

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



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# TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

Building the Family Altar

WOMEN AT  
WORK!

Women's Fellowship Month

TRAINING FOR LAY  
LEADERS

Restarts in February

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

# TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH THE FAMILY

## ***BUILDING THE FAMILY ALTAR***



**T**he work to provide material for worship and Christian education in households emphasizes UCJCI's conviction to seek transformation of the world through Christ.

Each week, a liturgy, or order of worship, is prepared by the House Liturgy Team. The material follows the worship themes set out by the Synod for use in congregations. The liturgy is adaptable to different home settings—living room, around the dining table, the verandah, the garden or yard. It is interactive and contains elements for different age groups. It fosters discussion and activity to facilitate deeper understanding. There are object lessons which incorporate items in the home to explain concepts.

The greatest advantage is that it facilitates teaching of the Christian faith right in the home among those who know each other well. Children are taught about the bible and the teachings of the church. Youth can be helped to understand the bible in relation to issues concerning them. Members of the household are encouraged to talk to each other, pray for and with each other and share their concerns and struggles. This practice, building the family altar, helps to make scripture relatable to life

experiences and, most importantly, shapes the thinking and action of human beings—young and old.

Deviant behaviour in societies across the world stem from the choices that people make. Hope for transformation of thinking and behaviour resides firmly in efforts to impact decision-making through socialization and the home is a primary location for socializing. So, do you want to help to change the world? **Join in worship at home.**



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**NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!****WOMEN AT WORK!****JANUARY IS WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MONTH**

The United Church Women's Fellowship will launch their activities for 2021 with **Fellowship Week**, Sunday, January 24 to 30, 2021.

**FELLOWSHIP WEEK**  
January 24-30, 2021

**WORSHIP**

All congregations are encouraged to focus on the Women's Fellowship on that Sunday.

During Fellowship Week, the ladies will be engaged in a range of activities throughout Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

**OUTREACH**

The Women's Fellowship will remain viable and visible and continue their outreach projects for which they are celebrated. While observing to health regulations they will prepare care packages and distribute to the needy. To assist in that endeavour, several fund-raising activi-



ties will take place during the year.

**EDUCATION:**

Tablets have already been donated to needy children to assist with their ongoing education. The Women's Fellowship will provide internet access at United Church congregations, to children who do not have this facility in their own

homes. Members of the Fellowship will offer supervision to children who come to the church to access the internet. They will also partner with the schools by conducting online devotions, where this is possible.

**MENTORING**

The Fellowship will seek ways of mentoring young ladies, as role models and providing Christian nurture. They will partner with other organisations in doing this.

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS**

The Fellowship will reach out to families within their membership who need help and support, One Council will host virtual parenting talk shows for parents in the church and wider communities.



JANUARY 17

**Rev. Ranford Hewitt**



JANUARY 19

**Mrs. Carlene Andrade**



## HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY THEMES FOR JANUARY

The liturgy developed by the House Worship Team will reflect the Synodical worship themes.

THEME FOR THE MONTH:

Rooting our Physical Health in God brings us Hope

**January 17**

**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?**

**January 24**

**Surely God is with us**

**January 31**

**God has brought us through many physical tribulations and God deserves our unreserved praise and thanks**

Liturgies are available from your Minister/Lay Pastor, Communication Officer for your congregation and from your Regional Mission Council

### TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS THROUGH THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE

#### WILL NOW BE DELIVERED ONLINE

For those who started the training in 2020, please contact your Regional Mission Council office which will provide information on plans for you to access and continue the training.

**New learners welcome**

Are you seeking a deeper understanding of areas of ministry in your local congregation?

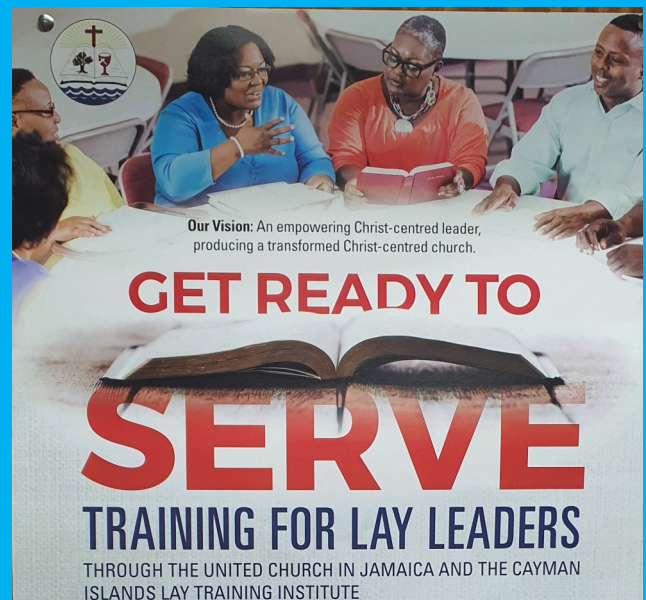
Do you desire to join the leadership team in your church as a way of contributing to the growth of God's people?

Have you been chosen to serve in an area of ministry in your congregation?

Do you want to prepare to serve your church by using your gifts in an area of service?



through your Regional Mission Council office.



## Resumes

# February 13, 2020

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING:

### LET US PRAY FOR:

- ◆ The physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of persons in community in Cayman and Jamaica
- ◆ Good judgement as families face contentions and disagreements
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt and family at the passing of his sister Mrs Essiline Smith who resided in the USA
- ◆ Continued concerns for the education of children and youth in Jamaica
- ◆ Decision-making about the livelihood of persons in public and private sector spaces in Cayman and Jamaica
  - ◆ Rev. Donovan Myers and family



**According to the Church's Liturgical Calendar, on January 6, 2021, we entered the Season of Epiphany.**

Epiphany is a special day as well as a season between Christmas and Lent. The word 'epiphany' means manifestation, revelation and it refers to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, God's self-revelation to the world in human form. It also means a sudden, profound understanding or realization of something.

In Western Christianity, Epiphany commemorates the visits of the Magi (Three Kings) who followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet Jesus. This indicates Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. For Eastern Christianity, Epiphany is associated with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, and is seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God.

Like the Magi, may we, too, be open to be surprised as we continue on our journey. Like those at the river Jordan, may we have an 'eye' to see Jesus in the common and ordinary.

**May we also be rooted and resilient as we respond in HOPE to the many challenges we face in our personal lives and collectively as a Church.**

**- Rev. Otto Menko**



## UCJCI VALUE STATEMENT

“The United Church represents a people called by God, to love and worship God as Creator, Jesus the Saviour, and the Holy Spirit the Comforter; to make a difference in people’s lives by actively loving and serving those around us; to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people; to nurture each other in faith; to pursue God’s justice and peace in all areas of life, so that ‘God’s kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.’”

IN THE COMING  
ISSUE...

**BEYOND THE PULPIT**

***The Abortion Debate***

**- Rev. Tara Tyme**

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Southern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
(Acting)  
**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Mauleen Henry**

**SYNODICAL THEME:**

**“Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life”**