



Minerva First Christian Church

Volume 57

Issue 10

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



October is Pastor Appreciation Month and in appreciation of the dedicated services of all staff at First Christian Church, we want to show our heart felt thanks to each of them in a tangible way. We thank God for their commitment to fulfill God's purpose for their lives in the Church family.

We would ask each of you to prayerfully consider how God would have you participate in this "Love Offering" as a way of saying "Thank You."

Any Sunday in the month of October, you can give the "Love Offering" by marking your envelope or check accordingly. The gifts will be shared equally by all five members of our paid staff, Pastor Sanford, Pastor Long, Joann Vandegrift, Chris Stoffer & Sherri Oberly.

Minerva First Christian Church

300 W. Lincolnway, Minerva - 330-868-4151



FREE



FALL FESTIVAL

Children Must
Be Accompanied
By An Adult

Sun. Oct. 27th, 5-7 pm

Everything Inside!

Candy, Food, Games, and much more!

OCTOBER 2024

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Welcome

I am sure most people are aware of what it feels like to be in the pool of kids at recess and waiting to be picked for a team on kickball. As there numbers dwindle, our anxiety levels are rising. Even if you were one of the last to get picked and not the very last, there is this uneasy unwelcoming feeling on that team that gets stuck with you.

Be it at recess or the last to receive an invitation to a work party, or you name it, everyone wants to feel welcome. Everyone wants to feel invited and to know that we are not being a burden on another's kindness. In Asia, hospitality looks a lot different than what we see and practice in the Western World. The Taiwanese are extremely good at making one feel welcome.

In the ministry of Jesus, we find several times where He needed rest and withdrew by Himself or with His apostles. One such time is in Luke 9. Jesus has been training His disciples, and now it is their turn to go and practice what He has been doing. He even gives them authority to heal disease. No doubt this was an exciting time not only for Him, but for the 12 as well.

After they return the report is good. They have done what He has commanded them to do. To heal the sick, to tell people that the kingdom of God is near. This was probably the highlight of their ministry to this point, and when they come back Jesus knowing exactly what they need takes them away for rest.

Yet the crowd who is searching for Him, go and seek out Him and His disciples. Now Jesus taking on flesh means that He gets hungry and tired. It means that His energy has its limits and He needs to rest. After the crowd finds Him, Jesus has every right to say to the crowd please just give me 2 days or I just need a break from you for just a little while, let me eat something and take a nap and I will get back to you.

The interesting thing is that we do not see Him do anything of the sort. We see the very opposite, when the crowd sought Him, it says in Luke 9:11 He welcomed them. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So the same One who welcomed the crowd 2,000 years ago, welcomes you today. You are welcome in His presence, you are welcome among His people.

JEREMIAH

The Prophets take up a large portion of the Old Testament, and for good reason. They are people sent by God with a message for His people. Sometimes, it was a good message, to keep on doing what they were doing, to continue living the way they were, a message of encouragement. However, MOST of the time it was a message of judgment, of woe. The Prophet would declare that the way the people were living needed to stop, or bad things were going to occur... The people needed to repent, or disaster was on its way...

Jeremiah is often called the weeping prophet. Why? Because no one would listen to anything he said... Constantly Jeremiah would call God's people to repent of their sin, but to no avail. They didn't care, they were so focused on doing whatever it was that they wanted to do, that it didn't matter what God said. They wanted to worship the false god of Baal. They were enamored by their sin.

Jeremiah 2:23-24, says this: "How can you say, 'I am not unclean, I have not gone after the Baals'? Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done---a restless young camel running here and there, a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None who seek her need weary themselves; in her month they will find her."

I know this verse sounds weird, but I think that is what draws me to it so much. So often we believe we are committed to the Lord, committed to His way, but all of a sudden something catches our eye, or in this instance, our nose... All of a sudden we sniff the wind, and we are right back to our old sinful habits before we even knew what hit us. The comparison Jeremiah makes of Israel being likened to a female donkey in heat is actually embarrassing just to read, but I think that's why it is so effective.

The imagery that Jeremiah brings forth in my brain of an animal in heat just driven here, there, and everywhere is an excellent example of what sin can do to us if left unchecked. The imagery is kind of funny at first, Jeremiah is likening Israel to a camel and a donkey. And then the thoughts of how Israel just can't get it right, they just won't listen, etc. And then for me to quickly remember that I can be just like Israel so very often... Then the comparison becomes much more real. Instead of me applying the female donkey in heat to Israel, I apply it to myself, and that's where the realization comes in. "God, I can be so easily distracted by the things of this world! Forgive me for running after anything but you!" God's Word is sharper than a double edged sword, and that verse, when you really think about it, cuts to the heart. If not careful, I can be drawn back into my old ways so easily. The words I say, the things I do, the places I go. We cannot forget what is most important!

Which leads me to the final verse I will share with you today: Jeremiah 2:32 says this: "Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number." I got married to my lovely wife McKayla 7 years ago this De-

JEREMIAH (CON'T.)

ember. I remember how important the wedding dress was. When it came to the material things needed for our wedding day, the dress was far and away the most important thing. There is no conceivable situation in which I could ever imagine McKayla showing up on our wedding day wearing anything other than her wedding dress! And this is the point Jeremiah is making: don't forget what is most important! Don't, like Israel, get so distracted by the things of this world that you forget all the great things God has done for you! Remember the most important, remember Jesus, and stop sniffing the wind!

Thanks and God Bless
Zach Long
BeRomans12

FAMILY MATTERS

We extend our sympathies to . . . Nancy Tarbet , her family & friends with the passing of her husband, Tim. Tim passed away on Sunday, Sept. 22nd. His service was held at the church on Thursday, Sept. 26th.

Also to . . . the friends and family of Carol Clapper. Carol and her husband, Jim attended FCC for many years before moving to Florida. Carol passed away on Aug. 31st, her service was held on Saturday, Sept. 28th.

We rejoice with . . . Zach Wensel. Zach made the decision to be baptized! Zach was baptized by Pastor Chris on Tuesday, Sept. 17th. He makes his home at 8946 Knox School Rd., Minerva, OH 44657

TORRES UPDATE

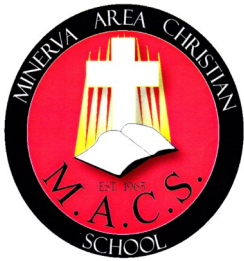
Praising God for His continued guidance in the work here in this part of Mexico and for your continued prayers and support.

We continue to work with the small congregation in Alseseca. Luis and José share the preaching/teaching duties. Chere has been translating Sunday School Activity lessons for another congregation.

October 10th-20th we will be with the Tennessee medical team. The first days we will be buying and packing supplies and medicines. On the 13th we will travel to Ixtepec in the northeastern mountains of the state of Puebla where we will see people for 4 days before we travel back to the city of Puebla on the 18th and then return home on the 20th. We would appreciate your prayers during this time. Thank you. In the Spring we saw 858 people but we will have less doctors this time. We pray that God sends the people that need to be seen.

In Christ, Luis & Chere Torres

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Autumn has arrived at MACS and we are excited to see the colors change and leaves fall! Our students and staff have settled into the new school year and we have made great strides already. We had a wonderful Grandparents Day celebration with over 200 people at the school to participate. It was a great day! We had a successful book fair where we raised almost 1400 Scholastic Dollars for the school to get new equipment and books for our library! Thank you to all who purchased books.

On September 25th, we participated in a nationwide prayer event called, See you at the Pole. It was a great time of corporate prayer and worship as we prayed for our school, nation, and community. It was wonderful to have over 70 students gather in the Sanctuary to pray together. Thank you to Pastor Zach for his message and Pastor Sanford for participating.

In October, we have several awesome events scheduled for our students and their families. We will have our Fall fundraiser this month where our students will be selling Stoller pastries to help raise money for our student events. This will start on October 10th and run for two weeks. If you would like to purchase pastries, stop by the office. Also this month, we have our first field trip for our students. Also, our Preschool students will be visiting Varian Orchards.

Please continue to pray for our school as we continue through the school year. As we continue to reach more students and families, your prayers are so greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute to MACS with monetary donations, you have the opportunity to do this through our website at, <https://donorbox.org/macs-fund>. Have a wonderful October!

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14

Upcoming Events

MACS School Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 15th 6:15
pm



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct. 1 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Oct. 2 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm
Oct. 2 - FLIP (grds. 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 2 - Upper Room
(grds. 6-12) 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Oct. 3 - ASX (rrds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Oct. 4 - Red Cross Blood Mobile 11 - 5
Oct. 6 - AWANA (grds. K-5) 5 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 6 - Adult Bible Study 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Oct. 8 - Home Dept. stew day
Oct. 8 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Oct. 9 - FLIP (grds. 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 9 - Upper Room
(grds. 6-12) 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Oct. 10 - ASX (grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Oct. 13 - AWANA (grds. K-5) 5 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 13 - Adult Bible Study 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Oct. 15 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Oct. 16 - FLIP (grds. 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 16 - Upper Room
(grds. 6-12) 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Oct. 17 - Deacons Pantry 9 - 10:30 am
Oct. 17 - ASX (grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Oct. 20 - AWANA (grds. K-5) 5 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 20 - Adult Bible Study 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Oct. 22 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Oct. 23 - FLIP (grds. 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 23 - Upper Room
(grds. 6-12) 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Oct. 24 - ASX (grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Oct. 27 - Family Fall Fest 5 - 7 pm
Oct. 29 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Oct. 30 - FLIP (grds. 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 30 - Upper Room
(grds. 6-12) 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Oct. 31 - NO ASX

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

NO October
Board Meeting

CHOIR
PRACTICE
BEGINS
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 1
7:00 PM

DEACONS PANTRY

Each month our Deacon's Pantry distributes food and some paper products to 12 - 15 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, Oct. 17th, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.



PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Jennifer Allen
 Alice Archer
 Christa Archer
 Kassadee Archer
 Bill & Linda Becknell
 Doug Bell
 Dan Bergman
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 Donna Dennis
 Janet Greathouse
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Larry Hartshorn
 Lois Hawkins
 Todd Hetherington
 Betty Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 George Horvath
 Marilyn Humphries
 Lee Iden
 Leroy Kibler
 Rory & Nancy King
 Mary Long
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Sondra Lowery
 Scoo & Dolores McCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Eric Prowe
 Heidi Randall
 John & Sandy Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts
 Lynette Shatzer
 Kathy Shaw
 Sally Shaw
 Don Shields
 Dean Shotwell
 Midge Snyder
 Allie Swank



ATTENDANCE

	<u>Sept. 1</u>	<u>Sept. 9</u>	<u>Sept. 15</u>	<u>Sept. 22</u>	<u>Sept. 29</u>
Worship	156	129	149	143	
Bible School	70	73	65	n/a	

Carol Thomas
 Pippa Vert
 Jeremiah Ward
 Marge Warrick
 Richard Wickersham
 Les Willison
 Eva Wolf

Military: CSM Jesse Clark; Sgt. Kurt Warrick
Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.

FINANCIALS

Financial Information
 Available upon
 request

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
 Minerva, Ohio 44657

September 27, 2024

Church

minervafcc@hotmail.com

Celebration 10:15 am

Sunday School 9:00 am

Sunday Evening 5:00 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 pm

Monday-Friday

Minerva First Christian Church

MinervaFCC.com

**Staff****Mr. Chris Sanford****Lead Minister**

502-218-9081

csanford155@gmail.com

Zach Long**Associate/Youth Minister**

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zlong7@yahoo.com

MFCC Office

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minervafcc@hotmail.com

Minerva Area Christian School

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fccmacs@hotmail.com

MACS Administrator

Mr. Chris Stoffer

330-936-5723

cstoffer@minervaareachristianschool.org

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 John George</p> <p>2 Linda Palmer</p> <p>3 Bill & Melody Fisher
32 years</p> <p>4 John & Cindy Pilati
18 years</p> <p>7 Connie Brewer
Terri Bush</p> <p>10 Jay Harsh</p> <p>11 Luis Torres</p> | <p>12 Kathryn Clapper
Bruce Doppelheuer</p> <p>13 Hunter Hogue
Owen Hogue</p> <p>14 Madison Fankhauser</p> <p>15 Sue Barr</p> <p>27 Brian Broadnax
Joan Henninger</p> <p>29 John Russell</p> <p>31 McKayla Long
Chip Syme</p> |
|---|---|

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27
Comm. Meditation	Jordan Vert	John Russell	Bruce Doppelheuer	Nate Oberly
Ushers	Mike Fountain	Chip Syme	John Bowman	Bill Shaw
Deacons	Connie Brewer	Connie Brewer	Connie Brewer	Connie Brewer
Shut-In Teams	Jordan Vert & Bob Palmer	Dave Seibert & Nate Oberly	Kenny Hoopes & Brad Snyder	Matt Zahn & Bruce Doppelheuer