



UCJCI UPDATE

APRIL 10, 2024 VOL. 11 NO. 12

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



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



JOIN WITH US IN RAISING
**280 FOR
HAITI**

Let us show how much we care
tomorrow, it might be you

BY LOVE SERVE

ON THE INSIDE

- SEEKING A PATH TO JUSTICE AND HEALING - A CASE FOR REPARATIONS
- NEWS FROM CAYMAN
 - HOLY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY EVENTS
- NEWS FROM THE WEST
 - OUTREACH BY THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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.

LET'S DO SOMETHING

EDITOR: MRS. KAREN FRANCIS UCJCI.KAREN.FRANCIS@GMAIL.COM

SOMETIMES MY HEAD SPINS WHEN I THINK OF THE NUMBER OF THINGS IN OUR WORLD THAT ARE NOT AS THEY SHOULD BE; THAT THE ABUNDANT LIFE TO WHICH JESUS REFERRED IN ST. JOHN 10:10 AND FOR WHICH HE CAME IS NOT BEING EXPERIENCED BY SO MANY PEOPLE. WHERE TO BEGIN? WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE LEARNED THAT, RATHER THAN CHOOSING TO BE OVERWHELMED BY IT ALL, I COULD CHOOSE SOMETHING AND DO MY BEST TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, EVEN FOR JUST THAT ONE THING. THE WOMEN OF THE WEST HAVE PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING. LET'S CHOOSE SOMETHING AND DO WHAT WE CAN. PLEASE SUPPORT 280 FOR HAITI. WE CAN DO THAT.



DEVOTIONS WITH THE CHILDREN WITH THE CHILDREN AT ST. PETERS SCHOOL. WAS LED BY THE LADIES FROM THE GOODWILL UNITED CHURCH IN WRMC

SEEKING A PATH TO JUSTICE AND HEALING

CHURCH'S REPARATIONS ACTION FORUM (CRAF)

Many in the Caribbean are not convinced that the Reparations cause will ever be successful. Consequently, there are Christians who dub all such efforts a waste of time. CRAF invites members of Christian churches to see differently.

Established in 2019, CRAF seeks to become a conduit for church action, and is committed to supporting churches across the Caribbean in their efforts to engage the issues arising from the legacies of the enslavement of African people and the Reparations cause.

A Public Apology

Key to advancing the case for Reparations is dialogue. C.R.A.F has identified the Scottish Churches in particular as having an important historical connection with Jamaica. A pilgrimage of leaders from UK denominations is currently in Jamaica. Among the activities which will take place during this pilgrimage is the issuance of a public apology by The United Reformed Church for its role in the enslavement of African people. This will take place at an ecumenical service on April 14 at 4 p.m. at Webster Memorial United Church.

In next week's issue of UCJCI Update, CRAF'S efforts to engage the Christian church in conversation and action will be featured.



SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 14 TH 2024

The Church's Reparations Action Forum (C.R.A.F)
Invites you to an Ecumenical service on April 14th 2024 at
The Webster Memorial United Church, 53 Halfway Tree Road, Kgn 10

TIME: 4PM
Special guests include State officials, church and community leaders in addition to a visiting team from the United Kingdom

The Church of Scotland
Christian Aid
The Scottish Episcopal Church
The United Reformed Church



DID YOU KNOW?

UCJCI's radio programme
United in Faith

is available on Spotify?

Follow our podcasts and share with others.

NEWS FROM CIRMC

MAUNDY THURSDAY GATHERING AT JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



On March 28, 2024, members of the John Gray Memorial United Church, South Sound United Church, and the Elmslie Memorial United Church came together for a joint Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service. The event started with a light supper and the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It was followed by readings from the gospels that retold the last week of Jesus' life and the events that led to His crucifixion.



GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT AT ELMSLIE MEMORIAL

On March 29, 2024, the Cayman Islands Male Voice Choir presented a Good Friday Concert at Elmslie Memorial United Church in George Town to celebrate Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary. The Male Voice Choir has been performing for 50 years and comprises members from different denominations and congregations in the Cayman Islands. They frequently participate in the annual Christmas and Easter celebrations at the church. The concert showcased a blend of contemporary and traditional choir music, accompanied by Mr. Denver Bloomfield and Mr. Antonio Sanchez.



Ecumenical
male voice
choir

NEWS FROM WRMC

The women from the Western Regional Mission Council Women's Fellowship earmarked January 28 – February 3 (Women's Fellowship week) as a week of outreach; lending a caring hand to members of its community.

The first mission on the agenda for the women was to assist the Farm Heights United Church in upgrading its restroom facilities by donating two commercial toilets to the church. This donation was aimed at making the facility more hospitable for large gatherings.

Redway Cluster Outreach



Food and sanitation items for AIDS hospice.



Financial contribution to a local nursing home.

Several branches in the region took to their communities to execute their project. In the Redway Cluster, **St. Paul's United** visited the AIDS Hospice and donated food and sanitation items.

Through their pillow project initiative, the ladies made and donated several pillows to a local nursing home and also made a financial contribution towards staff development and empowerment sessions for the ladies at the Women Centre of Jamaica Express. The ladies from the **Goodwill United** conducted devotion with the children from St. Peters School.



Pillows donated to a local nursing home.

Cont'd on page 5.

Barrett Charge Outreach



In the Barrett Cluster, **Stirling United** shared their love and support with the Police officers at the Morgans Bridge Police Station. There they donated several toiletries, cleaning and sanitation items to the team.

Savanna-la-mar United paid a visit to the Women's centre in Sav-la-mar where they had a time of fellowship with the ladies.



Stirling United also opened their soup kitchen and fed the shut-ins and less fortunate. **Green Island United** visited their shut-ins and gifted them with toiletries and food items. **Big Bridge United** extended their hand of love and care to the sick in their community.



Stern Cluster Outreach



From the Stern cluster, **Lucea United** showed up with lots of love and care for the sisters at the nursing home in their local community.



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



JOIN WITH US IN RAISING

280 FOR HAITI

Let us show how much we care
tomorrow, it might be you

In response to the Haitian crisis, the women of the region launched a 280 for Haiti initiative on March 23, 2024. This initiative is aimed at raising \$280,000.00 which will be donated to the care of Haitian refugees; primarily the children and orphans, who are now residing in several facilities within Jamaica. The women are making an appeal for everyone to get involved in sharing the love, caring and serving each other more in their small corner.

BY LOVE SERVE

Contributed by Mrs. Suzette Brissett.

ON
THURSDAYS
WEAR
BLACK



They claimed there was scope for self-actualization, fiscal independence and 'success'. With limited economic opportunities and social structures, Paradise seemed like the perfect place for relocation. Except, there were snakes in paradise. What seemed like a marvelous dream became a nightmare

Trafficked

- Mental anguish
- Dehumanization
 - Servitude
- Physical and sexual abuse
 - No pay
 - Illegal status
- Threats of Deportation

... singularly and collectively conspire to keep the victimized victims.

Sweatshops,

Mining companies

Domestic Work

Sex workers (amplified by online sex trade, where information is rented, copied and resold almost at the speed of light)

Agricultural produce – even

Illicit drug and arms trade

- are some of the industries common to the trafficking of humans.

Many are bold enough to post loosely worded, sugary enticements through Help Wanted ads

Racial, ethnic, 'political' minorities

Persons with disabilities

Lower castes

Persons from lower classes

Children, adults – every gender; though women and girls comprise the majority

Educated seeking employment, friends, family and even stranger

Source, Receiving and Transfer countries are fluid; very few are only one or the other

Online, bike, cycle, cars, public vehicles, by sea and by air – no transport excluded; even on foot

There's a convention, a protocol – we MUST root it out.

Find out what your country is doing. Demand action

Be a whistle blower if that can save a life.

Whether it's our friend, lover, family or foe -

Trafficking must end; Together we work to save and rehabilitate.

**CONTRIBUTED BY REV. NICOLE ASHWOOD
PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE
JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

#EndTraffickingNow #ThursdaysinBlack

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

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

REIGNITE FOR WITNESS



Having encountered Jesus on the Road to Emmaus, Cleopas and the others returned to Jerusalem, sharing the news with Jesus' disciples. While hearing Cleopas' testimony, the disciples and those gathered with them had their own encounter with the Risen Saviour. Jesus' appearance removed any doubts others might have entertained and reignited the hope that had almost died with Jesus' crucifixion.

Who are the witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection power in your communities, and with whom does this message need to be shared? Note that Jesus appeared to the disciples WHILE the message was being spread to others (evangelion), and He added credibility to their testimony. This suggests that even while we testify of our encounter with the Resurrected Jesus, Jesus will show up to validate our witness.

Bearing witness to Jesus is not optional. It is a requirement for those who believe and who are called by Him. This is what feeds the flames of revival and growth in our church.

**FOCUS FOR
THE QUARTER:**

**ROOTED AND
RESILIENT:
RE-IGNITED BY
THE POWER OF
THE
RESURRECTION
AND BY GOD'S
SPIRIT**

**SUGGESTED
SCRIPTURES**

Luke 24:36b-48

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

**SUGGESTED
HYMNS**

Refiner's Fire
Sing, ye faithful,
Sing with gladness!
Thine Is the Glory
We Meet You, O
Christ Were You
There

A Call to Prayer and Fasting

Brothers and sisters in the United Church family are invited to

PRAY FOR CONVOCATION

Every Wednesday until May 1

If able, please fast all day Wednesday; if not able to do so consider fasting up to midday

Every Sunday until April 28

CONGREGATIONS

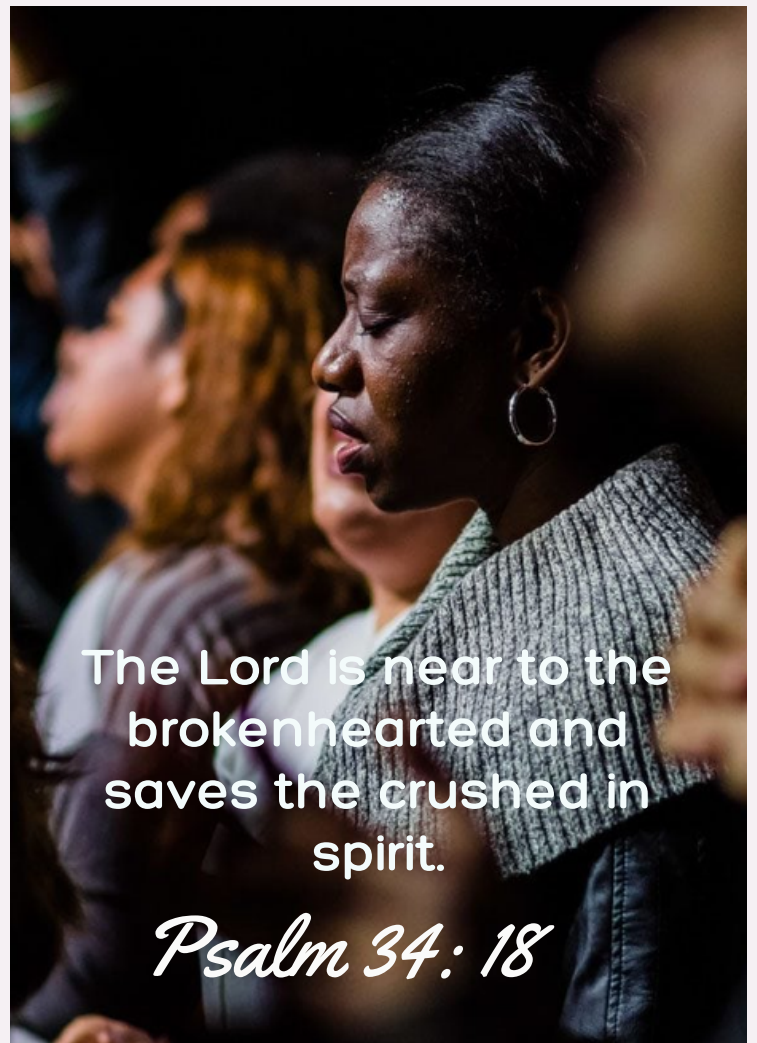
are asked to include the Convocation in their Intercessory Prayers

PRAY FOR THE WITNESS OF UCJCI IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS.

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- Rev. Roy Dodman who is not well.
- Rev. Garwell Bacchas who lost his sister, Ms. Blossom Peru, who died on April 6. Thanksgiving Service will be on May 4.
- Pastor Patricia White who recently lost her husband.
- Mrs. Joan Page Bain and family, retired UCJCI Mission Partner in Haiti
- The people of Haiti for the restoration of peace – right relationships; good decision-making and governance.
- The on-going conflicts around the world, in particular – between Israel and Palestine; and Ukraine and Russia.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing health challenges
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



The Lord is near to the
brokenhearted and
saves the crushed in
spirit.

Psalm 34: 18

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



Rev. Alton Clarke

APRIL 11



Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans

APRIL 13

*On your special day
may God's grace
and peace be upon you*

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.

BUILD YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP

TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS MODULE 1



Sessions will include:
Styles and Approaches to Leadership
Biblical Models of Leadership

JOIN VIA ZOOM



Training continues on:

Saturday April 13

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday April 18

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

RESOURCE
PERSON:
**Mrs. Janet
McConnell**



For information, contact Sheryl Knibb Chung via email - ucjci.sheryl.chung@gmail.com or WhatsApp 876-881 8783. You may register for this single session via your Regional Office at a cost of \$1500



QUARTERLY PRAYER & FASTING

CHOSEN & APPOINTED FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

April 14, 2024

www.meadunited.org



Alisa Magnus



Lembe Sivile



Lucien Reid



Egbert Harvey

JOURNEY WITH US THROUGH ALL THE SESSIONS TO DISCOVER YOUR OWN UNIQUE PURPOSE & POTENTIAL IN GOD...

- 1 **5:00am Reflections on the Theme**
Ms Alisa Magnus
Online on the Zoom Platform
Meeting ID: 862 8088 4128 Passcode: 026309
- 2 **7:30am Morning Service**
Rev Lembe Sivile
In Sanctuary & online on our YouTube Channel
- 3 **10:00am Morning Service**
Pastor Lucien Reid
In Sanctuary & online on our YouTube Channel
- 4 **6:30pm Evening Healing Service**
Rev Egbert Harvey
In Sanctuary & online on our YouTube Channel



CONVOCATION 2024

THEME: RE-IGNITED BY THE SPIRIT

MORNING

Worship

05

MAY TIME 8:30AM



**Montego Bay Convention
Centre**

PREACHER

Rev. Glenroy Clarke

Minister, Lucea United Church

DON'T MISS THE PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION!!



Youth 2024 CONVENTION

"RE-IGNITED BY
THE SPIRIT"

Sun., May 5, 2024
8:30 AM



Montego Bay
Convention Centre
Rose Hall Road, Montego Bay

Preacher:

REV. DONOVAN MCPHERSON

Minister
Eltham United Church
Spanish Town, St. Cathrine





KIDS 2024

CONVOCATION

May 5, 2024

8:30 am

Montego Bay Convention Center



REIGNITED BY THE SPIRIT

Wi Reddi fi di Road!

Activities Include:

AGES 4 - 9

- Kids Praise
- Arts and Craft
- Jesus Video
- Speech Bubble Skits

LISTEN UP!

Show your ♥ for our children homes-
Mount Olivet Boys and
Pringle Homes by
donating: clothing, food,
toys and cash

AGES 10 - 12

- Hats Off Praise
- Kids Quake:
 - Culinary Delights
 - Dub Poem/Poetry
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Poster
 - Song
 - Tiktok Video
 - Charge

Game On!

Dress Code:

Red

Please register your
attendance at your
Regional Mission
Council Office

Who will win?

NERMC

vs

SRMC

vs

WRMC



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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