



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

4520 Rosedale Road
Middletown, OH 45042
513-422-2853
www.fcc-middletown.org

Chalice Communicator

November 25, 2019

Number 11

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes-Jackson

1st Lady/ Associate Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson

Associate 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—9:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bible Study every Tues @ 1:00 & 6:00

Choir Practice every Wed @6:30 p.m.

12/04 Esther/Rebekah Circle 10:45 a.m.

12/05 Sarah Circle 6:30 p.m.

12/06 Tour of Italy Dinner 6:30 p.m.

12/8, 15 Christmas Special Offering

12/08 General Board Meeting Noon

12/16 Church Women United Noon

12/16 Elders Mtg. 6:30 p.m.

12/24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

12/25 Christmas

12/26-01/01 Kwanzaa

STATISTICS:

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
11/24/19	49	\$1402.00
11/17/19	52	\$1290.00
11/10/19	43	\$3825.00
11/03/19	54	\$1610.00

Pastor Willie’s Words of Wisdom

As we enter the Month of December 2019, I would like to share that in the last couple of months we have added “THREE” new people to the membership roles of First Christian Church- Middletown. If I have been informed correctly, this is an improvement over the last two and a half years, where no one has joined the church, and we are anticipating God sending more. I share this excitement with you because I’m reminded that God is with us in our endeavor to grow this church.

We started out a few months ago with the Theme of “Taking Flight,” and off we went into a new journey together to build God’s church through our faith in our Savior Jesus Christ. We then in October sought to gather around the theme of “Unity,” and I believe we are holding together strongly. This current month of November, we have been meditating on the Theme “Growth” and God is already providing some. We are working our way into December when the theme to be understood is “Love.” Please remember to share or offer some to another in need of it throughout the Holidays. I pray everyone had a wonderful “Thanksgiving” with family, while at the same time having given thanks to God for everything. Let us stay focused on what is important throughout the Holidays as we approach Christmas and the New Year. Our Faith is in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and we know He is the Reason for the Season!

Remember, as we move forward together, and in sticking with the theme of “Growth” as we depart November and enter a new Month that God has plans for the Church (Temple); the following scripture taken from Haggai chapter two states:

“Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? But now be strong, . . . Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the LORD Almighty. This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear . . . and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty. The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty. The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says

the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."



Prayer List:

Health: Mary Back, Ellie Belcher, Becky Brodt, Emily Cox, Gary Moore, Zach Roark, Allen Stone, Guy Stone, Walter Strohm

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

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



Outreach Volunteers,
Thank you for joining us at Caring Partners International for our National Day of Service. Thank you also for bringing other FCC folks. How great! We hope you enjoyed serving with us and learning about their missions. Thanks again, Brian, Jennifer & Jane

WELCOME!

We graciously welcome new members to our congregation. Jeff Wilder and his family have been worshipping with us recently.

During our Invitation to Discipleship on November 3rd, Jeff came forward and transferred his membership to become a member of First Christian Church, Middletown. We also are happy to share the news that Kelly Wilder, Jeff's wife, transferred her membership and joined us during our Invitation to Discipleship on November 24th. Their son, Kobi Wilder, and friend, Maggie Staggs also came forward and made their Confessions of Faith. Kobi and Maggie are looking forward to being baptized on December 1st.

ELDER MOMENT

Elders continue to actively work with our three pastors to enrich worship, support the spiritual development of our congregation and further our efforts to reach out to the community. Elders have discussed changes taking place as we seek to grow and carry Christ's word to others. To accomplish this task, additional changes will be required which demands the help of all our church members. As we move into the Advent season and prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth, let us all ask how we can share the importance of his coming with others. Of special note, Elders discussed the interest our new church member Jeff Wilder has in redeveloping a youth ministry within our church. If any member would be interested in joining him in this effort, please call the church office.

CWF NEWS

Esther/Rebekah Circle will have a Christmas Luncheon meeting at the Cozy Cottage on Cincinnati-Dayton Road on Wednesday, December 4th. The luncheon is scheduled to start at 11:30 that day. Sarah Circle will have a carry-in dinner on December 5th at Zola McClish's home. The meal will start at 6:30 and interested members may contact Zola to tell her what food item they are bringing. Sarah Circle will be going to Close to Home Assisted Living for an afternoon of Christmas carols and Bingo on December 3rd. Please contact Karen Powers if you are interested in going to this event.

HAT & MITTEN TREE

Our Hat and Mitten Tree made its way back into the narthex for another year of receiving your gifts for children. Please add your warm gloves, hats, mittens and scarves throughout December and we will deliver them to the elementary children at Rosa Parks Elementary School. They are really appreciated when our real Ohio winter arrives.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to Pastor Willie, Dave Lombard and Linda Poynter for volunteering at Central Academy for their Shoes for the Shoeless event. Volunteers who have been background checked will be needed for gift wrapping at the school the week of December 9th. We will need Christmas wrapping paper and scotch tape if you have any extra or are inclined to donate some. Central Academy students will be visiting with us again on the 17th of December for a "day of giving." Many volunteers will be needed that morning. Please see Larry Steele for additional information.



TOUR OF ITALY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

We invite you to join us for a very special holiday dinner and evening of beautiful music right here in Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 6th at 6:30 pm. Reservations are still available through this Sunday, December 1st and proceeds will benefit our Community Garden Project. Tickets for adults are \$18 and \$16 for youth 12 and under. Invite your family and friends to join us for a fabulous meal prepared by Karen Thompson. Music to get us in the holiday spirit will be provided by our very gifted Music Director, Michael Hefner.

OUTREACH

Many extra helping hands have been busy helping with Outreach recently. We thank everyone who contributed food for our Thanksgiving donations to the Salvation Army. As we have adopted five families for the holidays, we ask that you visit our table in the narthex this Sunday for food requests as well as gift ideas for the children we will be helping.

As we prepare to host guests in the SHALOM program, watch for our sign-up sheets for meals, community time (7-10:00 pm) and overnights. We will be responsible for Monday, December 30, Wednesday, January 1, and Friday, January 3rd during our first week. Our second week includes February 10, 12, and 14, 2020.

Recent activities include sorting and distributing boxes of clothes received from SanMar Corporation. Many items went to the Church Women United Clothing Depot in Middletown, SHALOM, God's Lighthouse Clothing Ministry on Yankee Road, the Vineyard Downtown in Franklin, the Sonny Hill Community Center and the Mission Center on Main Street as well as several individuals.

On November 14th, Outreach representatives assisted with the "Shoes 4 the Shoeless" at Central Academy. Over 200 children received new shoes and socks. On November 15th, seven members of our congregation volunteered at Caring Partners in Franklin. We spent the morning counting and packing medical supplies which will be sent to missionaries abroad. We look forward to working with this organization in the future and if you would like more information, please contact the Outreach co-chairs. We were made aware of an individual with medical challenges who was in need of a warm winter coat. We were able to shop and provide for him.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's continued support of our Outreach programs. Together we are making a difference!

New Happenings At First Christian Church

Evangelistic Communications Committee

God has blessed the church to establish a new committee of individuals whose purpose is to be creative in finding ways to reach out to others not currently attending or belonging to First Christian Church. We want to take every effort that God will afford us according to our gifts, to assist in the "Growth" of the church. Ideas will be shared among the committee that will allow us to be successful in our evangelistic efforts to reach into the Community of people who used to attend

and might be willing to attend FCC-Middletown, once contacted. I am thankful as the pastor to use my gifts alongside Pastor Pamela, Pastor Connor, Minister Jeff, Sister Janice K., Sister Helen M., Sister Barbara C., and Sister Dorice P. We will begin our efforts together when we meet during the first week in December 2019. Thank you team for volunteering and being willing to come together for God's purposes.



“Hear Ye!” “Hear Ye!” – Calling All Children & Youth – FCC Needs You!

In the receiving of a new member, God as also blessed us with a Minister who has a background and the experience in working with youth and young adults. Minister Jeff Wilder will be in days to come introduced to the congregation, meeting with the Church Board, and introduced to the Commission on Ministry in order to receive the credentials he needs through the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. He has a vision for developing a program for the youth and young adults, while educating them with the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ. They too, will be meeting on Wednesdays around five O'clock pm to begin gathering as a group of young people growing in the Lord. You can learn more about Minister Wilder by reviewing his Biography in this newsletter. Youth, we need and Desire your presence in the Lord.

And Parents and Grandparents, we need and desire you to bring them immediately to Sunday School each week, and we will advise you of the Wednesday evenings after December 8, 2019.



School Is In! It's Time to Study, Study, Study!

Starting Sunday, December 1, 2019, the Pastor's Sunday School Class will begin each Sunday morning at 9:00am until 9:45am when choir practice will begin. We will be focusing on various topics from the Bible to keep the class interesting. The first of those topics will be "The Cross," we will engage the scriptures, entertain questions, and have discussions around the idea and theology of it. Other topics will arise as we progress through our studies. Bible Study will also begin on Tuesday Dec. 3, 2019 with two class offerings. The afternoon class will be from 1:00pm – 2:30pm and the evening Bible study class will be from 6:00 – 7:30pm on the same days. These dates and times will remain consistent until the time they may need to be altered. The "Book of Revelation" will be the focus for both Bible Study classes. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex, so please take the time to join one or more classes. If you are a "leader" in the church, the expectation is that you will be attending. Pastor Barnes-Jackson really looks forward to seeing you in Class. All of You.

Biography: Rev. Dr. Willie J. Barnes-Jackson

was born in Bourbon County, Paris, KY. He is the son of Mrs. Wanda M. Anderson of Dayton OH, and Dr. Willie J. Barnes of Longview, TX. Dr. Barnes-Jackson accepted his call to ministry on August 22, 1998 at a John Maxwell "Equipping the Saints" seminar in Toledo, Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1998 from Central State University, graduating with Magna Cum Laude honors. He graduated in 2002 from Payne Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity degree in Theological Studies and Pastoral and Marriage Counseling, while having matriculated as a Daniel A. Payne Presidential Scholar. He also completed over 400 hours of Clinical Pastoral Education and was ordained in December 2002 by

Summit Christian Church and the Christian Church in Ohio. In 2013, he graduated from United Theological Seminary after completing his Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Education and Urban Ministry Development. Dr. Barnes-Jackson has volunteered as a Chaplain for both Miami Valley and Good Samaritan Hospitals in Dayton. He is a member of the Disciples Chaplain Association. He held the position of President of the Reconciliation Committee. He is a trained member of the Anti-racism and Pro-reconciliation Commission and is considered a New Church Planter for the Ohio Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Dr. Barnes-Jackson established the first and successful annual Brother's in God's Grace (B.I.G.G.) Men's Rally at Tabernacle Baptist Church. He spearheaded the development of a Clergy Social Action effort called Dayton Ecumenical Social Action Collaborative and led the development of a non-profit Community Development Corporation and Action group with parishioners at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. Currently he is a Senior Pastor at First Christian Church in Middletown, Ohio. Rev. Dr. Barnes-Jackson is married to Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson and is father to six children and fourteen grandchildren. He and Pamela celebrated thirty-two years of marriage on February 22, 2019 and currently reside in Clayton, Ohio. He is a loving and caring member of the Body of Christ and a dedicated man of God who looks forward to working with others in ways that enhance and promote continuous spiritual growth.

Biography: Rev. Connor Thompson was born in Dayton, Ohio in the 1994. Connor grew up in Madison Township outside of Middletown, Ohio. He attended Madison Local Schools and graduated in 2012. Connor was dedicated by The Rev. Donald L. Steffy at First Christian Church in 1994, Baptized by The Rev. Robert L. Harris at First Christian Church in 2005. Connor served as a junior deacon at First Christian Church during junior high and high school and served as a deacon early in college. In 2018 he accepted his call to ministry and began the process to become a commissioned minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Connor began his ministry as Associate Pastor on September 1st, 2019. He was commissioned to the Order of Ministry on October 20th, 2019. Connor Thompson serves as our Associate Pastor. Connor is a *Commissioned Minister of the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in Ohio](#)*. His duties involve home bound and hospital visitation, preaching, and occasional bible study. Connor is our admin/webmaster and works alongside our Audio-Visual team, to ensure our technology aids our worship and congregation. Connor is a life-long member of First Christian Church, having Great-Grandparents who were early members. He has a passion for Pastoral Ministry and Teaching the Traditions of the Church to a new generation. Connor had his first ministry experience serving as Chaplain at [Camp Friedlander](#) operated by [Dan Beard Council, BSA](#). He is a Senior at [Miami University](#) pursuing a [Bachelor of Science in Non-Profit and Community Studies](#), where he has been a member of the Southwest Ohio Symphonic Band, Student United Way, and Circle K International. Connor intends to pursue seminary study and Ordination in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Connor is an Eagle Scout, has a passion for music, and all things technology. When not working at the church, Connor can most likely be found in a uniform serving the Boy Scouts of America at the unit, District, Council, or Area level. Connor has received the following awards: From Boy Scouts of America: Eagle Scout Award in 2012, Arrow of Light in 2005, God and me award 2003, Venturing Summit Award in 2015, District Award of Merit in 2016, Order of the Arrow Founder's Award in 2015, Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor in 2013, Hopewell District Commissioner of the Year in 2019 just to name a few. From BSA and FCC: God and Family Award in 2005, God and Church Award in 2006, God and Life Award in 2012. Greater Miami Valley YMCA: Excellence in Character Award in 2011. Miami University: Presidential Volunteer Service Award in 2014, 2016, and 2018.

Biography: Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson

Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes Jackson is an Associate Pastor and First Lady at First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Middletown, Ohio.

She has been in ministry fourteen years. Although she was born in Dayton, Ohio, Pastor Jackson is proud to call herself a Kentucky native as her roots go deep into the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Her father, William E. Guy hailed from Midway, Ky, mother, Lucy Lewis Guy, was born in Flemingsburg, Ky, mother-in-law, Wanda M. Anderson from Paris, Ky. and father-in-law, the late Alfred C. Anderson, from Mt. Sterling, Ky. She has family from Maysville, Ky., Georgetown, Ky., and Mt. Zion, Ky.

Pastor Pamela was baptized at the age of 13 by the late Rev. Eli Wilbert of Summit Christian Church (DOC) in Dayton, Ohio. She was reared in a Christian home and participated in many ministries in the church including singing with her family, "The Guy Family." They established a High School Graduate Scholarship by the name of the "William E. and Lucy J. Guy Family Scholarship," in honor of their parents who were avid believers in education. Scholarships have been awarded to over 50 students in the last 16 years, intending to go to college. Her first sermon was on Christmas Sunday December 2009. Dr. Barnes-Jackson received her license on October 13, 2010 and was ordained on April 29, 2011.

Pastor Jackson matriculated through Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio receiving her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degree's graduating with Cum Laude honors. She was conferred with a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary on May 20,

2016. Her dissertation was entitled, "Prophetic Proclamation: Empowering Congregants Toward A Christ-centered Marriage Through Spiritual Formation." Her calling is centered around women (teenagers and adults, married/single) and families who find themselves leading lives that keep them away from God. She wants to educate by teaching the spiritual disciplines, thereby allowing God to spiritually form individuals toward making decisions that will enhance their lives.

She is a member of the Regional Church Council for the Christian Church in Ohio, Executive Board, and is Chairwoman for the Regional Church Council Personnel Committee. She is on the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance committee, for the 2020 MLK, Jr. Community Event.

She has traveled extensively across the United States and overseas. God blessed her to live in Izmir, Turkey for two years, where she visited the last home of Jesus' Mother, Mary in the ancient city of Korossos, near the ancient city of Ephesus. While in Ephesus she drank from the well Mary blessed, and also walked and sat in the Grand Amphitheater where John the Baptist and Paul preached. She visited the seven original churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Currently Dr. Barnes-Jackson is the Student Billing Coordinator at United Theological Seminary. She was the Human Resources Employment Manager at Central State University and the CLIMB Coordinator at Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio; the latter two universities are HBCU's.


She is married to her pastor (father in the ministry), best friend, and mentor, Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes-Jackson and has been married for over 32 years, they have (6) children, and (14) grandchildren. They are New Church Planters for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Above all of this, Pastor Barnes-Jackson believes it is only what you do for Christ that lasts, and when you live your life for Christ, every second counts! She strives daily to walk in spiritual excellence counting each day as JOY! 1 John 4:16 conveys "Whoever lives in love, lives in God and God in them." Her favorite scripture is 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind." To God be the glory for all He has done! Amen!



We wish you a very blessed Christmas!

December, 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	November 25	26	27 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	28	29	30
December 1 	2	3 Bible Study 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM	4 Esther/ Rebekah Circle (Meet at 10:45 AM) Choir Practice 6:30 PM	5  Angel Dearth Sarah Circle 6:30 PM	6 Tour of Italy Dinner/Music 6:30 PM	7
8 General Board Mtg Noon	9  Janine Saxbury	10 Bible Study 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM	11 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	12  Carl Tarbox	13	14
15 Christmas Special Offering	16 Church Women United Noon Elder Mtg. @6:30 PM	17 Bible Study 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM	18 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	19	20	21
22  Cameron Fowler Christmas Special Offering	23	24  Dave Lombard Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM	25 Merry Christmas 	26 	27	28
29	30 SHALOM	31				

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