



UCJCI UPDATE

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

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FATHERS WERE CELEBRATED IN SERVICES IN CAYMAN. HERE A YOUNGSTER FROM SAVANNAH UNITED MAKES HER OFFERING . P. 5

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.

DISCIPLESHIP - WALKING COMMITMENT

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2020 WAS DECLARED THE YEAR OF EVANGELISM BY THE UNITED CHURCH. EVANGELISM CONTINUES AS PERSONS ARE CHALLENGED TO COMMIT THEIR LIVES TO JESUS CHRIST. MANY NEW BELIEVERS TESTIFY TO THE CHALLENGES THEY FACED AFTER COMMITMENT. HOW DO THEY GO BACK HOME, TO WORK, TO FRIENDSHIPS WHILE LIVING IN FAITHFULNESS TO THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE EARTH? DISCIPLESHIP EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY CONSTITUTE THE RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S COMMISSION DELIVERED TO HIS APOSTLES BUT APPLICABLE TO ALL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST...YES, US. THEY ARE ALSO IMPORTANT BECAUSE PEOPLE NEED HELP TO LIVE FAITHFULLY. READ ABOUT THE WORK BEING DONE TO PROVIDE CONGREGATIONS WITH RESOURCES TO WALK BESIDE NEW BELIEVERS. (PAGE 2)

DID YOU KNOW?

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

POST- SYNOD 'TO-DO' LIST

The Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has renewed its commitment to Christian discipleship. To this end, the Synod is intentional in designing and executing a discipleship programme that is relevant and applicable for the post, post-modern world in which we live.



DISCIPLESHIP

“Christian discipleship is the cornerstone of spiritual growth, guiding believers to emulate Christ's teachings. It fosters a deeper understanding of faith and cultivates a personal relationship with God. Through discipleship, individuals learn to live out their faith in daily life, embodying love, compassion, and forgiveness. It empowers Christians to be active participants in spreading the message of salvation and serving others selflessly. Discipleship strengthens the community of believers, creating a support system for spiritual growth and accountability. Ultimately, Christian discipleship is integral to fulfilling the Great Commission and transforming lives through Christ-centred living”. – Rev. Tara Tyme, Discipleship Task Leader

The task of resourcing congregations to pursue Discipleship of believers is being taken forward under the leadership of Rev. Tara Tyme.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age.”

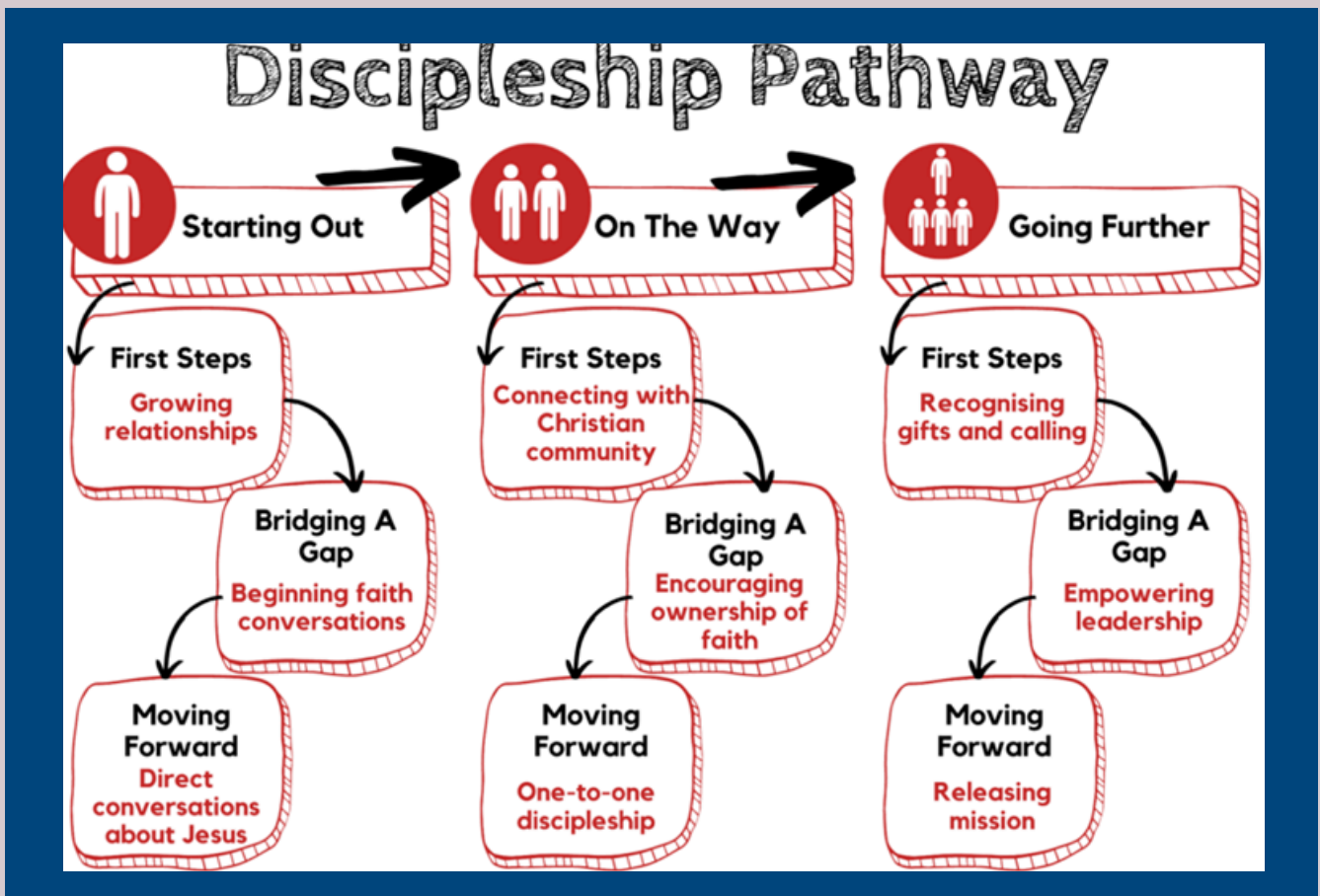
(Matthew 28:19-20 (Amplified Bible))

DISCIPLESHIP

The diagram below represents the aim of a discipleship programme, an effective programme, to drive the Great Commission:



A discipleship programme is best done through pathways (Starting Out, On the Way & Going Further).



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

Work is being done to assist congregations to be able to engage in a consistent discipleship programme for (Phase 1) Starting Out (Timeline - Present to November 2024):

Sourcing/procuring/editing materials to assist with Pathway 1 Starter Kit.

This will include:

- New Converts Nurture
- New Members Nurture (Our Church – already available)
- Discipleship and Evangelism

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

- **Print hard copies (where applicable) for Congregations** (Timeline: December 2024 – March 2025)
- **Launch and distribution of resources** (Timeline: Synod 2025/ Ongoing)
- **Materials appropriate and applicable for Phase 2 (On the Way) and Phase 3 (Going Further), will be completed and distributed by December 2026**

Contributed by Rev. Tara Tyme



Saluting Claire Trueman

A Woman of Passion, Vision and Determination to Serve

My sisters and brothers,

Our beloved sister and Commissioned Minister, Ms. Claire Trueman, transitioned this life peacefully at her home in Mandeville Friday June 21, 2024

In 1962 a young woman with a passion, a vision, and a determination to serve, left all she knew behind and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to offer service to her Lord in a strange land.

Born in Restrevor, Northern Ireland, Claire Winnifred Anne Trueman decided to follow her call to a ministry that defied national and geographical boundaries in Jamaica's small island developing state, which was a far cry from her native land.

Her love and dedication to children and young people became evident through the honing of the lives of her students at the Meadowbrook Preparatory School where she spent the first three years of her sojourn in Jamaica as a teacher.

This marked the beginning of a journey of service to children and young people that was characterized by high standards in every endeavour undertaken by this faithful servant of God.

Claire would go on to serve as Director of Children's Work within the church for over ten years. She championed the cause of children and was one of the staunchest defenders of their interest on matters of policy. Her service to the camp ministry of the church was outstanding, both in terms of her leadership and her insistence on a quality experience for the campers.

She played a pivotal role in the development of church school material that was indigenous to the United Church for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and children's nurture groups.

Other areas of her ministry included serving as Personnel Development Centre Coordinator for over ten years, working with the young adults, the brigades, and the lay training programme. At the Synodical level, she served on the Committees of Mission Witness and Service, and Education for Ministry and Mission.



The soft-spoken Claire was known as a gentle, caring and loving soul whose outstanding qualities endeared her to many, earning their trust and admiration.

To her immediate and extended family in Northern Ireland, to the members of the Andrew's Memorial United Church, where she had her membership, and those who cared for her in her latter days we express our deep condolence. We are assured that our sister has already received the commendation of her Lord, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your rest."

May her soul rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.

Rev. Norbert Stephens
General Secretary, UCJCI

A Snapshot of Father's Day Services

Many of our churches celebrated Father's Day this past Sunday. Befitting the occasion, the women took charge, leading the worship, preaching, reading the Scripture passages, making announcements, and leading the prayers in our congregations. The children and youth added a special touch with their contributions.

WILLIAM POUCHIE MEMORIAL CHURCH



SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH



Central to the worship was the message on God as our Heavenly Father and the biblical role of earthly fathers, emphasizing their responsibilities and impact.

SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH



ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



ELMSLIE MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REV. DR. GORDON COWANS

July 1



Praying God's continued blessing on you.



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PEP EXAMS

We are proud of you.
Your hard work and dedication
have paid off.
Keep reaching for the Stars! ✨

Children's
Ministry
Commission

2 Timothy 2:15a
Continue to study to show thyself
approved

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

- Rev. Roy Dodman who has been hospitalised in the UK.
- Ministers, members and families who will engage in rest and reflection during the summer months for their safety and refreshment.
- UCJCI Camp Ministry - for evangelistic and discipleship endeavours with our children and youth.
- Members of the United Church to respond to God's call to ministry through various leadership roles in congregations, regions and at the synodical level.
- Synod staff - Ms Laurel Livingston - and her son Keon who was injured after an accident.
- Political, social, environmental and economic disruptions and disturbances in the world.
- Members of the United Church community in Cayman and Jamaica who have experienced recent bereavement.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
 - Dr. Norma Smellie
 - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
 - 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 - Remaining focused on God (Spirit):

6th 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

Lamentations 3:22-33

Mark 5:21-43

Psalm 30

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Count Your Blessings

**A firm Foundation is Jesus my
Lord**

**'Tis so Sweet
The King of Love**

Confession is not only about acknowledging our sin, but also about recognizing the manifold blessings of God. Testifying as a community of God's goodness is like iron sharpening iron.

Collective awareness of God's goodness also increases hope in times of despair and crisis. Celebrate God's blessings on the local congregation as well as the denomination. If need be, take the Ebenezer approach(hitherto the Lord has brought us), establishing an altar of praise amidst the rubble of pain.

Look for signs of new life in God's Spirit in the congregation, charge, denomination, and nation. Allow that to be the watchword and hope for the new season of your church life.

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.

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



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
invites you to



SUMMER CAMPS 2024

PEACE: Reigniting di Pieces thru Christ

Children's Camp
July 6, 2024 - July 11, 2024

Junior Camp
July 13, 2024 - July 18, 2024

Pacesetters Teen's Camp
July 20, 2024 - July 25, 2024

Discovery Teen's Camp
July 27, 2024 - August 1, 2024

Youth Camp
August 3, 2024 - August 8, 2024



Cost
\$15,000.00

REGISTER NOW!!
AT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE

 **Madge Saunders
Conference Centre**



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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Rev. Norbert Stephens

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