



UCJCI UPDATE

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

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

VOL. 11 NO. 42



THE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT BUT IS GIVEN SPECIAL FOCUS IN NOVEMBER. P.11

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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.

GET CONNECTED...STAY CONNECTED

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IN THE FAST-PACED NATURE OF LIFE IT IS SO EASY TO GO FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER. IN A LITTLE WHILE PERSONS WILL BE SAYING, 'WHERE DID THE YEAR GO?' IF THAT HAPPENS IN RELATION TO A YEAR, HOW MUCH MORE FOR A DAY. WHEN PRACTISING INTENTIONAL MOMENTS OF REFLECTION WE MAY FIND THAT VERY LITTLE TIME HAS BEEN TAKEN IN THE DAY TO CONNECT - CONNECTING INTENTIONALLY WITH GOD, WITH NEIGHBOUR, CO-WORKER, FELLOW CHURCH MEMBER, FAMILY AND FRIEND. THE CHURCH SCHOOL THEME: GET CONNECTED...STAY CONNECTED IS AN IMPORTANT REMINDER TO SLOW DOWN AND TOUCH SOMEONE'S LIFE AND BUILD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH COMMUNICATION. IT'S A THEME INTENDED FOR THE CHILDREN BUT SERVES WELL AS A CHALLENGE TO ALL (P. 5)

DID YOU KNOW?

UCJCI's radio programme

United in Faith

is available on Spotify?
Follow our podcasts and share with others.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FEATURE

World Diabetes Awareness Day - November 14

World Diabetes Day, observed annually on November 14, serves as a global awareness campaign aimed at highlighting the growing prevalence of diabetes and its impact on individuals and communities.

In 2024, the theme is "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps," which emphasizes the importance of equitable access to diabetes care and support for all individuals living with this condition. This theme resonates deeply within the Christian community, encouraging collective action to foster well-being among those affected by diabetes.

Understanding Diabetes in the Christian Context

Diabetes is a chronic condition that affects how the body processes glucose, leading to various health complications if not managed properly. The Christian community plays a vital role in promoting health and wellness through teachings that emphasize care for one's body as a temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This perspective encourages believers to adopt healthy lifestyles that include balanced diets, regular physical activity, and proactive health management.

The statistics surrounding diabetes are alarming; millions of people worldwide face daily challenges related to this disease.

Many experience distress and emotional burdens stemming from managing their condition. Fear of complications can significantly affect their mental well-being. As Christians, there is an opportunity to provide support through prayer, congregational engagement and educational initiatives that promote understanding and compassion towards those living with diabetes.

Congregations can organize various activities aimed at raising awareness about diabetes. These may include:

- Hosting workshops that educate congregants about diabetes management, nutrition and lifestyle changes can empower individuals with knowledge and practical skills.
- Collaborating with local healthcare providers to offer free screenings for blood sugar levels can help identify undiagnosed cases.
- 1. Highlighting healthy cooking practices can encourage families to prepare nutritious meals that are beneficial for managing diabetes.
- Establishing support groups within church communities can provide a safe space for individuals with diabetes to share experiences, challenges, and successes in managing their health.

World Diabetes Day – November 14

As World Diabetes Day 2024 is observed under the theme “Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps,” The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Island Health and Wellness Task Force is encouraging us as a Christian community to take an active role in addressing this public health issue.

Let us begin by fostering an environment of education, support, and compassion.

Let us begin to bridge gaps in care and ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need to live well with diabetes.

Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of those affected by this condition while embodying our faith’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

A Collective Responsibility

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Submitted by Beverley Samuels, Health and Wellness Task Force



Members of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Dear Sisters and brothers:



Re: Moderator Elect: 2025-2027

Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan

Kindly allow me to introduce to you the Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan as our Moderator Elect for the Synodical period 2025–2027. Rev. Dr. Cowan was so declared having received reports from the Regional Mission Councils that he was the candidate of choice for this season of the Church's life.

Rev. Dr. Cowan has proved himself to be a gifted pastor, preacher and teacher, an inspirational leader and motivator. His love for and devotion to the Church is without question and his clarity of purpose, commitment to the Church's growth and development and his concern for the wellbeing of the whole people of God render him a most suitable leader of the Church for a time such as this.

The Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott demits office at our upcoming Synod in April 2025, when the Rev. Dr. Cowan will be inducted to the office of Moderator.

Please join me in offering Rev. Dr. Cowan our sincere congratulations and best wishes along with the assurance of our prayers and caring support.

Rev. Norbert D. Stephens GENERAL SECRETARY

NOVEMBER IS CHURCH SCHOOL MONTH

The UCJCI Children's Ministry Commission invites Congregations
to Celebrate Children Church Month
'GET CONNECTED... STAY CONNECTED'

Children's Ministry Commission



NOVEMBER 17, 2024 - WEEK 3

CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD

"Jesus said to the followers, "Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone"" -**MARK 16:15 ICB**

Craft Activity

Make bags - eg. shopping, tote bags, etc.
OR decorate purchased shopping bags
and donate with Bible track.



Connect to God Journal

- Visit an unsaved person and share the Word, as well as something tangible with them.
 - eg: Ask about their experience with faith and provide them with a Bible track.
- Offer to help a neighbour with a chore and take the opportunity to share the word.
 - eg: Clean-up around their yard.
- Offer to help someone in the grocery store and take the opportunity to share the Word
 - eg: Helping them to carry their shopping bags.
- Share refreshments and Bible tracks with a person on the street.
 - eg: Give a person in need some water.



NEWS FROM CIRMC



'LIVE IN G.L.O.W. MID-TERM CAMP AT JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL CHURCH

The John Gray Memorial Church hosted a Mid-Term Camp from October 21-25 under the theme Live in G.L.O.W. The camp provided a week of activities focused on spiritual growth, learning, and community-building for children on their school break. Through a combination of Bible lessons, creative workshops, outdoor games, and reflective sessions, the camp engaged children in understanding how to "G.L.O.W." by living in God's Love, Light of Jesus, with Open Hearts and Worshiping Together. A total number of 38 children were in attendance.



The camp concluded with a summary day where the children reviewed each lesson from the week. They created a collaborative "G.L.O.W. with God" mural and received tokens. A final presentation allowed children to showcase what they'd learned through dance and the messages written in handmade cards to the attendants of our Pantry Ministry.



NEWS FROM SRMC

HOPE AMIDST DISASTER:

Relief Efforts Support Rural Jamaican Communities Post-Hurricane Beryl

GLIMPSES OF THE RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS OF THOSE AFFECTED



In the wake of Hurricane Beryl, which struck Jamaica on July 3, 2024, rural communities in South Manchester and Southern St. Elizabeth faced unparalleled devastation. The storm's fierce winds and torrential rain left homes battered, crops destroyed, and many residents grappling with profound personal losses.

Among the hardest hit were the communities of Southern Manchester and St. Elizabeth, including Plowden, Marlie Hill, Alligator Pond and Hopewell, where many residents lost roofs, crop storage facilities, and livelihoods. For some, the damage was even more severe: one family in Hopewell lost a beloved sister, another saw their one-bedroom home reduced to rubble, and an elderly resident suffered a stroke during the chaos.

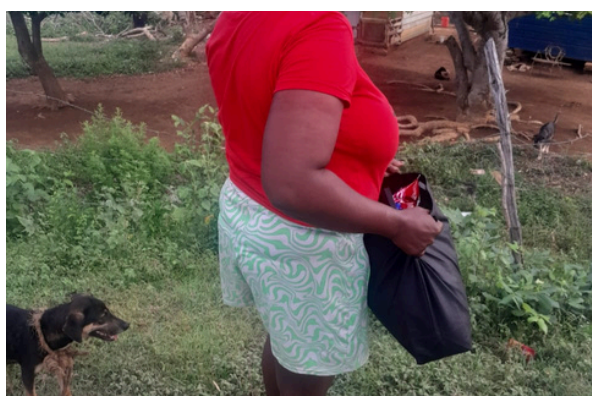


In response to this dire situation, Caribbean and North American Council for Mission (CANACOM) extended a lifeline, contributing JMD 450,000, and the Jamaica Ecumenical Mutual Mission (JEMM) provided 75 grocery packages for families. The Southern Regional Mission Council of the United Church mobilized swiftly, channeling this generosity into tangible aid. Food packages stocked with non-perishable essentials—canned proteins, beans, starches, and toiletries—were distributed to approximately 107 families across these communities.

These packages, while simple, were invaluable to families navigating the hurricane's aftermath, especially as many were without electricity for weeks. The non-perishable nature of the supplies meant food security was maintained even as basic utilities were slowly restored.

Beyond immediate relief, the impact of these efforts stretched further. The storm disrupted agricultural and small business activities, cutting off vital income sources for many. The contributions from JEMM and CANACOM were timely contributions bridging the crucial gap between initial disaster response and long-term recovery.

THE PACKAGES WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED WERE WELCOMED.



PLOWDEN AND MARLIE HILL RELIEF SUMMARY:

- Families Assisted: 16
- Individuals Supported: Approximately 51
- Aid Provided: Food packages with essentials, offering critical sustenance amid widespread roof damage and crop loss.

HOPEWELL RELIEF EFFORTS:

- Families Assisted: 16 (each with 3 to 5 members)
- Aid Provided: Similar food packages, supporting residents facing severe crop loss, structural damage, and profound personal hardships.

ALLIGATOR POND

- Families Assisted: 75 (each with 3 to 5 members)
- Aid Provided: Similar food packages, supporting residents facing severe crop loss, structural damage, and profound personal hardships.

The resilience shown by these communities, coupled with the outpouring of support from organizations like CANACOM, has brought renewed hope. As families work to rebuild, the generosity displayed will be remembered as a beacon during a dark time.

The Southern Regional Mission Council and the residents of Plowden, Marlie Hill, Alligator Pond and Hopewell express heartfelt gratitude for the support that has enabled them to begin the difficult journey of recovery. Additionally, in partnership with the Samaritan's Purse, the SRMC distributed tarpaulin and solar lamps that served over 50 persons in communities.

NEWS FROM WRMC

THE WORK OF THE THEODORA PROJECT CONTINUES

Page

The Theodora Skills Training Centre is continuing to empower young people in the Negril Community and neighboring areas.

With the different activities done at the center, trainees do believe in making the best use of opportunities presented and wish to excel in every skill. The much anticipated 9 months are ready to un-wrap and trainees are looking forward for assessment, certification and employment.

AVAILABLE PROGRAMMES:

- Cosmetology Level 2
- Hospitality Service Villa and Other Properties Level 2
- Food & Beverage Restaurant Management Services Level 2
- Early Childhood Care and Development Levels 2 & 3
- Massage Therapy Level 3



Rev. Dr.
Margaret
Fowler

THE WORK OF THE THEODORA PROJECT CONTINUES...

Our facilitators work tirelessly to assist trainees and to bring out the best in them. Over the period, trainees participated in various activities with an aim to refine each trainee with teamwork, co-ordination and an all-round strengthening of each individual. They do believe in making the best use of opportunities presented and wish to excel in each skill area.



Trainees from the different departments were invited to an Open Day at Frome, sponsored by The Ministry of Labor and Social Security, they were able to showcase their skills to patrons in Manicure, Pedicure and Facial make-up services. Food preparation and pastries were displayed, and some persons were able to partake of the food that was prepared by the trainees. It was indeed a very proud moment for them to be a part of such an activity.



Several trainees from the Hospitality Service Villa and Other Properties are now placed in hotels and restaurants on Work Experience. This kind of experience is important for trainees to be aware of the rules and regulations and how to maintain standard procedures set out by organization in which they will be trained.



Devotional Exercises are conducted every second and fourth Thursday of each month by members of the Negril United Church with the aim to help trainees start their day with purpose and to keep them focused on the Word of God.

WRMC UCYPF Youth Social

On October 26 2024, the executive body of the Western Regional Mission Council United Church Young People's Fellowship (WRMC UCYPF) hosted its Youth Social at the Falmouth United Church. Over 40 youths were registered for the event from the following churches: Lucea United, Savanna-la-mar United, Barrett Town United, Lilliput United, Runaway Bay United, St. Paul's United, Mt. Hermon United, Big Bridge United, Friendship United and Carlisle Memorial United.

Approximately 60 persons attended the social. After registration and devotion, youths were engaged with fun-filled activities such as bible games, card games, board games and dominoes. Additionally, various prizes, such as notepads, pens, markers and tracts for participation were given to the youths. Before, the event closed the vote of thanks, introduction of the new steering committee executive body and final presentations of prizes were done. Rev. L. Young, the youth minister, concluded the event with the closing prayer and benediction.





Happy *Birthday*

NOVEMBER 19



Laurel Ann Livingston



Rev. Bryan Stone



IONA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF IONA PREPARATORY SCHOOL
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF:

PRINCIPAL

Iona Preparatory School seeks to identify a Principal to maintain and build on the traditions and high standards of this institution.

The principal is responsible for overseeing and implementing the academic, operational, and strategic plans to further the development of the institution, while providing inspired, energized, transformational and professional leadership and guidance to all stakeholders.

Applicants should preferably;

- **Be a trained, registered graduate with at least three years of approved service**
- **Have at least three years supervisory experience**
- **Certification from the national College of Educational Leadership (NCEL) would be an asset**
- **A post graduate degree would be an asset**
- **Have a high level of professional integrity, honesty and confidentiality**

Applicants should send signed letters and detailed resumes to:

**The Chairman
Board of Management
Iona Preparatory School
Herbert Swaby Drive
Tower Isle P.O.
St. Mary**

EMAIL: ionaprep@yahoo.com

Only persons shortlisted will be contacted.



**ONLINE
BIBLE STUDY**

**Feed
on
the
Word**

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH

FOCUS:

The teachings in Acts and how they relate to current religious doctrine.

ZOOM MEETING ID

813 4248 4169

PASSCODE

025645.

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m.



THURSDAYS IN BLACK

WEAR BLACK ON THURSDAYS



Signal your support for a world without rape or violence especially against women and girls.

Also take the opportunity to begin a conversation with someone about why you are wearing black

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones clasped together in prayer, holding a black Bible with gold lettering that reads 'HOLY BIBLE'.

Let us Pray Together ...

- Rev. Wendell Mckoy's daughter and son-in-law thankfully escaped major physical injury in a recent car accident.
- Communities and families in Cayman and Jamaica have been impacted by Hurricane Rafael.
- The alignment process, the future health and potency of the work in the ministry of Christ.
- Sustenance and support for those who have suffered bereavements.
- Ongoing conflicts in Haiti, other parts of the Caribbean and the wider world.
- Ministers of the United Church who are experiencing challenges
 - Dr. Norma Smellie
 - Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans
 - Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson
 - Rev. Karleen Thomas Barnes

A photograph showing hands clasped in prayer, with a soft, warm light illuminating the scene.

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

WORSHIP THEMES FOR HOME AND OUR CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

Sub- Theme for the Quarter

**Re-Ignited with the END in Sight – Evangelising and Nurturing for
Deepened Faith Walk**

26th Sunday after Pentecost

When we understand 'grace' as, 'unmerited divine assistance', or undeserved (divine) favour, we note that 'Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins ... [and] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.' It is this grace that propels us forward in purpose to fulfil God's will for our lives, as we 'hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering'.

Invite folks to consider another aspect of God's grace, as outlined in Samuel's story. Recognize that we cannot separate the lives of Samuel from that of David, as they are both intricately intertwined. Inasmuch as David is the long-term fruit of Ruth's faith in Naomi's YHWH, Samuel (asked him of the Lord) can be seen as the fruit of the persistence of his mother, Hannah. Nevertheless, both men, critical to the future of Israel, the fledgling nation, were visible testaments to God's purpose being fulfilled, and proof of God's promises.

END POINT: As you read for sermon prep, consider where the hand of God is visible in Hannah's story. What does grace look like for someone who is downcast and despairing, despite their confession of faith? Note that there is a personal element to grace, though it is freely offered by God. Moreover, we guard against mistaking the vessel for the Giver. When Eli misunderstood Hannah's state of lamentation as drunkenness, she had to explain herself. Nevertheless, his pronouncement that her prayer would be answered was a vocalization of God's gift to her. This is the kind of grace that one theologian describes as 'power for living' (see <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-grace>) Invite congregants to identify where they need power for life today, and encourage them to find it in God through Christ Jesus.

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.

Street Pastors Training Jamaica

JOIN US



ALL ISLAND TRAINING

FOR SCHOOL & STREET PASTORS

October 26 to November 30, 2024

Mondays & Wednesdays - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturdays - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CONTACT US:



876 521 9461

876 332 1759

876-909-0470

streetpastorsja@gmail.com



REQUIREMENTS:

- BE A CHRISTIAN FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR
- MINIMUM AGE 18
- TWO (2) REFERENCES
- POLICE RECORD (SCHOOL PASTORS)

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS (UCJCI) CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMISSION & JAMAICA CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP (JCEF) TEACHER ENRICHMENT SEMINAR



Platform: on ZOOM

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2024

Time: 9:00am – 12:30pm

Cost: \$1500

*Registration Link: Please contact
your Regional Mission Council
Office for the link*

Special Speakers:

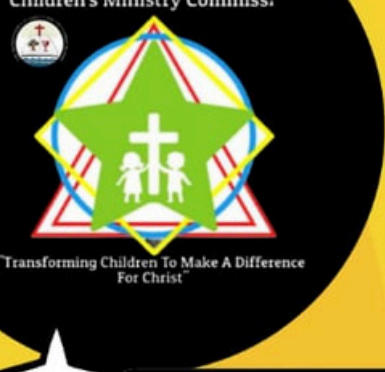
Sonia O'Connor – JCEF
Administrator

Pauline Steele – JCEF Local
Director, Clarendon

Blossom Tucker – JCEF Local
Director,
Kingston & St. Andrew

"Strive diligently to
present thyself
approved to God, a
workman that has
not to be ashamed,
cutting in a straight
line the word of
truth."

2 Timothy 2:15
(DHP)



ATTENTION

The UCJCI Children's
Ministry Commission
invites Congregations
to Celebrate

"Church School Sunday"
on Nov 24, 2024

Theme:
"Staying Connected"

"TRANSFORMING CHILDREN
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR
CHRIST."



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)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

MODERATOR

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. Norbert Stephens

REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Donovan Myers

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Southern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Janet McConnell

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Maureen Henry