



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

April 28, 2021

OUR MINISTRIES WITH CHILDREN

CONGREGATIONS
CELEBRATE
ANNIVERSARIES

APPEAL FOR ST.
VINCENT AND
THE
GRENADINES

UPCOMING
EVENTS

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 17

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ

Our Ministries

with Children

'But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." ' (Matthew 19:14)

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) values the presence and participation of children in the life of the church and recognizes that ministry with children is vital to the advancement of the kingdom of God. UCJCI ministries are therefore targeted towards the nurture of children and involves meeting their needs in ways that are age specific.

UCJCI is committed to facilitating tangible means of helping children to have a personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus and to understand and implement the principles of Christian living in their lives. As part of the body of Christ our heart's desire for our children is for them to have a love and passion for the Jesus Christ and a love that overflows into a love for humankind.

General Secretary Rev. Norbert Stephens noted, "Scriptures offer us a clear and unambiguous image of Jesus as one who made children a central focus in his earthly ministry. Indeed, many of his teaching moments featured children in a central role. He encouraged their presence and blessed them, people were encouraged to have the faith of a child in order to gain access to the kingdom, a little boy's lunch was pivotal in the feeding in excess of 5,000 people. Children gravitated to Jesus simply because they were made to feel welcomed in His presence.

In exercising his ministry among children, Jesus offers a clear model for the church today? COVID-19 has served to disrupt the ministry with our children, especially here in Jamaica, where many are unable to meet physically. Our ministry to children must therefore be reimagined and new ways of nurturing them discovered, patterned and shared in order to ensure that they

remain central to the ministry and mission of our church.

We continue to commend the UCJCI's Children's Commission for the innovative ways in which they continue to ensure connection and nurture among our children in the new normal of this pandemic."

Human and Mission Resource Manager, Janet McConnell, noted, "What we seek to do is to nurture an awareness of mission as we teach the Christian faith." This accounts for an all-embracing ministry with children.

During the month of May, Child Month, UCJCI Update will feature various aspects of our ministry with children. These will include Children's Homes—Pringle Home for Girls and Mount Olivet Boys' Home; Educational Institutions—early childhood (Basic Schools), primary and preparatory, and high schools; Church Schools (Sunday Schools); and Girls' and Boys' Brigade. Update will also focus on the UCJCI's Childcare and Protection Policy and the Children and Youth Commission, both of which provide policy and practical guidelines for engaging with children.

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What guides our work with children?

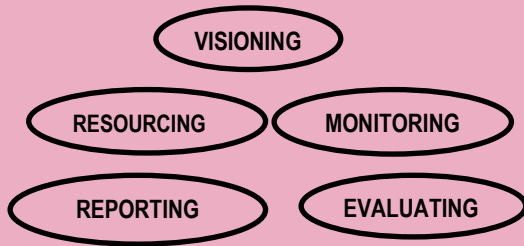


The Youth and Children's Commissions

The Children's Ministry Commission and Synodical Youth Ministry Commission were established, to give focused attention to discerning the times, and determining the UCJCI's Children's and Youth Ministry direction, in response to the need to be contextually relevant and impactful

REMIT OF THE COMMISSIONS

The remit of the Commissions shall be to give focused attention to the goals of the Church's ministry to persons between 0 and 12 years (Children's ministry), and 13 to 25 (Youth ministry), and shall include:



The Children's and Youth Ministry Commissions would each bring together all urgent matters pertaining to the Children's and Youth Ministry, providing policy-making directives, vision and strategies, resources and evaluative tools, and will hold Regions, and by extension Congregations, accountable for these vital ministries in the UCJCI. Each Commission would provide a clearing-house/filter for the work/ministry to be carried out by the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry auxiliaries. It would also provide space for common discussions, and would enable support and enrichment for its ministries.

THE GOALS OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Children's/Youth Ministry Commissions shall ensure that the six (6) stated goals are met in all of the UCJCI's ministries to children/youth.

These goals are framed according to the following focus areas:

- ◆ Christian Nurture
- ◆ Denominational Identity
- ◆ Personal Development
- ◆ Growth
- ◆ Retention of Membership
- ◆ Children's/Youth Engagement

COMPOSITION OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

- Four (4) Programme Secretaries: one from each Regional Mission Council
- Four (4) regional representatives for Children's Ministry: one from each Regional Mission Council
- Three (3) representatives of the uniformed groups – Boys' & Girls' Brigades of Jamaica & Girls' Brigade Representative from the Cayman Islands
- One (1) person with experience working with children
- Four (4) additional members, 2 of which shall be members of the clergy, 1 Lay Pastor, and the other to have expertise in either finance, communications, strategic planning or working with children.

The Commission is chaired by Mrs. Cheryl Shaw.

Further information may be obtained through:

The Human and Mission Resource Unit staffed by Manager, Janet McConnell; Programme Assistant, Monique Lofters; and Administrative Assistant, Michael Gordon.
Email—missionprogrammes@ucjci.com .



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ST. PAUL'S MONTEGO BAY IS 180!

'Ignited and Still Ablaze for the Glory of God'



Members of the praise team lead the congregation in worship



Rev. Tara Tyme, Minister of the St. Pauls/Norwood charge.



Greetings from Chairman of WRMC, Pastor Merton Jones.



Young Kelly-Ann Robinson read a lesson from Isaiah 61: 1-14. She is pictured here with her mother Melany Morris.

St. Paul's Montego Bay celebrated 180 years of ministry on Sunday April 25, 2021.

The event, though attended by a few in person in accordance with the Jamaican Government protocols, lacked nothing in depth of worship and expressions of joy for achieving this milestone.



Sisters Jodane and Sheneal Gillings' worship offering through dance.

Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott delivered the sermon. The event was also attended by the General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens, Chairman of Western Regional Missional Council (WRMC), Pastor Merton Jones and Regional Deputy General Secretary, WRMC, Mrs. Maureen Henry as well as civic leaders from the wider community.

ANDREWS MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH TURNS 58 'Rooted, Resilient, Ready—The Journey Continues'

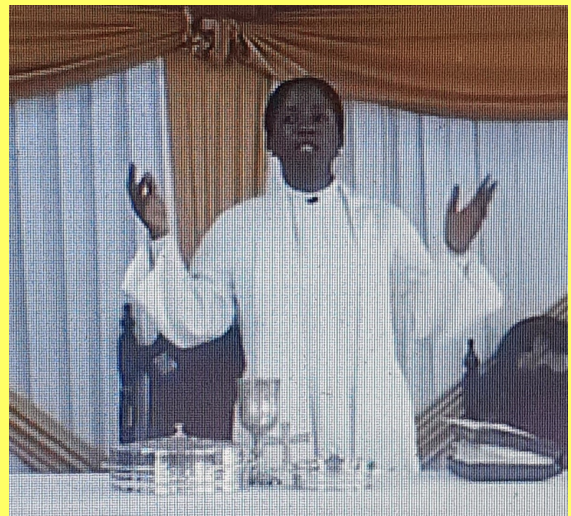


An aerial view of Andrews Memorial United Church in Mandeville.

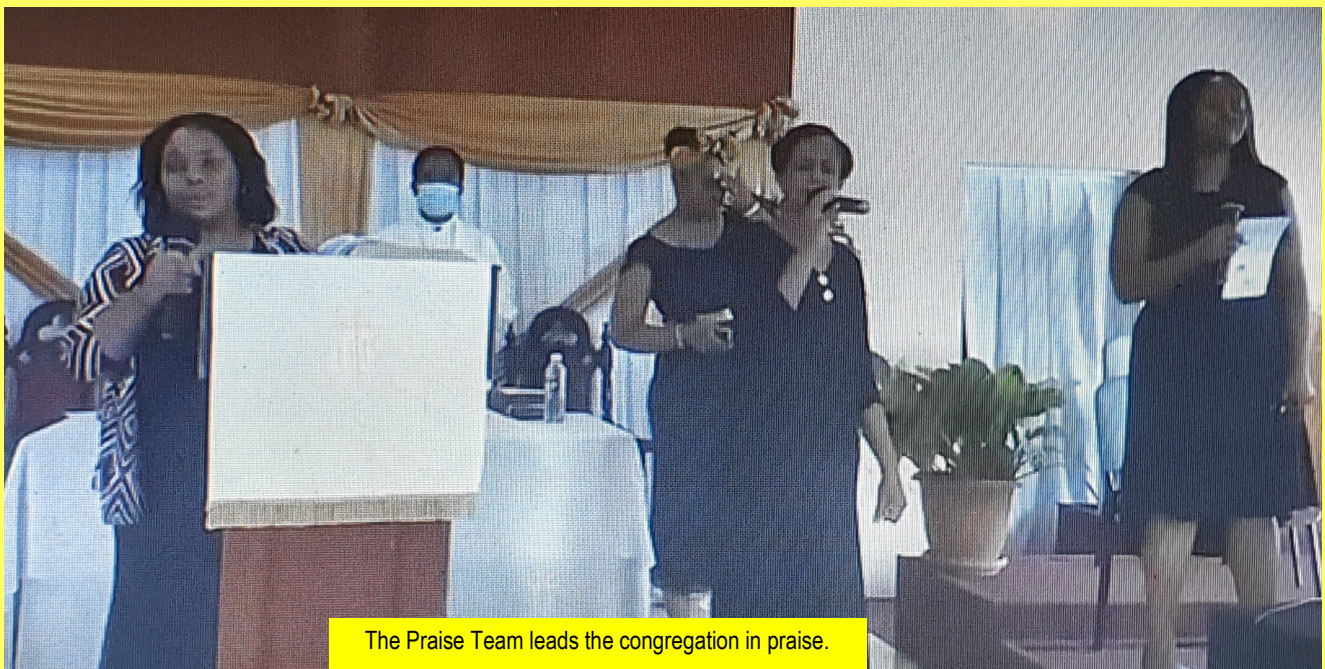
In a stirring worship service on Sunday April 25, 2021, Andrews Memorial United Church celebrated 58 years of ministry and service.

The theme - Rooted, Resilient and Ready, the Journey Continues—resonated throughout the service including in the sermon delivered by minister Rev. Khureen Wilson Bailey who has led the congregation for 10 years.

It was a rich time of celebration.



Rev. Khureen Wilson Bailey presiding at Holy Communion.



The Praise Team leads the congregation in praise.

DISCIPLESHIP AT SAVANNAH UNITED



Saturday, April 10, 2021, the Youth Discipleship Group was engaged in a powerful motivational message by Ms. Yolanda Whittaker, Chairperson for the Cayman Church Sports Outreach Association. The discussion set the platform for the teens to give much consideration to their upcoming election of Executive Officers to lead the Youth Discipleship Group. The team left motivated and empowered to serve with a new zeal for Sports Evangelism.

On Saturday, March 27, 2021, the Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship group ventured to Kaibo Beach Park in



Northside for a time of fishing and fellowship. The afternoon started with a little talk and prayer by Mr. Chester Hurlston, then the teens were guided to the ocean to cast their lines. There were eight leaders and nineteen teens in total. The group was refreshed with a tasty meal of fish and fritters with bun and cheese after which we made our way to the Grape Tree Cottage for an evening of bonfire, spiritual reflections. After enjoying some smores by the bonfire, the teens tuned into an intriguing testimony time with Mr. Reuben Barnes followed by a time of reflection.

Contributed by Ms. Camile Watt (Youth Minister)

SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

On Friday April 9, 2021 a total of 58 children and teens gathered for an evening of fun with the Fun Truck. The Game truck provided a variety of exciting games that catered to 28 persons at a time. Families came out to enjoy the festivities which provided a wonderful opportunity to evangelize and promote the Church's Youth Ministry. From the event a mother and her son came to church the following Sunday and promised to return for future church activities.



PRAYER SPACES IN SCHOOL

This year marked the 7th annual Prayer Space event at Cayman Prep Primary School. During this time, the students, teachers, staff and parents were given the opportunity to openly engage in an “Underwater” themed Prayer Space set up in the school’s Library.

This year, the theme was Shout for Joy, using the theme song, “Shout to the North and the South” (which all the children learned and could even sing the chorus in sign language!) and the memory verse: Psalm 89:12 “The north and the south, You have created them; shout for joy at Your name.”

This is a special ministry and a much-anticipated time in the school year. The students were excited for the opportunity to see what the space had to offer and to learn, think and be still while adults relished the peace and tranquility that the Prayer Space brings. The Library area was transformed into a haven of peace for 10 days, with areas for praying in different ways. Students could offer prayers of thankfulness and praise; pray for issues or people around the world; pray for themselves and their families; and had opportunities for time to be still and share their dreams with God; listen to music; ask for forgiveness; ask God BIG questions and recognize their own beauty in God’s eyes. Staff are often overwhelmed by the students’ insightfulness and selflessness in terms of their offered prayers and comments and humbled by their responses, their tenderness and kindness, and ultimately their desire to learn and want to know more about who God is.



Contributed by Mrs. Bertranne Abrams-Menko (Teacher)

BAPTISMS AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS IN THE GEORGE TOWN CHARGE

On March 27, 2021, twenty persons received the Sacrament of Baptism in the George Town Charge. They have been waiting patiently for the arrival of this special day since last Spring when their baptism was put on hold due to the restrictions introduced on the island to curb the spread of the pandemic.

Among those baptized and received into membership were several children and youth. We wish God’s continuing blessing upon the ministry in both the Elmslie and South Sound Congregations under the leadership of the minister, Rev. L. Christopher Mason.



The reception of new members at South Sound.

PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY

UCJCI responds to the COVID-19 pandemic as a community of faith

A Call to Prayer

**Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 pm**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by **prayer** and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV)

LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.- 1 Chronicles 16:11

- ♦ Members, leaders of the United Church and the wider communities in Cayman and Jamaica who have experienced bereavement
- ♦ Continued healing and help for Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke and others dealing with health challenges
- ♦ Persons struggling with the impact of COVID 19 on personal, family, community and work levels.
- ♦ Pray for the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Pray for India

A devastating second wave of coronavirus in India has seen hospitals and crematoriums overwhelmed and widespread shortages of oxygen and medicines. According to the BBC News doctors in India's capital Delhi have described how people are dying on the streets outside hospitals as the country struggles to cope.



Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

APPEAL FOR HELP FOR ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

From UCJCI General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens

My sisters and brothers,

The eruption of the La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on Friday April 9th, 2021 has been devastating. The severe physical, economic and social impact on the island of St. Vincent have been made more challenging as they have occurred in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This disaster has caused much disruption in the lives of the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the majority of the persons in the high-risk areas having to be evacuated and relocated. As of last week there are approximately 4000 persons in the emergency shelters. There has also been loss of homes, crops and livelihood but thankfully no reported loss of life.



The UCJCI is in conversation with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean, who are responsible for some of the emergency shelters on the mainland. We wish to partner with them through a financial contribution towards their initial efforts of providing relief through the purchasing of food, water, clothing etc., for those displaced by the disaster.

We are therefore requesting that your congregation/charge makes a contribution to this effort through a special offering each Sunday from April 25, 2021 through to May 30, 2021. 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.

Please remit your contributions to:

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**

Even as we respond to this appeal, let us also continue to pray for those affected in our sister island.

Blessings.

THEMES FOR HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY

SUNDAY MAY 2

Theme:
ABIDE!

Keep focus, know the power of your source.

Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31;
St. John 15: 1-8

SUNDAY MAY 9

Mothers' Day

Theme
Remain in God's Love

Love makes the way possible for bearing fruit

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98;
St. John 15: 9- 17

SUNDAY MAY 16

Ascension Sunday

Theme

That we may be ONE

United in Harmony and Love to accomplish our mission.

Acts 1: 15-17; 21-26; Psalm 1;
St. John 17: 6-19

SUNDAY May 23

Pentecost Sunday

These bones will live!

It's not over until God says it is over... There is nothing impossible with/for the Holy Spirit's power.

Ezekiel 37: 1-14, Psalm 104: 24-35;
St. John 15: 26-27; 16: 4- 15



**WE EMPOWER
OUR WOMEN
BY KEEPING
THEM SAFE.
SPEAK UP!
CHANGE!
ACT!**

#EndViolenceAgainstWomenAndGirls
#UCYPFSpeaksUp #ProtectOurGirls

*Remember to
wear black
tomorrow*



**Take a Stand! Work
for a world without
violence.**




Certificate in Community Development

MAY 6-JULY 29, 2021

Fee: \$30,000

Topics:-

- Community Safety & Security
- Building Resiliency & Wellness
- Peace Building & Conflict Resolution
- Sports & Culture
- Planning For Community Based Enterprise
- Project development and Management
- & More !



For more information or inquires send us an email at foundation@iuc.edu.jm or Visit us at 47 Old Hope Road or call: (876)-319-4310/754-1921

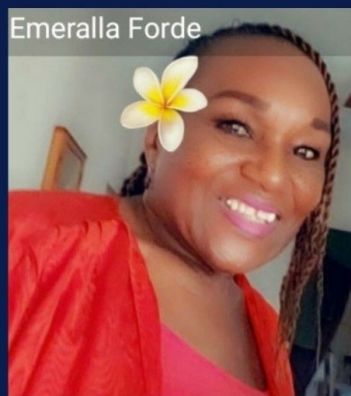
UPCOMING



EVENTS



Happy Birthday



Pastor Emeralla Forde
April 27



Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke
April 30

UCJCI VALUE S

“In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value :

Discipleship and Holiness:

The intentional and relational development of believers to become mature followers of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:2, Colossians 3:1-17).

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Our Ministry
with Children
- Childcare and
Protection**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational, Disciples of Christ ,Presbyterian

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

Tel: 876 926-8734

E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

Moderator

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
(Interim)
Rev. Norbert Stephens

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace - Evangelism)