



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

May 4, 2022 // Volume 9 Issue 18

May- Child's Month

Happy
Mother's
Day
May 8

Blessed with many Mothers
-by a member from the SRMC

Last week I read that article about “What’s on the menu- Feed my Sheep”, and nodded my head in agreement with the points that were made. However, my nodding came to a contemplative halt when somehow, I recognized that a woman’s role was silently pronounced in that piece, at least to my understanding. I saw woman as mother, homemaker, nurturer, teacher, Sunday school teacher, and church aunts. It made me consider what my relationship with women is like.

The thing is, my mother was not there to feed me. This is always a delicate topic because people tend to get riled up when we mention fathers on Mother’s Day, but that is just some people’s reality. It’s mine, he is the parent that has been present.

But, before this deep meditation, I personally never thought of possibly prescribing the title of “mother figure” to anyone in my life and I do have at least one woman that has been there constantly, caring about and for me, as much as I allow her to, but doing even far more in the shadows.

She gave me space to sort through what my biological mother served me:

- Trauma from abandonment- leaving me from I was a few months old
- Rejection- moved on to have another child, another girl, that she was more present for and with
- Resentment- for all the female

things I had to face and figure out by myself;

-the abuse suffered when the only parent is away working.

- Bruised self-esteem and confidence.

Really, can we talk about the deadbeat “surrogates”? I am a little embarrassed by the fact that I have been preserving this unhealthy meal and shunned the women in my life whether with blatant words or by simply keeping them at bay, subconsciously holding my mother as the standard. Immediately one wonders what does that say for how I [sub]consciously see myself. For a long time, I did not want kids mainly out of fear of a lack of maternal instinct and too out of fear of failing at this lifelong commitment.

What I have only just realized or maybe just really accepted, is that God may have used her to bring me into the world, to bless the other women who have been mothering me throughout my 25 years. I was a child to my grandmothers who missed having children around and beamed at a chance to be relevant and needed and I am a fascinating child to their quaint spirit. I was a child to the woman who suffered multiple miscarriages and who I’ve turned out to be despite the circumstances is a living promise to her after her marriage failed because of her inability to carry a child. I am a child to the woman who never got married and never had one of her own.

All these women are mothers, my mothers. I never accepted that before, but I do now. As I work through my trauma and seek to define motherhood for myself,

I know that it is bringing me to a more painful truth to accept and that is, I am my mother’s child. Being a child is so humbling to both child and parent and in the most loving way, I promise to humble her with my light. Who knows, maybe next year I will have some hopeful news to share.

But, for this year, I will be showing gratitude and expressing thanks to the mother figures in my life. Giving birth is not the only qualification and I thank God for being such a good mother to me and all these women. Most importantly, I am grateful for access to healing so I can enjoy and tap into my blessings.



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Bryce United Church, SRMC

The Launch of Child's Month



Under the theme RESILIENCE...Feed My Lambs, the Bryce United Church hosted students representing 26 institutions in their worship service on May 1, 2022. This was done to launch Child's Month celebrations for church and school. It also was done in efforts to strengthen school and church relationship.

King's Gate United, NERMC

Celebrating Reverend Garwell Bacchas



Rev. Garwell Bacchas receiving the 42nd Synod renewal and Transformation Merit Award in recognition of outstanding congregation leadership in discipleship and stewardship for 2019-2020 (left), and a plaque in celebration of his 40th year of ordained service (right)

Discovery Bay United Church, WRMC

Harvest Service, May 1, 2022



St. Paul's United Church, WRMC

Feeding the homeless



The Women's Fellowship of St. Paul's United in Montego Bay delivered 75 lunches to the homeless on April 7, 2022.

Prayer Requests

- Rev. Wendell McKoy, wife and their daughter, Wonhealia who has admitted in the Hospital for breathing complications
- 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. Dr. Henroy Samuels and family on the sudden passing of his niece in the United States of America
- Family and friends of Mr. Paul Miller who passed on yesterday
- Alando Meredith who lost his sister and mom
- Dericca Ellis who lost her father
- Rev. Delroy Harris whose niece passed recently
- 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
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica
- 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
- Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID-19

Prayer



Dear Lord,

Thank you for being good to us. Remind us that you are present every step of our journey, holding our hands and directing our lives with good guidance and good will as the good father that you are.

Let us believe and trust you in a child like way. Remind us of the power of childlike vision being unafraid and daring with our faith. In that same manner help us boldly and faithfully being the desires of our hearts to you and too our bumps and bruises.

Remind us, Abba, that you will hold our hands, dry our tears, lift us up and bring us healing.

Amen.

AT HOME LITURGY FOR WORSHIP



May 8, 2022
4th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9: 36-43
RR: Psalm 23
2nd Reading: St. John 10: 22-30

Resilient:
Listening, knowing and following the Shepherd's voice

There are many voices in our world today. Who are you listening to, knowing and following?



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



Anchor FM

<https://bit.ly/2YjtPnv>

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.

JOAN DAVIS WILLIAMS

JDW

Jeremiah 29: 11-13

Presents

**IT CAN'T
BE BUSINESS
AS USUAL!**



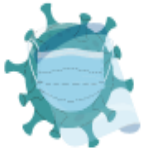
A series of **FREE** webinars for:
Educators - April 28 & May 3, 2022
Parents - May 5, 2022
Students - May 10, 2022

hosted by

**Master Teacher Extraordinaire
JOAN DAVIS-WILLIAMS**

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

To register, email
teamjdw22@gmail.com



COVID-19 UPDATES

Affecting Congregational Life

Cayman Islands

ACTIVE CASES

1276

DEATHS

27

NEW CASES

97

*COVID-19 statistics as of May 4, 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. The 1000 - person limit on outdoor public gatherings has been lifted, but the indoor mask mandate remains in place. These new regulations came into effect on April 28, 2022.

Jamaica

ACTIVE CASES

892

*In the last 2 weeks

DEATHS

1

*COVID-19 statistics as of May 3, 2022.

NEW CASES

85

*In the last 24 hours

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:


	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

End Violence Against Women and Children



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

#WCC, #UCJCI

#evgw, #ThursdaysinBlack, #endviolenceagainstwomen



"IGNITE" FOR CHRIST

LOOK OUT FOR VIRTUAL TRAINING SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

GET READY FOR FACE TO FACE VBS 2022




United Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands

NERMC Church School Rally

Theme: "Children of God helping others discover Christ."

SUNDAY MAY 29, 2022 @ 2:00 pm
 Webster Memorial United Church

Activities:
 Roll Call, Entrance of the Banners, Poster and Poetry Competitions, Performances from the various Church schools.

An evening of Fun and Fellowship.



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.





Rev. Rohan Forrester
May 07



Rev. Dr Leroy Walters
May 07



Rev. Dr Dave Hazle
May 10

**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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