



UCJCI UPDATE

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

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THE MEN WERE SPECIALLY WELCOMED, CELEBRATED AND FETED AT LUCEA UNITED ON FATHERS' DAY. P. 5

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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.

ANSWERING THE CALL TO MINISTRY

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AS THE UNITED CHURCH RECOGNISES MINISTRY EMPHASIS MONTH IN JUNE, CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CHALLENGE THEIR MEMBERS TO SERVE THEIR DENOMINATION THROUGH LOCAL, REGIONAL OR SYNODICAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE ORDAINED AND COMMISSIONED MINISTRIES PROVIDE LEADERSHIP OF OUR CHURCH THROUGH WORD AND SACRAMENT AND A VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SKILLS-BASED AREAS OF SERVICE. UCJCI UPDATE IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE A YOUNG MAN WHO HAS TAKEN THE STEP TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO FULL-TIME MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH THROUGH COMMISSIONED MINISTRY. HE HAS RECEIVED THE BLESSING OF HIS CONGREGATION, REGION AND SYNOD THROUGH THE CHURCH AND MINISTRY SYNODICAL COMMITTEE. MEET YASHI WHO SERVES AT THE MOUNT OLIVET BOYS' HOME. (PAGE 2)

DID YOU KNOW?

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

MINISTRY EMPHASIS MONTH...

Introducing Yashi Williams

THE LATEST RECRUIT TO FULL-TIME COMMISSIONED
MINISTRY IN UCJCI

'General Christian understanding is that a minister, being essentially a servant, is anyone who engages in action that seeks to fulfil the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. Within the UCJCI, a Commissioned or Ordained Minister is one for whom this engagement is her or his primary vocation.

Commissioned Ministers work primarily in or through church affiliated institutions in largely administrative capacities.'

- UCJCI Congregational Recruitment Brochure 2020

A CONVERSATION WITH YASHI

What is the congregation in which you were nurtured from a young age?

My home congregation is Davyton United located in the parish of Manchester.

In what roles have you served the United Church so far?

I have served in 'various roles in the UCJCI including being on my congregational youth fellowship executive as Vice President and, Praise and Worship team member. I have served as UCYPF National Cultural Coordinator. I presently serve as the SRMC Young Adult Action Movement Evangelism and Discipleship Coordinator and the Operations Officer (formerly Assistant Director) at the Mount Olivet Boys Home.

What gifts do you offer to the United Church?

I can think of no greater gift to offer to God through UCJCI than that of myself through the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit. You may then wonder, what does this giving of myself as a gift entail. Well, I am hardworking, determined, passionate about the Lord, His service and seeing His people come to know Him for themselves. I love the performing arts, the lifestyle of Praise and Worship, not just the segment of our worship services but living it out daily and these are just some of the gifts I would say I have to offer.



What is your vision for the ministry of the United Church?

My vision for the United Church is that it will operate as the name indicates. I long to see a more intentional approach towards the congregations being unified and for there to be ecumenical unity among all God's people. I would also love for us to be more informed on the varieties of ministry the Church has to offer so some won't become daunted, feeling the only way to serve is in Pastoral Ministry. We need dedicated Ushers, Landscapers, Givers, those who will cook and distribute, those who are great planners and so on.

NEWS FROM CAYMAN

Leaders' Appreciation Gala at the Savannah United Church



On Saturday, May 18, 2024, the Savannah United Church Youth Mission Action Team (MAT) hosted a special Leaders' Appreciation Gala to honour all volunteers and leaders working with children and youth.

The event recognized the contributions of Girls Brigade Leaders, Vacation Bible School Leaders, Youth Group Leaders, and Sunday School Leaders.

Leaders who have served in Children and Youth Ministry for over twenty-five (25) years received recognition plaques. Mrs. Marisa Crawford was honoured with a special love gift from the Youth MAT for her forty-six (46) years of service as Sunday School Superintendent.



News from Cayman

The evening was marked by elegance, with Mrs. Vicky Anderson transforming the hall into a red-carpet event. Special thanks go to the Youth Discipleship Teens, who impressed everyone with their white gloves and black-and-white attire as they served and entertained their leaders.



Samaritan's Purse Children's Heart Project

Samaritan's Purse began assisting with pediatric heart surgeries in 1997 in the war-torn Balkan region. The Children's Heart Project continues to operate today, working with hospitals and medical personnel in North America and Grand Cayman, arranging transportation, interpreters, and surgeries for children in need.

Over the past seven years, the Savannah United Church has hosted twenty Mongolian children and their family members, who have benefitted from life-saving procedures. Many of them have also become followers of Jesus Christ, receiving a "new heart."



Mrs. Olga Gourzong (SUC) with the two families at the Mission House.

On April 7, 2024, two children, with their mothers and an interpreter, thanked the Congregation for their love and generosity and said goodbye as they prepared to return to Mongolia the next day.

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you." Ezekiel 36:26

NEWS FROM WRMC

OVER 200 MEN GATHER FOR FATHERS' DAY SERVICE AT LUCEA UNITED

Fathers' Day service at the Lucea United Church and the Father's Day Brunch on the lawns of the manse immediately following the service attracted over 200 men.

Scenes from Father's Day Worship Service



A warm welcome



Men of various generations were present

Cont'd on p.6

FATHERS' DAY AT LUCEA UNITED



'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord' - Psalm 122 v. 1



First time visitor introduces himself.

FATHERS' DAY AT LUCEA UNITED



The sermon was presented by Minister Michael Maragh, a motivational speaker and Principal Financial Director in the Ministry of Health. He is seen here with Rev. Glenroy Clarke, minister of the Lucea Charge of United Churches.



Ms Debban Wells of Jamaica Biscuit Company presents a basket.

Presentations were made to the men. Rev. Clarke expressed thanks to GV Service Station and The Jamaica Biscuit Company Ltd (Excelsior) for partnering with Lucea United.

**Warm fellowship
was shared**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WE CELEBRATE WITH MINISTERS AND SYNODICAL STAFF



REV. DR. GORDON EVANS

June 22



June 25



REV. ANTHONY CHUNG



REV. DR. HENROY SAMUELS

WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS



Take a stand against violence especially targetting women and girls

Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency and personal efforts to resist such violations.

The campaign was inspired by:

- The Mothers of the Disappeared in Buenos Aires, Argentina who on Thursdays protested at the Plaza de Mayo, against the disappearance of their children during the violent dictatorship.
- The Women in Black in Israel and Palestine, who up to now protest against war and violence.
- Women in Rwanda and Bosnia who were protesting against the use of rape as a weapon of war during the genocide.
- Black Sash movement in South Africa protesting against apartheid and its use of violence against black people.

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

The campaign is simple but profound. Wear black on Thursdays. Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you.

Let us Pray Together

WE PRAY FOR

- Ms Laurel Livingston, Synod staff, and her son Keon who has been hospitalized after an accident.
- UCJCI Camps - leaders, campers, programmes and activities aimed at challenging and nurturing young people.
- The exercise of ministry in Jamaica and Cayman in the face of significant obstacles and challenges at various levels.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose sister Rema Fisher has died.
- Mrs. Debesha Grant Roberts whose brother, Vinroy Grant died.
- Our young people who are undergoing exams.
- Geo-political posturing which negatively impacts the lives of human beings. We pray especially for Ukraine-Russian, Palestinian-Israeli conflicts and for 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 - Overcoming by the Power of God's Spirit

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme for the Quarter

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

SUGGESTED READINGS

**1 Samuel 17:19-23), 32-49
Psalm 9:9-20
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41**

SUGGESTED HYMNS

**I want Jesus to Walk with Me
Every Time I Feel the Spirit
Be Exalted O God
Be Still and Know
Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me**

Remember that those who know God's name put their trust in God. When the going got tough, David was not overwhelmed by the size and capacity of the Philistine warriors. He opted to focus on the power of God which had been tried and tested in 'life and death' situations in the wilderness. Our Faith is deepened when we overcome trials in the wildernesses of life (2 Corinthians 6) by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit and genuine love, which is born of God's Spirit. And having overcome we are equipped to face even greater enemies.

David did not try to be a warrior like Saul; the armour would not fit. Under the Power of God's Spirit, David instead opted to use the weapons with which He was accustomed. Recognize that we are also called to fight in 'our' character, under the anointing and power of God's Spirit.

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.



Training of Lay Leaders - Module 1

Understanding the Sacraments

TRAINING DATE
Saturday June 22, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
via Zoom



Resource Person:
Rev. Rohan Forrester

**Persons may join the
training for this single
topic at a cost of \$1.500.
Register with your
region.**



For more information:
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HELLSHIRE UNITED CHURCH

PRESENTS

Rally of the Birth Months

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024

4:30 P.M.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND



379 Boulder Crescent , Upper Fort B, Hellshire, St Catherine



hellshireunitedchurch@yahoo.com



876-665-6513

**COMING
SOON**



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Prayer Pastors Training**

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



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**STREET PASTORS JAMAICA
HELPING, CARING, LISTENING**



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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