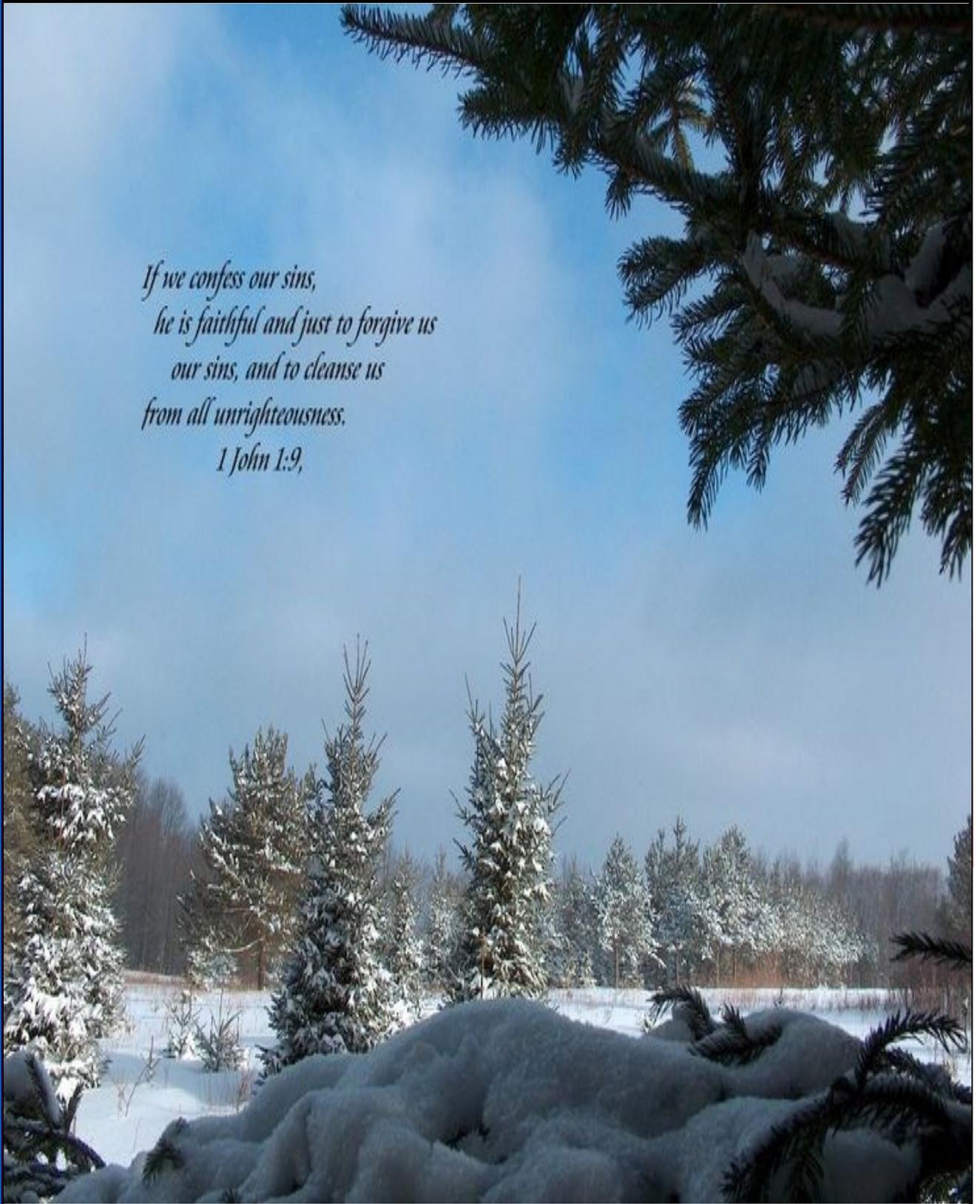


**JANUARY 2024**

*If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just to forgive us  
our sins, and to cleanse us  
from all unrighteousness.  
1 John 1:9,*



# WHO ARE WE WORSHIPING, AND HOW?

Jesus sits down at a well, tired from his journey, and He begins to have a conversation with a woman who has come to draw water. In just that simple moment Jesus broke all the social norms of the day. Not only was Jesus speaking as a man to a woman, but He was also a Jew interacting with a Samaritan, this didn't happen! Jews hated Samaritans, and the other way around. But, as always, Jesus isn't concerned with all the things that do not matter, that we so often get caught up in, Jesus is simply concerned about this woman's heart. He will break social norms if He needs to in order to reach her.

After telling this woman that He can offer her living water, she doesn't quite understand. Jesus, of course, is speaking about eternal life, but just like the frail human beings we are, the woman is caught up in the physical, and can't quite get to the spiritual. So, Jesus blows her away by telling her something only God could know, that not only does she not have any husband currently, but that she has had five husbands and is now living with a man who isn't her husband! Busted!

The woman changes the subject, believing Jesus to be a prophet...Listen to how this goes down in John 4:19-26:

"The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'"

Jesus readily explains to the woman at the well that it is not about location! In so many words He is telling her that it is not about where you worship, but about HOW you worship that matters. Now, this isn't a license to not attend the gathering of the assembly, we need to worship together, the Bible is very clear about that in other areas as well.

However, the point Jesus is trying to make here is that it's not about the building we are worshipping in, the songs we are singing (whether they are contemporary songs on a screen or hymns from a hymnal), how we are dressed, how long the sermon is, who is or is not sitting next to us, or how much money we put in the offering plate when it comes by. IT IS about whether or not when we worship Jesus (and Jesus alone mind you) that we really and truly mean it from the deepest depths of our heart.

We can sing praises at the top of our lungs. We can be seated in pews made of gold linen and the finest building material a church building has ever seen. We can donate up to half our earnings for the year back to the church, and we can hear the most eloquent sermon of our

time. But if we don't believe it, and if we don't allow the Word of Life, the Living Water of Christ to penetrate our souls and overflow into loving others as Jesus loved us, it doesn't mean anything.

Listen to how Jesus answers the question in Matthew 22:36-40:

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Are you loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind? Are you worshipping God, not just on Sunday mornings, but every day, in Spirit and in Truth?

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Zach  
BeRomans12  
"Together – We Build"

## ASX



### COOKIES NEEDED

After School Experience begins for the second half this Thursday. We are asking for cookie donations. They can be dropped off at the office during the week or set on the mission table on Sunday mornings.

Thank you!

## EYE GLASS COLLECTING

We are collecting old eyeglasses to donate to "Cross Eyed Mission". This is a mission founded by Dr. Brady Kail of Waynesburg Vision. There is a basket on the information table to place any glasses.



## AWANA

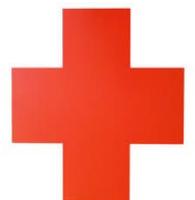
### Come Join us for Sparkies and TNT!

Games, Bible Stories, Verse Memorization, and Fun!!!  
Sundays 5:00-6:30 pm  
Ages: K-5



Connect with  
Jordan PH:  
208-721-0630  
or by email:  
jwvert@gmail.com

**AMERICAN RED CROSS  
BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Friday, Feb. 4, 2024**  
**11 - 5 pm**



## TORRES UPDATE

We have had a busy few months. After our trip to Oregon and Ohio we were with the Tennessee medical team for 10 days. We were able to attend to 854 people while we were in Ixtepec! Besides medicines we also gave away Bibles in their native language and Spanish. Then we returned to work with the congregation in Alseseca. On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> three adults were baptized and then we had a celebration meal together. On Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> we had a Christmas program in which everyone participated with songs and poems. Afterwards, we ate traditional Mexican Christmas food. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2024 as we continue to serve Him here in Mexico. We thank you for all your prayers and financial support in 2023. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Luis & Chere Torres

## FAMILY MATTERS

**Thank you, thank you** for the prayers lifted on behalf of Heidi Randal. She had a follow up appointment with the heart doctor and she is good!

God's blessings, Charlotte Russell

## SHUT INS

Mrs. Dorothy Birney  
c/o St. Luke's  
4301 Woodale Ave. SE  
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. George Horvath  
c/o St. Joseph's  
Room 204  
2308 Reno Drive  
Louisville, OH 44641

Mrs. Allie Swank  
729 Lynnwood Dr.  
Minerva, OH 44657

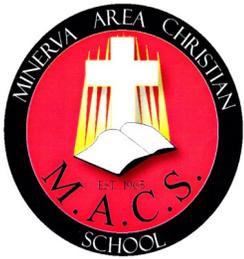
Mr. Don Shields  
c/o Minerva Rehab.  
1035 W. Lincoln Way  
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Jean Miller  
1089 Union Ave. SE  
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Sharon Lewis  
33445 Chagrin Blvd.  
Moreland Hills, OH  
44022



# MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Happy New Year from MACS! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas celebration. We are excited to kick off 2024 when we return to school on January 3rd. God blessed us with a great 2023 and we believe that there are more blessings in store for the coming year.

Our Christmas celebrations were wonderful and our students did a great job of spreading the joy of the season with their friends and families. We also had great parties and special events where our families had the opportunity to spend some time with their child during the school day!

In February we will begin to accept new student applications for next school year. If you know anyone who may be interested in having their child attend MACS, please have them contact our office. We will be enrolling for grades PK-8th Grade for the 2024-2025 school year. We would love to meet with any interested families and provide them with information.

As we begin a new year, we would like to thank all of our supporters in MFCC for allowing us to continue to reach families. We hope that you can see the work that God is doing in our school. We look forward to continuing to share all of the wonderful things that are happening because of your support. Happy New Year!

## Upcoming Events

Return from Christmas Break - Wednesday, January 3rd  
MACS January Board Meeting Tuesday, January 16th 5:15 pm



## JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 3 - MACS Resumes  
Jan. 3 - Choir 7:00 pm  
Jan. 4 - Board Reports are due to the office  
Jan. 7 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Jan. 7 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Jan. 8 - General Board Meeting 7:30 pm  
Jan. 9 - Home Dept., Meeting 7:00 pm  
Jan. 9 - 24/7 Bible Study 7:30-8:30 pm  
Jan. 10 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Jan. 11 - ASX 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
Jan. 14 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Jan. 14 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Jan. 15 - NO School MLK Day  
Jan. 16 - FLIP (4-6 grades) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Jan. 16 - 24/7 Bible Study 7:30-8:30 pm  
Jan. 17 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Jan. 18 - Deacons Pantry 9 - 10:30 am  
Jan. 18 - ASX 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
Jan. 21 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Jan. 21 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Jan. 23 - FLIP (4-6 grades) 6:30-7:30 pm  
Jan. 23 - 24/7 Bible Study 7:30-8:30 pm  
Jan. 24 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Jan. 25 - ASX 3:30 - 5:00 pm  
Jan. 28 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Jan. 28 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Jan. 30 - FLIP (4-6 grades) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Jan. 30 - 24/7 Bible Study 7:30-8:30 pm  
Jan. 31 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Feb. 1 - ASX 3:30—5:00 pm  
Feb. 2 - American Cross Blood Mobile 11-5

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
7:30 pm.

Please have all reports to the office  
by Thurs., Jan.4<sup>th</sup>

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We will begin again later in the month, watch for an announcement. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for those interested in our Bible Study. Please give us your name, phone number and if a morning or evening time is better for you. ALL ladies of the church are welcome to join us!

## DEACONS PANTRY



Each month our Deacon's Pantry distributes food and some paper products to 15 - 20 families. If you are able to pick up a few non-perishable items to donate it would be greatly appreciated. Some of the items we need are: tuna, soups, canned vegetables, fruit, ramen, peanut butter, mac & cheese, pasta & sauce, saltine crackers. Monetary donations are always welcome. We will be making our distribution on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.

## PRAYER LIST

Jennifer Allen  
 Christa Archer  
 Alice & Gary Archer  
 Kassadee Archer  
 Bill & Linda Becknell  
 Doug Bell  
 Ellie Bender  
 Dorothy Birney  
 Arlene Brown  
 Shirley Catlett  
 Don Clapper  
 Lora Crabtree  
 Donna Dennis  
 Jenny Dowell  
 Janet Greathouse  
 Mary Jo Hardman  
 Debbie Harsh  
 Lois Hawkins  
 Bob Hetherington  
 Evelyn Hopkins  
 George Horvath  
 Lee Iden  
 Nancy Kibler  
 Rory & Nancy King  
 Mary Long  
 Herb & Pat Lowery  
 Sondra Lowery  
 Nancy Marquis  
 Mickey Mathis  
 Dolores M<sup>c</sup>Cully  
 Jean Miller  
 Shea Mitchell  
 Connie Morris  
 Sheila Murray  
 Eric Prowe  
 Heidi Randall  
 John & Sandy Russell  
 Gene Schmucker  
 Kathy Schmucker  
 Gary & Carol Schotts  
 Lynette Shatzer  
 Kathy Shaw  
 Don Shields  
 Joan Shotwell  
 Midge Snyder  
 Jeremiah Ward  
 Marge Warrick  
 Carol White  
 Richard Wickersham  
 Les Willison  
 Bill Workman

## SPECIAL FUND BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

Vehicle/Bus	\$2,366
Coffee Spot	\$395
Missions	\$3,779
Deacons	\$588
Landscaping	\$547
Audio/Visual	\$5,510
Kid's Corner Renovation	\$55,269
HS/MS Trips	\$7,308
Building	\$31,265
YES Ministry	\$10
Minister's Benevolence Fund	\$8,318



**CHOIR  
PRACTICE  
WEDNESDAYS  
@ 7 PM**

## ATTENDANCE

	<u>Dec. 3</u>	<u>Dec. 10</u>	<u>Dec. 17</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>	<u>Dec. 31</u>
Worship	116	102	129	122	145
Bible School	55	40		64	72

***Military:*** CSM Jesse Clark; Special Forces Captain Isaac Graham;; Thomas E. Greathouse, Jr.; Timothy Reed; Sgt. Kurt Warrick **Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.**

## NOVEMBER GIVING:

General Fund	\$23,644
Building Fund	\$710
Mission Fund	\$2,712

## YTD as of 11/30/2023

General Fund given for budget	\$127,025
<b>Gen. Fund Budgeted Expenses</b>	\$143,267
General Fund actual expenses	\$149,830

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

300 West Lincoln Way  
Minerva, Ohio 44657

January 4, 2024

**Church**

minervafcc@hotmail.com  
Celebration 10:15 am  
Sunday School 9:00 am  
Sunday Evening 5:00 pm

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 pm  
Monday-Friday  
330-868-4151

Minerva First Christian Church  
[MinervaFCC.com](http://MinervaFCC.com)



**Staff**

**Zach Long**  
**Associate/Youth Minister**  
330-417-4834  
zlong7@yahoo.com

**MFCC Office**  
330-868-4151  
minervafcc@hotmail.com

**Minerva Area Christian School**  
330-868-5728  
fccmacs@hotmail.com

**MACS Administrator**  
Mr. Chris Stoffer  
330-936-5723  
Stoffer.chris@yahoo.com

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Dan Toalston                                 | 22 Lynn & Patty Morgan<br>30 years  |
| 7 David Seibert                                | 25 Mindi Chambers<br>Ralph McCully<br>Ralph & Dolores McCully<br>16 years |
| 10 Lou Ann Sell                                | 26 Barbara Palmer   |
| 11 Marjorie Warrick                            | 29 Jean Cogan<br>Helen Truex  |
| 12 Ken Hoopes                                  | 30 Sally Shaw   |
| 18 Brent Brown                                 |   |
| 21 Trish Bush<br>Mandie Mathis<br>Todd Weirich |   |

**SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!**

	<b>Jan. 7</b>	<b>Jan. 14</b>	<b>Jan. 21</b>	<b>Jan. 28</b>
<b>Comm. Meditation</b>	Bruce Doppelheuer	Nate Oberly	Zach Long	Dave Bush
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Fountain	Chip Cyme	John Bowman	Kenny Hoopes
<b>Deacons</b>	Trish Bush	Trish Bush	Trish Bush	Trish Bush
<b>Shut-In Teams</b>	Bruce Doppelheuer & Jordan Vert	John Long & Jay Harsh	Bob Palmer & Dave Seibert	Nate Oberly & Kenny Hoopes