

We would like to welcome Chris Sanford and his family to Minerva First Christian Church!

My name is Chris Sanford, I was born and grew up in Louisville, KY. After surrendering to the Lord Jesus Christ in 2004, I enrolled in Bible College and served as the Mt. Eden Christian Church's Youth Minister for 3 years. While in this ministry, I asked God to send me to the darkest place in Earth. 2 years later I landed in Southern Taiwan, where I met my wife and we and our four kids served for 11 years as missionaries.

After re-locating back to the US 2 years ago, we served for a year in Midland, TX and a year in Williamston, NC. We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve at Minerva First Christian Church, and are excited to see what God is going to do.



Chris, Samantha, Hosanna, Rebekah, Josiah & Malachi

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

I would assume that all of us are pretty used to hearing bad news. We live at a time when bad news is what sells. For the reason, I try and not watch mainstream news media for the most part, with one exception, the evening news is where I get my information about what is going on in the world. The media, knowing that most of what it reports is bad, has a segment on every evening, focusing solely on good news.

How does the world respond when they hear bad news? Panic. Growing up in Louisville, KY we didn't see much snow in the winter. Every once in a while we would get some pretty bad winter weather. The result was pure panic. If you were lucky enough to make it to the grocery store within the hour of the announcement, you were probably one of the few that bought milk and bread. Milk and bread, even people who never drank milk or ate bread, when it was snowing, you had to have it.

What about more serious, more threatening bad news. When the doctor gives a grim report about the findings on the X-Ray? The company is downsizing and you are one of the ones they have decided to let go. When life is turned completely upside down on its head, how as Christians should we respond? With child-like trust. Psalm 112:7 speaking of those who know God, who love Him and are in a saving relationship with Jesus, says God's people are not afraid of bad news.

Bad news for the Christian should lead us to all that much more to put our trust in the One who is Sovereign, the One who works all things together for good for those who love Him, the One who promises never to leave you nor forsake you. If it was mere man asking to trust him in the midst of bad news, we should rightly be skeptical. Yet the One who calls us to trust, to continue to look to, is the One who created you. The One who knows and loves you. In times of trouble the born again child of God lives in an attitude of prayer.

Since we know the One who is in control, the One who is never surprised nor caught off guard, bad news should not shake us but move us to trust deeper in our Heavenly Father. For in this world that is filled with bad news from the time we awake to we lay down at night. Jesus is still the good news that brings peace and the hope of eternity with Himself.

The Power of a Healed Heart in a Broken World

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. **Romans 8:22-23***

The last couple weeks my wife McKayla has been very busy. And you may think that business comes from the start of the school year, but unfortunately it does not. Recently, one of McKayla's former preschool students at Perry Christian Preschool began to have neurological problems. Her name is Everleigh. Everleigh's smile can light up the room, and she's just one of those kids that radiates joy. McKayla can tell you this. But Everleigh began to not be able to walk correctly for a time and exhibited other symptoms that were concerning.

Fast forward some time and this little girl, who has just turned five years old, has a tumor in the back of her head, a cancer that is not curable and not able to be operated on. She is given just months to live. This is why McKayla has been busy. When she received word that this was Everleigh's diagnosis, there was great mourning, obviously. This little girl, so full of life and with so much life left to live, will not be able to do so for much longer. This family, being robbed of their little girl way to soon.

This is why McKayla has been so busy. Her mourning continues, but it has been turned into a motivated mourning. How can we help this family? And so her and another teacher from PCP began to fundraise, making bracelets and t-shirts (Let me know if you'd like to buy either by the way!) that will make this time for this family just a little easier. Helping with events and anything else Everleigh's family may need. I have no doubt, if Everleigh's family needed something and McKayla could provide, it would be taken care of. Done. Never a second thought. (Yes, I say that because I am proud of my wife, but for another reason as well, we will get to that in a moment).

And then there's the Facebook posts by Everleigh's parents. Outside of the Bible, I don't know if I have ever read anything more inspiring. Everleigh's Dad, Matt and her Mom, Gina have written several Facebook posts since the diagnosis. The next one filled with more HOPE than the last! Yes, they are authentic about feeling the pain of inevitably losing their daughter in the future. But they are also unbelievably BOLD in proclaiming that THEY STILL HAVE HOPE. The message that God is Good even when this world is not shines through every single time. It is absolutely incredible.

Church, here is why I tell you all this. Sin is a terrible thing. It is the reason there is brokenness, disease, and death in this world. If you were to read Matt and Gina's posts, they will tell you that! Death in this dark world is something that is real. It isn't going away, not yet. But how does a family struck with this horrible news still have hope? It is JESUS!

The Power of a Healed Heart in a Broken World (con't.)

Without Christ, without His Cross, Everleigh's parents have no hope of seeing their daughter again. But WITH HIM, hope comes back into the picture.

With Jesus, they can look their little girl in the eye and tell her confidently, "We will be together again." Not because of anything they have done, not because of anything we can do. But because of everything JESUS DID.

When we face trials, REAL TRIALS, and we still point to Jesus, there is no better witness for Christ. Matt and Gina have been handed some of the worst news parents can receive, and yet they still would affirm these things: God is good, it is Jesus who sustains them in the darkest of times, and He can sustain you just like He sustains them. Yes, even now when they face the deepest struggle, the hardest pain, they still want everyone else to know their Savior. What an example of faith!

The harsh reality we must all deal with is that we live in a broken world, a world that will not be fully healed until Jesus returns. That day is coming, but until then, Jesus heals our hearts. We do live in a broken world, but there is light for all to see when people like Matt and Gina stand for Jesus even when they don't fully understand why something like this is happening to them. There is light for all to see when Kingdom Workers like McKayla and others slap Satan in the face by choosing to be joy in the midst of deep sorrow, all for King Jesus. There is beauty in pain when Christians choose to stand for Christ EVEN IF the prayer they have been praying doesn't receive the answer they've been praying for.

Today, count your blessings, when you go through trials, TRUST JESUS. Please pray for Everleigh and her family, and allow the words of the song below sink into your heart and mind.

*I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't, my hope is You alone*

*I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't, my hope is You alone.*

Even *If* by MercyMe

Thanks and God Bless
Zach Long
BeRomans12
"Together - We Build

Youth Sizes: \$20

Sizes Sm-XL: \$20

Size 2X: \$22

Size 3X: \$23

Size 4X: \$24

Size 5X: \$25

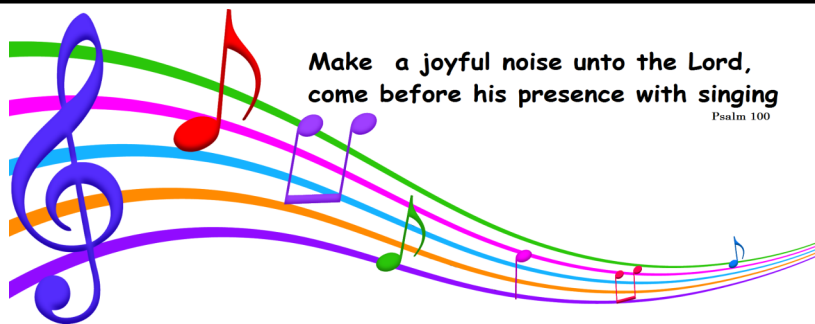


[Order shirts here:](#)



✦ If you have any questions see Alicia or McKayla ✦

JOIN THE CHOIR



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,
come before his presence with singing
Psalm 100

**CHOIR PRACTICE
BEGINS WED.,
SEPT. 11TH @ 7:30 PM**

FAMILY MATTERS

Thank you . . . I would like to thank all the people that sent me best wishes, get well and also remembered my Birthday! There are so many kind and thoughtful people. I miss you all. Especially I thank you for all the prayers sent my way.

— Thank you in Christian Love, Betty McIntosh

Thank you . . . I appreciate all that came here—the men with communion and the wonderful ladies from the Home Dept. and so many to stop in and visit. I appreciate you all. — Allie Swank

Praise Our God . . . At Round Lake Christian Camp on August 2nd, I had the privilege of baptizing Aleah Ritterbeck & Maddie Fankhauser! They have been frequently coming on Sunday mornings and to Tuesday night youth group as well as to CIY MIX this past Summer. Pray for them as they begin their journey with Jesus! Zach



LADIES MINISTRIES

We are beginning to create ministry opportunities for any of you interested in becoming involved. Your contributions and leadership is greatly appreciated. A couple areas have already been determined and hopefully many of you will find them of interest.

The first one is THE FORTY/FORTY CHALLENGE which seems to be of interest to several of you. The first meeting of this ministry will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 10:00 a.m. with another one in the evening at 6:00 p.m. for any who cannot attend the morning meeting. This will be to launch the Challenge with information concerning the program (study) and to receive the materials necessary to be a part of it. These have been ordered for all who have signed the sheet stating your interest. If you would like to participate but the cost of \$25.00 is a burden to you, please contact the office. If you have not signed the interest sheet but do think you would like to join, please come to the meeting on Tuesday (either a.m. or p.m.). Your materials may be a little late arriving but we can still order them. It seems to be a very exciting program with great potential to encourage personal and corporate growth in faith and determination to be more like Jesus. As Sisters in Christ, we can be great witnesses.

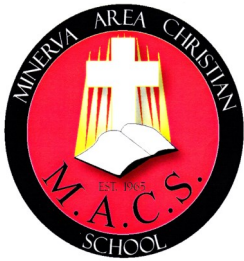
The second idea under "construction" at this time is a PIE SOCIAL. Several of you noted interest in "cooking" on the sign up sheets at the Ladies Tea this Spring. This will incorporate favorites (pies, cakes, snacks), contributions and the production of delicious confections for other members of the congregation and/or shut-ins of the community. It will be held on Saturday November 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the New Social Hall and Kitchen.

Hopefully, there are some of you willing to help in the planning of this event and that all of you can think of something interesting and delicious that you would like to share.

More information coming.....

If you have questions concerning either of these, or suggestions for future ideas, please feel free to contact either: Rachael Snyder at (330) 234-2234 or Trish Bush at (330) 936-2306

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



School is back in session! We have kicked off the 2024-2025 school year at MACS. We are so excited to have students and staff in our classrooms. We did a lot of very projects in the school this summer and the building looks great. Thank you to all who helped get the school ready for the new year! Our enrollment has grown from last year as well. We are blessed to be serving more local families than ever. Please pray that we are able to build relationships with these families and help them in any way possible.

This upcoming month, we have some exciting events planned. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held the week of September 9th in the Chapel across from the office. We encourage you to stop in to see what is available. Remember, with any purchase made, a portion is donated back to the school in Scholastic Dollars that we can then use to purchase books or other items. On the 25th of this month, we will be participating in the national prayer event called, "See you at the Pole." It is a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to gather together to pray for our school, community, and nation. We will be gathering at 9 am if you would like to pray with us in person or pray for us.

Every year, MACS has an Annual Fund drive to kick off the school year. We humbly ask you to participate in donating to our MACS Fund. MACS has some of the lowest tuition rates in the state of Ohio. However, the cost of educating your child has increased and there is a gap between our tuition cost and the cost to operate our school. We ask that you consider making a tax-exempt donation. Help us reach our goal of \$5000 and 100 percent participation. To donate, you can visit, <https://donorbox.org/macs-fund>. We could not continue this ministry without the gracious support of MFCC and our community. We thank you for your generosity and prayers!

Upcoming Events

Scholastic Book Fair, September 9th through 13th

Grandparent's Day Celebration, September 11th

See You at the Pole Prayer event, September 25th

**"But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31**

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 2 - Labor Day — Office Closed
Sept. 3 - Forty-Forty Meeting 10 am & 6 pm
Sept. 5 - ASX (Grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Sept. 8 - AWANA (Grds. K-5) 5 - 7:30 pm
Sept. 9 - General Board Mtg. 7:30 pm
Sept. 10 - Home Dept. Meeting 7:00 pm
Sept. 10 - 24/7 Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm
Sept. 11 - Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Sept. 12 - ASX (Grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Sept. 15 - AWANA (Grds. K-5) 5-7:30 pm
Sept. 18 - Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm
Sept. 18 - FLIP (Grds. 4-6) 6:30-7:30 pm
Sept. 18 - 24/7 Bible Study 7:30-8:30 pm
Sept. 18 - Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Sept. 19 - ASX (Grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Sept. 19 - Deacons Pantry 9 - 10:30 am
Sept. 22 - CIY Brunch after am worship
Sept. 22 - Congregational Meeting 12:30
Sept. 22 - AWANA (Grds. K-5) 5-7:30 pm
Sept. 25 - Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm
Sept. 25 - FLIP (Grds. 4-6) 6:30-7:30 pm
Sept. 25 - 24/7 Bible Study 7:30-8:30 pm
Sept. 25 - Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Sept. 26 - ASX (Grds. 1-5) 3:30-5:00 pm
Sept. 29 - AWANA (Grds. K-5) 5-7:30 pm

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

September Board Meeting
September 9th @ 7:30 pm

Reports are due to the office by
Thursday, September 5th

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual congregational meeting is
Sun., Sept. 22nd @ approx. 12:30 pm.
We will be meeting following the CIY
Brunch. **ALL** reports are due to the
office by Monday, Sept. 16th.

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, Sept. 19th, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.

SHUT INS

Mr. George Horvath
c/o St. Luke's
4301 Woodale SE
Room 114
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Mary Jo Hardman
c/o St. Luke's
4301 Woodale SE
Room 206
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Dorothy Birney
c/o St. Luke's
4301 Woodale SE
Room 101
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Roseanna Throckmorton
750 Malvern Manor #26
Malvern, OH 44644

Mrs. Connie Morris
205 Scranton Blvd.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. Don Shields
c/o Minerva Healthcare
1035 E. Lincoln Way
Minerva, OH 44657

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
 Bob Flagg
 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
 Carol Thomas
 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.



ASX (Grades 1-5) will resume
 Thursday, Sept. 5th 3:30 - 5:00

AWANA (Grades K-5) will resume
 Sunday, Sept. 8th 5 - 6:30 pm

Adult Bible Study will begin
 Wednesday, Sept. 18th 6:30 - 7:30 pm

FLIP (Bible Study for Grades 4-6) will resume
 Wednesday, Sept. 18th 6:30 - 7:30 pm

CIY Brunch Sunday, Sept. 22nd
 right after our morning
 Service with our
Congregational Meeting to follow
 at approx. 12:30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Aug. 4</u>	<u>Aug. 11</u>	<u>Aug. 18</u>	<u>Aug. 25</u>
Worship	123	114	164	137
Bible School	43	62	79	73

FINANCIALS

Financial Information
 Available upon
 request

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
 Minerva, Ohio 44657

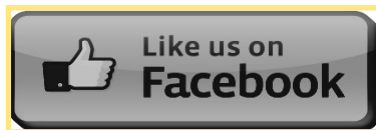
August 29, 2024

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

**Staff****Chris Sanford****Lead Minister**

502-218-9081
 csanford155@gmail.com

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4	Dave & Teresa Seibert 42 years	19	Don & Kathryn Clapper 60 years Floyd & Ginny Stryffeler 19 years
6	Matt Hogue Floyd Stryffeler	20	Bill Becknell
8	Ethan Logan	23	Nathan Brown Don Clapper
9	Tanner Keaton	25	Chris & Samantha Sanford 14 years
11	Nate & Chelsea Oberly 14 years	26	Lynette Shatzer John & Lisa George 42 years
16	Greyson Brown	27	Ethan Snyder
17	Kasie Hogue Mary Anne Sutton	30	Dave Bush
18	Jerry Hasch		

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29
Comm. Meditation	Bruce Doppelheuer	Nate Oberly	Zach Long	Dave Bush	John Long
Ushers	John Bowman	Bill Shaw	Brandon Keen	John George	Bob Palmer
Deaconess	Sandi Unkefer	Sandi Unkefer	Sandi Unkefer	Sandi Unkefer	Sandi Unkefer
Shut-In Teams	Dave Seibert & Jordan Vert	Kenny Hoopes & Bob Palmer	Matt Zahn & John Long	Bruce Doppelheuer & Mike Fountain	Zach Long & Jay Harsh