



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

December 22, 2021

Issue 8 Volume 50

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

from the Synod Centre



Though Covid-19 has put on in a box with gathering limitations, this year, we were still able to celebrate the gift God has given to us. Our annual carol service which was held today via zoom, Wednesday December 22, 2021, was filled with much laughter, worship and cheer warranted by our contextual re-enactment of the nativity story. Following Act 1 Scene 1 and 2, was a choral Bible reading from Mathew 1: 18-25 done by representatives from North-Eastern Regional Mission Council and Meadowrest Memorial Gardens.

Act two was followed by another choral Bible reading by the Southern Regional Mission Council from Luke 2: 8-15. Both Bible readings were done from the Jamaican New Testament. Colorful Caribbean carols were laced through the programme.

Thanks to a presentation from Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield, Regional Deputy General Secretary of Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council, we now know that it is not a Christmas celebration in Cayman without beef and turtle meat and yam cake.

Committing to the theme, "The Unexpected Gift: A contextual Celebration", Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan followed through with the delivery of his reflection in Patois and Regional Deputy General Secretary, Mrs. Mauleen Henry, blessed us with a poem.

The United Church Synod Centre wishes that you be deliberate in spreading love and joy as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, this yuletide season. Hang tight, we will be back next year. The office re-opens on January 4, 2022.

Season's Compliments!



Decembers to Remember

***Bushy Park
United Church***

This 88-year-old remembers Christmas morning with an early breakfast that included a hot cup of chocolate tea creamed with coconut milk. A part of the breakfast menu was stewed pork and roast bread fruit, Sis Inez's favorite. Even at this age, she continues to make her chocolate with her mortar and pestle.

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

On December 5, 2021 Amber McLaughlin was baptized and confirmed in the Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town).



On Sunday December 5, 2021, ten members were received into the fellowship at the Savannah United Church. For the first time in our church's history, a member overseas was received via technology. Four children and six adults were welcomed into fellowship by our Elders and congregation.

Defying the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Youth and Sunday School Ministry of the South Sound United Church presented a 'Virtual Nativity' Christmas Program via Zoom on December 12, 2021. It was a true delight to see the faces and hear the voices of the children and youth who have been absent from Sunday services for several weeks. The Sunday School teachers and members of the Leadership Team, along with the assistance of the parents, put together a truly memorable program presenting the true spirit of Christmas.



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

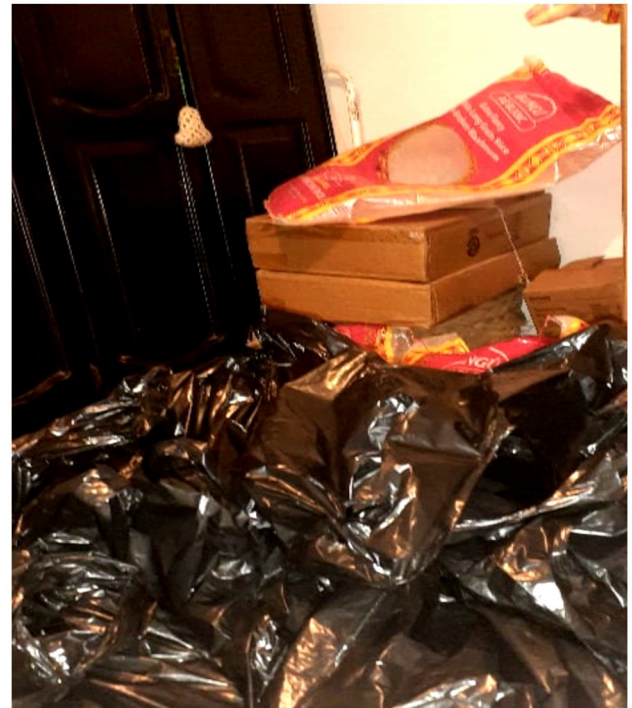
Address: 90-94 Slipse Rd. Kingston 5

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.



Liturgy for Worship at Home

December 25, 2021

Jesus the source of complete Joy

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2–7

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14

The appearance and manifestations of the angels when they appeared before the shepherds is a phenomenal experience. The birth of Jesus does not only bring a shift in the lives of some, but all people share in the joy He brings.

December 26, 2021

It is all about the Father's Business

First Sunday After Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18–20,

Colossians 3:12–17

Luke 2:41–52

Jesus' mission was handled with certainty and great focus to avoid all forms of distraction and derailments to the mandate which was set before him. We should all learn from Him and always be preoccupied with the Father's business.



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.

A Prayer

Lord, this time of the year is difficult for many because of different reasons but thank you for being a God Of Comfort and a friend to us all. Help us to hope and trust in you. Give us new vision and renewed strength as we close out this year and look to new horizons. Amen.

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 Monday , December 20, 2021, there are 3524 active cases with 11 persons hospitalized . Of the 148 new cases four have been confirmed as Omicron. 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 91,972 confirmed cases of which 487 are active with 2,441 deaths. The Government of Jamaica, on November 16, 2021, announced amendments to orders under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA).

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.

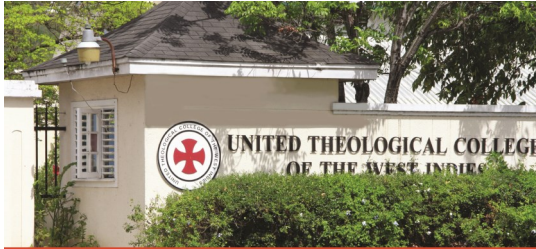
Course Duration:
 January 15, to March 5, 2022.

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



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Registration closes January 14, 2022

End Violence Against Women and Children



Towards a world without rape and violence

THURSDAYS IN BLACK

World Council of Churches

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

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



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
 zoom 5:00 a.m. & 12:45 p.m.

Closing Session
 6:00 p.m.

WWW.MEADUNITED.ORG | @MEADUNITED

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

Moderator

December 23

Rev. David Tucker

December 25



Rev. Dwight Kelly

December 27

Rev. Nevroy Francis

December 31



**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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