

# Proclamation

## **BE IT PROCLAIMED:**

**WHEREAS,** Godfrey Brown was born to slave parents in 1768, and upon the death of his parents, Mr. Brown had the opportunity to purchase his and his family's freedom in the spring of 1820 in the amount of \$5,650; and

**WHEREAS,** after Mr. Brown and his family reached Ohio, he purchased 254 acres of land in Caesar Creek Township for \$1,000, and in 1822 after the homes were built, Mr. Brown chose a section of ground between two branches of a stream to lay the foundation of a church where they could better serve and praise God; and

**WHEREAS,** due to the church's unique location between two streams, the church was named "Middle Run Baptist Church," and it was prayerfully and gloriously dedicated to the future service of God; and

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Brown and his oldest son, Samuel Sr., were called to preach both at the church and at all new settlements—whether white or black—and became well known; and

**WHEREAS,** Middle Run Baptist Church is one of the oldest Black Baptist Churches in the State of Ohio and took an active part in the Underground Railroad; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1889, the church was relocated to Xenia where the majority of the church members had resettled; therefore, the name Middle Run was retained; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout its history, Middle Run has had 24 Pastors, and many men and women were inspired to spiritual living after being called by God to the ministry and were licensed and ordained; and

**WHEREAS,** God has been the church's guide, strength, and hope for generations, and the 199<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration titled, "*We've Come This Far by Faith*" will be held on October 3, 2021.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Sarah J. Mays, Mayor of the City of Xenia, Ohio, do hereby proclaim October 3, 2021, as

## **"MIDDLE RUN BAPTIST CHURCH DAY"**

in the City of Xenia and ask that you join me in celebrating and congratulating the church on this milestone anniversary and look forward to many more years of service to God and glorifying Him within the Xenia community and beyond!



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Xenia, Ohio, to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-One.

  
Sarah J. Mays

Honorable Mayor of Xenia, Ohio

