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# KWANZAA

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## KWANZAA

*In 1966, civil rights leader Manulana Ron Karenga conceived the idea of a special holiday geared specifically to the African community.*

*Karenga created a seven-day celebration that embraces African heritage and our strong sense of human values. He called this holiday, Kwanzaa (Swahili for "First Fruits").*

*Today, with traditional African harvest rituals in mind, Kwanzaa is a widely celebrated family and community event practiced by African Americans starting December 26th — January 1.*



## KWANZAA PROGRAM



Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise.....“This Little Light of Mine”

Invocation

Hymn of Faith.....“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

Scripture

***\*\*At 11:55 the Pastoral Prayer will take precedence in the Order of Service to pray in the New Year\*\****

### TESTIMONIES ON THE PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA:

**UMOJA (Unity)** — To strive and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

**KUJICHAGULIA (Self-determination)** — To define ourselves, name ourselves, create ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.

**UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)** — To build and maintain our community together and make our sisters’ and brothers’ problems and to solve them together.

**UJAMA (Cooperative Economics)** — To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and profit from them together.

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**CHILDREN’S BOOKS  
FOR KWANZAA**

*Let’s Celebrate Kwanzaa: An  
Activity Book for Young  
Readers*

by Helen Davis Thompson  
(Published by Gumbs and  
Thomas, 1991)

*Kwanzaa: An Everyday  
Resource and Instructional  
Guide*

by S. A. Anderson (Published  
by S.A. Anderson, Gumbs  
and Thomas, 1993)

*The Gifts of Kwanzaa*

by Synthia Saint James. This  
book is an introduction to  
Kwanzaa which includes  
explanations of the Nguzo  
Saba (the Seven Principles of  
Kwanzaa) and information  
about the holiday’s origin.

*Kwanzaa Karamu: Cooking and  
Crafts for Kwanzaa Feast*

by April Brady – For grades  
3 and up. \$6.95

*A Kwanzaa Fable*

by Eric Copage (William  
Morrow and Co.) \$15.00

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**NIA (Purpose)** — To make our collective vocation the building and development of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

**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.

**IMANI (Faith)** — To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Rededication

Closing Remarks

Closing Hymn.....“What a Fellowship”

Benediction

Time of Fellowship



*KWANZAA WATCH MEETING SERVICE*

*11:00 P.M., NEW YEAR’S EVE*

*Order of Service*

Prelude

Petition of the Elders for permission to begin the service (African Tradition)

Call to Worship

Opening Song ..... *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

Invocation

Greetings ..... Pastor  
and/or Worship Leader

***A Celebration of Kwanzaa***

A Medley of Spirituals

Celebration through African Dance

The Nguzo Saba Litany ..... *The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa* (See Bulletin Insert)

Congregational Response ..... *“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”*



The Offering of our First Fruits ..... (Presentation of our commitment to our congregation,  
families, and the community)

Song ..... *“Lord I Want to be a Christian”*

A Time of Prayer ..... Pastor  
*(for the end of 2002; the beginning of 2003)*

Closing Song ..... *“Amen”*

Benediction

Postlude

**THE NGUZO SABA LITANY**  
**THE SEVEN KWANZAA PRINCIPLES**

*(Prepared for the Kwanzaa Watch Meeting Service, December 31)*

**One: Umoja (oo-mow-jah) means unity.**

**All:** *There are numerous aspects of life which serve as barriers within our diverse human family. As God's people, we cannot afford to let our differences outweigh the importance of our need to live and work together. Tonight, as we light this candle in affirmation of the African and Christian value unity, let us resolve to be intentional in living as God's extended multicultural, multigenerational family, informed and strong.*

**One: Kujichagulia (koo-gee-chaw-goo-lee-ah) means . . . self-determination.**

**All:** *In an age when segments of the human family are identified by labels of convenience and imposed traditions, often rooted in disrespect, we light this candle proclaiming our freedom to define ourselves and set our own agenda, especially as we are empowered by the Spirit of God and informed of our issues as a people.*

**One: Ujima (oo-gee-mah) means collective-responsibility.**

**All:** *Although society tends to emphasize the value of "rugged individualism," the light of this candle will guide as we affirm that indeed we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers. Many of us remember a time when parents on one end of the street would look after and even discipline children from the other end of the street, in the spirit of love. May God's love lead us to care for one another in new ways, to even go the "extra mile" for others, especially those in need.*

**One: Ujamaa (oo-jah-mah) means cooperative economics.**

**All:** *Christians make up approximately thirty-percent of the world's population, yet control over sixty-percent of the world's wealth. African American congregations channel vast financial resources each week. In lighting this candle, we affirm our collective calling to be faithful, effective stewards with all of our resources, particularly our money. Let us resolve to make sound financial investments together, and do business with merchants and institutions that seek to provide stability and services within poor, neglected communities. We will support African American businesses!*

**One: Nia (nee-ah) means purpose.**

**All:** *In lighting this candle, we pause to re-think our identities and actions, especially as we consider our Christian faith, our culture, and our current situation. We have been endowed with gifts and skills, and have been blessed to have received education and training, not for personal advancement alone, but for the advancement of God's peace, love, joy and justice, that they may reign on earth, as they do in heaven. May our daily routines and patterns of living express our inner beliefs that we truly are God's people, with a great purpose!*

**One: Kuumba (coo-oom-bah) means creativity.**

**All:** *The complex problems of our community and world require us to move beyond the frustrations and work-stop-pages of the past, in order to be free to listen to new ideas, hear new voices, and claim new visions together. We light this candle in the expectation that we will try and do new things in an effort to be faithful to God and solve our problems.*

**One: Imani (ee-mon-ee) means faith.**

**All:** *The Bible informs us that faith is comprised of things which are hoped for, evidence of things which are not seen. Before their enslavement, Africans worshiped God, trusting in God's justice, freedom, and unity. These attributes were present in the Slave Church and have enabled African American, and many other communities to have a rich and meaningful faith to this very day. May we affirm our faith in God, and may we express this faith in such a way that our communities and world become characterized by hope and progress.*