

UPON THIS ROCK MINISTRIES

Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

NEW MEMBERS
PACKET



Welcome!

We are delighted that you've made the commitment to become a member of our church family, taking this important first step in your Christian journey. We are here to support you every step of the way. We hope you have experienced a genuine love for the Lord while attending our services. Our goal is to be a church where "Everybody is Somebody and Christ is All," honoring God and meeting the needs of His people.

As you embark on this new journey with us, we warmly welcome you into our family. The Membership Orientation, which is required for all new members, is a great way to start, and we believe you will find it enriching. This New Member Information Packet will provide essential information to help you grow in your Christian faith. For some, it will serve as a refresher; for others, it will offer new insights and key Biblical truths that are foundational for all believers.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

- **Vision** - To make disciples of Christ for the Kingdom of God by the sharing of His word through love, community, and spiritual enrichment.
- **Mission Statement** - To lead people to becoming devoted followers of Christ.
- **Core Values** – Love, community, and spiritual enrichment
 - **LOVE** – God's Love in word, deed, and action
 - **COMMUNITY** – to serve the community (local and abroad)
 - **SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT** – to help those who desire to grow closer and stronger in the Lord through preaching, teaching, prayer and worship.



What Does It Mean to Be a Member of UTRM?

Membership is important because it unites the body of Christ. It is not meant to divide members from those who attend but to bring together a family of baptized believers committed to being an active part of the church and its vision. While many may attend church without committing to serve, membership invites us to participate and engage rather than simply consume and observe. Any follower of Christ is welcome to become a member of UTRM. By joining us, you agree to embrace our shared values, beliefs, and intentional way of spiritual living.

We are a multicultural, multigenerational congregation, welcoming all to come and praise the Lord with us, for He is worthy of all our praise.

Baptism

The word "baptism" comes from the Greek word "baptizo," which means to immerse in water. We believe that baptism does not save you or wash away sins; rather, it is an ordinance Christ commanded us to observe. We recognize that people come from various backgrounds with different understandings of baptism. At UTRM, we practice baptism by full immersion after a person has professed faith in Jesus Christ.

For infants and young children, we practice child dedication. When a child chooses to follow Jesus, they can declare their commitment to Him through baptism.

Church Structure

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. The Pastor and Prophet serve as Under-Shepherds, with the Assistant Pastor and Deacons assisting in carrying out the church's mission and the vision God has given to the Pastor. Other church officers are in place to support the church's work.

Biblical History of Elder/Pastor

The term "Elder/Pastor" comes from the Greek word "presbuteros," referring to a spiritually mature person who guides God's people with wisdom.

Discipleship

Our goal is to fulfill the Great Commission, the final commandment Jesus gave on earth:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

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Giving and Tithing

How should we give?

- Sacrificially: We do not just “tip” God.
- Proportionately: (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)
- Gladly and Generously: (2 Corinthians 8:8-9)
- The Best of What We Have: (Romans 12:1)
- As an Act of Obedience: Giving shows our obedience to God. (Luke 6:38)

Generosity is a key part of our discipleship to Jesus. We are accountable for how we use our lives and possessions (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:14-30). Everything we have belongs to God, and we are stewards of His resources (Luke 16:19-31; Exodus 19:5-6; Job 41:11; Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; Deuteronomy 8:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Bible Studies

- **Adults:** Bible Study - Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
- **Children:** Little Saints/WOW (Worship on Wednesday) - Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

Choosing a Ministry

Please review the descriptions of our ministries below and pray for guidance on where you might serve to fulfill the church's mission and use the gifts God has given you.

- **Women’s Ministry - Pastor Rosa Burwell:** Focuses on clarifying the purpose and role of women in the church, promoting spiritual growth, unity, and love. Our mission is to empower women to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives by ministering to their minds, bodies, and spirits.
- **Minister of Music/Praise & Worship Leader - Henry (Jay-r) Hansley:** Organizes and leads the Music Ministry and assists the pastor during worship services. All members are encouraged to participate.
- **Intercessory Ministry - Evangelist Shirley Jackson:** Engages in prayer and fasting to support church leaders and members, promoting freedom and deliverance in worship and fulfilling the church's vision.
- **Hospitality/Food Service – Deacon Bertha Lyon:** Plans and coordinates all meals served by the ministry. Members interested in assisting are encouraged to contact the Food Bank Director.
- **Ushers – Deacon McDonald “Mack” Lyon:** Assists with worship services, welcoming and seating guests, distributing literature, and collecting offerings. Interested members should contact Assistant Pastor Robert Alston.
- **Outreach Ministry - Bernetta Daniels:** Serves and ministers to those in need, providing provision, prayer, and God's Word with Christ’s compassion. Encourages members to join in outreach efforts to impact the community positively.

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- **Audio/Video Ministry - Minister Anneke Hansley:** Records messages and special music during worship services and manages all audio/video equipment. Interested members should contact the ministry leaders.
- **Youth Ministry (Little Saints) - Minister Anneke Hansley:** Designed to meet the needs of youth through innovative and engaging programs. Focuses on teaching the importance of salvation and how to apply it in daily life.
- **Men's Ministry - Deacon McDonald "Mack" Lyon & Joe Christian:** Focuses on clarifying the purpose and role of men, promoting spiritual growth, unity, and love. Encourages men to live holy lives and fulfill God's purpose.

You matter at UTRM! We encourage every member to become active, get involved, and grow with us. Serving God is a rewarding experience. Our prayer is that, as you join hands with the body of Christ at UTRM and allow God's Word to speak to your heart, we will become the church He wants us to be.

We are honored that you have chosen to learn more about Upon This Rock Ministries. Founded on prayer, praise, and faith, our goal is to impact the City of Oxford and abroad to fulfill our vision for the world.

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psalm 133:1

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