



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Weekly Update

June 1, 2022 || Volume 9 Issue 22

THE ISSUE OF DOUBT

Rev'd. Nobert Stephens, General Secretary, UCJCI

Fundamentally, to have doubts is to be caught between two seemingly opposing forces. It is possible for doubts and fears to co-exist within us – Mark 9: 20-4.

- Do we not sometimes have doubts about God and God's role in our life and our world?
- Can we conclusively say that God is in charge?
- Do we believe everything we hear in church about God and faith?
- Does science and technology not contradict some of the core beliefs of faith and the church?

All of us have doubts. Those who claim they don't have what Charles Swindol calls, *unquestioned answers*.

Some characteristics of doubting:

1. When we doubt, our minds are at work. Thinking as you know can be dangerous. It often gets us into trouble with others.

Doubting is when there is a tension between our intellect and our beliefs:

- *In the face of calamity and grief*
- *Unanswered prayers or opposite answers*
- *When we live right and suffer miserably for it*
- *When what we are taught and what seems natural cannot be easily reconciled*

Using Thomas' encounters with Jesus in the book of John (11:16; 14: 1-5; 20: 24-29) here are some other truths about doubting.

2. When we doubt, we often do it alone – in solitude and seclusion – Thomas was not with the rest of the Disciples in chapter 20.

Cont'd on page 2



THE CHURCH-SITE COUNSELLING INITIATIVE
PARTNERS WITH
WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
TO PRESENT A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON

UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONAL WOUNDS IN SELF AND OTHERS

June 4, 2022 • 9:30AM to 12:00PM
SAVE THE DATE!
ENQUIRIES AT CHURCHSITE.COUNSELLING@GMAIL.COM



KEY PSYCHOLOGISTS WILL DISCUSS:

- Causes of emotional wounds
- Outcomes of being emotionally wounded
- How to move forward after being wounded

FREE ▶ GUEST PRESENTATION BY
CARDIOLOGIST, DR. LISA HURLOCK

**TARGETING: MEN & WOMEN IN FAMILIES,
CHURCH, WORKPLACE AND ALSO ALIENATED
YOUTH**

CSCI - TAKING A STANCE FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, PARENTING AND FAMILY LIFE

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Very often others have little or no clue about our inner struggles especially regarding our faith. The challenge is that we avoid the community which ought to provide us with support, including the church.

3. **When we doubt, we are declaring uncertainty.** Our doubts expose the fact that we don't always have air-tight answers to the complex issues of life. It is the expression of declaring I really don't know. Very often the church does not give us the freedom to declare our uncertainty... Thomas was honest about his uncertainty.

4. **Doubts lead to disillusionment** – we lose confidence in the core values which under-gird our existence (Thomas with Jesus in 14 – declaration about being way, truth and life).

5. **Doubts lead to despair** – if we are uncertain or disillusioned, we become hopeless. We then become open to other value systems.

6. **Doubts lead to fear** – confidence in our core values is replaced with the thought that things are permanently determined and definitely not in our favour. We then develop a fatalistic attitude towards life and faith. Fear leads to ambivalence.

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH DOUBTS?

1. When we risk honesty with God –
Jesus never discouraged Thomas' reflection/questions. In fact, Jesus offered responses to

Thomas – I am the Way; here are my hands and my side. Jesus offers us what we need to deal with our doubts. Note well that the other disciples were equally disappointed, disillusioned and disbelieving themselves, but were not honest enough to articulate their feelings.

2. When we question and challenge and probe and research what is generally accepted to obtain an other perspective.
3. When we make the distinction between what is temporary and what is permanent. This is when we search for the principles rather than the experiences.
4. When we engage in the struggle of our humanity. It is alright to get some things wrong or to do something wrong simply because we are not perfect human beings.
5. When we expose ourselves to God's grace and God's glory –

they serve to transform us. Thomas' story is not one of doubts but is instead a journey of faith. There are four images in John – The loyal Thomas (11); The uncertain Thomas (14); The Skeptical Thomas (20); The Confessing Thomas – My Lord and My God (20).

All of this forces us to continue on despite our doubts, to allow our doubts to become transformed by our faith.



Baptism Congratulations

We welcome these two women who were baptized last Friday, May 3, 2022 in the Falmouth Charge of Churches by Rev. Dr Jane Kaluba, to our faith community.

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. “

Isaiah 61:10-NKJV

REV. ALEX HAYDEN INDUCTED AS MINISTER OF DUKE ST. CHARGE

The Duke St. Charge in the North Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC), comprising Duke Street & Friendship Brook congregations, was without an inducted Minister for the last four (4) years. On Sunday May 15, 2022 this changed as the Charge turned out in numbers to officially welcome Rev. Alex Hayden as their inducted Minister. In an inspiring service led by Rev. Tamara Smith Coleman, Interim Minister, the Act of Induction was presided over by the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott. Rev. Paul DaCosta Pinto, Minister of St. John's United Church was the preacher and charged Rev. Hayden to practice singleness of mind, steadfastness, selflessness, self-examination and faithfulness.

Greetings were brought by the Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator, Rev. Astor Carlyle, Minister of Webster Memorial United Church, Rev. Hayden's home congregation, and Mrs. Kerry-Ann Knight Spaulding, Director of Corporate Services, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representing the community.

A symbolic presentation of a clay pot was made to Rev. Hayden by Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, Regional Deputy General Secretary, NERMC. Using 2 Corinthians 4:7 she indicated to him that, like a common vessel made out of clay, he had priceless treasure within, the gospel to be shared with the Charge and its communities. He was also reminded that the vessel being fragile can be broken, but God the master potter was constantly remaking and reshaping so that the fragile vessel can be effective.



Joining in the celebration of this occasion were the Chairperson of NERMC, Mrs. Jennifer Martin who also made a presentation to Rev. Alex and Mrs. Diandra Hayden, Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, Ministers, Lay Pastors, Members of Council, family members of Rev. & Mrs. Hayden and members and well-wishers of the Charge.



The Children & Youth paid tribute to mothers on Mothers' Day in their Church Service on May 8, 2022.

May- child's month, mental Wellness month and Mother's day- has ended . We are now in the month of June and will soon be celebrating Father's Day.

Do have any big surprises planned for your father? Do you have or know anyone with an interesting relationship or story?

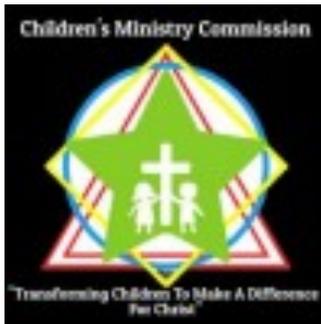
Call or WhatsApp 876-864-2253

**Cayman
Islands
Regional
Mission
Council**



National Youth Leaders Conference

Youth Ministers and Leaders from the Savannah United and Elmslie Memorial Churches attended the Annual Orange Conference in Duluth, Atlanta, held April 26- 30, 2022. The theme of the Conference was ‘Are You Ready to be Human Again?’ Through the presentations and specialized sessions, the participants learned about new ideas and practical solutions suitable for children and youth ministry in this post-pandemic era. In attendance were Mr. Roy McGregor (Youth Director) and Ms. Maedalee Whittaker (Youth Leader) from Elmslie Memorial Church, along with Ms. Camile Watt (Youth Minister), Mrs. Renee Barnes, and Mrs. Suzette Stewart (Youth Leaders) from Savannah United Church. The two Congregations covered the expenses.



The UCJCI Children’s Ministry Commission has started their monthly kids news newsletter.



Look out for the
**New Issue on
June 30**



Instagram

Instagram Page: Children we encourage you to view our IG page [@Unitedkids4u](#) (with your parent’s permission of course).



In January 2022, the Children’s Ministry Commission started their own Church School Curriculum: **Sonshine Kids Bible Adventures**. This is circulated to your teachers. Therefore, the lessons previously shared on the YouTube Channel were ended. Boys and girls we want you to continue to visit the Channel to view the lessons posted you want to be reminded of any of the stories shared. You can also catch up on any of the stories you had missed or want to watch again.

Prayer Corner

Prayer Requests

- Mrs. Janet McConnell who lost her uncle recently
- Mrs. Sheila Arscott-Smith who lost her brother-in-law
- Rev. Everton Brissett, Minister of Savanna la Mar charge of United Churches, and family, as they mourn the passing of his mom Mrs. Lillette Brissett
- Rev. Rohan Kong, his wife Stephanie and their son, Joel Kong
- Family and friends of Mr. Paul Miller who passed on recently
- 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
- Family of the victims of mass shooting in the United States of America

Dear Lord,

We pray for the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, and those who are imprisoned— behind both visible and invisible walls. Send your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence to those who are without hope. Protect the defenseless, and hold them close to your heart.

Amen.

Liturgy for Worship at Home

June 5, 2022

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Resilient: Pentecost Power!

1st Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

RR: Psalm 104: 24- 35

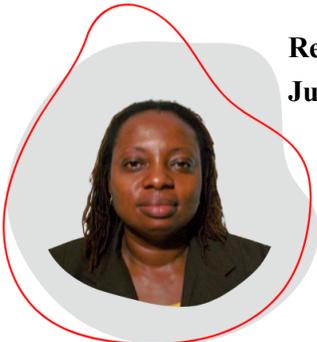
2nd Reading: St. John 14: 8-17, (25-27)

Pentecost power fuelled the fire that started the movement of the Church and continues to fuel the fire that keeps the movement going.

Happy Birthday



Rev. Norlene Jackson
June 2



Rev. Margaret Downer-Messias
June 5

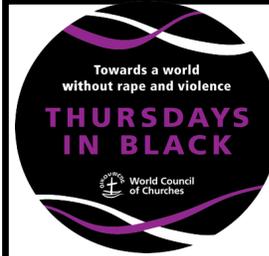


Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte
June 6



Dr. Jane Dodman
June 8

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



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"IGNITE" FOR CHRIST

LOOK OUT FOR VIRTUAL TRAINING
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

GET READY FOR FACE TO FACE
VBS 2022



UCYAAM
CONFERENCE
2022 | AUG. 18-21, 2022
50th Edition
Madge Saunders Conference
Tower Isle, St. Mary

ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY
LIMITED SPACE

CAMP 2022
MADGE SAUNDERS
CONFERENCE CENTRE

COST: \$9000
(Includes the registration fee)

FINAL ADJUSTED DATES

- Children's/Jr. Camp**
Wed, July 6 – Sun, July 10
(Ages 8-13)
- Pacesetters Teens Camp (Teens 1)**
Wed, July 13– Sun, July 17
(Ages 14-17)
- Discovery Teens Camp (Teens 2)**
Wed, July 20 – Sun, July 24
(Ages 14-17)
- Youth Encounter**
Thurs, July 28– Sun, July 31
(Ages 18-25)

Register through your regional office
by submitting completed registration
form and registration fee of \$4500

DEADLINE MAY 31, 2022

ON AIR **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.

NOTICES

Marriage Enrichment Seminar
Understanding "I do"

Save the date

Saturday, June 25, 2022
5:00 - 7:30 p.m

THE SALISBURY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
Presents A
Cake Sale

On the church grounds **On Friday, June 24, 2022**
Commencing @ 10 a.m.

CAKES:

- *BLACK FOREST
- *RED VELVET
- *CHEESECAKE
- *CHOCOLATE MOCHA
- *PLAIN CAKE

Served with a bottle of water

REFRESHMENTS ON SALE **COST: \$900**
***CHEESECAKE \$1100**

Proceeds in aid of the church building funds.