

The Praise Report

The Newsletter of Ujima Village Christian Church

Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwod, Pastor

*1001 Pennington Road * Ewing, NJ 08618*



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www.UjimaChurch.org



Reformation 2.0: The Year 500 Reboot

In October, Pastor and First Lady Norwood attended the "Reformation 500" conference of the World Reformed Fellowship in Wittenberg, Germany. It was the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing his "95 Thesis" onto the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church that started the Reformation, which was the movement that

critiqued the abuses, excesses, errors, and heresies of the Roman Catholic Church and called believers back to biblical faithfulness. The movement gave birth to Protestantism and proclaimed salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, according to the Scriptures alone. We are made right with

God (justified) by God's grace through faith in Christ (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:10-1), which in itself is a gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). The doorway, in the picture above, where Luther hammered his statements of protest is still there at the Castle Church in Wittenberg, and serves as a reminder that we are not merely heirs of the Refor-

mation... we are called to continue the Reformation. The World Reformed Fellowship Conference challenged those in attendance to consider how we continue the Reformation in the 21st century.

Sadly, many Protestant churches have strayed from biblical doctrine in favor of the popular "feel good gospel" of mere emotionalism, worldly conformity, and a political correctness that often promotes disdain for truth and righteousness. We must lift up the Bible as the rule and guide for our faith and life in our preaching, teaching, witnessing, and sacrificial service. Too many church goers don't know the basic stories of scripture or the Gospel of Grace and cannot guard themselves against false teaching. People are inundated with false gospels that point them away from Christ, from truth, from repentance, and from discipleship and, instead, encourage people to focus on themselves, their own shallow wants, their own self derived goals, their own self-centered notions of happiness.

As Martin Luther lifted his hammer in 1517 to challenge the wrongs of the Roman Catholic Church, we must lift our hammer of biblical truth and challenge the wayward false doctrines of our day with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must all be agents of truth.



Thank You Crystal Weeks... GODSPEED!



Our beloved Choir Director, Sister Crystal Weeks, departs for Florida in January. Pastor Norwood first met Sister Crystal Weeks 28 years ago, when he became the pastor of Grant Chapel AME Church in Trenton. She was working in the music ministry and Sunday school with her mother, “Ma” Pat Weeks, even then. She is an original founding member of our congregation and has served as a choir leader for most of our church’s 26 year history. Sister Crystal’s voice has stirred our worship services with Holy Spirit inspired singing and as a “Wisdom Keeping” presenter. She has also been part of the Christian Education Ministry, serving as a Sunday “Time for Truth” teacher. Sister Crystal has been instrumental in the development of our annual Community Day Outreach, which has its origins in her suggestion during a church-wide brainstorming session and for which she served as its first emcee. Not only did she sing during the various Community Days, she also brought her Kung Fu school out for exhibition, which featured her son, Andrew – the “Kung Fu Kid.” She initiated a special prayer ministry, called “The Wailing Women,” which led the congregation in “100 Days of Prayer for Men.” This prayer initiative had volunteers intercede on behalf of men, using a prayer she wrote that focused on the salvation, spiritual maturity, and bringing in of men. Within a year, participation in the Men’s Ministry doubled.

Sister Crystal Weeks will be missed. We pray for her health and success as she moves to warmer weather in Florida. We pray her strength in the Lord. Godspeed Sister! A special reception will be held for Sister Crystal Weeks after Worship on Sunday, January 21st.

2018 Weekly Prayer Schedule

Our First Lady wanted to encourage the members to have some focused time praying for the church. She took the time to create a weekly prayer schedule to help guide willing prayer warriors in the effort. The schedule can be found in the lobby of the sanctuary. Themes include: Making evangelism a priority for the entire congregation; Being an example of a sacrificial and loving servant of the Lord at all times and in all places; for our pastor and the ministries of our church; for the sick and shut in and our diligence in reaching out to them; That we might worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth!

Christian Aid Mission

One of the ministries endorsed by our congregation is Christian Aid Mission (www.christianaid.org), which promotes and supports indigenous missionaries around the world. Christians native to a given mission field proclaim the Gospel and minister in their own cultures with the support of this worldwide effort. The ministry states on its website...



“Since 1953, Christian Aid Mission has worked to establish a witness for Christ in every nation by assisting highly effective indigenous ministries. We currently assist more than 500 indigenous ministries that are engaging over 1,000 unreached people groups in more than 100 countries. Christian Aid Mission is a nondenominational mission board that supports independent ministries based in regions of great poverty, where Christians are a persecuted minority, or where foreign missionaries are not allowed. These ministries have tens of thousands of native missionaries on the field. Generally considered the first organization to assist and promote native missionaries overseas, Christian Aid Mission began in Washington DC as an outreach to foreign students, many of whom returned to their homelands to share the gospel.”

Supporting this ministry, which also has wonderful resources on its website even for children (see www.christianaid.org/PrayerlineKids/default.aspx). One way to support Christian Aid Mission while also growing in your prayer life is by using the “Prayer Line” (see www.christianaid.org/AboutUs/Resources.aspx), which lists prayer requests from the various missions around the world and also is a way to donate to those specific causes.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

From mid-September to mid-October, Ujima joined with the Nation in celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. The spotlight was shone on Hispanic heroes of the faith in modern times. Included "In The Spotlight" was Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, the largest Hispanic Christian organization in the nation... and, also Rev. Luis Cortes, founder of "Esperanza" in Philadelphia, which seeks to strengthen Philadelphia's Hispanic community through economic, social, and educational development programs. A special presentation was given by Sister Kathy Rawls on Cezar Chavez, the labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the United Farm Workers union in 1962.



Blessing of the Animals

After Morning Worship and Time for Truth Study on Sunday, October 8, animal lovers brought their animal companions to church. Pastor Norwood and Rev. Panniell continued in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is remembered for celebrating God's love of animals and



who is often depicted with animals all around him. Francis would bless the animals. Continuing this ministry recalls to us the love that God has for His creation and His creatures and that we are called to reflect that love

and care. One special animal companion that came on that day was eighteen year old "Nika," who is Deacon Derrick Hardwick and Deacon Andranette Hardwick's dog, whose picture we just had to share... Girl, you don't look a day over thirteen!

Memorial prayers were lifted, thanking the Lord for the blessing of those beloved animals who are no longer with us. We thank God for: Tali; Bounce; Grits; Zeek; Susi; Plato; Kitty I; Roxy; Cinder; Smooches; Snuggles; Sable; Monty; and Blade.

The Queen of the Ushers is Among Us!

To God be all the glory for all the great things He has done! Our very own, Trustee Cynthia Solice, was recently crowned Queen of the Ushers by the Usher's Council of Trenton and Vicinity. Here is what our Queen Usher had to say... "First, I would like to say thank you. I am happy and honored to have won the title of Queen of the Ushers for the Usher's Council of Trenton and Vicinity. I am very appreciative of the overwhelming support I received. I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making me Queen for 2018. I could not have done it without you. It was such a pleasure to be the first to win this title for the Gold team. I look forward to representing the Ushers Council to the absolute best of my ability. I am truly honored and humbled by this experience. Once again, a huge thank you to everyone."



The Holy Alphabet

Submitted by Sister Cynthia Solice, Trustee

Although things are not perfect ... Because of trial or pain... Continue in thanksgiving... Do not begin to blame... Even when the times are hard... Fierce winds are bound to blow... God is forever able... Hold on to what you know... Imagine life without his love... Joy would cease to be... Keep thanking him for all the things... Love imparts to thee... Move out of "Camp Complaining" ... No weapon that is known... On earth can yield the power... Praise can do alone... Quit looking at the future... Redeem the time at hand... Start every day with worship... To "thank" is a command... Until we see him coming... Victorious in the sky... We'll run the race with gratitude... (e)Xalting God Most High... Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but... Zion waits in glory, where none are ever sad!

"I AM Too blessed to be stressed!" The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. Love and peace be with you forever, Amen.

Church “Asks”

Saint James tells us, “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2b). There are things that our church needs that perhaps some of our members and friends could help with. The list is broken down into “Needs” – those things that must get done, “Wants” – what would help the ministry move forward, and “Volunteering” – things that someone may have an interest in doing. Anyone interested in helping should speak with the Pastor Norwood and coordinate with the Trustees. We ask for your prayers and donations of time, skill, and funds over the following:

NEEDS: Tree and stump removal on the Parkway Street side; New tenant in the clinic space; Reinforce rear ramp, steps, and railings.

WANTS: A Cross on the outside front wall (Parkside Street Side); A Large Cross on the front lawn; Driveway Signs guiding people to church entryway; Interior signs guiding worshipers to the sanctuary; a Steeple, with lightning protection, on the roof; Two Large Smart Monitors installed in the sanctuary; Carpeting in the fellowship hall.

VOLUNTEERING: Cleanup the entryway from the elevator on 2F; a Grant Writer

Dinner and a Movie

The Trustees and the Brotherhood of Mighty Men sponsored the church-wide dinner and a movie fellowship on October 14th. We viewed “God’s Not Dead 2.” The plot includes a teacher who answered a student’s question about the teachings of Jesus as relating to the teachings of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. Because she mentioned the name of Jesus, the teacher was suspended and put on trial for her job. Though shaken and afraid, she held her ground, standing on faith. We were all reminded of 1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV); *“6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

Many thanks to Sister Kathy Rawls and Sister Joan Blakely who helped set up for the meal... and, to First Lady Tanya Norwood for introducing the congregation to cinnamon sugar popcorn... Yum!

Building Greater Understanding About Native American History

During Native American History Month, Ujima hosted a test initiative on November 16th, based upon a project that was successful in the State of Maine, in which non-Natives were trained to provide educational experiences to primarily non-Native audiences about Native American History and current struggles. Volunteers from several community organizations joined with team leader Arla Patch to put on the presentation that had been vetted and approved by tribal leaders in the state, such as Nanticoke-Lenape Chief Mark Gould (pictured). The stated goals were, “sharing truth, expanding knowledge, and creating awareness.” Attendees came from as far as the southern Jersey shore, Pennsylvania, and even Maryland.



The atrocities, treaty breaking, and ongoing history of American Indian Nations and People were presented in a gripping slide show that included video interviews. The Attendees expressed that the presentation was not only informative and filled with documented facts, but also emotionally stirring. So much that had been unknown was uncovered, especially regarding the current issue of the racial insult of some sports mascots that are actually racial insults to Native American Indians. Brother Cliff Rawls was so moved by the evening’s illumination that he later testified that he could not sleep that night and rose to destroy all of his Washington Redskins paraphernalia after having learned that the team name is actually a racial slur and has been denounced by regional and national tribal organizations and the American Psychological Association.

A Scholarly Article

Pastor Norwood wrote an article that was published in a peer-reviewed academic journal, called “In die Skriflig,” on October 28th. Academic journals are where scholars submit their research writings. A peer-reviewed article is one that has been judged and critiqued by other scholars and found worthy of publication as a work of scholarly research. The article, “Contextualized Worship Among the Nanticoke-Lenape American Indians,” was edited according to the standards of British English, as reflected in the spelling of certain words. An online version of the article can be found at <http://ujimachurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2302-15604-1-PB-Published-Contextualized-Worship-Article-In-Die-Skriflig.pdf>

Bible Stories – Wisdom Keeping for 2018

Knowing the Word of God often begins with knowing the stories of the Bible. The stories tell the unfolding divine plan of redemption from creation to culmination. The stories teach about the character and will of God. They teach the lessons of faithfulness. The stories of Scripture enlighten us and train us in righteousness. These stories have been preserved in the Bible by God because God wants us to know them. Yet, too many believers don't know the Bible stories that can strengthen their faith and spiritual insight. During the World Reformed Fellowship's Reformation conference last October, it was reported that the church in Scotland is dying and the children are losing interest because they are not being brought by their parents and taught by their parents. Attendance of Christian Education opportunities is urgently important. Reinforcing the lessons at home by reading the stories together is vital. A "children's Bible" is a valuable tool for learning the basic biblical stories for both the young and old.

While the Wisdom Keeping portion of the Sunday Morning Worship always teaches biblical truth and principles to our children, there will be an emphasis this year on telling Bible stories. To encourage a better understanding of the Bible, brief overviews of its books will be included in the Sunday Bulletins and Pastor's Desk articles on the Church Website.

Pastor Norwood on CNN

On November 27th, while honoring Navajo "code talkers" who were heroes of World War II, President Trump used the name "Pocahontas" in referring to Senator Elizabeth Warren. Senator Warren had highlighted having some small percentage of American Indian ancestry, for which Donald Trump gave her the nickname "Pocahontas," after the famous Powhatan chief's daughter from Virginia, who was held captive by the Jamestown colonists and died in England in 1617. National American Indian leaders have called the manner in which President Trump used the name a racist slur, which the White House has denied.

Pastor Norwood, who also serves as the spokesman and General Secretary of the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes (ACET) was called upon for a statement regarding the matter. He wrote "...degrading an American Indian name or historic tribal reference by using it as an insult is making a racial slur, whether knowingly or unknowingly. The right to determine if it is a slur belongs to those who have been insulted, not the one who made the insult. The appropriate and mature response when one is made

aware of such an insult to an entire race of people is to apologize and to not do it again. An even better response after the apology is to try to understand and learn more of the proud heritage of the people that were insulted and why the manner in which you used the reference may be viewed as an insult. Such a response would unite instead of divide. It would heal instead of hurt. This is a



"teachable moment" that could be transformed into something positive, if America and its president are willing to learn. We can only hope." His published statement led to several media interviews, including one on CNN on November 28th. Kate Bolduan's response to Pastor Norwood's words was, "...so important to hear from people like John Norwood, and what he said is an important line, to decide if it's an insult is not to be decided by those saying it, it's those insulted. So simple and eloquent and an important thing to remember." The full transcript of the CNN interview can be found at <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1711/28/ath.02.html>.

Christmas Potluck... Yumm!

By Deacon Tanya Norwood

The 2017 Ujima Village Christian Church Christmas potluck dinner was a great success! We had a marvelous time. There was delicious food, great fellowship, laughter



and cheer! This year we added the cookie exchange to the Christmas potluck dinner and it was wonderful! We had delicious homemade cookies, pie and cake; as well as some store-bought goodies that were delicious too. One of our

Bakers was Brother Darryl Rawls so the men are fully participating in the cookie exchange... not just eating the cookies. Most importantly we enjoyed a joy-filled evening together. If you missed it this year, be sure not to miss it in 2018!

Ewing Sings

Members of our choir participate in “Ewing Sings,” an inter-church music ministry, initiated and directed by Elizabeth Goida. Two concerts took place between November and December at the historic Ewing Presbyterian Church’s 1867 Sanctuary. Christmas hymns



filled the air in December. November’s concert, entitled “Our Heritage of Faith,” traced the history of various heroes from scripture to the modern day. The worshipers came from various Christian churches throughout the area, including having a Messianic Jewish Christian blowing a shofar. There was a particular emphasis on the 500th year of the Reformation, with the singing of Martin Lu-



ther’s “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” In an expression of ecumenical cooperation, a representative of the “Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Redemption of the Captives” attended and received a portion of the free will

offering in support of their international efforts. The order, called “Trinitarians” for short, formed in 1198 in France with the mission of freeing Christians held captive by non-Christian powers. They helped set captive free during the Crusades and were even recruited by President Thomas Jefferson in aiding the release of hostages captured by pirates. The distinctive blue and red cross against their white clerical garments became so associated with being freed from oppression that the red, white, and blue were chosen for the flags of various democracies and republics like France and the United States. Today, the order still works to free Christian captives.

Youth Christmas Presentation

By Deacon Tanya Norwood

Once again the Youth of Ujima participated in our traditional Christmas program. The kids had a wonderful time and we even had two adults assist. Sister Sandra Baez and Trustee Trinity Norwood stood in as wise men this year. It is always a joy to see our children worship God in a special way during our special Holy Days. I would



also like to thank the parents who worked with their children to be prepared. It is very important that parents support their children and encourage them to be familiar with their parts as well as taking the time to stay for rehearsals, especially during the busy holiday season. I praise God for all of our youth and for their willingness, for their joyful spirits and for their cooperation during the preparation of these special programs.

We will soon be gearing up for a Resurrection Sunday program ... so get ready!

Welcome to Our Newly Baptized Members!

By Sister Tina Roach

A double baptism was conducted on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd. Both Marsha Ponder and Carly Bethea were baptized and read in to full membership. Coinci-



dentially, Marsha Ponder and Carly Bethea are related. Marsha is the daughter of Gail Snead, sister of newlywed Marva Pedriel, and niece and cousin of Dianne Watkins and Sheldon Ewing, respectively. Carly is Sheldon and Camille Ewing's daughter. While their extended family has longstanding roots at Ujima, they each decided it was time to take a stand and personally commit.

Marsha decided to join because she wanted to "get closer to God for myself and learn" about things like how to pray more effectively for myself and others. She really appreciates how Pastor Norwood teaches things so plainly it helps her to understand. She shared that she is learning to grow in patience. Marsha lives in Hamilton along with her 28 year old son, Marcus, who is a graduate of Delaware State University. She volunteers at WomanSpace and loves to crochet.

Carly says she felt it was the right time to join and be baptized. She shared about her commitment to attending even if her parents aren't able and she encourages her friends to come as well. Initially she hesitated because she wouldn't be able to attend the new member sessions. She moved to campus for her first year at Bloomfield College, in Fall 2017. However, she was grateful to learn that, when necessary, Pastor Norwood facilitates long distance sessions via telephone. She is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education and wants to be a teacher because she loves working with kids. Carly got a 2.6 GPA her first semester and is determined to attain a 3.0. She enjoys having fun with friends, loves to eat, and her favorite color is blue!

Naomi Cullum came forward to join our church on December 17th and is finishing up her new member classes. We welcome her and encourage everyone to read the testimony she submitted to the Praise Report....

Mercy (and Grace) Rewrote My Life

A Testimony- by Naomi Cullum

Greetings, Ujima Village Christian Church! As a probationary member of Ujima, I'd like to Thank You for your kindness and hospitality- in welcoming me to this church. Over many years, I had previously been a member of two other

churches. However, various circumstances prevailed that ultimately led me to Ujima in late 2017. I am so grateful to be in the midst of this warm and friendly "family" of Christian worshippers. As the Lord leads, it is my intention to "roll up my sleeves" and get to work with whatever God has purposed me to do here.

Additionally, I'd like to share a portion of my testimony with you- to the Glory of God...

Shortly after graduating from my first four years of college, I found a well-paying job as an education director in a drug rehabilitation center. Unsaved at the time, I foolishly thought that I "had it made" and all things under control. Just under two years later, I lost that job and spiraled into a series of hardships. I know, now, that God allowed this to happen to me so that I could really see my insufficiency and need for a Savior. His swift MERCY shifted me from an unbeliever to one who willingly accepted Him in my life as my Lord and Savior.

A couple months after my conversion, He positioned me for my future career by having me at the right place- at the right time. An opportunity became available for me to obtain my Masters Degree in a discipline I had aspired to study- whenever I could afford it. God's GRACE allowed me to be selected (from a pool of applicants nation-wide) for a new educational initiative. This would take me to California – at San Diego State University- to begin my graduate degree studies. Then, I was to return to the Trenton area where I would complete my two -year study at Trenton State College (now College of NJ). The initiative involved me working at an assigned school during the day and going to the college classes in the evening- until 10PM. Though challenging, I did successfully complete those studies and earned my Masters Degree within the two years. Let me add that the trip to California and all the grad study courses were completely FREE! I, as well as all the other program participants, didn't have to pay one, red cent for our education-not a thing! On top of that, as a participant, I received a bi-weekly stipend for living expenses. Glory to God!



More doors began to open for me. Praise God! All of this led me directly to a thirty-five year teaching career in the Trenton Public School District. As of 2014, I am, now, a retired high school English teacher. However, I have not forgotten where the Lord took me from and where He brought me to. So, at this time in my life, I gladly volunteer my time/service every week at a county shelter/food bank organization...and I do it "heartily-as unto the Lord."

This is why I love and praise Him...He first loved me and He's been too good to me not to.

At Ujima, may the Lord continue to bless us to grow in grace, harvest souls and serve our community -to the Glory of God.

Wordsearch 268 and Solution

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 268

Matt. 15:21-39

Loaves & Fish

P	A	S	C	R	H	D	P	I	M	E	R	C	Y	N
I	L	B	E	E	E	R	T	O	T	S	E	R	S	E
C	B	E	A	Z	A	T	Y	T	H	H	T	U	K	K
K	R	L	A	I	Y	T	O	H	S	E	H	M	N	O
E	E	M	S	V	I	R	T	M	E	E	G	B	A	R
D	A	E	L	N	I	I	G	H	E	P	U	S	H	B
O	D	R	I	D	A	N	T	N	O	R	A	Q	T	E
H	D	C	E	F	G	L	G	O	U	U	D	R	E	C
Y	I	N	R	E	W	S	N	A	D	H	S	L	U	R
V	V	O	B	R	I	N	G	I	N	G	I	A	E	O
N	A	T	E	N	O	D	I	S	S	L	H	G	N	W
A	D	H	R	E	B	M	U	N	A	R	I	I	S	D
M	N	I	S	U	S	E	J	G	L	O	A	V	E	S
O	G	N	I	K	L	A	W	A	N	K	N	E	L	T
W	M	G	E	T	U	M	P	I	E	C	E	S	L	E

AMAZED	BRINGING
ANSWER	DAUGHTER
BREAD	GALILEE
BROKEN	HEALED
CROWD	HUNGRY
CRUMBS	LEAVING
DAVID	LOAVES
FAITH	NOTHING
ISRAEL	NUMBER
JESUS	PRAISED
KNELT	REGION
MERCY	REMOTE
MUTE	REQUEST
PICKED	THANKS
PIECES	VICINITY
SHEEP	WALKING
SIDON	WOMAN
	THOUSAND

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

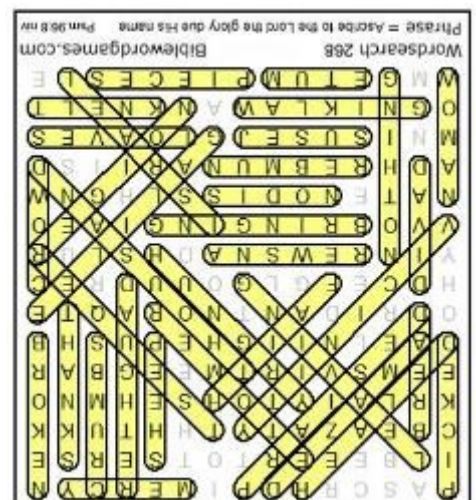
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The Answer Key is upside down

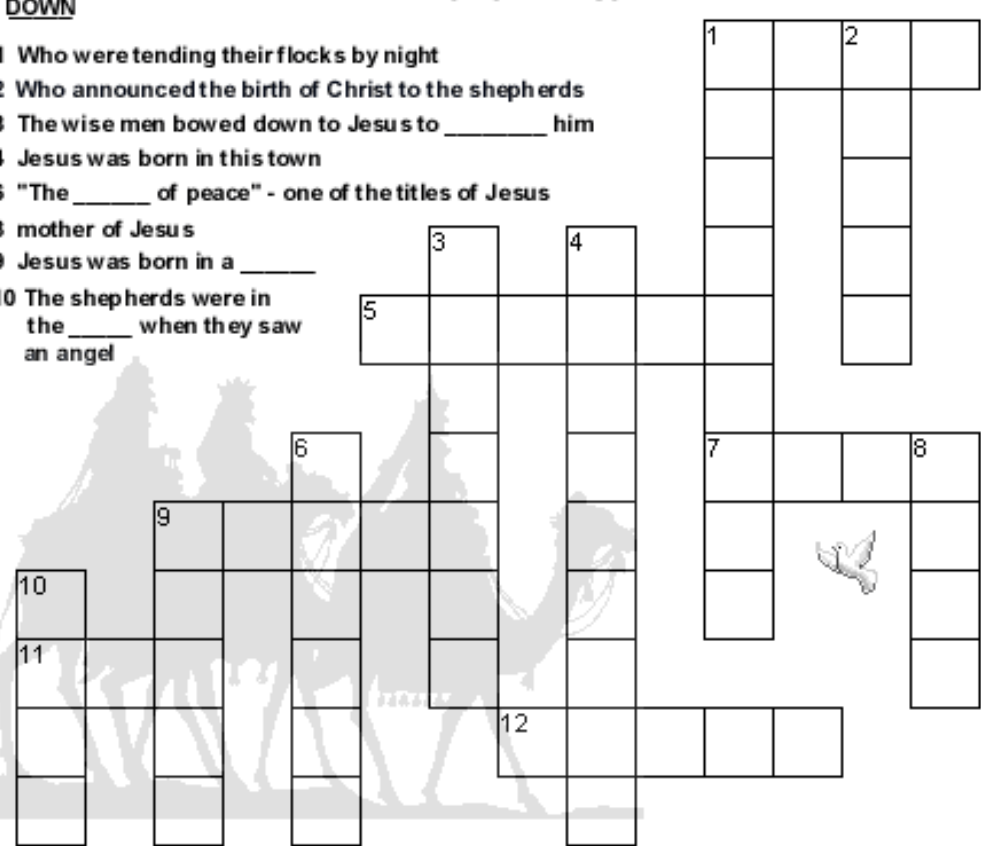


Kid's Corner

Birth of Christ

DOWN

- 1 Who were tending their flocks by night
- 2 Who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds
- 3 The wise men bowed down to Jesus to _____ him
- 4 Jesus was born in this town
- 6 "The _____ of peace" - one of the titles of Jesus
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 Jesus was born in a _____
- 10 The shepherds were in the _____ when they saw an angel



ACROSS

- 1 The wise men followed a _____ that led them to Jesus
- 5 human father of Jesus
- 7 There was no _____ at the inn for Jesus
- 9 one of the gifts of the three wise men
- 11 Jesus could not stay at the _____ because it was full
- 12 and on earth _____, goodwill toward men (Luke 2:14)

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UJIMA VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship - 10:30AM

Sunday "Time for Truth" after Morning Worship

Wednesday Children's Activities 6:30PM

Wednesday Bible Study Adult and Teen Classes at 7:00PM

SUNDAY MORNING PREACHING SCHEDULE

January 2018: 7th - Pastor Norwood; 14th - Pastor Norwood; 21st- Pastor Norwood; 28th- Deacon Hill

February 2018: 4th- Pastor Norwood; 11th- Rev. Panniell; 18th- Pastor Norwood; 25th- Pastor Norwood

March 2018: 4th- Pastor Norwood; 11th- Pastor Norwood; 18th- Pastor Norwood; 25th- Pastor Norwood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCING "NORWOOD'S NOTES" - Brief Summaries of Bible Stories will be occasionally given out as bulletin inserts. These "notes" are intended to provide an overview of the basic stories of the Bible in the hope building greater biblical knowledge and encouraging Bible reading and study.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT on the following Fridays... January 12, April 6, and June 29 at 6:30PM.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER will meet on Friday, January 19, at 6:30PM in the Lighthouse Café. Bring a dish and your Bible. Invite a friend too.

"THANK YOU" FELLOWSHIP FOR SISTER CRYSTAL WEEKS on Sunday, January 21st, after morning worship. Sister Crystal Weeks is moving to Florida. Let's wish her well and thank her for her many years of faithful service.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP on February 14th at 6:30PM. Bible Study will follow.

26TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY on February 18. Our morning preacher is our own Pastor Norwood. After the fellowship meal, the 3:00PM worship preacher is Pastor Richard Norris of Bethel AME Church, Pennsauken, NJ.

PUERTO RICO RELIEF EFFORT – Give to support the hurricane relief efforts. The following organizations are endorsed by the church leadership for this purpose ... **The Red Cross** (online donations <https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-harvey>) and **Church World Service** (online donations <https://cwsglobal.org/>)

THE CHOIR IS RAISING MONEY FOR ROBES through snack sales after worship. Please support their effort.

SHARE A WORD OF PRAISE... anyone interested in participating in a time of sharing their testimony during a Sunday worship service is invited to speak with the Pastor. A new feature in addition to the "Wisdom Keeping" will be "A Word of Praise" as scheduled by the Pastor. See Pastor Norwood for details.

THE MASS CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY'S AFTER TIME FOR TRUTH STUDIES. 20 Minute sectional rehearsals on the 2nd Sundays. 4th Sunday's all will practice.

THE SENIOR USHERS MEET EVERY 3RD SUNDAY after Time for Truth Studies.

UJIMA'S MIGHTY MEN MEET for a breakfast fellowship on the first Sundays at 9:30AM in the Lighthouse Café. This is an Outreach Opportunity!

SINGLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY ...See Deacon Pamela Hill for details.

PASTOR NORWOOD'S RECENT SERMONS can be downloaded or streamed online at www.UjimaChurch.org or at www.facebook.com/RevNorwood

Upcoming 2018 Holy Days and Special Observances: Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent) 2/14; Church Anniversary 2/18; Palm Sunday 3/25; Resurrection Sunday 4/1; Ascension Day 5/10; Mother's Day 5/12; Pentecost 5/20; Father's Day 6/17; Blessing of the Animals 11/4 (Observance TBD); Reformation Day 10/31; All Saints Day 11/1 (observed 11/4)