



# A Weekly Update from The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

September 15, 2021

Vol. 7 Issue 35

SYNODICAL THEME: "Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace Evangelism)"

## Greatness Redefined

by Jonielle Daley, Communication and Information  
Technology Coordinator

When I think of *Greatness Redefined*, I think of the woman at the well in St. John 4. Like her, we run to many wells to fill voids in our hearts and souls instead of drinking from the fountain of living water and feeding on the bread of life. Like her, the search for worth and purpose pushes many in the arms of promiscuity or under the crushing weight of accolades.



But, her encounter with Jesus at the well brought about a different understanding of what greatness is and where it is found.

What I love about this, is that the Bible stands constant as a yardstick defining greatness for those who do not truly know what it is - like the woman at the well, and redefining it for those who have lost their way. One such example is of Solomon who at the beginning of his reign had received wisdom upon asking for it in prayer and lost it to his desire for worldly power.

*"In a world where fame and power coupled with the unquenchable desire for decorated and highlighted lives, there is every need to keep in check the values and demands of the Kingdom."*

The accompanying scriptures for our Home Liturgy for this week, revolve around the theme of selfless service. It paves the way into the theme for next week, September 19, of which we are focusing on now- Greatness Redefined, greatest on the premise of the Bible.

I often wonder, if we seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all other things would be added, then why do we seek greatness outside of the Kingdom?

One could think of many things in relation to the values of the Kingdom, but I consider at this moment the Fruit of the Spirit- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*"- *Galatians 5 verses 22-23 NKVJ.*

And in relation to the demands, scripture will tell us it is Service; selfless service.

*Cont'd on pg 2*

### In this Issue...

Greatness Redefined.....	Pg 1
Prayer Corner .....	Pg 2
News from Cayman.....	Pg 3
COVID Protocols.....	Pg 5
Upcoming Events.....	Pg 6

Tomorrow!!!

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
SYNOD REPARATIONS TASK FORCE

Discussion on  
**REPARATIONS**  
AND THE  
**FAMILY**

With Guest Speaker  
**Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle**  
Lecturer, UTCWI

Dr. Hilary Hickling  
Host

SEPT 16 2021 6PM

zoom Meeting ID: 827 9692 1243 Passcode: 548470

YouTube @ UCJCI

## Keeping in Check

Keeping in check requires us to be present and conscious; It requires assessment.

- Who does the Bible say we are?
- Who are you without the titles and the job (mother, daughter, husband, supervisor, Pastor)?
- Would you deem yourself, in your nakedness, as 'greatness' using The Word as a mirror?

## Repurposing Self

Remember that the Bible takes our marred understanding and acceptance of greatness and redefines it.

Romans 6 verse 19 says:

*“For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.”*



As we consider this verse, think about how the church functions as a body and think also of yourself.

How have you been a slave to this world?

I invite you to make a list of all the ways you have slaved for earthly greatness and then all the ways you are committing to slave for your greatness in, and the greatness of Christendom. In this, assess the commissioning of your:

- Thoughts
- Speech; Words
- Body (Hands, Feet, etc)
- Talents
- Time
- Money/Finances
- Resources
- Relationships

## Home Liturgy

GREATNESS REDEFINED- Sep 19, 2021

Jeremiah 11:18-20 || Psalm 54

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a || Mark 9:30-37



- ♦ Mrs. Karen Francis, whose husband Rev. Dr. Norman Francis has passed on.
- ♦ Rev. Delia Picard-Hibbert whose mother, Mrs. Escelene Picart passed on.
- ♦ Rev. Garwell Bacchas and family with the passing of his brother, Mike and sister-in-law, Marcia.
- ♦ Healing for Pastor Meggan Brown Henry.
- ♦ Mr. Eugene Kong, father of Rev Rohan Kong was admitted at the Spalding Hospital.
- ♦ The climbing number of COVID 19 infections in Jamaica.
- ♦ Patients, families and workers in the health sector in Jamaica.
- ♦ Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID 19.
- ♦ The people of Haiti and Afghanistan.

### A prayer :

Loving God, I pray that you will comfort us in our suffering, Give us confidence in the power of your grace, that even when we are afraid and hurting, we may put our whole trust in you; through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

# News from Cayman

## Women's Fellowship Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Cayman Islands Women's Fellowship was held on Saturday, September 4, 2021, at the Council Office. Mrs Jacynthia Anderson of the Savannah United Church Branch was unanimously elected as the new President.

Words of appreciation were offered to Mrs Carol Ann Ebanks of the John Gray Memorial Church for her service as President from 2018- 2021.

Appreciation was also expressed to former Members of the 2018 to 2021 Executive Committee, Mrs. Ora Hollebon (Asst. Secretary), Mrs Darlene Glidden (Service) and Mrs Francine Gardener (Recreation).



Executive Committee Members 2021-2023:

President: Mrs Jacynthia Anderson (Savannah UC), Vice President: Mrs Tesha Thomas (Gun Bay UC), Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Dilbert (John Gray Memorial UC), Asst Secretary: Ms Winsome Radcliffe (Savannah UC) Treasurer Mrs Ernestine Powell (Savannah UC), Service: Mrs Isabel Bodden, Mrs Aileen Powell (Webster Memorial UC), Programme and Literature: Mrs Katherine Jackson (John Gray Memorial UC), Recreation: Ms Maxine Bravo (Savannah UC), Immediate Past President: Mrs Carol Ann Ebanks (John Gray Memorial UC) supporting the Thursday's in Black Campaign.

### 2021 Women's Fellowship Gathering

The Gathering will be held at the Savannah United Church on Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The focus will be on raising awareness on the issues surrounding gender-based violence in the Cayman Islands.

### Annual Service of Thanksgiving

The Annual Service of Thanksgiving will be held at the William Pouchie Memorial Church on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 6:00 pm. The new Executive Committee will be installed during the Service.

### Programmes

The following programmes will continue to receive support from the Women's Fellowship: Young Families Programme – John Gray Memorial Church Francis Bodden Home – Savannah United The Pines Senior Citizens Home – All Branches Boyz to Men Mentoring Programme at the John Gray High School – Women's Fellowship Council.

### Thursdays in Black

In response to the 'Thursdays in Black' World Council of Churches campaign which has been adopted in the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Council Fellowship has purchased black polo shirts which the members will wear on Thursdays and other occasions to signal their support for victims of gender violence and to lend their voice in the cry for gender-based violence to cease.

The Women's Fellowship will also partner with the Lion's Club of Tropical Gardens which has selected raising awareness of "He will prepare the way for us to accomplish His work." Women's Fellowship Report challenges of gender-based violence in the Cayman Islands as their platform for 2021-2022, under the leadership of their President Ms Maxine Bravo.

End Violence Against Women and Children

Share your *Thursdays in Black* photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Use the hashtags:

#WCC, #UCJCI, #evgw,  
#ThursdaysinBlack,  
#endviolenceagainstwomen

# John Gray Memorial UC Afterschool Program Reopens

by Ms Kristin Jackson

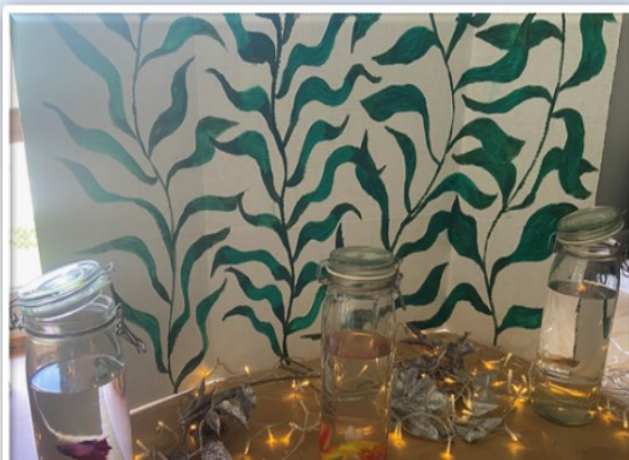
Following a long break due to Covid-19, on Monday, September 6, 2021, the John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay) resumed its much in demand After School Program.

The JGMC ASP runs from 2:30 – 6:00 pm daily and offers children an enriched, safe, Christian environment where they not only come to learn about Christian values but also to complete their homework and have a bit of fun! We have multiple outdoor activities planned such as a community garden and a simulated campsite (complete with a real tent). We are looking forward to an exciting school year.



Rev. Sully always opens with exciting **devotions and singing.**

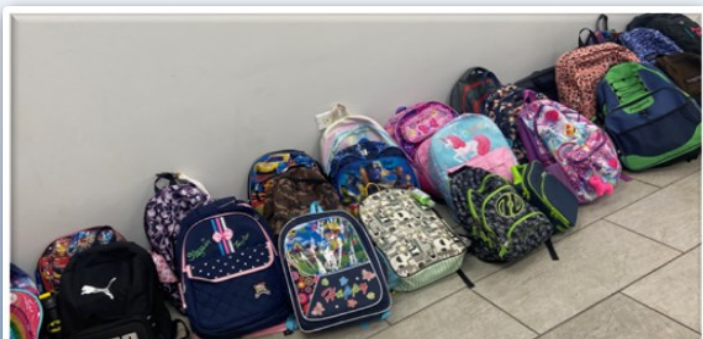
On opening day, we had 23 children, but by now, we are up to 32 and quickly running out of space as we cap at 40 students. We currently have two staff and four volunteers assisting in this ministry, and naturally, we are looking for as many volunteers as we can get!



Students enjoy completing their homework and reading in our amazing **'Homework Tank'** - with REAL-LIVE



Snack-time is everyone's favorite!



Sturdy little schoolbags all in a row.

\*\*\*

# COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

## AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA -From the Office of the General Secretary

The Government of Jamaica, on September 1, 2021, announced an extension of provisions under the Disaster Risk Management Act. These provisions are for the period **September 3 to September 17, 2021**. We wish to share with you the ones which will affect congregational life from September 5, 2021:

**1. Church Services- Two Sundays are included in the 6 ‘no-movement days’, these are September 5, and September 12, 2021.**

- The number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship on these Sundays will be a **maximum of 20 persons**. Each person is required to have a **place of Worship Authorization Form**.

Where persons are required to travel to the sanctuary on Sundays, a completed **Place of Worship Authorization Form is necessary**. Please do the following prior to the service:

- Print and fill out all sections of the Authorization Form
- Insert the name of the person who will participate in the service (use one Form for each person who will participate, do not exceed 20 persons)
- Each Form should be signed by the Minister or Lay Pastor, including her/his own Form
- Place your Church Stamp/Seal where indicated on each completed Form. This is a critical requirement (if you do not have a Church Stamp, visit your regional office and have them stamp each document)
- Ensure that each participant in the worship service has her/his copy of the Authorization Form, along with a valid form of identification, for presentation to the police at a checkpoint

- We encourage congregations to record or stream their services where possible. We also invite you to **use the weekly House Church Liturgy and/or listen to LOVE 101 FM on Sundays, at 3.30 p.m.** for a broadcast of a recorded service from one of our congregations.

**2. No crusades, conferences or conventions** will be permitted.

**3. No funeral services (whether at a place of worship, chapel, funeral home or any other place) shall take place.**

**4. Burials** will be allowed for **30 minutes** on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between **9 am and 4 pm** with a **maximum of 15 persons** at the graveside. We have been advised of some burials which were not compliant with these regulations and wish to remind ministers/lay pastor that you are the person who will be charged with breaching the regulations of the Disaster Risk Management Act.

**5. Weddings** – maximum of **20 persons** allowed.

**6. Physical Gatherings** are limited to **10 persons**.

**7. Stay at home** – **persons 60** years and over. Fully vaccinated persons are exempt.

Please note that the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are still required for public spaces and gatherings.

We invite you to comply with these provisions.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

The Jamaica Diaspora Behavioral & Mental Health Task Force & the Jamaica Diaspora Worldwide Organizations TaskForce (JDWOT) PRESENTS



## Faith & Mental Wellness

Register for sessions at [bit.ly/jdtan-faithmh](http://bit.ly/jdtan-faithmh). Zoom login will be sent upon registration

**Saturdays Sept 11 - Oct 30 @ 10 AM ET / 9 AM JA Time**

<b>Week 1</b> Saturday, Sept 11, 2021 Intro to Mental Health & Mental Illness Presenters: Henry Lewis & Joshua Smith	<b>Week 2</b> Saturday, Sept 18, 2021 Engaging & Motivating the Youth Population Presenters: Melanie Baker & Nia Jones	<b>Week 3</b> Saturday, Sept 25, 2021 Understanding Trauma & Its Effects on Mental Health Presenters: Lauren Capel & Tierra Sydnor-Diggs
<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>Week 4</b> Saturday, Oct 16, 2021 Coping with the Stress of Congregational Isolation Before & After Quarantine Presenters: Lauren Capel, Nia Jones, Feona Kerr & Henry Lewis Jr.	<b>Week 5</b> Saturday, Oct 23, 2021 Healthy Grieving While Maintaining Spiritual Faith Presenter: Joshua Smith	<b>Week 6</b> Saturday, Oct 30, 2021 Selfcare for Leaders: Learning to Put Your Mask on First Presenters: Lauren Capel & Tierra Sydnor-Diggs

**PRESENTERS**



**Lauren Capel, LCSW**  
Co-founder Keys of Hope Consultants

A licensed social worker with over 13 years experience, with experience in trauma informed care. She provides services to children, adults and families and serves in ministry.



**Tierra Sydnor-Diggs LCSW-C.** Director Keys of Hope Consultants

A speaker and trainer, Tierra has over 19 years of experience as a Restorative Practices Practitioner and certified trainer. Tierra serves in ministry.



**Joshua P. Smith, LPC**  
CEO J.P Smith LLC

A best-selling author, speaker, entrepreneur and life/ministry coach, Joshua has worked in the mental health field for 12 years and serves in a pastoral capacity.



**Melanie S. Baker M. Sc.** Special Education

Melanie Baker is a Grant Writer, Curriculum Development Specialist and Special Education Teacher with over 20 years experience working with students, parents, educators and families.



**Henry Jason Lewis Jr.** Executive Coach & Author

A trained teacher and mental health therapist, Henry has worked in education and serves in a pastoral capacity. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Organizational Psychology.



**Nia Jones** Licensed Social Worker & Consultant

Podcast co-host, Nia has worked with youth for 15 years. A mental health advocate, she has been recognized for her work with NAMI, Baltimore through the "Always Forward" yearly fundraiser.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE GIVEN FOR ATTENDING AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SIX SESSIONS

The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JD TAN) is a worldwide network of sectoral-focused Diaspora Taskforces with members across 30+ countries. Taskforces have been operating since 2013 as a collaborative approach to engage and mobilize the Jamaican Diaspora to join forces and support national development. It started with Education followed by Agriculture and has expanded to cover over 15 sectors.

Our behavioral and Mental health Taskforce has coordinated a series focused on increasing mental health awareness for the Faith Community in Jamaica. The series will be presented by individuals who are licensed professionals in varying capacities as is evident by their biographies. The attached flyer outlines the topics that were developed in collaboration with persons living in Jamaica who identified specific present-day issues and concerns in their communities.

The series is designed for multi-denominational pastors, ministry staff and volunteers.



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Evangelism Ministry presents

## VIRTUAL CRUSADE

**THEME: HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST**

September 19-26, 2021 | 6 PM

Log on and be encouraged through The Word by Dynamic Speakers, versatile Praise in Worship and Testimonies



**UCJCI CHANNEL**

## MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH'S 62nd Anniversary Service

**THEME: "The command to follow"**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

**10:00 AM** Join us on: Livestream OR YouTube: Meadowbrook United Church

**Preacher: Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator**

Special Anniversary Gifts (Offering)

Made with PosterMyWall.com | (876) 925-1924 | [www.meadunited.org](http://www.meadunited.org) @meadunited



**Rev. Verna Cassells**  
September 8



**Rev. Delia Picart-Hibbert**  
September 8



**Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan, September 9**



**Mrs. Shernett Smith, September 9**



*With the kindness of your heart forgive this oversight. Sending special love to you, our belated celebrants and wishing you more life.*

# Happy Birthday



**Rev. Glenroy Clarke**  
September 15



**Rt. Rev. Henley Bernard,**  
September 20



**Mrs. Norma Smellie**  
September 20



**Rev. Kraig DeLeon-Diedrick**  
September 21

## Haiti Relief



The earthquake, which had its epicenter near Haiti, on

Saturday August 14, 2021, has been devastating for that nation. The severe physical, economic and social impact on Haiti have been made more challenging as shortly thereafter they experienced the passage of Tropical Storm Grace. All of this follows the recent assassination of their President.

At the last count, the death toll was 2,207, with 344 people still missing. Additionally there has been significant damage to, or the destruction of, homes and other buildings. Many persons are now homeless and desperate and the livelihood of others is severely threatened.

As part of our initial response as a church, we wish to offer financial support to the relief efforts in Haiti,

through our established contacts there.

We are aware of the restrictions on attendance in worship in Jamaica and would suggest that, where possible, congregations make a contribution from their own funds.

### How to Donate

#### Cayman Islands:

Send your contributions to your local congregations, which will then remit the same to the Cayman Regional Office

#### Jamaica:

**Bank:** National Commercial Bank Jamaica Ltd

**Address:** 90-94 Slipe Rd. Kingston 5

**Account Name:** United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

**Account #:** 234297392

**Type of account :** Savings

## The United Church in Jamaica and The Cayman Islands

Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

### Moderator

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

### General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

### Regional Deputy General Secretaries

- ◇ Cayman Regional Mission Council-  
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield
- ◇ North Eastern Regional Mission Council -  
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn
- ◇ Southern Regional Mission Council-  
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)
- ◇ Western Regional Mission Council-  
Mrs. Maureen Henry

### Contact Us

#### Address:

12 Carlton Crescent,  
Kingston 10

#### Telephone No:

876 926-8734

#### E-mail Address:

synod@ucjci.com

#### Website:

www.ucjci.com