



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

December 15, 2021

Issue 8 Volume 49

The United Church Senior Citizen's Home



The Director the united Church senior citizen's home, Janice Bailey, embarked on a three step project to *repair, replace and renew* on October 1. Since the start of the one year 3Rs project, the home has achieved several of its goals through donations of cash and materials, and through service.

The most recent of these was the Christmas clean up that was undertaken last weekend, December 10 and 11. The premises of the home, located on Villa Road in Mandeville Manchester, was cleaned up and the outside of the main house painted.

Along with the main house this home to 19 residents, the property also has a two-bedroom flat and a two-bedroom cottage.

We extend special thanks to the group that assisted in making the environs festive for the season. Among the group were six boys and a staff member from the Mount Olivet Boys' Home.

We are extremely grateful for these efforts, but we continue to seek donations as we are still in need.



Wish list



PHASE 1 REPAIRS	PHASE 2 REPLACE (install)	PHASE 3 RENEW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaking roof Broken windows Broken cupboards Broken Tiles/flooring Mesh Windows Repave the driveway Ceiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Back doors 1 Front door Ceiling fans Sofas Beds (termites have eaten a few of our bed bases) First Aid Kit for both The Cottage and The Flat Residents' lockers (each needs a locker space for storage) 4 Toilet bowls and 3 kitchen faucets Industrial Stove Toaster oven Large pressure cooker Dining table and chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Nurses 4 Awning installation for 2 back doors, the front door of the main house and the main door to Flat 8-10 channel camera system/ camera bulbs

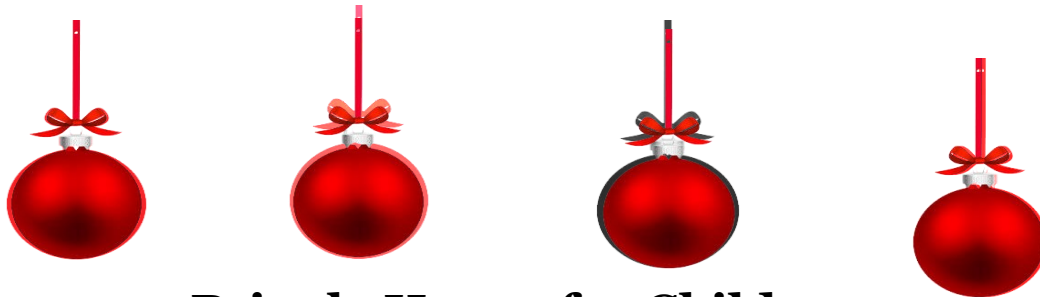
For Cash Donations

Bank of Nova Scotia
Name on account:
 The United Church Senior Citizens Home
Branch: Mandeville - 50195
Account #: 96415

Type of account: Cheque
For Service/ Material Donations

Contact Miss Bailey:

876-373-8474/ 876-962-3768
ucschome32@gmail.com



Pringle Home for Children



Left to right Mrs. Patricia McDonald Duke Street United Women's Fellowship President, Mrs. Rose Wedderburn RGDS, NERMC and Ms. Sonia Russell a member of Duke Street United Women's Fellowship presented gifts for the Wards/Ladies of Pringle Home for Girls.

These were donated by Cluster 7 of NERMC Women's Fellowship.

Christmas

A poem

What do they call, "Christmas"?
Is it about all of the festive food and drinks?
Or is it all about Santa and the preoccupation with receiving gifts?

It's a time of year that most people enjoy, of course:
Children running around, everyone laughing with joy.

And don't forget all the Christmas songs;
Those soft melodious rhythms that make you dance and sing along.
Or the quiet, cooler, longer nights to sit and reflect.

But most of all, don't forget what it's really all about despite the stress:
Remember to celebrate Christ's birth,
The coming of our Messiah,
The one and only,
Life.
The ultimate gift.
Because this is really what CHRISTmas is.

-by *J.F(age 16)

A Prayer

God of hope, peace, joy and love, thank you for everything you have done, for your grace and your mercies too. Thank you for making us see another year through.

Thank you for the food you've put on our table each day. Thank you for keeping us safe, and thank you for making our family, friends and all your people out there see another day too.

As Christmas comes near, help us not to get distracted by the big, stressful things; let us remember these important little things, like hope, faithfulness, peace, joy and love, like having life and strength, and your compassion too. Help us to trust you this Christmas and lean into your understanding of what this holiday really means.

Thank you for the beautiful day of Christ's birth. Help us to focus and remember that. In your name, amen.

-by *J.F (age 12) & K.J (age 12)

*Contributed by residents of Pringle Home.

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Savannah
After-School

The Savannah United After-School (SASEP) held their annual Christmas Programme on Monday December 5.

Despite several limitations brought on by the pandemic, the students rose to the occasion and gave a stellar performance of the Nativity Story.



The Angel visits the Shepherds



The Shepherds rejoice after seeing Mary and Joseph with Jesus



The Magi visits Mary and Joseph and worship bringing gifts



The Cast takes the Curtain Call

Haiti Relief

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

Mission partner and retired nurse, Joan Paige Bain prepares food parcels for distribution.



Prayer Corner

- Rev Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Mrs. Karen Francis, whose husband Rev. Dr. Norman Francis has passed on.
- The Climbing number of COVID-19 infections in the Cayman Islands.
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID 19.
- Our country as we approach the Christmas season and the New Year.

Liturgy for Worship at Home

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent-Love

The Blessed Child

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

The encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is a testimony of what happens when Jesus is given a chance to dwell in our hearts.

Carrying Jesus in her womb changed everything about Mary. The words of Elizabeth, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear” are worthy of contemplating on during this season.



Advent is full of symbolism and meaning, which is also reflected by the themes of the four Sundays/weeks.

1st Sunday - HOPE

2nd Sunday - PEACE

3rd Sunday - JOY

4th Sunday - LOVE



**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN
JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Cayman Islands

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Cayman Islands continues to rise. As of 8 a.m. Tuesday, December 14, 2021, there are 8007 confirmed cases, of which 3,448 are active with 14 persons hospitalized and nine dead. The Cayman Government has responded with regulations aimed at controlling the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. Consequently, indoor gatherings, including church services, are now restricted to 100 persons while outdoor gatherings are restricted to 250 persons.

Jamaica

There are 90,341 confirmed cases of which 1,025 are active with 2,331 deaths. The Government of Jamaica, on November 16, 2021, announced amendments to orders under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA). These provisions are for the period November 18 to December 9, 2021.

Please note and be guided by the following:

1. Church Services – The number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship should be determined by the physical distancing requirement of a minimum of six feet between persons, but should not exceed 100 persons.
2. Weddings – the maximum number of persons allowed is 100.
3. Funeral services are allowed with a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.
4. Burials are allowed for 30 minutes Mondays to Fridays between 9 am and 4 pm with a maximum of 20 persons at the graveside.

The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:

5. No physical crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.
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.



Notices



United Theological College of the West Indies invites applications for the following short course:

Music and Worship

What will you learn?
The technological fundamentals of church audio setup and use.
The value of the digital world to church maintenance and growth.
Locate the value of music in the functional life of church.
How to identify the defining features of Caribbean church music.
How music enhances church life.

Why should you enroll?
Expand your knowledge of how music works in church life.
Broaden your view of technological advances in music.
Acquire skills in how technology enhances the use of music in different settings with focus on the Caribbean experience.

For whom?
Choir Directors, Pastors, Deacons, Musicians, Retreat Leaders, Lay Leaders, Choir Members, Praise Team Members.

Course Duration:
January 15, to March 5, 2022.

Cost: USD \$75.00



7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7
Tel: 876-927-1724, 927-2868
Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

Registration closes January 7, 2022



United Theological College of the West Indies invites applications for the following short course:

Advanced Certificate in Leadership Skills for Church and Society

What will you learn?
Theory and practice of leadership.
How to lead as decision-maker, motivator, and communicator.
How to lead during chaos, crisis, and conflict.
How to lead by design.
How to lead as project manager and entrepreneur.

Why should you enroll?
Build your capacity to be a transformational leader, and lead ethically.
Fulfill your leadership potential through acquisition of a range of leadership styles, competencies and strategies.
Acquire skills in team building, strategic planning and decision-making.

For whom?
Managers and middle managers in schools to include: Principals, Vice Principals, Senior Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Work Experience persons, and others who aspire to leadership positions in their organization... Church, Service Clubs, Volunteers Organization, and other social or societal groups.

Course Duration: January 22, to March 6, 2022
Cost: USD \$300.00


7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7
Tel: 876-927-1724, 927-2868 | Email: jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm

Registration closes January 14, 2022

End Violence Against Women and Children

Towards a world without rape and violence

THURSDAYS IN BLACK



Share your **Thursdays in Black** photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and tag us @ucjci

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

Meadowbrook United Church

MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH invites you to

SEVEN DAYS OF DIVINE ENCOUNTER

Theme: **NEW SEASON NEW OIL**

Week of Prayer, Fasting & the Word | JAN 2-8 2022 | DAILY 5:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

SPEAKERS

- Rev. Lembe Sivilie, HOST PASTOR
- Rev. Donovan McPherson
- Rev. Nevroy Francis
- Rev. Astor Carlyle
- Rev. Jane Kaluba
- Rev. Norbert Stephens

Reflection & Daily Prayer
via ZOOM
5:00 a.m. & 12:45 p.m.

Closing Session
via YouTube
6:00 p.m.

WWW.MEADUNITED.ORG | @MEADUNITED

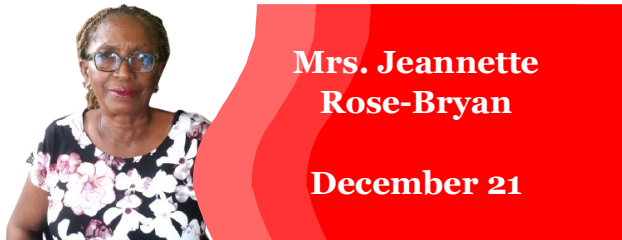
HAPPY



Rev. Carlington Keen
December 15



Rev. Nicole Ashwood
December 21



Mrs. Jeannette
Rose-Bryan
December 21

BIRTHDAY

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-**

Mrs. Janet McConnell

◇ **Western Regional Mission Council-**

Mrs. Mauleen Henry

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