



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

September 29, 2021

Vol. 7 Issue 37

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

Understanding Vaccines

While taking the Covid-19 Vaccine is a matter of choice, we encourage each person to give due consideration to the matter to prevent adverse effects.

We were joined on several occasions by Dr Delroy Fray, a member of the United Church and the Clinical Coordinator at the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA), to discuss the COVID-19 vaccines. In one instance, he shared that 99.9 per cent of COVID admitted patients in WRHA did not take the vaccine. According to the Ministry of Health in Jamaica, the 1,860 persons who have died from COVID-19, so far, were unvaccinated.

At a point, only three COVID patients at the Cornwall Regional Hospital received the first dose of the vaccine, Dr Fray said. He reported that those three people were only admitted for a few days before being discharged. Westmoreland recently experienced a spike in COVID cases, especially among children.

Here are some questions and concerns addressed in the various fora:

The length of time within which the vaccine was developed

The Coronavirus is the simple flu virus. This means that it has been studied for years which give scientist information about the mutated virus, COVID-19, and it's behaviors.

How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine stimulates your immune system to make antibodies and store those in memory cells so that in the event that you are exposed to the virus then the body will be able to produce vast of amounts of antibodies to fight off the virus .

Can vaccinated persons contract the virus?

Vaccinated persons do contract the virus however they are better able to fight the virus so they do not get severely ill. Some persons can get fully vaccinated and still get severely ill but those persons are immunocompromised patients.

Can you develop immunity from contracting the virus?

Getting the virus causes your body to develop natural antibodies to fight the virus but all persons cannot be allowed to contract the virus in order to develop natural immunity. Many would die therefore the vaccine is acts as a buffer to prevent deaths.

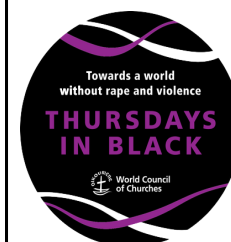


Dr Delroy Fray, Consultant Surgeon and Clinical Coordinator at the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA)

Inside this issue

- Understanding Vaccines1
- Senior Citizen Home Seeking Donations2
- Prayer Corner3
- News From Cayman4
- Constitution Corner5
- At Home Liturgy5
- COVID-19 Updates6
- Upcoming Events7
- Remembering Rev Dr Norman Francis8
- Haiti relief9

End Violence Against Women and Children



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

Use the hashtags:
#WCC, #UCJCI,
#evgw,
#ThursdaysinBlack,

Based on how it works we are going to have surges of coronavirus from time to time for a very long time and vaccination will allow some amount of protection.

Do you still need to get vaccinated after contracting the virus?

Yes, there is no data to show how long natural immunity will last. Getting vaccinated is double or guaranteed protection.

How long after recovering from the virus should one take the vaccine?

Wait at least a month or two after contracting the virus to take the vaccine.

Does it affect fertility in women and sexual competence in men?

No, it doesn't affect fertility in women and it does not affect sex cells.

What are some of the symptoms that one may still experience after recovery?

Long COVID is when symptoms continue up to 12 weeks after. These symptoms include muscle weakness and joint pain, dry cough, mild or severe infection, short of breath while walking.

Will all vaccines need booster shots?

Recent studies are showing that the AstraZeneca vaccine may have a long term effect and may not require a booster shot. Research is showing that other vaccines such as the Pfizer will require booster shots.

Senior Citizen Home in Manchester seeks assistance

The United Church Senior Citizen Home is launching their 3Rs project beginning October 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022. The objective of the project is to **repair** broken aspects of the Home, **replace** things that cannot be repaired and **renew** the overall look of the Home.

Along with the main house, the property has two (2) separate dorms, a two-bedroom flat and a two-bedroom cottage that give the options of comfortable rooms for single, double and triple occupancy. There is also a very large kitchen and a spacious dining room. Located on Villa Road, perched on the outskirts of the town of Mandeville, residents have easy access to medical, shopping, banking, car rental and worship facilities.

Adding to the perks, they offer round the clock nursing care, medical personnel on call, and the fellowship of caring church folks from various denominations.



The main house at the United Church Senior Citizen Home which is now being utilized by nineteen (19) residents during

Presently the home offers the following:

1. Accommodation for 20 residents who are able bodied. Special arrangements may be made for those, who in time, become bed patients.
2. Accommodation for retiree who require “day care, overnight or weekend lodgings (discontinued due to (COVID-19)
3. A caring resident staff (16 staff members)
4. A visiting Chaplin (currently postponed due to COVID-19)
5. Private Amenities for our premium residents (Flat and Cottage residents)
- 6.

In light of the financial constraints in these trying times, donations are currently being accepted in cash service and materials.

For Cash Donation:

Bank: - Scotiabank
 Branch: -Mandeville (transit/Branch# 50195)
 ACCOUNT #: 96415
 Type of account: Cheque
 Account Name: - THE UNITED CHURCH SENIOR CITIZENS HOME

For service/material donations: Contact Miss Janice Bailey at 876373-8474/ 876962-3768/ ucschome32@gmail.com

PHASE 1 REPAIRS	PHASE 2 REPLACE (install)	PHASE 3 RENEW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Leaking roof •Ceiling •Broken windows •Broken cupboards •Broken tiles/ flooring •Mesh Windows •Repave the driveway •The main gate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2 Back doors •1 Front door •Ceiling fans •Sofas •Television •Beds •Smart TV •First Aid Kit for both The Cottage and The Flat •Residents’ locker (each need a locker space for storage) •4 Toilet bowls and 3 kitchen faucets •Industrial Stove •Toaster, oven or microwave •Large pressure cooker •Dining table and chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting the Main Building • Cutting and clearing the bamboo walk in the backyard • Installing a 20ft container for a Supply/ Gift Store For Families And Friends • A Gazebo or Covered sitting area on the outside • Two 1000-gal black Rhino Tanks • Desktop Computer for the nurses • 4 Awning installation 2 back doors, the front door of the main house and the main door to Flat (the water seep under the door) to • 8-10 channel camera system/ camera bulbs

PRAYER CORNER

- ◆ 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. .
- ◆ Rev Rohan Kong who lost his father .
- ◆ 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 :

We thank you, Lord that you have come to us in our tribulations. You deliver us from “the terrors of night and the arrow which flies by day”, and you guide us in your paths.
 Grant, Lord, that you may be glorified in us according to your will. Amen.

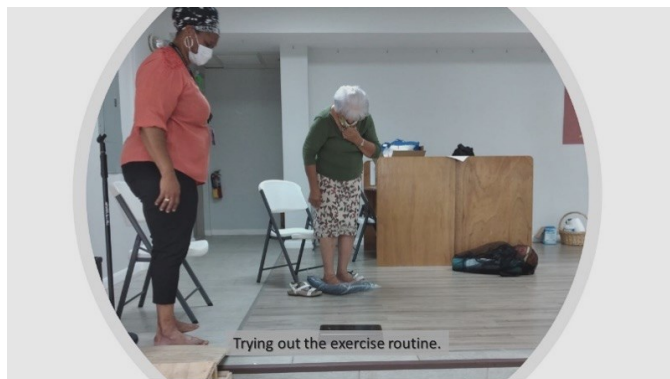
NEWS FROM CAYMAN

SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP AT JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL UC

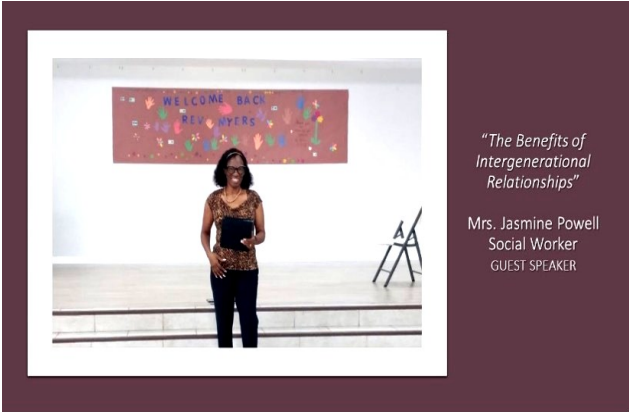
John Gray Memorial monthly Seniors Fellowship was held on Wednesday 15th September 2021. The Minister, Rev Myers, led the rockin' seniors in a devotional on giving up the baggage of worry from Matthew 6:25-34. This was followed by a rousing 'movements' session with all the musical trimmings of Jerusalema. The facilitators were Ms. Merta Day of the Department of Sports and Mr. Tristan Wesenhagen, a performance fitness coach & trainer. The main guest speaker was Social Worker, Mrs. Jasmine Powell, who spoke on "The Benefits of Intergenerational Relationships." All of this fellowship was enabled by a great lunch. Thanks to our usual organizers, Ms. Betty Ebanks, Ms. Celita Zimmer and Ms. Vanda Powery (Community Worker).



Moving to the music!



Trying out the exercise routine.



"The Benefits of Intergenerational Relationships"

Mrs. Jasmine Powell
Social Worker
GUEST SPEAKER



Mr. Tristan Wesenhagen - PERFORMANCE FITNESS COACH & TRAINER
Ms. Merta Day - DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS FACILITATOR



Everybody Movin'

CONSTITUTION CORNER



This month's edition of Constitution Corner will take a look at Congregational Meetings. The following information is contained in Section 2(a) of the Constitution.

How Often Should a Congregational Meeting be held?

Congregational Meetings shall be held at least three times per year.

Who Shall Preside over the Congregational Meeting?

A Congregational Meeting shall be presided over by the Minister (or Interim Minister) of the Congregation. If the Minister or Interim Minister is not present, the Constitution presents a priority list of persons who may chair the meeting as follows:

- a. Associate Minister
- b. Lay Pastor
- c. Deputy Chairperson of the Congregational Board
- d. Chairperson elected from among the members at

the meeting.

What's the notice period for a Congregational Meeting?

The Notice Period is two clear Sundays before the meeting. Notice shall be given of a congregational meeting in the worship services. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be given by the Minister (or Interim Minister).

Who can attend congregational meetings?

All members of the congregation in full communion may attend congregational meetings. (Remember the last Constitution Corner where we discussed who is a member in full communion and good standing).

How are questions determined?

Questions shall be decided by simple majority. However, questions such as the calling of a Minister and the election of Elders are decided by two-thirds majority.

AT HOME LITURGY

October 3, 2021
World Communion Sunday

The Call to Evangelism—Preparation

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 || Psalm 26 || Genesis 2:18-24 |
Psalm 8 || Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 || Mark 10:2-16

Preparation involves the individual and begins with our devotional life and personal integrity. Here we seek to become more passionately committed to Jesus Christ. We specifically

ask God to deposit a passion and love for the unsaved. We ask God to give us a sensitivity to others, to discern the cries and the needs of those we encounter by divine appointment. We ask God to make us spiritually radiant and Christlike, overflowing with joy and clothed in the anointing. We ask God for a boldness to share the gospel and to remove doubts and fear. Preparation also involves the Church (God's called out people) and its lifestyle through practicing holiness, training, and discipleship. We also prepare for a response by practicing hospitality and by extending to the unsaved an invitation to follow Christ. Where hearts have not been regenerated, no recreation has taken place.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

-From the Office of the General Secretary

There is now evidence of a community spread of COVID-19 in the Cayman Islands and as such the Government has reintroduced regulations to control the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. **Consequently, indoor gatherings are now restricted to 100 persons.** Please find attached suggested protocols for congregations in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC).

The Government of Jamaica, on September 22, 2021, announced amendments to an order under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) to facilitate in-person worship at churches on Saturdays and Sundays. These provisions are for the period **September 25 to October 28, 2021.**

Please note and be guided by the following:

1. **Church Services** – Sundays have been designated *No Movement Days*, however Church Services are allowed under the following conditions:

- **Persons are allowed movement to attend worship services between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.**
- **The number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship on Sundays should be determined by the physical distancing requirement of a minimum of six feet between persons, but should not exceed 50 persons.**
- **Each person attending worship is required to have a completed Place of Worship Authorization Form (amended version attached).**

Please do the following prior to the service:

- i. Print and fill out all sections of the Authorization Form
- ii. 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)
- iii. Each Form should be signed by the Minister or Lay Pastor, including her/his own Form
- iv. 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)
- v. 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 check point

2. **Weddings** – the maximum number of persons allowed has moved **from 20 to 50 persons.**


The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:

3. **No crusades, conferences or conventions** will be permitted.
4. **Funeral services are allowed with at a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.**
5. **Burials** are allowed for **30 minutes** Mondays to Fridays between **9 am and 4 pm** with a **maximum of 15 persons** at the graveside.
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



North-Eastern Regional Mission Council
Appreciation Function
for Former NERMC
Regional Deputy General Secretary



Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels

Date: Thursday September 30, 2021 at 2:00 pm
Venue: Webster Memorial United Church
streamed via  UCJCI YouTube channel



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
UNITED CHURCH MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN

PRAYER AND DEVOTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021
9:00AM
VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 846 6135 0590
Passcode: 253452

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. Zoom login will be sent upon registration

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

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Saturday, Sept 11, 2021 Intro to Mental Health & Mental Illness Presenters: Henry Lewis & Joshua Smith	Saturday, Sept 18, 2021 Engaging & Motivating the Youth Population Presenters: Melanie Baker & Nia Jones	Saturday, Sept 25, 2021 Understanding Trauma & Its Effects on Mental Health Presenters: Lauren Capel & Tierra Sydnor-Diggs
BREAK		
Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Saturday, Oct 16, 2021 Coping with the Stress of Congregational Isolation Before & After Quarantine Presenters: Lauren Capel, Nia Jones, Feona Kerr & Henry Lewis Jr.	Saturday, Oct 23, 2021 Healthy Grieving While Maintaining Spiritual Faith Presenter: Joshua Smith	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	 Tierra Sydnor-Diggs LCSW-C, Director Keys of Hope Consultants	 Joshua P. Smith, LPC CEO J.P. Smith LLC	 Melanie S. Baker M. Sc. Special Education 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	 Nia Jones Licensed Social Worker & Consultant
---	--	--	--	---	--

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.

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

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

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.

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.



**Tune in to Our
United in Faith
Programme
Every Sunday
on RJR 94 FM
at 6:30 am.**

Remembering Rev Dr Norman Francis

Please note the following arrangements to commemorate the life and witness of our brother, friend and pastor, the Rev. Dr. Norman Francis. Mindful of the Government of Jamaica's guidelines regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the UCJCI will celebrate his life in the following ways:

1. **VIEWING – Roman's Funeral Home – 23 Dunrobin Ave, Kingston 10. (The date and time will soon be confirmed).**

2. **'MEMORIES OF NORMAN' – Monday, October 4, 2021 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 p.m.** A virtual gathering via Zoom (see link below). All are invited to join us during that time to offer reflections on Rev. Dr. Francis.

United Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85241469723?pwd=TIFHTFJ5ZTZkVk9uV3p6SytOOGgzZz09>

Meeting ID: 852 4146 9723

Passcode: 524565

3. **SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING – Wednesday, October 6, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.** at Webster Memorial United Church. Due to the current restrictions, Webster will accommodate only family members, officiating clergy and technical personnel. The service will be streamed live via UCJCI's Youtube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/ucjci>

We celebrate the life and ministry of our dear brother and continue to lift up his family in our prayers.

EXPRESSIONS SHARED UP TO OCTOBER 15, 2021 IN THE VIRTUAL MEMORIAL BOOK WILL PRINTED FOR THE FAMILY.

HOW TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS IN THE VMB:

1. Type in or use the link letusremember.ucjci.com in your browser. This will take you to the Memorial Book
2. Go to the bottom of the page and type in your name and thoughts
3. Press **SUBMIT MY THOUGHTS**

Haiti Relief

Since the earthquake, which had its epicenter near Haiti, on Saturday August 14, 2021, has devastated the nation, the



country has been experiencing strong tremors. Many persons are still homeless and living under rubbles. Some are hesitant to erect concrete structures as they fear another earthquake happening at any given time.

At the last count, the death toll was 2,207, with 344 people still missing. 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..

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

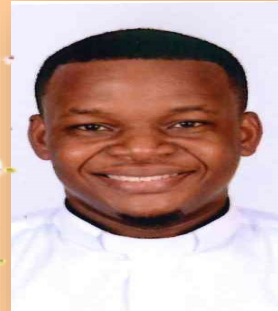
Type of account : Savings

OCT.
04



REV. TREVOR HYLTON

Happy
Birthday



REV. ALEX HAYDEN

OCT.
05

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. Mauleen Henry

Contact Us

Address:

12 Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10

Telephone No:

876 926-8734

E-mail Address:

synod@ucjci.com

Website: