



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

December 8, 2021

Issue 8

Volume 48

A New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-33

With the old covenant we faced imminent destruction because no one or thing could save us from our sin. This changed with the coming of Christ as prophesized by Jeremiah. Now we have a new covenant through Jesus who has come and is coming again. Is there anything about the coming of Christ that makes a difference to us or will change who we are? In this season, where is our focus and for whom do we hope? Are we caught up in the illusion of Goodness without Godliness, Christmas without Christ, Santa Claus mysteriously giving us gifts? Or is our focus on the resurrection and the life? (John 11:25).

Many people want something new for Christmas- new furniture, a new car, new gadgets etc., because what we have now could not be all God wanted for us. But, what about a new Attitude, new Behavior, renewed Commitment to and Contentment with what money cannot buy? It's time to reflect on our ABC's in this school called life where we all need an encounter with our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose return we eagerly anticipate, with expectant hearts.

The new covenant should be written on hearts and lives and remind us of the hope we have of the certain coming of Christ. This covenant is sealed not only by Jesus' birth but also his death and resurrection. It depends on God's faithfulness, not our fickle nature, and God's word which never fails, cannot fail, always eternal.

For Reflection:

Is the New Covenant Making a difference in your life?

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Prayer Corner

- Rev Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- Pastor Ormond Williams who lost his mother.
- 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.
- The people of Haiti and Afghanistan.
- Our country as we approach the Christmas season and the New Year.

Almighty God,

Dear Lord make us anew, in our minds, souls and bodies. Our cups are empty, pour into us Lord, until we overflow. Let obedience flow freely from us, not to earn what you can give but as evidence of your love for us. Bind us together in fellowship and newness in Christ. Amen

Liturgy for Worship at Home

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Joy

Energy and clarity

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

The energy, passion and clarity which characterized the message of John must be emulated by all of us. At the very center of our call is the obligation to defend the gospel.

The demand is to bear not only good fruits, but good fruits that impact other people's lives in significant ways must be fostered during this Advent 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



UCJCI FACTS

Here are the answers to last week's facts

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DNT VAE A D V E N T

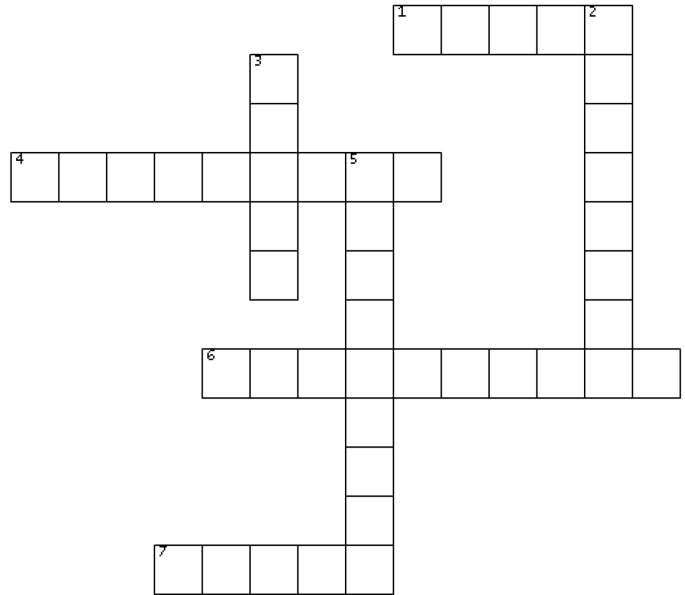
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AERNGM M A N G E R

C H R I S T M A S



Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council



The **John Gray Memorial United Church (West Bay)** is seeking to fill the position of Youth Minister and invites dynamic, highly motivated and qualified candidates to tender their applications.

For more details (job description and remuneration) please contact jgmcminister@gmail.com

If you are sensing a call to this ministry, we invite you to submit your letter of application, curriculum vitae and a brief statement of your faith journey to jgmcminister@gmail.com

WE NEED YOU!!!



ACROSS

- The United Church of Jamaica and _____ Cayman
- To change the Basis of Union, you need _____ of the members of the Synod
- Where was the last union held?
- _____ of Union.

DOWN

- The month of the unions.
- This took place on December 12, 1992.
- _____ of Christ.



December 6, 2021

Cayman Thanksgiving is a weekend-long national celebration honoring Caymanian heritage, culture, way of life and everything Caymanian. Observed annually on the first Sunday in December -marking the end of hurricane season- it is also an opportunity to stop and express gratitude.

Thank You!



Join us in saying thank you to Sis. Carol Dyer-Haughton from the Mt. Zion, Barrett Town Charge in the Western Regional Mission Council for sending school supplies from abroad. The supplies are being packaged for our primary school institutions across the three regions in Jamaica.



APPLICATION FOR PRINCIPAL St. Andrew Preparatory School

The Board of Management for the St. Andrew Preparatory School in Kingston, owned by the Methodist and United Churches, is seeking to appoint a Principal for the academic year 2021/2022 (January 2022).

The selected candidate should be able to:

- Provide leadership that will enhance the academic and co-curricular performance of the school.
- Ensure that the school's objectives are aligned to the policies of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, The Independent Schools' Association and the Churches' Christian principles.
- Articulate clearly the school's vision and mission.
- Develop and execute a School Improvement Plan, and
- Work collaboratively with students, parents, staff and the community to achieve the mission of the school and thereby promote a positive image of the school.

As Principal, the candidate selected must be a strong leader, communicator, and facilitator, with the skills and competencies to achieve the school's vision; ensure that the school thrives in an innovative and modern learning environment while maintaining the high standards and traditions of the institution. **ONLY SHORTLISTED PERSONS WILL BE CONTACTED.**

Please send cover letter and resume to:

Attention: Chairman, Board of Management

St. Andrew Preparatory School

Subject line: Application for POSITION OF PRINCIPAL

Email to: ChairmanSTAPS@gmail.com

The closing date for applications is December 15, 2021.

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.



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 7, 2021, there are 7,724 confirmed cases, of which 3,645 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

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 Sivile 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



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

This Sunday we will be reminiscing on some of our favorite Christmas memories with **Rev. Wendell McKoy** who will also be sharing a poem!

If you miss the live programme you can find this, and other episodes, on our UCJCI Anchor FM. account.

**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. Maureen Henry

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