



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

April 20, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 16

A Safe Place to Explore your Faith: Connect to everything God has for your life



Ms. Trifener Reid
UCYPF Sports
Coordinator (2020-2022)

Covid-19 caused "church" as we know it to be disrupted on one hand and transformed on the other. When curfews were imposed, we had to discover new methods to engage ourselves as Christian youths. Prior to Covid-19, youth attendance at various events was strong, but the pandemic allowed formation to a virtual youth fellowship.

relate as they found themselves struggling more and more with internal effects such as lack of sleep, depression, sexual immorality, anxiety, the list goes on; not having that space anymore as youths where they could gather and speak and relate physically affected community and fellowship.

There are a plethora of ways in which we can or should restructure youth ministry. To begin, we must prioritize prayer in our everyday lives, as well as leading and modeling for the youngsters the importance of having a spiritual life connected to God while being honest with them and ourselves. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it". Youths, especially at this time, need to be on fire for Christ once more.

We should also make learning fun; if we want the youths to learn, we must be teachable and willing to learn ourselves; you see, we all need to be on the same page, the page that God wants us to be on. As a church, we should strive to engage more of our youths. Too often, we focus on just one person, forgetting that there are others who are eager to demonstrate their gifts in the Kingdom of God, if only given the opportunity.

It is our duty to honor the spiritual growth of the youths and to help them along the way.

It is recommended that in the church there should be more programs that can engage not only one set of youths but all youths, especially the males within our churches, bearing in mind that the Youth Ministry is more than just a youth group. Additionally, in the church, the strategy of involving the parents of the youth would be ideal. We ought to get real about how we educate youths on the topic of Spirituality.

This was fantastic for inter-fellowshipping, but it also meant that our youths with restricted internet connection were left out. Early in the pandemic, the church suspended in-person worship, but it wasn't long before members began to miss their church family, particularly youth meetings and, most importantly, the annual Sports Day, which we usually plan months in advance. However, despite the physical closure of churches during the time allotted, the need for spiritual care persisted; we thank God that the time has come for us to return to the physical church as physical limitations harmed not just our teens but also our children.

The distinct and continuous changes that occurred throughout the pandemic resulted in many changes in our ministry as youths, and as a result, many youths' engagement was both low and poor, as well as incredibly overwhelming and draining, as most grew tired of the online meetings and mask wearing.

The need to reflect on ministry in order to improve its effectiveness and reach resonates strongly with reported experiences from youths all around, as it has not been the easiest or best two years for some. While some may say that they got closer to God or discovered new hobbies during this time, many can't

The United Church Young People's Fellowship
President's Message for Synodical Youth Sunday
April 24, 2021



Vanessa Blissett,
*UCYPF Synodical
President
(2020-2022)*

Sincere greetings to you, my beloved sisters and brothers in Christ. As youths, we grapple with a lot in our homes, churches, schools, and workplaces. It can be tough to strike a balance between all of these aspects of our lives. We can all agree that **CLICKING** into our God-given mission has been put to the test numerous times since the beginning of Covid-19. I continue to encourage us all to commit to Christ, lead others to Him, and inspire others along the way, all while doing it with Christ-like knowledge.

Our youthfulness is our power; please treat it as your prime moment in life. Be the change Christ wants to see. Many of us withdrew or scaled back our youth ministry activities as a result of the pandemic-related anxieties we experienced daily, but I encourage you now to pick up the mantle again, rediscover your passions, and grow and teach others.

Several of our youths have become lost psychologically, spiritually, and emotionally as a result of having to deal with mortality, adolescence, work-related challenges, financial and spiritual drought, and what may appear to be a little but widespread lack of interest. "Back to normal" is on everyone's lips, but as young people, I am pushing us to stretch, not overexert, ourselves and remember God's goodness. Let us make it a habit to bring young people to Christ. Continue to explore both physical and virtual means of serving the Lord, and

remember that we do not have to reinvent the wheel; instead, we can expand on what has already proven to be effective.

We serve an unchanging God. Let us as a church continue to be "Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)". Let us seize the vision of resilience and, through our dedication, leadership, and inspiration, strengthen Youth Ministry in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in ways we never imagined possible. The sky is the limit, and as youths, our goal should be to create a purposeful relationship with Christ. Christ adores us and longs for us to be holy in our service to Him. Let's **CLICK, CLICK, CLICK**. With Christ-like knowledge, let us commit, lead, and inspire.

- Click into the Word of God.
- Commit to the task of serving Christ, which has been assigned to us by God, and
- Inspire through our evangelism, advocacy, and personal conduct.

Today, your UCYPF Synodical executive invites you to participate in the Challenge Di Youths virtual engagement, which will take place throughout May and will include daily challenges such as calling someone and praying for them. The daily challenges will be posted on a calendar, and I am appealing to you to get everyone involved. Let us continue to exalt God and set a good example for others. Remain in Christ, and seek and receive His divine wisdom and guidance Youths, Let's **CLICK** (Commit, Lead, and Inspire in Christ-like Knowledge).

Theme:

"Youths, Let's **CLICK (commit, Lead and Inspire in Christ-like Knowledge)"**

A graphic for April Happy Youth Month. It features the U.C.Y.P.F. logo at the top left, which includes a cross, a chalice, and a dove. Below the logo are photos of four young people (three women and one man) smiling. To the right, the text "APRIL HAPPY YOUTH MONTH!" is written in large, bold, yellow letters on a purple background. At the bottom right, a quote from Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 is displayed in white text on a purple background.

**APRIL
HAPPY
YOUTH
MONTH!**

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 — "Young people, enjoy your youth. Be happy while you are still young. Do what you want to do, and follow your heart's desire. But remember that God is going to judge you for whatever you do."



CPHS 2022 Prayer Space

By Mrs. Bertranne Abrams-Menko
Year 6 Teacher, RE/PSHE Subject Leader



In this the 7th year of holding Prayer Spaces in CPHS Primary (April 4th - 8th), COVID-19 restrictions forced us to very literally, think outside the box. Our Prayer Spaces this year moved from the confines of the Library and its adjoining rooms to be spread out across the school.



Each corridor hosted a Prayer Spaces Board for two year groups to interact with. These boards allowed students to offer prayers of praise, thanksgiving, confession, and petition. Other boards around the school allowed students to think about questions they wanted to ask God, their impact on the environment, and to reflect on the fact that God knows each of us by name! A bubble-blowing outdoor activity saw students reflecting on their hopes and dreams and then symbolically blowing them up to God.

In these difficult and stressful times, both for us and the children we care for, it seemed most fitting to focus in the lead-up to Easter on 'HOPE'. Our theme this year was Abounding in Hope, with our theme verse taken from Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."



The Cayman Prep & High School Easter Award Ceremony was held on Friday, April 8, 2022, at the High School Hall recognizing the achievements of the students during the second term of the 2022 academic year. Awards were given in the following categories:

Progress, Effort and Attainment Awards - For each subject and year group, students are awarded for their progress (making the most progress), effort (best attitude to learning and participation), and attainment (highest grade) for each subject based on the teacher's assessment.

Great Learners Award - presented to students in each year group who have displayed a great attitude to learning overall and show dedication in classes.

Principal's Award - awarded to students with the highest attainment in all subjects combined.

CAS Award (Community Action Service) - is given to one student per year group who has consistently displayed dedication to serving in their community (church, volunteering, Key Club, etc.)

Awardees from the Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town) are

- Peyton Robinson – awards in Science, English, Spanish, Great Learner, and the Principal's award which is awarded to the top 5 students in the year group. Peyton was also Mathematician of Note for her year group for the term.
- Reaganne Forrester – awards in Art and Music.
- Russell Forrester - awards for Religious Education, PE, and Marine Science.
- Shayla Foster – awards for Computer Science and Spanish.

Awardees from the Savannah United Church are

- Gabrielle Campbell - Religious Education Award
- Chesskamea Daniels - Year 12 Spanish Award

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council wishes to extend heartfelt congratulations to those recognized and wish God's continued blessings on all students and staff members of the CPHS.

News from Savannah United Church

By Ms. Camile Watt – Youth Minister

Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship Pantry Distribution



On Saturday, March 26, 2022, The Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship Group had their quarterly pantry distribution with the support of the Young Adults Group, who assisted in packing six (6) Grocery Baskets for distribution within the Savannah Community.



Youth Leaders Retreat & Social

On Saturday, April 2, 2021, The Youth Leaders of the Savannah United Church had their Annual Spiritual Retreat at Grape Tree Cottage in Northside. They were led in a reflective devotional by Rev. Euthman Wray, followed by a time of solitude and personal reflection. The evening ended with food, fellowship, and fun-filled games.





Rev. Euthman Wray celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Palm Sunday at the Webster Memorial United Church (Bodden Town)



**"IGNITE"
FOR CHRIST**

**LOOK OUT FOR VIRTUAL TRAINING
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022**

**GET READY FOR FACE TO FACE
VBS 2022**



Prayer Request

- Rev. Laddia Young and her family. A shooting incident resulted in the death of her step mother and the wounding of her father and one of her brothers
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong, who had to return to the hospital after being released owing to respiratory challenges.
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose niece passed recently
- Ukraine and all affected by the invasion of Russia
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and security force and government as they respond
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19

Prayer

Dear Lord,

May I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

At Home Liturgy

April 24, 2022
3rd Sunday of Easter

Resilient: In the face of Doubt

Doubt often stands in the face of what is.

Doubt cannot erase or diminish the reality of the risen Lord.

1st Reading: Acts 5: 27-32

Responsive Reading: Psalm 150

2nd Reading: St. John 20: 19-31



Congratulations!



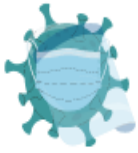
Seven new members were received at The Portmore United Church on Easter Sunday .

love Listen to a UCJCI Divine Service every Sunday on 101 FM **Love 101 F.M** at 3:30 p.m.
 "THE familySTAT"

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,



COVID-19 UPDATES

Affecting Congregational Life

Cayman Islands

ACTIVE CASES

733

DEATHS

27

NEW CASES

86

*COVID-19 statistics as of Sunday, April 20, 2022.

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

ACTIVE CASES

295

*In the last 2 weeks

DEATHS

4

NEW CASES

35

*COVID-19 statistics as of April 19, 2022.

Effective April 15, 2022, the Government of Jamaica has expired further Covid-19 protocols including mandatory mask wearing. In light of this, mask wearing is no longer mandatory for staff and visitors within the UCJCI's offices effective Tuesday, April 19, 2022. It is a blessing that the restrictions are lifted however, we need to consider the health and well-being of those around us. For meetings/gatherings involving five (5) or more persons, it is recommend that for personnel safety masks be worn as well as consideration be given to individual personal space.

NOTICES

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SEMINARS
 MARCH - MAY 2022




- DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT
- SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
- LIVE STREAMING & PRODUCTION

First Saturdays are theoretical sessions via Zoom.
 On the second Saturdays, the practical sessions for Live Streaming and Production will be done at the locations below:

NERMC Webster Memorial Mar 12/19	WRMC & CIRM St. Paul's (St. James) Apr 23/30	SRMC Ridgemount May 14/21
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REGISTER NOW

<https://training.ucjci.com> 876-926-6059



The Western Regional Mission Council invites you to share in the Induction Service of

Rev. Laddia Daneila Young,
 B.A. Theology,
 Dip. Ministerial Studies


to the Askenish Charge of United Churches.

Venue: Askenish United Church, Hanover

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Details:
 Meeting ID: 875 2475 3042
 Passcode: 223387



The United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands
 North Eastern Regional Mission Council



LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2022

30TH APR.
 8:45 A.M.



Kingsgate United Church

Are you within the age group of 13 and 25 years?
 Are you passionate about youth ministry?

We invite you to a special Leadership Training for youths within the region

For more information, please contact
 The North Eastern Regional Mission Council Office at (876) 906-1394

In Honour of

The Pringle Home for Children

100th Anniversary



Congregations are requested to do a *walk-up offering* every Sunday during May 2022.

Proceeds are for the centenary celebration.

Happy Birthday



Miss Marsha Martin
April 22



*Tune in to United in Faith Sundays on **RJR 94** F.M at 6:30 a.m.*

Rev. Obren Thomas
April 22



Anchor FM
<https://bit.ly/2YtPrv>



Rev. Wayne Wisdom
April 23

You can listen to United In Faith episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. Platform.
Click the link either in our Instagram bio or when it is circulated via WhatsApp on a Monday.

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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