

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update February 16, 2022 // Volume 9 Issue 07

TIME MARCHES ON *and God is master and the measure*

Time Marches On 1

I was two years old but it is still fresh in mind. We lived at Marigold Avenue. The milk was delivered in bottles which we had to return in order to get fresh milk. The bread and buns and other delights were delivered by a horse drawn cart. That was my favorite. I seemed always to know when the cart was approaching. Maybe it was the shoed hooves of the big, dark, brown horse striking the asphalt in steady rhythm. The cart itself exuded an irresistible aroma of choice wood, cured and fermenting by sugars and spices. The cart itself had a visor broad enough to protect the driver from the heat and glare of the sun. But if it rained, well, that was a different matter.

Time Marches On.

By the time I was six the horses were retired, the carts became show pieces and delivery of products from prominent bakers was motorized.

The three wheelers, with their small engines, also went, but they have made a comeback. Horses in Jamaica now are primarily for sport and show. I am still pleasantly nostalgic about fruit buns from the horse drawn cart, and the milk in clean curved glass bottles.

Time Marches On. March with it.

The fast paced world demands fast paced deliveries of goods and services at high quality. Time requires us to keep abreast and relevant, apace with movement and changes and out of flux. Time requires us to pause, centre ourselves, rejuvenate, focus, hold a hand and accompany others along the way.

Time Marches on, into eternity. March with it.

Epilogue

Unlike us, our experiences, the disposables and utilities upon which we depend, God is timeless, boundless, eternal. God is the meaning and measure of time. Time is revelatory, meaningful, and fulfilling, taking on the quality of eternity, when our steps are ordered by God.

-Paul D DaCosta-Pinto© February 2021

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Anniversary Celebration



The cutting of the cake.



Anniversary Walk-A-Thon

As part of the year long anniversary celebration, Ridgemount United held a Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, February 12, 2022. The event began at 6 a.m. on the church's compound before the participants took the streets of Mandeville.

There was an overall good turn out and it was well supported by different age groups. Participants were also treated to refreshments inclusive of orange juice and water provided by sponsors Island Dairies and Parkinson's Distribution Co. Proceeds from the walk-a-thon will go towards the congregation's scholarship fund.

Ridgemount United



Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan delivering the sermon at the 185th Anniversary service of Ridgemount United Church on Sunday, February 13, 2022.



The Jamaica Constabulary Force , JCF, choir ministering in song.







Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee marking the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne on 6 February 1952. In honor of this momentous occasion, on February 6, 2022, the East End United Church observed 70 seconds of silence, followed by the toll of the church bell for 70 seconds.

Thank You United Church Senior Citizens' Home



Special thanks to:

• The Women's Fellowship of Southern Regional Mission Council for their donation of a brand new Speed Queen Commercial Washer to The Senior Citizens' Home. Specially, the President Noreen Brown, the treasurer Cora Brown and Pastor Monasia Williams Council Executive Member.

• Rudolf Rowe for his monetary contribution to the home in January .Mrs. Blair, a member of Andrew's United Church for recommending us.

• The Women's Fellowship of Andrew's United who came to visit us in December and handed out goodies to all the residents.

We at the Senior Citizens' Home really appreciate the dedication the UCJCI Family has given to us throughout the years. May God continue to bless us all.

PRAYER CORNER

REQUESTS

- Healing and recovery for David Henry from King's Gate United who is ill.
- Victims and perpetrators of crime and violence in Jamaica and security force and government as they respond.
- Family of the late Rev. Dr. Edmond Folkes who passed from a brief illness.
- Rev. Rohan Kong and his wife whose newborn son, Joel Kong, remains in hospital since birth.
- 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 church and the various plans for the New year.

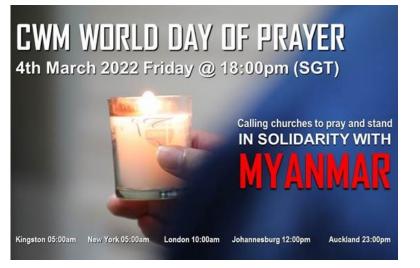
Prayer

MAY the GOD of HOPE, COMFORT, GRACE, MERCY, and LOVE forgive you and help you forgive others and release them to Him.

May He bless you with grace and peace, power and protection, health, and healing, holiness and godliness.

May He sustain you as you cast all your cares upon Him. May He fulfill the plans He has for you--plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Amen.



LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

February 20, 2022 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Theme: Rooted and Called to be in Fellowship

The very familiar story of the reunion of Joseph and his brothers can be explored by placing it in the context of the hostility that can exist within families and even in the Church. Themes of remorse and forgiveness arise in the Genesis text, and these can be introduced as being essential for fellowship to be sincere.

Psalm 37 is listed among the imprecatory Psalms so be careful in lifting themes of fellowship, but the skillful Preacher can find this to be a rich reminder of God's presence and grace with the righteous. The Lucan text is superb in delineating a paradigm for fellowship and can stand on its own this Sunday Fellowship should be built and sustained on the adage and very scriptural text, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." What does this mean in the current contexts of the church and the world?

Suggested Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 || Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 || 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 || Luke 6:27-38

2022 THEME

"Black Health and Wellness"

The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done well.

End Violence Against Women and Children



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



COVID-19 UPDATES Affecting Congregational Life



*COVID-19 statistics as of Sunday, February 13, 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.



*COVID-19 statistics as of Saturday, February 14, 2022.

The Government of Jamaica, on February 10, 2022, announced a change to the provision for church worship under the Disaster Risk Management Act.

• Church Services – the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship services will be the maximum capacity of the designated area for worship calculated at 1 person per 36 square feet.

For example – worship area: 5000 sq. ft. Calculation 5000/36 = 138 people.

- Weddings the maximum number of persons allowed is 100.
- Funeral services are allowed with a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.
- 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:

- No physical crusades, conferences or conventions will be permitted.
- Physical gatherings are limited to 10 persons.
- 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.

We invite you to comply with these provisions.

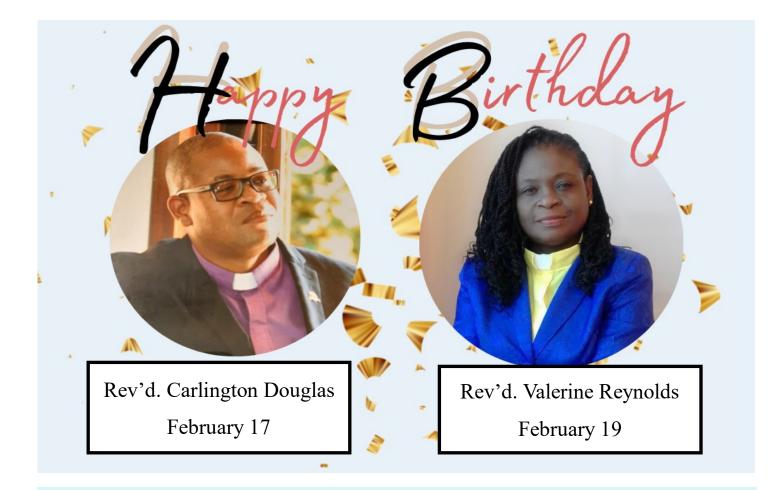






Tune in to United in Faith every Sunday on RJR 94 F.M at 6:30 a.m.

You can also listen to the episodes at your convenience on our Anchor F.M. platform.



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

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