

"CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM WITH UNDERSTANDING"

Of Issachar, those who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... 1 Chronicles 12:32

THE PASTOR'S PEN December 31, 2023

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration that honors African-American culture. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26th to January 1st.



DAY ONE: UMOJA (UNITY)

To Strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

(Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren[and sisters] to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1)



DAY TWO: KUJICHAGULIA (SELF-DETERMINATION)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves, instead of being defined, named and spoken for by others.

(Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands 2 Timothy 1:6)



DAY THREE: UJIMA (COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY)

To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

(And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary... And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it 1 Corinthians 12:21-22, 26)



DAY FOUR: UJAMAA (COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

(But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased Hebrews 13:16)



DAY FIVE: NIA (PURPOSE)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

(Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations Jeremiah 1:5)



DAY SIX: KUUMBA (CREATIVITY)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

(For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10)



DAY SEVEN: IMANI (FAITH)

To believe, first, in God, then with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteous and victory of our struggle.

(... I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you Matthew 17:20)



Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for Transformation and Liberation

The Pilgrim Rest Oasis Sharina the Faith · Securina the Future

Through faith God has given us the space to be an **oasis** in the middle of the city.

An **oasis** is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the **Oasis** today! Let's continue to make progress!

Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.





Current









Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	Educational Enrichment	Technology Literacy	Athletics & Recreation	Performing Arts	Facility Innovation
\$500	15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)	• 1 iPad	10 basketballs	10 art sets for aspiring artists	External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe
\$1,000	100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks	100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students	10 tennis rackets	4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins	Camera security system to keep everyone safe
\$2,500	9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs	1 computer for graphic design and website creation	12 sets of golf clubs for children	10 Play Scripts with performance/ licensing fee and cast instructions	Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school
\$5,000	1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning	1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities	3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars	100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers	Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best
\$10,000	1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU	100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects	Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place	200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company	LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light

WORK FOR THE WEEK

DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

DECEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"If there is no vision of the future, we can easily reconcile ourselves with the present – the evil, the suffering and death."

James Cone, Black Theology and Black Power

TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:	
Am I looking out, down or up?	
How will I view the Lord as my stabilizer and security for 2024?	

	FOR THE YOUTH
Looking up is a	n automatic recognition that the one you look up to is bigger than you