

The Praise Report

The Newsletter of Ujima Village Christian Church

Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwod, Pastor

*1001 Pennington Road * Ewing, NJ 08618*



Fall / 2018 Issue 4

www.UjimaChurch.org



New Acolytes!

On November 4th, after months of training, two new acolytes were added to the ministry of the church. Johnnie Weeks and Adrian Roach were consecrated to the Ministry of Acolytes during the All Saints Day commemoration of those fellow believers, now gone on to heaven, whose lives blessed ours. The new acolytes participated in the Service of Lights and Remembrance and over eighty candles were lit and names read out of beloved believers who the Lord used to strengthen and encourage us along our walk of faith.

Johnnie Weeks is the younger brother of our acolyte captain, Amanda Weeks. The two are pictured above on either side of their father, Brother Eddie Weeks. Johnnie and Amanda are the grandchildren of Deacon Pat Weeks. Adrian Roach, pictured above on the right, is the son of Trustee Daniel Roach and Sister Tina Roach. Both new acolytes are members of the Audio Ministry and the Jr. Ushers Ministry. Adrian is also a member of the Sunshine Ministry.

At Ujima Village Christian Church, the Acolyte Corps began in 2008, which was the same year that the congregation moved into its first permanent sanctuary, having worshiped in a multi-use space in its own facility since 1994 after moving from rented spaces for worship

from 1992 -1994. The word Acolyte comes from the Greek word "akolouthos," meaning a servant or attendant who waits continually upon another. The acolyte ministry originated from Old Testament times. The Scriptures tell us of the prophet Samuel assisting Eli the priest, and of Elijah being assisted by Elisha. The Council of Carthage of 398 A.D. deals with the ministry of acolytes, stating that an acolyte was taught he ought to act in the performance of his duty and received from the head deacon a candlestick with a candle that he may know that it is his duty to light the lamps of the church. Acolytes assist in the performance of liturgical rites. Acolytes serve under the direction of the ordained ministers and are expected to be tithers who also regularly attend the worship and study provided by the Church.

The acolyte ministry is a serving ministry of the Church that comes from ancient times. From those days until now, acolytes have been faithful and conscientious men, women, boys and girls, who love the Lord Jesus Christ and love serving Him in the worship and ritual life of the congregation. It is an honor to be selected as one who serves, and, truly a ministry to God and His people. Because of the high privilege of serving in God's House, being an acolyte is appropriately reserved for those who show a deep love for our Lord and His Church.

2018 SUMMER RETREAT: "THE NARROW WAY" - By Deacon Tanya Norwood

The Church-wide Retreat took place the first week of July 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in Canadensis, Pennsylvania. In attendance were those from the tender age of 6 through to those in their wise and seasoned 80s. Our Focal Scripture for the Retreat was Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."



Each morning we had clases for the youth. The adults and teens enjoyed a combined class. We were also blessed and increased by each Evening's Worship. Pastor



Norwood led the adult classes and they were gripping! We found ourselves laughing as we considered how often we all struggled with the same or similar things; and we found ourselves weeping as we considered our

sin and God's Great Grace and Mercy!!! It was truly both an enlightening and a convicting experience! Everyone took part and gave of themselves in the process. I was especially blessed by the Love and encouragement displayed by everyone who participated. We are indeed one family caring and sharing together and it was on full display during our time at Spruce Lake!



At the Retreat Center we enjoyed many of the amenities like the paddle boats, miniature golf, walking the trails, basketball, swimming, shuffleboard, playing pool, visiting the Nature Center and even just rocking in the rocking chairs out on the balcony. Some folks went shopping at the local outlet stores and visited the Pretzel and Candy Museums. During our free time we also had some nail-biting games of Chinese Checkers and Spades, not to mention the new games some of the Teens introduced us to as well.

Our meals were provided buffet-style and everyone agreed that the selections were ample and the food was enjoyable. Needless to say, the company was marvelous. We had the opportunity to meet Christian folks from other states and we were even



blessed to enjoy the singing of one of the youth groups praise songs while they dined with us and sang before and after the meal.

Truly it was a Blessed time in the Lord!!! Saving the return of Christ, we plan to travel again to Spuce Lake in July of 2020. Payment schedules will be available in January 2019 in an effort to make it affordable for everyone. I encourage everyone to try to attend! You will not be disappointed!

Letters Home...

From Miracle Santiago (University of Richmond, VA)...

To my beautiful church family,

I miss each and every one of you very much! I want to update and inform you all about the amazing time God is allowing me to experience during my time at the University of Richmond. Upon my arrival to college I was fearful of being surrounded by people who lack the goal oriented mindset, but I am blessed to say that I have found an amazing group of girls that share my Christian values. We go to church together, attend Bible studies, have encouraging girl talks, and simply bring the best out of one another. It is truly a beautiful thing and I cannot express my gratefulness. Currently, my friends and I are attending the Greater Richmond Church of Christ. This church is not meeting all biblical expectations, but I will continue to attend and have Sunday Bible study sessions with my roommate until I can find a secondary church home.

When it comes to the social aspect of college life, I live in a substance free, female residence hall. I am getting the opportunity to bond with like-minded women who share a love for the Lord. So far, I am up part of four organizations: Ritmo Latino; Intervarsity; Black Student Alliance; and, Club Track. In Ritmo Latino, participants learn the basic Latin dances along with their connected musical stylings and origins. Inter-varsity is a Christian youth group that gives students the chance to meet and share with other Christians at the University of Richmond. The Black Student Alliance is a support group for Black and African-American students, we come together for a variety of reasons that include: food and fun; venting sessions; and event coordination to spread diversity and cultural acceptance. Finally, I am a part of the Club Track team which is like a regular track team without the full commitment.

Overall, every thing has been going well and I cannot complain. I am blessed to have the opportunity to attend such a selective and well-recognized institution. Anyways, I hope you are all doing well and please feel free to email me! I would love to stay connected and hear about how you are all doing!

PS: I miss Ujima's talented chefs... I've been eating unseasoned misery for a while and it is depressing. LOL

From Jayda Hinds (American University, DC)...

Hi Pastor Norwood! Thanks for reaching out :) I really do miss Ujima, and back home in general! I cannot wait to come back. Sometimes the Bible studies in college

remind me of lessons either you or Mrs. Norwood have preached so I am always reminded of Ujima which is amazing. Lately I have been receiving many blessings here at college. I got accepted to become the videographer for a publishing company called "Blackprint" on campus, and I am now the photographer/ videographer for "Spoon University," a cooking website. I have been very happy-- but, also very busy! I am still trying to establish a schedule that works best for me.

Princeton Theological Seminary - 2nd Mission Trip To Puerto Rico

- By Bro. Darryl Rawls

First giving honor to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I am thankful to our team, "El Guacio & Evangelical Together." We started out meeting together and praying at Mackay on the seminary grounds before loading up and departing to the Newark Airport. There we gathered



our luggage and headed for check in. Some of the team went to purchase breakfast while most of the team sat back and relaxed waiting to board the flight. The team was focused on one thing, getting to Puerto Rico Island to help to correct the damage that the Hurricane Maria left and complete the mission. Also, we took in a little sight-seeing on certain days on the island. Of course, the projects from both sides of the island would possess a few challenges for both teams, but with God leading the way these challenges seemed kind of small. Day to day projects from one side of the island consist of getting materials, scraping, painting, installing sheetrock and rewiring.

While 2 ½ hours away on the west side of Puerto Rico at El Guacio, renovation was taking place, anything from interior and exterior painting, plumbing, electrical, and installing new roofing. All done in days of work, we also made time for breaks and devotional service. The days, at times, seemed long and hard; but, our mighty God pulled the team through each day. Looking back on this missionary trip to Puerto Rico, it was a complete success. I give all thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I have a new found love for the Island and the people of Puerto Rico and the culture.

Ujima's Single Women's Ministry

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine!"

-By Sis. Naomi Cullum

Greetings, Ujima Family and Friends! There's major excitement "in the air" here at our monthly meetings of the Single Women's Ministry! As of September, we have started our educational and community outreach under the inspiring leadership of Deacon Pam Hill. Connecting and bonding with our single sisters is an awesome experience that promotes growth in Christian living. It is essential that we encourage one another on this faith journey. Our meetings provide that opportunity to gain meaningful insight into biblical principles that can be applied to our lives while we, simultaneously, serve the community.

Currently, for our educational study, we are engaged in the reading of a dynamic book entitled, "Me and My Big Mouth!" The author is well-known, teacher/minister of the gospel, Joyce Meyer. The focus of this book is to examine the powerful impact of our tongues, the effect of our words- not only on our lives, but also on the lives of others. Christian readers are cautioned about an "unbridled tongue" and its ability to speak life or death to various situations in our lives. Also emphasized is the importance of aligning the speaking of the Word of God with obedience in our daily walk. What a thought-provoking, in-depth perspective this book provides! Relative to community outreach, the Single Women's Ministry is planning a series of visits to nursing homes to serve those populations. We are hoping to be a blessing by assisting residents with routine activities that have become challenging for them. We'd like to put a smile on their faces as we do that which the Lord would have us to do there.

Also, we blessed by this year's highly- anticipated "Women's Retreat" on Saturday, November 10, 2018. We enjoyed a variety of speakers as we explored this year's theme of, "Thirst No More."

By the way, for any single women who are interested... the Single Women's Ministry fellowship meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at Ujima- @ 6:30PM. Feel free to come out and join us- it's a blessing, you won't be disappointed! Be Blessed!!!

"Have you seen JESUS?"

- by Sis. Tina Roach

I smiled as Sis Andreanette answered literally, "I've seen Him and I know Him!" On 10/20, she and a group of 24 other members, friends and family, took a road trip to Lancaster, PA to see "Jesus," Sight & Sound's theatrical musical production. It was truly awesome and amazing to experience the orchestra, live horses, birds,

and a host of animals, intricately detailed elaborate stage sets and a diverse talented cast. I was brought to tears by the scene and song, "He Left the 99, When I Was the One." At least 95% of the script adhered to the biblical account and chronology of Jesus's ministry in scripture. The subtitle captures the theme well, "A Timeless story of relentless love." Sight & Sound is a Christian theatrical ministry which began 40 yrs ago with the purpose of bringing the stories of the Bible to life. They now have another theater in Branson, MO, and a Conservatory to mentor Christ-centered artists as performers and disciples. Notably, the annual graduation show is free and open to the public. (This year's showcase is 12/10/2018 at 6:30pm; see website for reservations and details.)

Many thanks and appreciation to our own Sis Sandy Baez, who orchestrated the coordinated the day of festivities. We drove nearly two hours each way on a comfy chartered bus and she prepared snacks for us both enroute to and from. We also stopped at Hershey Farms prior to the show. They boast a beautiful plush park-like grounds including a lake, fresh veggies and a few reasonably priced gift shops. Most importantly, their buffet was a smorgasbord feast of tasty appetizers, a plethora of entrees and made to order items. We enjoyed each other's company and the opportunity to see a live rendition of our Savior's sacrificial ministry, indeed, "the greatest rescue story ever." If you have not seen "JESUS", the show, or would like to go again, it is available thru January 5, 2019.



Health Awareness Notes

- By Sis. Tina Roach

January is National Blood Donor Month. American Red Cross has indicated a "severe" need for blood donation. Nearly 40% of Americans are eligible to donate but 75% of them don't, and only a small percentage of eligible regularly become repeat donors. The winter months are most difficult, due to harsh weather, seasonal illness, and canceled blood drives

Every few seconds precious blood is needed, with 13,000 donations needed daily in the US alone. 4.5 million Americans would die annually without transfusions. Every pint of blood donated has the potential to improve health and/or save three lives. Don't assume, find out if you are eligible to donate. Healthy people, age 17 and older (or 16 w parental consent), are typically eligible. Also, blood donors benefit from an 88% reduced risk of heart attack and donated blood is examined for multiple infectious diseases and conditions. Learn more at: www.redcross.org

Did you know that dogs can donate blood too! Ask your Vet and let your dog be a hero.

What I Like About Ujima

- By Adrian Roach

I like how our church is like a community where we all know each other. We don't have to feel intimidated because it's a friendly place. When the teenagers have "Time for Truth" class, either Mrs. Norwood or Ms. Trinity teaches us in a way that we can relate to. It's good because we get to be with others in our same age group. Sometimes we go over the same things that we hear in the sermon. It helps to put things in the perspective of our every day lives so we can learn how to live more holy lives. Before we came here, I was a Christian, but I think it was mostly because of everybody else. Now, I understand the Bible more and I realize that some things about faith we won't always understand. It's hard to pick one thing or person that's made the biggest difference. For me, I think it's the collective environment and everybody as a whole that's helped me.

I decided to volunteer for the Sunshine ministry. I believe it's a good fit for me because I'm the kind of person who likes to interact with people and show care for those who need it most. I was asked to serve as an Usher, Acolyte and in the Audio ministry; I guess they need help but really I don't mind. I love helping my church out in any way I can and I'd never say no. So, yes, Ujima's been a blessing to me too.

2018 VBS

The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School was "Shipwrecked!". We convened on the first Wednesday through Friday of August as usual. Classes were provided for all ages. We are grateful to Sister Shuquin Winbush (5 to 9 year olds), Sister Patricia Panniell (10 to 12 year olds), Deacon Tanya Norwood (Teens) and Pastor Norwood (Adults) for providing engaging, enlightening and edifying lessons!



On the first night all of the Youth classes focused around the promise that when you are lonely... Jesus Rescues! The parable of the lost sheep and of the Lost coin were lifted to teach the lesson and the focal verse was "The Lord will hold me close" (Psalm 27:10).

The second night's lesson for all of the Youth classes focused around the promise that when you struggle... Jesus Rescues! The story of Jesus and His Disciples in

the garden of Gethsemane was lifted to teach the lesson and the focal verse was "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)!

The final night's lesson for all of the Youth classes focused around the promise that when you do wrong... Jesus Rescues! The story of Jesus welcoming a criminal before dying and coming back to life was lifted to teach the lesson and the focal verse was, "Here on Earth you will have many trials and Sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).



The adult classes focused on how so much of today's "popular" pseudo-Christian speakers and movements have nothing to do with the Gospel or sound doctrine. Students looked at how to identify "shipwrecked" teaching and how to identify the true Gospel from false gospels.



VBS concluded, as it always does with food and fun! We had a marvelous time sharing our thoughts and reflections on Friday evening. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful opportunity to invite your family and friends to share in the joy of the word God! Plan to come and plan to bring someone with you!

Welcome to Our New Members

- By Tina Roach

Nashea Nicole Flowers lives in Trenton with her 5 year old son, Terrance. Her grandmother, Sis Shirley Hillery, invited her to attend... and months later, she decided to join. Nashea has been attending services and Bible study classes. She has creative talents in both visual arts and poetry. Sis Shirley describes her as "so very sweet" and proudly notes Terrance was born on 12/12/12, and is her 12th great grandson! Nashea has joined the Pastor's Aide Ministry and the Choir.



Beyond The Seasons

- "Free Verse" by Nashea Flowers

I thank You for loving me so, each morning I arise with a gentle glow. When summer's scorching heat flows, You lift me up, and cool my brow. Oh You love me so. When fall is near, I embrace Your Spirit Your warming touch lights my soul, I thank You for loving me so. With winter approaching, I'm shivering, so You're the coat I put on, the scarf around my neck, the hat on my head, and the gloves that kiss my palms that keep me going. And when spring is here, You whisper a sweet melody in my ear... asong that only I can hear, as Your voice says, "My dear look to the sky I'm always near, and you I'll never leave. Call on me and I'll be right there. Lord! I thank You for loving me so. You are my gentle glow, beyond the seasons, this I know

Pastor Norwood's Wampum Belt on Display

A tribal wampum belt (traditionally made from shell beads), woven by Pastor Norwood, is on display at the Princeton University Art Museum until January 6th. It is the second time one of our Pastor's wampum belts has been in such an exhibit. The first was a belt that was displayed at the Newark Museum. While that belt was an



Farewell to One Promoted to the Church Triumphant

On July 31st, Bro. Tweed Hendrick was called home to the Lord. Bro. Tweed was a resident of the Ujima Plaza and regularly attended Missionary Linda Roger's Bible Class and Sunday Worship. Rarely was a meal served at the church when Bro. Tweed was not ready to enjoy some good food and fellowship. He will be missed.



honor gift he presented to our First Lady (called the "Spirit-Dove Belt"), this one was presented to Chief Mark Gould of the Nanticoke Lenape, commemorating the struggle the Tribe had with the State government of New Jersey. When the belt went on display in October, the Tribe was still engulfed in a legal battle with the State over broken promises and violated rights. Since that time, their six year struggle ended in victory, with the State finally agreeing to affirm the promises made and acknowledge the Tribe's governmental rights. Praise God that justice has been served!

The “Goings-On”...

So much has happened over the past several months, since our last newsletter. Here is a quick overview of some of the highlights...

No More Stumps!

While the Men’s Ministry cut down trees in the Spring, the Rawls brothers returned to do away with the remaining stumps.



... And No More Leaks!

The Rawls brothers also fixed the leaky roof over the kitchen!



The Church Picnic was Great Fun!



It was a wonderful fellowship... filled with good food.



“Ask The Pastor” was a three session class responding in depth to nine questions posed to him. For more information go to <http://ujimachurch.org/resources/>

The Blessing of the Animals

We thanked the Lord for our animal companions and blessed them.



A Celebration of our Salvation—Reformation Day

Playing the “Who or What Am I in the Bible” game.



Trustee Kathy Rawls

organized a flea market sale to support the church budget.



Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 279 Matt.21:1-15

Behold Your
King Comes

S	D	W	O	R	C	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	U	R
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AREA
CHIEF
COLT
DAVID
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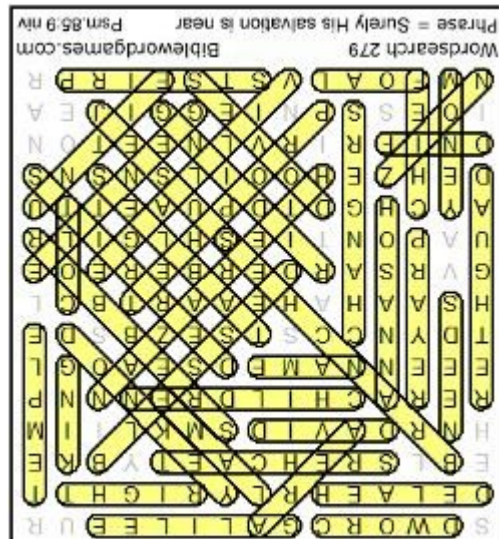
BLESSED
BRANCHES
CHANGERS
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CROWD
DAUGHTER
DONKEY
GALILEE
GENTLE
HEALED
HOSANNA
NAZARETH
PRAYER
PRIESTS
PROPHET
ROBBERS
STIRRED
TEACHERS
VILLAGE

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> COPYRIGHT 2018 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

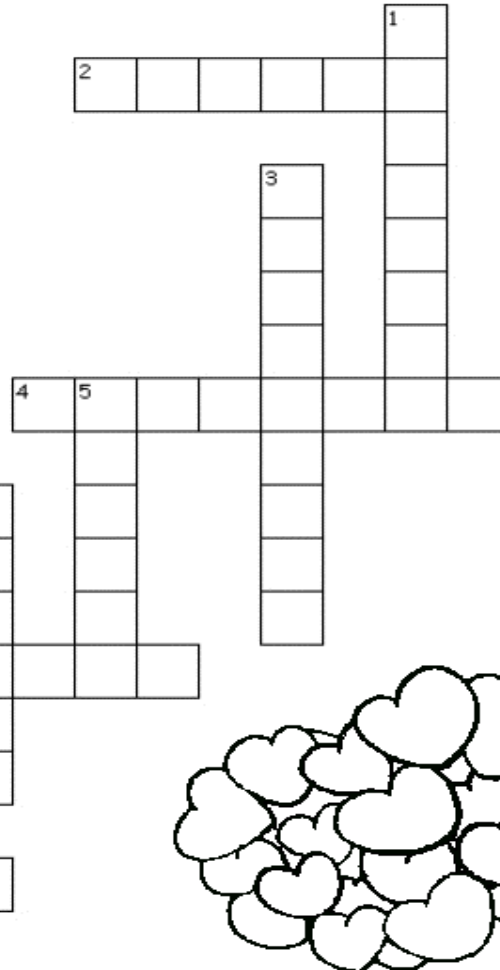
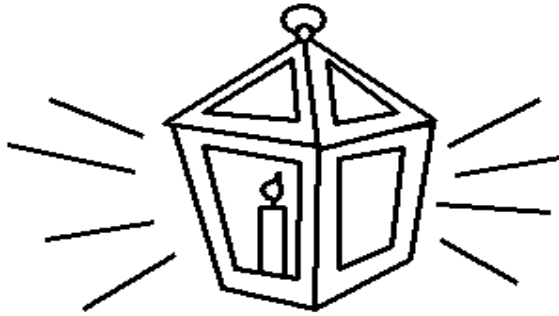
-----NO PEEKING! Fold here until you finish! -----

The Answer Key is upside down



Kid's Corner

Child of God Crossword



Word List:

darkness detail
beginning psalm
search thoughts
wicked special
praise always



Across

2. David asks God to do this to know his thoughts and desires and challenge him.
4. God is light, so if you hide in this God can still find you.
6. David gets upset when he thinks about these people.
9. David wrote his thoughts as a way to ____ God for all He's done.
10. This is the book in the Bible where David's songs/poems are kept.

Down

1. God has more of these than all the grains of sand.
3. God knew you from the very ____, way before you were born.
5. We can't get away from God. He is ____ with us!
7. God was involved in every ____ of who you are inside and out.
8. You were planned and made by God who made you ____ and unique.

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

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

HOLIDAY BASKET DONATIONS ARE NEEDED. Monetary donations may be given after the benediction at the rear exit of the sanctuary

WHAT DO "THEY" BELIEVE? A class on cults will be conducted during the December 5th Bible Study (after the Advent Vesper).

ADVENT VESPERS on Wednesdays December 5, 12, & 19 at 6:30PM with Bible Study to follow.

WOMEN OF NIA ENCOURAGES A SPECIAL VISUAL "UNITY IN COLORS" FOR ADVENT. These are only a suggestion of you have the color in your closet and are in no way a requirement... Advent I Royal Blue; Advent II Purple; Advent III Red; Christmas Eve White

CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK AND COOKING EXCHANGE on Friday, December 7, at 6:30PM

YOUTH GOSPEL EXPLOSION & RESTAURANT FOOD TASTING on Friday, December 14 at the Trenton War Memorial (Food at 4PM, Concert at 6:30PM). Featuring the Emmy Award Winning "Gospel for Teens." Tickets available now... \$30. See First Lady Norwood for ticket information.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP on Monday, December 24, at 6:30PM

WATCHNIGHT POT-LUCK, GAMES, AND WORSHIP on Monday, December 31, beginning at 8PM. Worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00PM.

THE CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY'S after Time for Truth studies.

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

THE SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE is posted on the church website and around the building.

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

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!

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

IF YOU DON'T USE AN ENVELOPE, YOUR OFFERING OR TITHE CAN NOT BE CREDITED TO YOU. Please fill in the information on the appropriate envelope and use it in order to have your donation recorded.

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:

"Hearing the Truth Proclaimed" Seminar 1/9/19 from 6:30PM-8:30PM

Upcoming Classes being scheduled...

"Living at Peace: The Lord's Truth Resolves Conflict"

"Digging Deeper: Understanding Scripture"

Church Anniversary 2/17/19

Annual Usher's Day 6/23/19