

The Praise Report

The Newsletter of Ujima Village Christian Church

Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwod, Pastor

*1001 Pennington Road * Ewing, NJ 08618*



Summer / 2018 Issue 3

www.UjimaChurch.org



Spotlight on Our 2018 High School Graduates!

By Tina Roach

We are very proud of our 2018 high school graduates... Channel Wilkins, Jada Hinds, Malayna Cherry, and Miracle Santiago. All of them plan to attend college in the Fall. This is an exciting time for them and we share in the joy of their achievements. We want them to know their entire Church family is behind them with loving support and prayers to encourage them that surely they can stand firm in their faith no matter what the future holds! Now for a personal word from each of them and a special blessing from their youth ministry leaders, First Lady Tanya Norwood & Sis. Trinity Norwood.

Chanel Wilkins, Jr. (Kean University, N.J.):

"I'm extremely excited to major in Media & Film at Kean University as I endeavor to become a sports analyst for a major network. My family and friends have inspired me and I'm confident that with my unstoppable energy and strong work ethic my dream will become a reality."

Malayna Cherry (Eastern University, PA):

"There is power in a woman that has conquered everything that was set to destroy her."--- Malayna Cherry

I've conquered so much during my high school years. Honestly, I believe youth in this day and age are the strongest they've ever been. I am grateful for everyday. I am truly inspired by our First Lady, Mrs. Norwood."

Miracle Santiago (University of Richmond, VA):

"Over the next few years, I am looking forward to self-exploration and the change of environment. I hope to continue pleasing God and to follow the path he has paved for my life."

Jada Hinds (American University, Washington D.C.):

"I am looking forward to learning as much as I can about Film & Media so I can apply myself and all the knowledge to my passion! I am excited about living in Washington D.C."

To our Darling and Beloved Graduates:

This time of year is filled with both joy and with tears as we look forward to your new lives as college students as well as look back over the time we have watched you grow and develop. Our Hearts rejoice as we look forward to the things you will experience in college as you become more independent and self-motivated;

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

and our hearts are heavy as we consider no longer seeing your faces regularly on Sunday mornings in Worship or Wednesday nights during Bible Study or game nights or play practice and other Youth and Church Family activities while you are away at school (BUT DO EXPECT TO SEE YOU WHEN YOU ARE HOME FOR BREAKS).

Still, in spite of the joy and the sorrow... in spite of the excitement and the sadness, we have confidence that the word of God has been firmly planted in each of you; and, because of this "Blessed Assurance," we have absolute confidence that you will conquer any obstacle before you because you are standing on God's promise that "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!"

Yes, we have absolute confidence that you will overcome those distractions and temptations to do that which is unbecoming the fine Christ-centered young man and young women we love so dearly, because you are standing on God's promise that "No weapon formed against you shall prosper!"

While we do indeed look forward to having you home during your breaks and weekend visits so you can fellowship and Worship with your Church Family, be sure to find a Christ-centered, Bible believing Church near your school where you can fellowship while you are there and continue to grow in Grace through the study of God's Word.

So, we send you off with our love, with our joy, and with our confidence knowing that you know we are always here for you!!! ... Just a text message or phone call away! Go with God because He always goes with you!

You know we're praying for you!!! We love you more than words can say!

Sis. Norwood & Sis. Trinity



Saturday Bible Study and Life Application Ministry 7th Anniversary

By Sister Linda Rogers



Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters, please let me share with you our photos and what the LORD has done and continues to do at our Saturday Bible Study and Life Application Ministry. We celebrated our 7th Anniversary, with study, fellowshiping and delicious food.

I asked the following question: "What has our Bible Ministry on Saturdays meant to you this past year?"

Sis. Daisy- "I enjoy it so much. I'm learning something at my age that I didn't learn down through the years. I always believed in God and the Bible that my mom taught me."

Bro. George- "It has helped me to grow in grace. Also, to have a spiritual answer for all subjects."

Sis. Diane- "Very impressive, uplifting, learned a lot and having a good time as we're learning the Word and desiring to be in heaven with Jesus Christ."

Sis. Millie- "It really inspires me to be closer to God in my walk and faith."

Sis. Rose- "I don't think I could have made it without this ministry in my building... the best thing I could have done."



Sis. Linda- "Wow! Where do I start! I am so blessed for God allowing me to gather in His name with fellow saints to study His Word. The laughter, the joy, and the in-depth conversations we have about how amazing our God is... is unexplainable. I am grateful to my Pastor for allowing me to minister to the residents at the Ujima Village Complex. I thank God for all of those who come faithfully to our studies on Saturdays."

Women of Nia

“Brunch/Culinary Expo” By Sis. Naomi Cullum

Greetings, Church Family and Friends!

On a sunny, yet chilly Saturday (March 17), Ujima’s “Women of Nia” hosted a lovely, hot brunch for members, family and friends.

The appetizing menu offerings included: assorted



waffles, eggs/omelets (made to order), toast, bacon, pork and turkey sausages, a fruit tray, mini-muffins, orange juice, coffee and tea.

Interspersed between conversations was a game entitled, “BinFo” (a combo of Bingo & info).

This game served to promote further conversation/interaction of participants- as well as competition for prizes.

The concerted effort by the ladies was indeed blessed by the Lord, who ordained such an interesting assembly of fourteen women. Several women were unable to attend due to prior commitments. However, in their absence, their presence was still felt via their prayers and contributions of small appliances-without which, we could not have done this.



Our event ended with a powerful prayer circle where each person gave praises unto the Lord by: sharing His goodness, testifying of His healings, and gratefully acknowledging His multiple blessings in our lives.

*Special Thanks to:

1.) All these women who gave of their time, contributions and support for this event: [Sis. Tanya N., Sis. Shirley H., Deacon Andranette H., Sis. Linda R., Sis. Sandy B., Sis. Patricia W., Sis. Gail S., Sis. Joan, Sis. Shaquan, Deacon Pam H., Sis. Kathy R., Sis. Tina R.] Also, thanking all others who were unable to come, but kept us in prayer.



2.) Pastor Norwood- For activating the “robo-call” as a reminder of the event and for his general, overall support.

3.) Deacon Derrick Hardwick- For availing himself (in the early morning) to provide smooth transitions/assistance regarding opening/securing the building/facility.

Ujima’s Been a Blessing

Sis. Kathy Rawls’ Testimony, submitted by Sis. Tina Roach

One day my husband and I were talking about looking for a church. Not just any church, but we wanted one that teaches truths and principles from the word of God. Before coming to Ujima, we were going to the Roach family’s home for a weekly gathering and Bible study. Brother Dan kept saying great things about Ujima church and how well the Pastor preaches. He invited us to visit and in January 2015; we finally did. When we first walked in, we were greeted with hugs and kisses from everyone. We felt welcome and knew the Spirit of God was here. The Pastor preached very good that day. After the service was over, my husband said this is the church we have been looking for.



We also regularly attend Ujima’s Bible study on Wednesdays and it has truly helped me to learn more about the word of God. The Pastor takes his time explaining things and answering any questions we have. I also enjoy the Sunday afternoon “Time for Truth” class. By attending both, I keep learning the Word of God and it helps me to better understand it. Now, I’m living more in line with how God wants me to. My family and I enjoy it here, and praise God for Ujima Church. Our Pastor and 1st Lady are such a blessing to me and my family. They are inspiring and I look up to them in many ways. I admire their knowledge, love for God and even their personalities.

Since we joined Ujima, it has changed me life. I have grown in my faith and walk with Christ Jesus and being closer to my Lord. It helped me realize that one of my gifts is helping and giving, which I love to do. I never thought that I would be serving in any ministry. But, now I know God has plans for me. I am part of the Dance Ministry, Women of NIA Ministry, Pastor’s Aide, and Assistant Clerk of Trustee Board!

In conclusion, Ujima has surely been a blessing to me and my family. I encourage any brother or sister to visit and join. I believe your life will be changed too! God Bless you In Jesus Name. Amen.

Welcome to Our New Members

Submitted by Sis. Tina Roach

Jacqueline Ferrer:

I had been wanting to get my relationship with God back on track. I kept pulling away from Him off and on for a long time. But I know how real God is and I knew I wanted to join a church. Then when I came here to Ujima it was like God was here. I felt such a connection to the Word and the people. The Pastor has been such a blessing to me. I don't have the words to describe how I feel and what a difference it has made. When I come here, no matter what's going on in my life, I hear a word from the Bible that I understand and it has really been helping me get my life back on track. I'm going in the right direction now and I know God is going to keep helping me to go higher and higher. I am so grateful to join Ujima.

I would like to be remembered in prayer as I face health challenges. I know everything will be alright because God will see me through.

I live in Trenton, and have a son and four girls (including our own Kathy Rawls and Miracle Santiago). I enjoy cooking, cleaning, music and reading the Bible. My favorite scripture Ps. 23:1; The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.



Jada Hinds:

My family and I have always believed in God, but we just didn't attend Church regularly. Miracle Santiago kept telling me different things about her church, so I decided to visit. When I came, the vibe from everyone at Ujima was just amazing. I had visited other churches, but it was so different here. I like hearing the messages from Pastor. I know being here has helped me grow and learn so much more about God and faith. I'm glad I joined and now this is my church too.

I absolutely love cooking...especially pasta dishes. I enjoy drawing, writing romantic poetry, and I will be beginning college in the Fall to pursue a career in Film & Media. I live in Trenton with my mother and brother.



A Bit of Humor... Our Comical Clergymen

Rev. Panniell's Secret Revealed on Ushers Day

April 15th was the annual Ushers Day celebration. The Usher's Council of Greater Trenton came out in force, filling the sanctuary for the afternoon worship. Our own trustee, Sister Cynthia Solice, was introduced as the reigning "Queen of the Ushers Council." Our own associate minister, Rev Panniell, preached from Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV); *23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.* It was a joyous and worshipful celebration.

Sister Luz Richards introduced Rev. Panniell as the preacher for the worship service. While she provided a wonderful and formal introduction, it was revealed that the following is what Rev. Panniell, true to his humorous manner, had jokingly given to her as his "bio"...

"Refused to go to church when I was young... At 14, I stole a car and left the State of New Jersey. I was a fugitive on the run. They found me in Texas ten years later. When I did come back to church it was to flirt with the young women on Easter Sunday. One time ... I stumbled in some church and somehow stood up and gave my interpretation of what the preacher said. People liked it and asked me to speak again, and they would pay me. I was unemployed so of course, I took the job and have been getting paid ever since. I dropped out of elementary school, without anyone knowing... started shining shoes as a hustle and never been back to school or took courses since. Keep this between us. I don't want to not get paid for expressing my opinion."



What Happens in Bible Study...

On June 13th, Sister Naomi Cullum blessed the Adult Bible Class with red velvet cupcakes. Pastor Norwood was determined to have one before Sister Norwood entered the room and took it from him. Scarfing the cupcake down quickly, he teased those present by saying, rather authoritatively, "You Ain't Seen Nothing!" However, Sister Sandy Baez snapped a picture that told the story.... *Ooo Pastor! You're in trouble!*



Community Day 2018...

A Wonderful Success! By Deacon Tanya Norwood

We all woke on Saturday, June 2nd to “report after report” of heavy thunderstorms predicted throughout the day. This, of course, did not keep us from putting up the tables, dragging out the chairs, setting up the awnings and hammering down the parking signs. In fact, the faithful set up crew teased and boasted with absolute confidence that no rain would come until after 2pm when our Community day was officially over. A few vendors even cancelled because they were concerned about the weather report, but we continued without hesitation... and the



Lord held back the thunder, the lightning and the heavy down pour until 2:20pm when all of our vendors were already packed up and the Church had nearly

everything already inside! Truth be told, we were so blessed that the rain was held back until that time that we were happy to splash our way through the process of bringing in the remaining items. We may have been soaked in the down-pour, but our joy and fellowship was in no way watered down... instead it was enlivened by the way the Lord answered our prayers and held back the rain!



As always, every person who attended Community Day received a gift bag with toys and sweets for the kids, tracks and witnessing material for the teens and adults and tickets for free food for everyone. Trenton High School ROTC kicked the event off by

marching in the colors, then, as we have for the past few years, Minister Diggs from Philadelphia was our Master of Ceremony and once again, he allowed the Lord to use him mightily and kept everyone in a worshipful mood. We had prayer every hour for our Country, our



Community, our Community Leaders, and our Congregation. Social Service Agencies shared important information and the vendors provided a range of offerings from baked goods to jewelry, T-shirts and Avon. The “Signs of Faith Mime/Sign Language Ministry” blessed us with several



very moving selections. The kids had a great time in the Bouncy Castle as well as doing crafts and playing games; but they stopped everything when the Ewing Police Officers asked for their attention and talked with them about the importance of not being afraid of the police



because they really are here to help us. Bro. Ira serenaded us throughout the day and Senator Shirley Turner popped in as she has faithfully done every year.



We are indeed grateful to Mother Goodman who labors so diligently to ensure Community Day is a Blessing, to both our Community and to Ujima Church, by providing an opportunity to bring us all a little closer together in Jesus name!

Brotherhood of Mighty ... Lumberjacks?

On April 28th, Darryl Rawls, Clifford Rawls, Sheldon Ewing, Daniel Roach, and Adrian Roach were joined by Earl Rawls and Daddy Rawls with the mission of chopping down a dead tree on the Parkway Avenue side of the property.



All went well, and no one had to call 9-1-1. It was reported that Rev. Panniell rode by several times on his motorcycle until the job was done and then posed for a picture and claimed he had been supervising all along! The men want to thank Rev. Panniell for supervising from his motorcycle.



Bake Sale Fundraiser by Sister Kathy Rawls

On June 2nd, 2018 at the Community Day Outreach, we had a bake sale fundraiser. It was one first time I actually did one with the help of my sister



Miracle, my husband Cliff, and my mother in-law (who baked 2 delicious pound cakes). I thank God for the perfect day, even though the weather forecast predicted rain. But, praise God, He held back the rain for us until the event was over.

We raised \$100.00!

Not bad for being my first time. For next year, God willing, I am thinking of another idea for a fundraiser. Thanks to all for supporting this effort.

Listen Off-line to Pastor's Sermons

Sister Robin Wilkins wanted to listen to Pastor Norwood's sermons on her cell phone while

traveling, and asked the pastor if they could be downloaded to her cellphone. This prompted Pastor Norwood to discover that, while the sermons listed on the church website could be streamed, they had not been set up to be downloaded for off line use. This has now been corrected and all of the sermons on the website can be downloaded for off-line listening on a computer or mobile device.

Mother's Day Prayer Breakfast & Hat Contest

The Mother's Day Prayer Breakfast was a blessed fellowship, with scripture readings, prayers, and a free continental breakfast. The annual Mother's Day "Church Lady" Contest was fun filled, as usual. This year, our 1st Lady - Sister Tanya Norwood, was the 1st place winner!



Defending the Faith

The planned two session course, ***"Defending the Faith - An Introduction to Apologetics,"*** wound up expanding to four sessions and a follow-up debriefing. Classes were packed with adult and teen students. Pastor Norwood conducted the classes in place of the regular Wednesday night Bible Study, to ensure that the graduating high school seniors could attend and know, as they prepared to go to college, how to *"...honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"* (1 Peter 3:15 ESV).

The multi-media course included, among other things, an overview of the classic arguments for the existence of God, scientific proof of intelligent design, evidence for the reliability of Scripture and historical facts showing that Jesus is exactly who he said he is—God incarnate. The class also presented tactics that can be used in conversation to show the reasonableness of the Christian Faith and respond to those who challenge it.

Wordsearch 274 and Solution

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 274
Matt 18:19-35

Y	A	P	E	R	L	N	P	T	E	S	T	N	A	O
B	R	O	T	H	E	R	N	E	G	U	O	S	W	T
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S	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	N	E	E	S	A	S	S

AGREE ANSWERED

ANGER BEGGED

ASKED BROTHER

CALLED CHILDREN

FATHER DEMANDED

FELL FORGIVE

HEART GRABBED

JESUS GREATLY

KNEES HEAVEN

LORD JAILERS

MERCY KINGDOM

OWED MASTER

PETER ORDERED

PITY PATIENT

REPAY PRISON

SINS SERVANT

SOLD TALENTS

TIMES THOUSAND

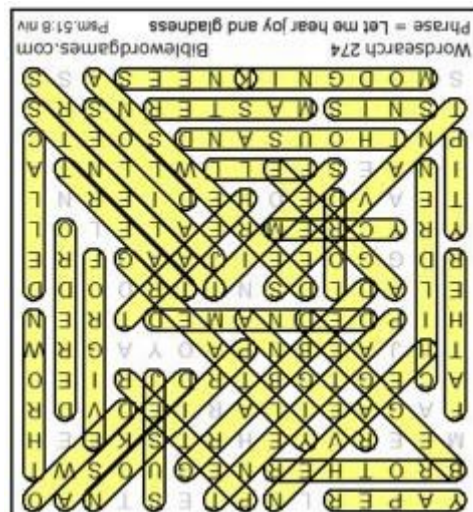
TREAT THROWN

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

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>
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-----NO PEEKING! Fold here until you finish! -----

The Answer Key is upside down



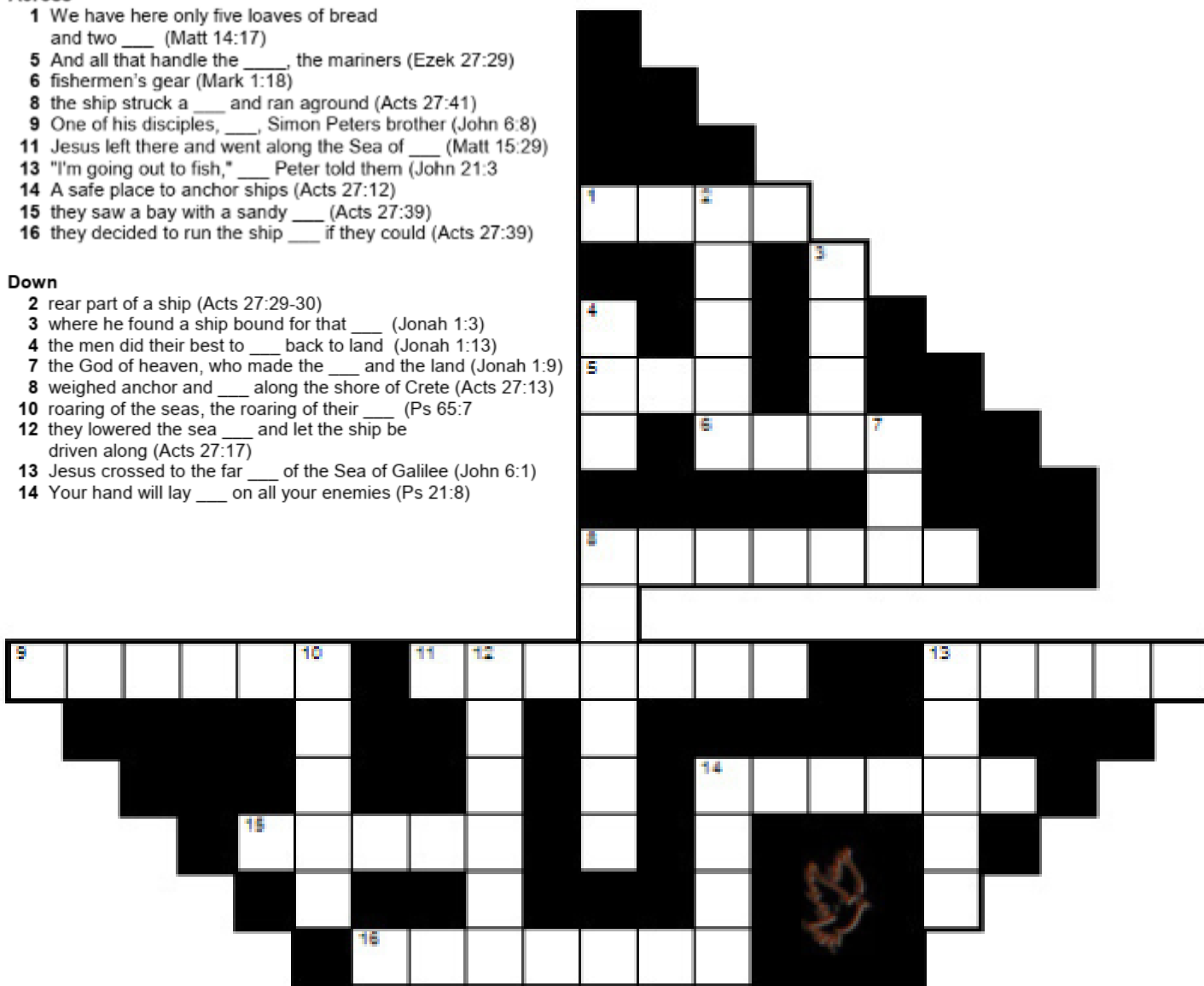
Kid's Corner

Across

- 1 We have here only five loaves of bread and two ____ (Matt 14:17)
- 5 And all that handle the ____, the mariners (Ezek 27:29)
- 6 fishermen's gear (Mark 1:18)
- 8 the ship struck a ____ and ran aground (Acts 27:41)
- 9 One of his disciples, ____, Simon Peter's brother (John 6:8)
- 11 Jesus left there and went along the Sea of ____ (Matt 15:29)
- 13 "I'm going out to fish," ____ Peter told them (John 21:3)
- 14 A safe place to anchor ships (Acts 27:12)
- 15 they saw a bay with a sandy ____ (Acts 27:39)
- 16 they decided to run the ship ____ if they could (Acts 27:39)

Down

- 2 rear part of a ship (Acts 27:29-30)
- 3 where he found a ship bound for that ____ (Jonah 1:3)
- 4 the men did their best to ____ back to land (Jonah 1:13)
- 7 the God of heaven, who made the ____ and the land (Jonah 1:9)
- 8 weighed anchor and ____ along the shore of Crete (Acts 27:13)
- 10 roaring of the seas, the roaring of their ____ (Ps 65:7)
- 12 they lowered the sea ____ and let the ship be driven along (Acts 27:17)
- 13 Jesus crossed to the far ____ of the Sea of Galilee (John 6:1)
- 14 Your hand will lay ____ on all your enemies (Ps 21:8)



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UJIMA VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship - 10:30AM

**Sunday "Time for Truth" and Wednesday Bible Study are on Summer
New Members / Inquirers Class Scheduled Upon Request**

Children's Special Catechism Classes as scheduled

SUNDAY MORNING PREACHING SCHEDULE

July 2018: 1st - Pastor Norwood; 8th - Pastor Norwood; 15th - Rev. Panniell; 22nd - Pastor Norwood; 29th - Dea. Tanya Norwood

August 2018: 5th - Pastor Norwood; 12th - Pastor Norwood; 19th - Dea. Pamela Hill; 26th - Pastor Norwood

September 2018: 2nd - Pastor Norwood; 9th - Rev. Panniell; 16th - Dea. Tanya Norwood; 23rd - Pastor Norwood; 30th - Pastor Norwood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CHECK FOR NEW ISSUES OF "NORWOOD'S BIBLE STUDY NOTES"** in the Sunday Bulletins, the sanctuary vestibule, and on the church website under "Resources."

***SUNDAY "TIME FOR TRUTH" AND WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ARE ON SUMMER HIATUS** and will return in September. **Special learning opportunities to be announced.**

***THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER IS OUT** and is available also on the church website at www.UjimaChurch.org

****"THINKING BIBLICALLY" SPECIAL ADULT & TEEN STUDY CLASS** on Sunday, July 22nd, at 12:30PM. Pastor Norwood will answer questions previously submitted by the Adult Bible Study Class. BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch).

***YARD SALE FUNDRAISER** on Saturday, July 28th from 8:00AM-2:00PM... Like new and gently used items wanted! Please see Brother Cliff & Sister Kathy Rawls for details.

***WORSHIP MANUAL REVIEW TASK FORCE** will meet in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 28th, after morning worship.

***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** August 1,2,3 from 6:30PM to 8:00PM. See bulletin insert for details.

***SIGHT AND SOUND TRIP TO SEE "JESUS"** on Oct. 10. \$50 per person **Deposit Due by August 12th** ...ALL Money is non-refundable and must be **paid in full no later than Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018.** See Sister Sandy Baez for details.

"WHO ARE YOU?" CHURCH INVITE CARDS are available in the vestibule. Take a few, give them out, leave them wherever you go.

WANT TO SHARE A BRIEF TESTIMONY? Sunday's "A Word of Praise" can be scheduled by the Pastor for members of the church. See Pastor Norwood for details.

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!

CHURCH LOGO PINS ARE AVAILABLE! Gold tone and Silver tone pins are \$7 each. See Brother Caleb Collins for details. Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Mighty Men.

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

Upcoming Events:

Church Picnic - 9/16

Blessing of the Animals - 10/4 (Observance 10/7)

Trip to "Site and Sound" - 10/20 to see "Jesus." Buffet at Hershey Farm

Upcoming 2018 Holy Days and Special Observances: Reformation Day 10/31; Celebration of Salvation 11/3; All Saints Day 11/1 (observed 11/4); Christmas 12/25; Watchnight 12/31

UJIMA VILLAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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PRESENTS



WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY – FRIDAY

AUGUST 1-3, 2018

6:30PM – 8:00PM NIGHTLY