

# UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE **CAYMAN ISLANDS** 

> Congregational Disciples of Christ Presbyterian

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**OUR VISION: "Touching** Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ"

SYNODICAL THEME:

"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life"

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## **PRAY FOR:**

Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 590 and 151 confirmed cases, respectively, of the coronavirus: and further against the spread of the disease.

The local and world economies which are threatened by the spread of the coronavirus.

Volume 6: Issue 21

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

## The Source of Our Security **During the Storm**

passage scripture, Mark 4:35- they saw Jesus do.

40, we observe Jesus and His disciples who went into a boat with the intention of going to the other side of the lake, surrounded by hills.

sify close to the sea, and still have no faith?" often cause violent and unexpected storms. The disciples, who 1-2 with Jesus, were seasoned fishermen, who no doubt spent many years fishing in that lake. So with their vast fishing experience in these types of waters, one would think that, upon seeing the storm, disciples

have been better able to handle it; but instead, when they saw that high waves were breaking into the boat, filling it with water, they became fearful and shouted to Jesus (who was sleeping) that they were going to drown.

Fear gripped the disciples and they started to panic. They must have forgotten who was in the boat with them. They must have

of forgotten the many miracles We need to never forget

Friends, the text tells us that Jesus got up and rebuked the wind, spoke to the waves, and the stopped. Everything became that He rose from the calm. Jesus then turned to dead, He conquered death, It is said that winds blow- His disciples and asked, so this COVID-19 is no ing across the land inten- "Why are you afraid? Do you match for Him. Friends,

> My sisters and brothers, we are in a storm right now -



the COVID-19 storm - and God is still in control and many of us are very fearful, He will take us through many of us are panicking as this storm. We need to the disciples did. And just as trust Him and not allow Jesus was with the disciples, negative so is He with us in this thoughts to overtake us. storm, but He neither slum- We are coming over and bers nor sleeps.

However, unlike the disciples, we need to remember morrow; we can face any who is with us. We need to situation. remember that He is the Almighty, All Powerful God.

the many storms He has calmed in our lives, the many calamities He saved us from.

storm We need to remember Jesus, who is with us in this storm, is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or

> think. We do not need to fear because God is faithful and He promises never to leave us nor forsake us. He will see us through this seemingly hopeless situation.

> I know that the virus spread is escalating, but it is not out of control.

not going under. Friends, Jesus is alive, and because He lives, we can face to-

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Rev. Margaret Downer-Messias

June 5

Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte

June 6

Dr. Jane Dodman

June 8

## UCJCI OFFICERS

The Moderator presides over the Synod, declares the decisions of the court, preserves order, provides ecumenical and national occasions. In addition, the Moderator also profull-time commissioned/ and installed workers.

The General Secretary is responsible for the administrative functions of the Church in matters relating to communication, recruitment, training and conditions of service. He/ Let us pray: She supervises and monitors the programmes of the regional mission councils, while also supervising the administrative staff.

The Regional Deputy General **Secretaries** manage the day-to-day affairs of the Regional Mission Councils, organizing, coordinating and enabling activities and the use of material resources, assisting in the co-ordination of Synod Committem.

## The Source of Our Security During the Storm

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I know that many persons are fearful and worried – some have lost their income, some small business owners have had to close their operations, while some are stuck with their produce. Some have been laid off from their jobs indefinitely, some persons are in a state of despondency and wondering what will happen to them and their families.

Friends, Jesus is reminding us that He takes care of the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, the grass and the flowers that will be dried up soon, and so He will take care of us. He is the all-providing God who will supply all our needs. We do not need to worry, we do not need to fear. We only need to trust God and believe in Him.

Do not allow the intensity of this disease to cause your faith in God to waver. Stand on the promises of God, which are, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you." (Isaiah 43:2)

Friends, Jesus is saying to us as He said to His disciples, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Let us stand on the promises of God as we go through this crisis, because the promises of God are "Yes" and "Amen".

spiritual leadership for the Church, Sisters and brothers, Proverbs 18:10 says, "The name of the Lord is a and represents the Church at both strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe". Let us look to the Lord, for He is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. He is the source of our security during this storm.

vides pastoral care for ordained cler- So if you have not committed your life to the Lord or you are a backslidgy, lay pastors, persons in training, er, may I implore you to commit your life to God, turn to God, before it is too late. He is the only one who can see us through this COVID-19 storm. Everything and everyone else can fail us. No riches, no fame, nothing, only God can help and sustain us.

> Friends, in this turmoil, in this pandemic, I invite you to surrender all to Jesus and let His peace that surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds. Let the peace of God cover you. **Amen.**

Gracious Lord God, we thank you that you are indeed Lord over our lives and our situations. Father, we place before you all who are sick from the COVID-19 disease and from other sicknesses. We pray that your healing hand will rest upon them.

We pray for those who are mourning, and ask that You comfort and surround them. We lift up to You all the frontline workers who are serving selflessly, and pray that You will strengthen and protect them. Grant wisdom to the leaders of this nation as they seek to guide us through these challenging times. Lord God, as we continue to trust You and wait upon You, may Your peace surround us, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

tees and establishing and maintain- - Contributed by: Rev. Carlene Walford, Interim Minister of the Goshen Charge of United ing an efficient communication sys- Churches. This reflection was first presented on the UCJCI's United in Faith Programme which aired on Radio Jamaica 94 FM at 6:30 a.m. on April 26, 2020.

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## **LEADERSHIP CORNER**Be a Friend

e often consider ourselves to be many things to the people who work alongside us—co-workers, teammates, contributors, competitors—but we often forget to be the one thing that every person wants: a friend.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "The glory of friendship is not in the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is in the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he (she) discovers that someone else believes in him (her) and is willing to trust him (her)."

No matter how driven or competitive your co-workers appear to be, they will enjoy having a friend on the job. When a job is especially tough or unpleasant, having a friend is sometimes the only thing a person has to look forward to when going to work. And when the job is good, then having a friend is icing on the cake.

## To Teamwork, Add Friendship

Why do I recommend that you work to develop friendships on the job?

Friendship is the Foundation of Influence. Abraham Lincoln said, "If you would win a man (woman) to your cause, first convince him (her) that you are his (her) sincere friend." Good relationships make influence possible, and friendship is the most positive relationship you can develop on the job with your co-workers.

Friendship is the Framework for

Success. I believe long-term success is unachievable without good people skills. Theodore Roosevelt said, "The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people." Without it, most achievements are not possible, and even what we do achieve can feel hollow.

Friendship is the Shelter Against Sudden Storms. If you're having a bad day, who can make you feel better? A friend. When you have to face your fears, who would you rather do it with? A friend. When you fall on your face, who can help pick you up? A friend.

At work, you need to keep working at being a friend—even with people who don't initially put any effort into being a friend back.

As you reach out to your coworkers, you may include the following steps in the approach you take:

### LISTEN!

Ralph Nichols said, "The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them." If you become a consistently good listener to your coworkers, they will want to spend time with you. They will begin to seek you out. And if they develop a rapport with you, they will probably also begin asking advice from you. That is the starting point for influence with them.

## FIND COMMON GROUND NOT RELATED TO WORK.

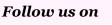
What's the solution if you don't seem to share common ground with someone at work? Try to discover what you have in common outside of the job. If you look for connection points inside and outside of work, you have a good chance of finding common ground. And that is where friendships are built.

**AVAILABLE BEYOND BUSINESS HOURS.** True friendship means being available. The moment you take your relationship with a co-worker outside of the work environment, it instantly begins to change. Think about the first time you had lunch with a coworker off-site. Even if you talked about work the entire time, didn't it change the way you saw that person from then on? Think about the first time you went to a coworker's house, and consider the personal connection you felt with that person afterward.

True friendship isn't on the clock. When a friend is in need, real friends don't say, "It's after five. Can you call me back tomorrow?" Obviously you want to respect people's privacy, and you don't want to violate anybody's personal boundaries. But leadership isn't limited to nine to five, friendship can't be either.

Source: "The 360-Degree Leader" by John C. Maxwell





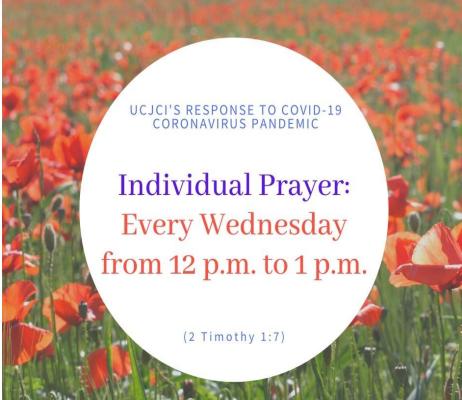






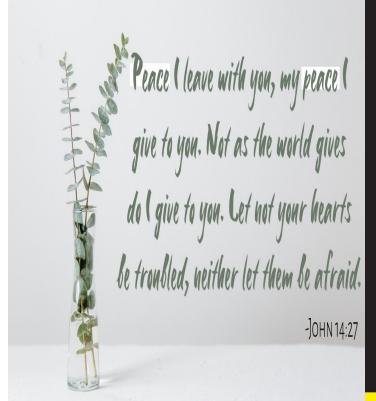
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## **COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE**



### POINTS FOR PRAYER

- \* A stop to the spread of the disease.
- \* Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- \* Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- \* Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- \* That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- \* That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- \* Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- \* Safety of all elderly persons and those with co-morbidities.
- \* Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- \* Our local and world economies.



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