to arise in any close-knit group, our ability to work things out proved how strong our relationship was; we survived stressful times only to get back together at the end of the day to share precious moments of laughter that strengthened our bonds.

How did you pursue your education?

My academic path also experienced an abrupt change when I transferred from Old Harbour High School to Carron Hall High School. This change in schools meant that I had to retake Grade 10, but despite my initial discomfort, the move encouraged me to embrace new challenges and diverse viewpoints, opening up unexpected opportunities for
(Cont'd on p. 3)

The United Church Touching Lives

‘Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples and Seeking Transformation through Christ’, this is the vision of the United Church. This vision inspires the work of the church in a variety of ways and one of those ways is the continued provision of a safe space for children to live and thrive. Pringle Home for Girls, a 102 year-old institution owned and operated by the United Church, offers such a place.

How are lives being transformed? Hear the testimony of a former resident of Pringle Home who is now a first year student pursuing a degree in Guidance and Counselling at the Mico University College.

Spotlight on Pringle Home *cont'd*

personal growth. My childhood dream of becoming a criminal lawyer changed to pursuing social work as my new path. Though my intended career changed, my desire to make a difference remained unwavering. I decided to study hard to get my CXC subjects because I wanted to go to college but this wasn't possible without the help of my teachers from the Carron hall high school and the caregivers of the homes.

What are your career aspirations and why have you made that choice?

I am drawn to the field of social work because it satisfies my innate desire to help people and communities through their most trying times. My ideals are greatly aligned with the idea of being a ray of hope for those in need, providing support, advice, and a helping hand. I think it's important to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels heard and understood, and I also think empathy has great power.

How do you think you can contribute to the building of Jamaica?

I can contribute to the building of Jamaica by working directly with communities and offering them guidance, support, and counseling. Stronger, more resilient communities may result from this.

What would you say to encourage a child who lives in a children's home, whose family situation is not healthy?

What I would say to a child navigating the difficult hallways of a children's home or weathering storms in an unhealthy household, is to, "Never give up on your dream."

How would you describe the person you want to become?

Making genuine connections and having a positive impact on other people's lives is something I aspire to be continuously improving upon. I want to improve my capacity for meaningful human support and my level of empathy and understanding. I'm always working toward being a person who inspires, supports, and encourages people around me.

Johneen we are proud of you and pray God's continued provision for you.



ONE OF THE
BUILDINGS
AT THE
PRINGLE
HOME FOR
GIRLS

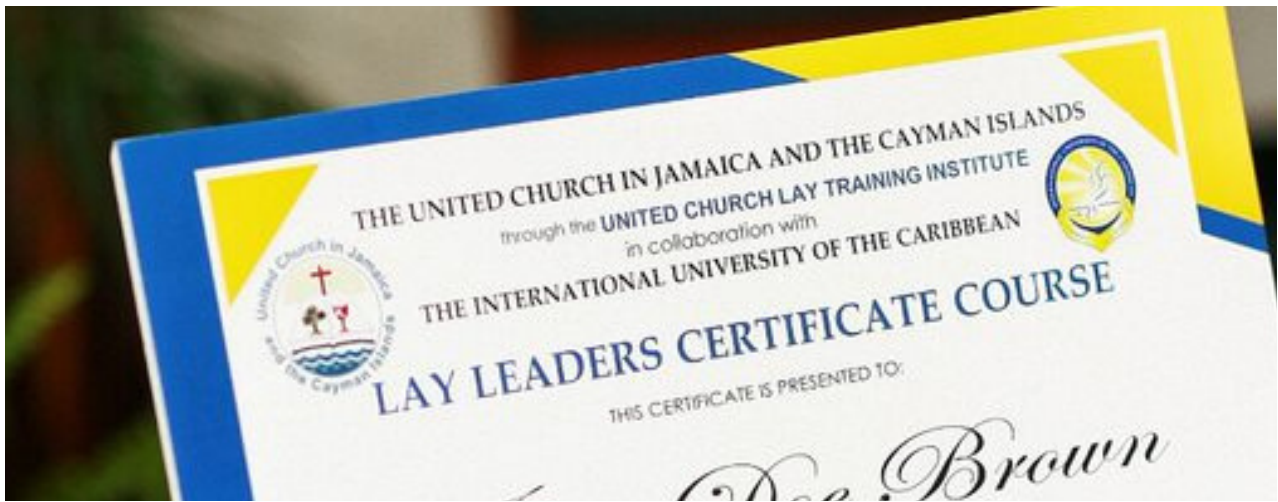
PREPARING TO SERVE

There are many opportunities to participate in mission through the United Church by serving in congregations and communities. The Training of Lay Persons for leadership is one of the ways the United Church seeks to carry out the Great Commission.



The UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course provides training to engage in the Mission of God

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MODULE 2

TRAINING VIA ZOOM IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JANUARY 20, 2024

Deadline for payments
January 30,
2024

JOIN IN THE TRAINING VIA SPECIALIZED LEADERSHIP AND LAY PASTORS PATHWAYS

If you have completed Module 1 and desire to continue training to serve your church through key ministries, the UCJCI Lay Training Institute invites you to undertake **Specialized Leadership Training Pathway in Module 2**. If you desire to offer yourself for service as a Lay Pastor and have completed Module 1, you are further required to do Modules 2 and 3 and should undertake the **Lay Pastors Training Pathway**.

SPECIALISED LEADERSHIP TRAINING PATHWAY

- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
- YOUTH MINISTRY
- YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
- EVANGELISM MINISTRY
- DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
- COMMUNICATION MINISTRY
- PIONEER MINISTRY (MINISTRY WITH SPECIAL GROUPS)

Choose **one** of these ministries in which to specialise and pursue additional foundation topics and electives

LAY PASTORS TRAINING PATHWAY

- Basic Homiletics
- Ministry in Community
- Old and New Testament Survey
- Administering the Sacraments
- Duties and Responsibilities of a UCJCI Pastor and Pastoral Ethics
- Self-care and Sustaining Effective Ministry

These areas will be covered in addition to foundation topics.

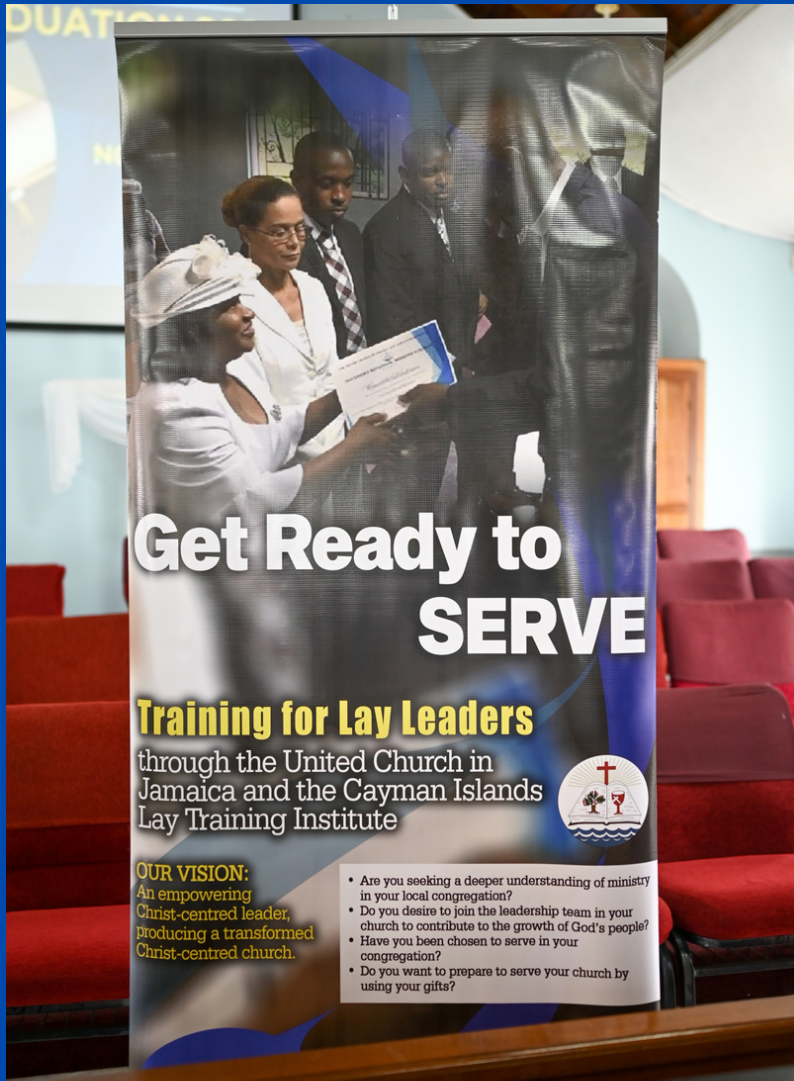
Cost of Training: \$10,000 for Specialised Leaders and \$12,000 for Lay Pastors.

Individuals may choose not to do the whole module but to audit a topic i.e. attend class without doing assessments. In that case the cost per topic is \$1500. Payments should be made to Council offices

COMING SOON!

MODULE 1

MARCH TO SEPTEMBER



The UCJCI Lay Training Institute will offer another round of Module 1 training in March 2024. This first level of training in the UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course provides base training for persons willing to serve in the United Church and is a requirement for those who will serve as elders.

More information available soon!

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GREENDALE UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS 'FREE MARKET'

On Thursday, December 21, 2023, the Greendale United Church (GUC) hosted its first "Free Market" as an in/out-reach initiative targeting people from Greendale and neighbouring communities.

Preparations started a few weeks before the event when contributions started pouring in. The call for donations was very specific – only new items, or gently-used, previously-loved items in good condition, needing new owners, would be accepted. The PR message was straight from Isaiah 55:1, "*Come ... buy... without money and without cost*", and the invitation was sent to members, adherents and needy persons known to GUC through its Outreach Ministry as well as others identified by some neighbouring churches.



CHRISTMAS FREE MARKET CONT'D

Set-up at the Greendale Basic School was slated for Wednesday, December 20th, and the crew outdid themselves! The merchandise was sorted, separated, folded/hung, and tastefully displayed. There were clothes and shoes for men, women, and children. There were also cosmetics, jewelry, housewares (including a few appliances), toys, games, books, school/office supplies and other gift items.



After a brief, meaningful devotional exercise led by Rev. Dwight Kelly, 'shoppers' were invited to register, browse, and 'shop' with a 5-item limit, then move to the 'cashier' to 'ring-up' their 'purchases' and receive a free issue of either "The Word for Today" or "Our Daily Bread".

It was a wonderful day. Perhaps the most gratifying moment was when the first few shoppers could not believe that ALL the items were ABSOLUTELY FREE! At the 'close of business', about 400 items were 'sold' to just over 100 'shoppers', with clothing being the most popular 'purchase'. The Free Market was followed by the Outreach Ministry's Annual Christmas Lunch with the usual Christmas-care packages for those who attended.

CHRISTMAS FREE MARKET CONT'D



All in all, it was a resounding success. The GUC thanks all who participated by donating items and/or time, being part of the Free Market Crew, shopping, or simply passing through to show support.

Blessings...



NEWS FROM CAYMAN

On Sunday, December 31, 2023, a new member was admitted via transfer of membership from a church in the UK, into the Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town, under the leadership of the Rev. Euthman Wray. The new member Mrs Ellen Rose Sherman, received a heartfelt welcome from the Elders and members of the Congregation. May her joining be a blessing for her and her new spiritual fellowship.



As we begin a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right. Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none. May your year be filled with peace, abundance and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

(Rev. Marcy Sheremetta)

Welcome to the Synod Administrative Centre!

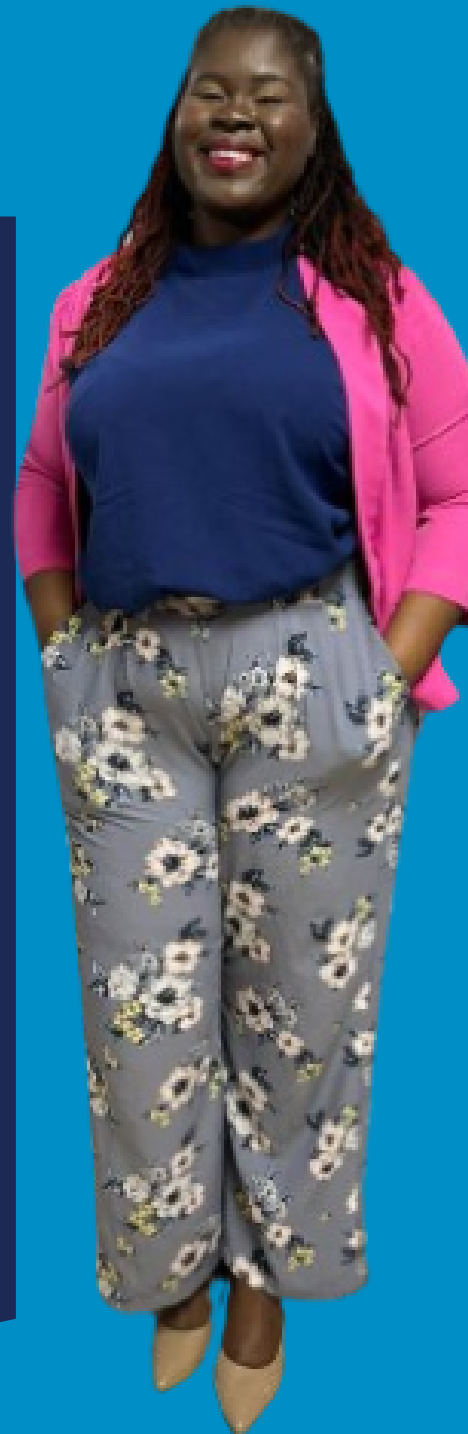
Rev. Laddia Young

Rev. Young's appointment as Youth Minister comes at a crucial time as youth ministry across the UCJCI has faced many challenges.

Her passion, commitment and prior work with youths at the synodical and regional executive levels promise to greatly enrich our church's ministry.

We're enthusiastic about the positive impact she'll have on our youth and eagerly anticipate the work she will accomplish.

May God's guidance empower her in nurturing and engaging our young people as she embarks on this new chapter.





BELATED DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 21



Rev. Nicole Ashwood



Ms. Jeanette Rose Bryan

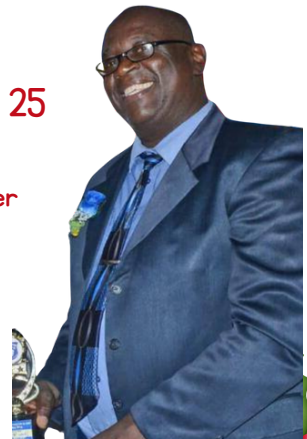
DECEMBER 23



Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

DECEMBER 25

Rev. David Tucker



DECEMBER 31



Mr. Nigel Henry



Rev. Dwight Kelly



Rev. Nevroy Francis





BELATED JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 2



Rev. Karlene Thomas Barnes

JANUARY 3



Ms Ceta Rose



Rev. Alice Blair

JANUARY 5



Rev. Ian Silvera

JANUARY 8



Rev. Laddia Young

LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

We must examine our lives to ensure that the Word of God has not gone dim in our lives, especially given the times in which we live. If our bodies are temples for the Living God, it becomes important that we not only Re-connect with our Source, but that we also remove anything that is a deterrent to God's Spirit dwelling within.

Although repentance is not very commonly preached these days, let us invite persons to repentance, reminding everyone that God's Spirit will not abide with unclean vessels. And if we fail to repent, God will raise up new witnesses among us. This, therefore, is a call to holiness.



PRAYER THEMES FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH
TO USE IN OUR HOMES AND FOR
GATHERING IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

RECONNECTING FOR HOLINESS

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

1 Samuel 3:1-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Suggested Hymns

O Master Let Me Walk With Thee
Open My Eyes That I May See
Draw Me Nearer

Let us Pray Together



LET US PRAY FOR

- Pastor Peter Neil who recently lost his grandmother.
- Professor Roderick Hewitt who lost a brother
- Continuing contentions between Guyana and Venezuela; and Israel and Palestine.
- Ministers of the United Church who are suffering illness
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karlene Thomas Barnes

Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.
From the ends of the
earth I call to you,
I call as my heart
grows faint;
lead me to the rock
that is higher than I.

Psalm 61: 1-3

EVENTS PAGES



SUPPORT WITH PRAYER AND PRESENCE

The following pages carry notification of events. Please send your posters and flyers in pdf, j-peg or png format to citc@gmail.com for promotion in UCJCI Update.

Meadowbrook United Church



JAN 7 - 14, 2024

WEEK OF EMPOWERMENT

(Prayer and Fasting)

THEME:

Chosen & Appointed...

COME EXPERIENCE 8 DAYS OF INTENSE SPIRITUAL FOCUS

**MORNING & AFTERNOON
REFLECTIONS**

5:00AM - 5:30AM &
12:45PM - 1:15PM

Via  zoom

**MEETING ID: 882 5561 3928
PASSCODE: 848398**

EVENING SERVICES

PRAYER, PRAISE & THE WORD

6:30PM in Sanctuary

Streamed on MUC  Channel



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Free Entry and Parking

📍 2 Flemington Drive, Kingston 19, Jamaica

☎ 1 876 925 5860 / 1 876 969 6918

🌐 www.meadunited.org





United Church Young People's Fellowship

CIRMC

SRMC

NERMC

WRMC

SYNODICAL SPORTS DAY

"Resilient Youths Reignite with Purpose"

Noranda Sports Complex

Saturday February 10, 2024 at 8:00am



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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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