



Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes-Jackson

1st Lady/Assoc. Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: Roger Byrd

Elders:

- Sharon Amburgey
- Natalie Byrd
- Beth Heinkel
- John Heinkel
- Dave Lombard
- Lora Schueller
- Guy Stone
- Marilyn Strong
- Cliff Thompson
- Karen Thompson

SEE YOU SUNDAYS:

Adult Sunday School Class—9:30 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Choir Practice every Wed @6:30

- 11/03 All Saints Sunday
- 11/06 Esther/Rebekah Circle 1 PM
- 11/07 Sarah Circle 7 PM
- 11/10, 17 Thanksgiving Special Offering
- 11/11 Church Women United Noon
- 11/15-16 Disciple Men’s Fall Retreat
- 11/18 Elders Mtg. 7 PM
- 11/24 Board Mtg. 11:45 AM
- 11/28 Thanksgiving

STATISTICS:

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
10/27/10	34	\$ 870.00
10/20/19	90	\$1376.00
10/13/19	43	\$1,042.12
10/06/19	51	\$3,007.18
09/29/19	49	\$ 760.00
Reconciliation		\$ 396.00

Rejoice and Celebrate!

We hope you were able to celebrate with us on the 20th of October. We had a very full day at church. Morning worship was led by Rev. Rick Spleth, our Regional Minister partner from Indiana. Rev. Spleth joined us for the commissioning of Connor Thompson into Ministry. After the sermon, Pastor Thompson was officially commissioned by Rev. Carol Oetzel. Rev. Oetzel has been a long-time friend and family member to FCC Middletown. She also serves as a team leader on the Ohio Commission on Ministry. Several friends and family members of Pastor Connor were in attendance. Thank you to Sheila Leis, Connor’s Godmother, for her wonderful solo that touched many in the service. Pastor Bob Harris, who baptized Connor also was in attendance from New Albany, IN. A surprise visit was made by Kaitlin Thompson, our Missionary in the Dominican Republic. Kaitlin sent a video to her brother to congratulate him on his commissioning. A copy of the video added to our website as she also had an update for the congregation on her travels and mission work in Boca Chica. Another reason to celebrate!



Another reason to celebrate!

For most churches, this would have been a wonderful and glorious day. But not at FCC Middletown. We gathered again in the sanctuary at 3PM for the installation of our newest members as Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor. Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes-



Jackson and Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson were installed after a wonderful chat between Pastor Willie and his Father in the Ministry, Rev. Dr. J. Thomas Johnson. We were privileged to listen to the conversation Rev. Johnson shared with Pastor Willie about being a Sr. Pastor in a church and what he and his congregation should need to know about each other. There was a wealth of ministers from several different denominations as a wonderful ecumenical gathering celebrated the installation of our newest members. Rev. Spleth was still with us celebrating as he performed the installation of both Revs. Barnes-Jackson into service at FCC Middletown. A laying on of hands for prayer was a part of both services for all three pastors as they were called into the service of God’s church.

As Rev. Spleth said, the search committee went out to look for a Sr. Pastor. In the process, we gained three ministers and commissioned a missionary for overseas duties. We agree with Rev. Spleth, God does not place this much called talent in one place if he does not plan for success!

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Ohio Disciples Men's
Fall Retreat
Nov 15 & 16, 2019 at Camp Christian

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Discovering our Identity as a Man of God
Developing as a Disciple of Christ
Deepening our Walk with the Spirit

Prayer List:

Health: Ellie Belcher, Becky Brodt, Barbara Cessna, Larry Chamberlain, Emily Cox, Barbara Gray, Judy Lemmert, Zach Roark, Allen Stone, Guy Stone

Special Needs: Jean Greathouse, Helen Hall, Lois Murphy, Janet O'Neal

Other: All those affected by disasters. Caregivers, children and teachers, the homeless, SHALOM, heroin epidemic, racism and all human rights, our Country, war, violence, our church, congregation and church leaders



Church Family,
I want to thank you for all your help during my recent surgery. Thanks for the prayers, cards, calls, the food, the rides to appointments, visits from the Elders, just everything. God Bless each and every one of you always.
Nancy Milton

Thank you to everyone who brought cookies or helped in anyway with the reception after the commissioning service. It turned out very nicely. It was a lot of work on the heels of Trunk or Treat but all the volunteers made light work of it.

CHURCH BOARD POSITION AVAILABLE- Vice Moderator

Have you given any thought about the internal workings of your church and all that is involved to conduct the business of being a place of worship? Does seeing how decisions are made, programs are started, or ideas are presented sound interesting to you? If the answer is yes and you would like the opportunity to become involved, we currently have the position of Vice Moderator unfulfilled on our Church Board. We meet immediately following service on the fourth Sunday of every month. The meetings generally last between 30 - 60 minutes, but on days when more discussion is needed the meetings may last longer. As Vice Moderator you would be a neutral voice in a "Parliamentary Procedure" that is needed at these meetings. You would have voting rights and could be called upon to run the meeting should the Moderator be unavailable.

Please look inside yourself and listen to God when you pray for his help in making your decision.

Thank you,
Roger Byrd
Moderator

TRUNK OR TREAT

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped to make our second annual trunk or treat a tremendous success. Everyone had alot of fun. We estimate we had well over 300 people thru our doors. We had 100 people register for our halloween fun pumpkin. We served almost 300 hot dogs and I lost count of the cupcakes the kids walked for. Many parents stopped to express their appreciation for having a safe venue for their kids to enjoy halloween fun. We can accomplish so much and make work fun when we all work together.

**Pastor's Message (A.K.A.
Willie's Wisdom)
Unity at its Best**

Hello Everyone. As we approach the end of October 2019, I am still excited about the faith walk and growth journey that we have embarked upon together. Last month we began our relationship with messages around the theme or subject of "Taking Flight." I believe we got off to a great start and God provided direction from the messages we heard in preaching. We are capable of attaining great heights together, as do Eagles, while working and walking in one accord, being of the same mind as we progress toward our goal of bringing souls into the Kingdom of God, and while producing additional memberships for First Christian Church (DOC).

This month the theme has been "UNITY." I am reminded of the scripture I preached from on the second Sunday of the Month, "Ephesians 4:1-3" Which states, "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." This I find, represents what I have seen in these last few weeks, although many of you have gifts that you may not have used for some time, and may not currently be walking worthy of your calling. There is an opportunity for volunteers to come together with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love."

There will be a committee of volunteers which will be called the "Evangelistic Communications

Committee," and you have an opportunity to express your love for God and Church, and use your spiritual gifts toward endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. All you have to do is volunteer your time, effort, and energy in accomplishing the following: 1) *The Purpose is to reach out to members*, 2) to check on their well-being when they are absent for about three weeks 3) to contact members who have fallen away from the church or attendance, 4) to send out correspondences on a regular basis, 5) to have an objective toward making seven touches of various kinds with each individual or family, 6) coming up with other creative means of making contact toward enhancing church attendance with members and non-members, 7) utilizing online media to find ways of evangelizing and inviting people to join us at First Christian Church in Middletown.

As we, the leadership of the church, are seeking to be "Unity At Its Best," we are hoping to bring more of our own gifts to the table and are asking for your consideration toward doing the same. There are many members of the body but one body, but those many members have many gifts that can be utilized in the body for the Development and Growth of the Body, otherwise known as First Christian church. Please contact myself, Pastor Willie Barnes-Jackson if you are interested in joining the Evangelistic Communications Committee or give your information to any of the leadership of the church and they will advise me of your interest. We are hoping to have this committee established by November 15, 2019, so let us know within the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for your service to the Lord.

Rev. Dr. Willie J. Barnes-Jackson, Senior Pastor
First Christian Church Middletown, OH.

ELDER MOMENT

Recently, Elders have been in discussion regarding how best to coordinate and work with our new pastor and associate pastors. While we, the congregation, have been moving in a new direction to better address our vision for the church, we now are able to utilize the spiritual leadership provided by our pastoral staff. This can be an exciting time for our church, but also disconcerting as changes begin to take place. Clarity of direction, proper communication and organizational coordination will be important. If you have a concern or question about any developing activities, please bring it to the attention of an Elder, Board member or one of our pastoral staff. Also, please consider how you might actively participate in the changes taking place. The support and participation of all members is needed.

WORSHIP

The worship team met on Wednesday October 23. As you probably have noticed we have been making some changes in our worship service. We have a call to worship. We have repositioned where the offering is in service. The deacons and elders are processing in at the beginning of service. We know that change can sometimes be uncomfortable. If anyone has any questions about our changes please feel free to reach out to Pastor Willie. You will also notice some changes in the tech booth. We owe our youth a debt of gratitude for stepping up to help in the booth. We will now have a group of people rotating thru the booth. If you have never served in the booth you may not know that things either work or they do not. It can be very stressful and your patience is appreciated. As to not create a distraction to worship if the computer freezes or other technical problems arise the screen may temporarily go dark. We still have hymnals in the pews. The old ways still work. Thank you for your flexibility.

CWF NEWS

Circle members brought food items and helped out at our annual Trunk or Treat event on October 19th at the Church. On October 20th, CWF members brought cookies and brownies for the reception after Pastor Willie's installation service. Thanks go to all who helped out at both events.

Church Women United met at the Church on Oct. 14th. We are collecting good used blankets and

sheets for the Clothing Depot. There is a blue tub in the Narthex for these items. Our speaker for the day was a lady from the Four Paws organization in Xenia, Ohio. This organization trains service dogs for the visually impaired and also those who have a medical condition which necessitates some assistance.

In November, Sarah Circle will meet at Marilyn Chamberlain's home at 7:00 on November 7th. Esther/Rebekah Circle will meet at the Church at 1:00 on Wednesday, November 6th.

OUTREACH

Outreach is gearing up for our holiday and winter activities. We will begin by picking up several truckloads of new, donated clothing items from SanMar Corporation. We will be working with clothing depots and mission centers, in addition to SHALOM, to make distribution where needed.

We recently attended the citywide SHALOM organizational meeting. We will again be partnering with Christ United Methodist Church and hosting during the weeks beginning December 29th and February 9th. We anticipate being responsible for guests on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Please mark your calendars as we will ask for volunteers to prepare meals, host from 7:00 to 10:00 pm, and also for overnight stays. Sign-up sheets will be posted prior to each hosting week.

Nine volunteers recently had background checks in order to work with students at Central Academy. We will be assisting our Membership Team with the school's "Shoes 4 the Shoeless" event on November 14th.

On November 15th, we will be volunteering with Caring Partners in Franklin.

Our task will be counting and filling boxes of medical supplies to be sent to missionaries abroad. Thank you, Larry Steele, for forwarding information to Outreach about this opportunity to serve.

We recently contacted the Salvation Army and requested families to adopt over the holidays. We will be donating food for Thanksgiving and Christmas in addition to purchasing Christmas gifts for the children.

Our suggestions for the Food Pantry during November include any nonperishable favorites you would enjoy for Thanksgiving. Beginning the first week in November, we will be handing out food requests for select items.



MEMBERSHIP

Plans are in the works for our second annual Holiday dinner. It will be in early December date to be announced. Menu will be "Tour of Italy". It will again act as a fund raiser this year for our own community garden project. If we are all good jolly ole St Nick might pay us another visit. So keep your eyes open for updates and ticket sales. Invite your friends and family for a fun filled evening of good food and entertainment. More details soon. Listen to your Sunday morning announcements



PROPERTY



Again the property team says **Thank You!** There are so many tasks that just seem to "get done". Watering, weeding, cleaning, lighting and the list goes on. You all continue to step up when you see a need. A special note of thanks to our neighbor Jerry. He stopped by the other day to rake up the walnuts. If you want to help with anything on the property, just dig in! If you are unsure, ask. There is always something to tend to in order to keep our facility open and appreciated by our church family and guests.

The Property Brothers,
Larry Steele & Cliff Thompson



You are about to read the Forward from the book *“The First Lady”* written by Dr. Shauntae Brown White:

First Lady Rev. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, PH.D., Park Manor Christian Church Chicago, Illinois “She is not just the first lady. She is the only lady. To be first implies there is a second.” I admit I felt myself sliding under the pew when I heard a man say this. Perhaps in his own way he was trying to honor the position of the pastor’s wife. It could also have been a warning to potential suitors that this first lady was off-limits. I think the comment also speaks to the ambiguous nature of the first lady in the church. People are not always so sure what to say about her or to her or how to approach her. She is not the pastor, but she comes with his “packaged presentation.” Hers is not the task of paid spiritual leader; yet, the onus of the women’s and/or children’s ministries often falls on her uncompensated shoulders. No, she—we—are not the Proverbs 31 woman. However, our proverbial presence is the source of wonder and bewilderment. (You think former FLOTUS Michelle Obama had to wrestle with this? Yes, I digress).

What people do not realize is that even the first lady herself experiences discord. There is the drama of having to filter snide comments, eye-rolling, and other microaggressions from the saints. Unknown to the congregation is that the pastor’s beloved also has her own internal strife. She, too, wrestles with the ambiguity of being both/and, either/or, here and there. While trying to manage public presentation and performance, the first lady must emotionally multitask her own anger, fears, frustration and just simple exhaustion. If she is a momma/first lady, there is an added layer of responsibility in caring for and protecting the first children. A first lady working outside of the home is another stream flowing into these ecclesial waters. Who can she talk to about her internal conundrum?

This work provides the space for the first lady, many first ladies, to talk it through and tell their stories. Dr. Shauntae Brown White boldly gathers an eclectic group of first ladies who dare to speak their truth. The First Lady is a compilation of voices representing various denominations, geographical locales, congregational sizes, educational backgrounds, and professional standings. What ties these women together is the common thread in the title first lady. Yet, the narratives are unique, and each woman dares the reader to go behind the curtain. From Shauntae White’s openness to the harrowing experience about her hair to Judith Hayes Davis and Dianne Cleaver reflecting on just being married to men, we are immediately invited to get beyond all the first lady pomp and circumstance.

Vanessa Oliver Ward shifts this work from first lady to first lady/co-pastor. Her heartfelt story reveals how she covers her family and the church during her husband’s illness. The world of the first children comes to bear through Andrea Hayles and many of the essays. These mothers help us to see that even the pastor’s sons and daughters must live, move, and have their being under the congregation’s microscope. Such a lens is difficult for an adult introvert, as Wanda Taylor-Smith and fellow contributors aver. The first lady is compelled, let’s say, conscripted to show up, dressed to the nines, when she longs to dwell inside with a book and a glass of wine. These stories, while personal, do not mince words about the challenges surrounding and the need to establish first family boundaries.

I did something you are never to do in the church—I called names. I mentioned a few of the testimonies here not to establish any hierarchy, but to show that the role of first lady is not homogeneous. It is as different as the women presented here. The tasks, talents, and truths of each of these women is as unique as their embodiment of the title first lady.

While reading this work, I found myself revisiting my own working momma/first lady journey. Although my story is not included, in many ways it is represented. Juggling children, my own call to ministry, and congregational expectations can be overwhelming. The First Lady provided oxygen so that I could breathe a little easier. I am not the only one. We are not alone. This work assures us that while we are the first lady, we are not the first woman ever in this role. The power lies not in revealing our business, but in telling our story.

From one first lady to many first ladies, thank you. Here’s to #FirstLadyMagic!

November, 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 27	28	29	30 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	31	Nov. 1 	2
3  Dorice Perkins Charlotte Steele  ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	4	5	6 Esther Rebekah Circle 1 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	7 Sarah Circle 7 PM	8	9
10 Thanksgiving Special Offering	11 Church Women United Noon	12	13 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	14  Tim Powers	15 Ohio Disciples Men's Retreat	16 Ohio Disciples Men's Retreat
17  Judy Lemmert Thanksgiving Special Offering	18 Elder Mtg. @7 PM	19	20  Peggy Byrd Choir Practice 6:30 PM	21	22	23
24  Debbie Wells Holiday Decorating	25	26	27 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	28 	29	30 

