



UCJCI UPDATE

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

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CONVOCATIO 2024 WAS IMMERSSED IN PRAYER - BEFORE AND DURING THE GATHERING.

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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.

THE SALT SPRING MISSION - NO NINE-DAY WONDER

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IT IS OFTEN THE CASE THAT THE CHURCH BECOMES ENERGISED AROUND AN INITIATIVE AND THERE IS A BIG BANG AT ITS LAUNCH AND THEN INTEREST FADES AND EFFORTS LAG. THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN FOR THE SALT SPRING INITIATIVE LAUNCHED AT CONVOCATION 2024. THE PLANS HAVE BEEN SET FORTH, MORE THAN JMD\$1M GIVEN IN OFFERING AND THE WORK WILL BE DONE. THE TEAM ON THE GROUND IN THE WEST HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM. SO DO WE IN OTHER PARTS OF UCJCI. WE MUST BE FAITHFUL IN PRAYER AND OFFER MATERIAL SUPPORT AS WE SEEK TO RESCUE YOUNG MEN AND CHILDREN FROM THE GRIP OF A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION. WE CANNOT FAIL.

DID YOU KNOW?

UCJCI's radio programme
United in Faith
is available on Spotify?
Follow our podcasts and
share with others.

CHILD MONTH FEATURE

'Wi Ready Fi Di Road!'

My fellow children, can I ask you this question - What do you understand by this topic: Reignited by the spirit "Wi ready fi di road"?

Let me explain the meaning of two words:

1. Reignited: means: To catch fire or cause to catch fire again.
2. SPIRIT - The word spirit has a lot of meanings but I am using this meaning - A special attitude or frame of mind.

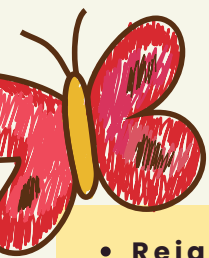
Now that we understand the meaning of these two words, we can now move on.

Let us catch fire for God with some attitude today in this place.

Every fire, when left alone, will eventually diminish and fade to ashes. For a fire to remain alive and blazing, it demands new fuel to be added to it, as well as someone attending to it, for example stirring it, and fanning it into flame. So it is with our life in Christ, especially as children serving Christ. While you may have been fervently devoted to the Lord in the past, unless you have been tending to the flame and nurturing your spiritual walk, it will diminish into ashes. Now, let us consider the consequences of neglecting our spiritual growth as children.



Jazmine Samuels, 8 years old from Riverside United Church delivering a message at Kid's Quake



Now we are turning our attention to reigniting our spiritual fervor, 2 Timothy 1:6 reminds us to "fan into flame the gift of God." Let us focus on some ways to reignite our spirits:

- **Reignite your passion** for God. One way we can do that is to start having friends who are passionate about God.
- **Reignite your faith** in God; as James 2:22 states, "faith without works is dead."
- **Reignite your hope** in God by making prayer a priority every day. Especially in these times when we are faced with so many problems .
- **Reignite your knowledge of God**, by reading your bible, and asking questions about God's words. And I am asking you this question : when last have you read your bible? A word a day keeps the devil away, and my final point
- **Reignite your consistency in serving God**, by setting aside time to spend with God every day. It is very important to know God's words so you cannot be tricked by anyone.

By embracing these points, we can reignite our spiritual lives. Now, we can confidently say, "Wi REDDI FI DI ROAD! Thank you.

THE CONVOCATION CELEBRATION CONTINUED IN THE AFTERNOON



In this final feature on our Convocation 2024, we focus on the Afternoon Celebration and the Launch of the Salt Spring Initiative.



LOWE RIVER UNITED CHURCH LED THE CONGREGATION IN PRAISE AT THE START OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION WHICH WAS CHAIRED BY REV. TARA TYME.

The afternoon session of the Convocation was marked by celebration and praise as well as awareness-raising of the rationale behind the proposed mission initiative in Salt Spring, St. James aimed at rescuing young men and children.

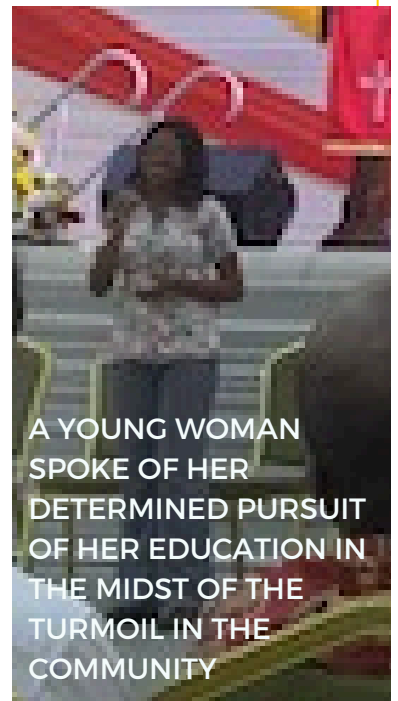


A DRAMATIC PRESENTATION BROUGHT INTO FOCUS THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.

Guided by the theme, 'Re-ignition Through the Arts', the presentations helped to advance the planned approach to mission with Salt Spring.

'Re-ignition Through the Arts'

The afternoon's programme featured a number of performing arts items by Hope United Church drummers, Salt Spring United Church Choral Group, a choral presentation by Lowe River United Church and The Gideons Acappella group of men from Lucea United Church. Preceding the afternoon's expressions was a parade by the Heights Marching Band, an initiative which has successfully engaged young men in the Farm Heights community. The climax of the afternoon's demonstration of the use of the arts for healing, expressions and ministry was a dramatic presentation combining video and drama spearheaded by Rev. Kevin, 'Nana Moses' Calvert depicting the pain of a family at the death of a young man - a victim and perpetrator of violence.



A YOUNG WOMAN SPOKE OF HER DETERMINED PURSUIT OF HER EDUCATION IN THE MIDST OF THE TURMOIL IN THE COMMUNITY

Conversations and Testimonies

Conversation and Testimonies from the West provided stories of young people from the community troubled by violence who bucked expectations and are poised for success. A profound declaration concluded the testimony of a young man.

'Not all apples in the barrel will be spoilt by one bad apple'

Moderator's Challenge

What are you going back to do re-ignited people of the UCJCI?

Moderator of the Synod, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott closed the Convocation with a charge to the membership. He asked, "How will our Ministries benefit from the fact that we gathered here today? How will our communities benefit from the fact that thousands of United Church members gathered here today to seek the face of God; to listen to; to feed upon the Word of God and to be re-ignited by God's Spirit? How will we return; what will be different, or will we just blaze up like bushfire and then go out cold until the next Convocation?"

I call us and I charge us to be a Church with a purpose.



MODERATOR OF THE SYNOD, RT. REV. GARY HARRIOTT ADDRESSES THE CHURCH

People must feel the presence of our congregation in their communities, if not, you are wasting time. People's lives must be touched by our congregations, if not you have no purpose".

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUED

“We believe in the lived Gospel, that’s why we are engaging in the peace initiative in Salt Spring. When we met to plan this Convocation, we said there is no way the United Church could gather in Montego Bay with some of the challenges in St James without a practical demonstration of our presence here”.

“...too many of our children are not going to church; too many of our young people are not in church because we have been keeping the light to ourselves too much. You are salt and you are light; add flavour sisters and brothers; shine; show some youngster; some child; some family the way and then the Gospel will come alive and people will know the transforming power of God to turn lives around and to point them to a better place”.

“We have work to do; many lives need to be rescued. Too many of our young people are going astray...”

THE SALT SPRING MISSION INITIATIVE

What’s Next?

GRAND GOSPEL CONCERT

Having launched the Salt Spring Peace Initiative at the Convocation 2024, the next phase is the introduction of the initiative to the community of Salt Spring, This will be done on June 9 with a **Grand Gospel Concert** in the church yard at Salt Spring United Church. The Church sits in the centre of the community. This community activity will also act as a point of recruitment for the marching band that is to be established and to this end the Heights Marching Band will also be part of the Gospel Concert. **Much more information to come.**

WHAT WILL BE DONE?

- Mentorship
- Training and Sensitization Programme
- The use of School Pastors’ Programme
- The establishment of a Marching Band
- Football competitions

- Contributed by Pastor Maxene Jones

MORE SCENES OF THE DAY



Webster Memorial (Bodden Town) Celebrates 170 Years



Prayer Breakfast on the Beach

Members from across the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council joined the Savannah-Bodden Town Charge for the launching of the 170th Anniversary of the constitution of the Webster Memorial United Church in Bodden Town.

The Prayer Breakfast opened on the beach behind the Church Hall with praise, prayer, and reflection on the theme, 'Answering God's Call.'

In his reflection based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10 ("Speak Lord, your servant heareth"), Rev. Donovan Myers emphasized three critical points pertinent to the members of the congregation celebrating the Anniversary. God has a calling for all of us and invites us, as individuals and as a community of believers, to say 'yes' to

1. Christian Service,
2. Spiritual Listening, and
3. Purposeful Speech

Anniversary Service

The month-long 170th Anniversary celebrations of the Webster Memorial United Church in Bodden Town continued last Sunday, May 12, 2024, with the visiting Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, delivering the sermon.

Drawing practical guidance from the epistle, Rev. Stephens pointed out that the Congregation is responsible for building an inclusive and diverse community of faith.



Such a call can be answered only by building on Jesus Christ, the solid foundation, and under the guidance of the unifying power of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, God will test what we build, and we will receive the appropriate reward.



Webster Memorial (Bodden Town) Celebrates 170 Years

Ministers who served WMUC



Ministers who served in the WMUC from left to right: Rev. Godfrey Meghoo (1962-64, 1974-94), Rev. Otto Menko (1995-2009), Rev. Rohan Forrester (2010-2022), and Rev. Euthman Wray (since 2022)

Anniversary Youth Service and 'Singspiration'

The special events continued on the next day, Sunday, May 19, 2024, with an Anniversary Youth Service and an evening of 'Singspiration' to give God thanks and praise. The event brought together United Church Congregations from the various districts. The evening included special performances by individuals of all, featuring a range of musical styles, including traditional hymns, contemporary worship songs, and instrumental solos.



Angie, Payton and Reaganne presenting an item from their Classical repertoire.



Leana presenting a vocal solo.



The Cayman male Voice Choir

JUNE 2 IS JAMAICA ECUMENICAL MUTUAL MISSION (JEMM) SUNDAY



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Please receive sincere Christian greetings from the JEMM Executive.

It is with a sense of joy and optimism that we greet you on another JEMM Sunday. God has certainly been good to us, and we pause to exalt and magnify our Great and Awesome God! There is much we can find to complain about, but there is so much more to be thankful for – the gift of life, health and strength. God's abiding presence, power, provisions, protection and peace are ever evident. To God be the glory!

JEMM Sunday is specifically set for the first Sunday in June annually. This is to coincide with the beginning of the hurricane season. However, congregations are free to choose another suitable Sunday to mark JEMM Sunday. Please do the necessary preparations for the hurricane season. We hope that a special offering will be received towards the work of the Jamaica Ecumenical Development and Relief Agency (JEDRA) which specifically addresses the issues of disaster preparedness and response.

We continue to be humbled to be partners with God in mission for over forty-five (45) years. Thank God for the opportunities to have shaped lives and impacted communities. Our ministries have included Dental, Medical and Optical services; Housing; Counselling; Youth and Adult Exchanges; and Education Grant.

Three of our main areas of focus are:

- **Agriculture Ministry– We continue our work in establishing our castor project for community development and the sustainability of the ministries of JEMM.**
- **Care Packages for persons living with HIV/AIDS – We continue to partner with the St. Thomas Health Department in supplying food and hygiene products.**
- **Dental Ministry – We are delighted to have resumed this ministry post-covid and utilized the mobile dental lab twice.**

Thank you for your support over the years! Please utilize the opportunities to deepen our fellowship and give greater support to our partnership. Let's continue to join hands and hearts across the seas in mutual mission.

The grace of the Lord be with you!

An ecumenical entity comprising the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas - Jamaica District Conference, the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in collaboration with the Presbytery of Augustine of the Presbyterian Church, USA.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We celebrate with our Ministers
and Synod Staff



Rev. Norlene Jackson

JUNE 2

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- Staff of the Synod Administrative Centre who have lost relatives.
 - Ms. Joy Williams whose aunt, Alice Kemble died
 - Ms Derrica Ellis whose uncle, Knute Davis, has died
- Mrs. Debasha Grant Roberts whose brother, Vinroy Grant died.
- Pastor Norma Marriott whose brother Winston Gooden has died.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister Rema Fisher is ill.
- Our young people who are undergoing exams.
- The on-going political turmoil around the world, in particular our neighbours in Haiti.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
 - Dr. Norma Smellie
 - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
 - Rev. Roy Dodman
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes



*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34: 18*

**WORSHIP THEMES FOR HOME
AND OUR CONGREGATIONAL GATHERINGS**

LET US WORSHIP

Re-Ignited to Deepened Faith by Knowing God's Spirit:

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

The texts remind us that it is not enough to know the Law/Scripture, it is more vital to be under the influence of God's Spirit. To be under the influence of God's Spirit comes from interaction with and openness to God. Although Eli interacted with God as part of his duties, he was not as intentionally engaged.

Consequently, God's judgement was upon him for his failure to chastise his sons for desecrating God's name and God's temple. Yet eventually Eli recognized that God was the one calling Samuel. Thereafter, Samuel stuck with God and God's purpose and the Gift of God's Spirit passed on to him. [Note that although the term 'the light in the temple had gone dim' was referring literally to the lamp, it could also be read as a metaphor for the times.

Could the light have been reignited by Samuel's love and obedience?]

Do a contextual reading of your country. Is the light of God still visible in the land? There may be cause to consider who God speaks with in your context, and who God is trying to reach. Is there cause for revisiting how youth are nurtured in the faith? How do you as a congregation listen for God's voice.

Theme for the Quarter ROOTED AND RESILIENT: RE-IGNITED BY THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION AND BY GOD'S SPIRIT

SUGGESTED READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalms 81:1-10

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Open My Eyes

Master Speak

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 ucjci.karen.francis@gmail.com for promotion in UCJCI Update.

JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (JCC) WEEK

May 26 - June 2, 2024

**THEME: “Justice, Truth, Be
Ours Forever” - Re-imagining God’s
intentions for human flourishing”**

SUNDAY MAY 26

- PULPIT EXCHANGE EXERCISES

MONDAY MAY 27

- TOWN HALL MEETING ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

TUESDAY MAY 28

- PUBLIC LECTURE ON GOVERNANCE 1

WEDNESDAY MAY 29

**- PUBLIC LAMENT FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
AND WOMEN**

THURSDAY MAY 30

- PUBLIC LECTURE ON GOVERNANCE 2

FRIDAY MAY 31

- ECUMENICAL AWARDS DINNER

SUNDAY JUNE 2

- ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE

**COMING
SOON**



REGISTER NOW

**Street/ School/
Prayer Pastors Training**

**NEXT COURSE RUNS
JUNE 1 - JULY 6, 2024**



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*Philharmonic Orchestra of Jamaica

*Gem Myers *D'Major

*MUC Dancers *Floyd Cassanova

*Raheem Vassell (Saxophonist)

COMPÈRE - Mr. Evon Thompson

CONTRIBUTION
\$5000

Cocktails
will be served

SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2024

6:30PM @THE LITTLE THEATRE




ARTISTES

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ANSWERS - Shop 1 Tropical Plaza, Constant Spring Rd.

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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. Norbert Stephens (Acting)

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Southern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Janet McConnell

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry