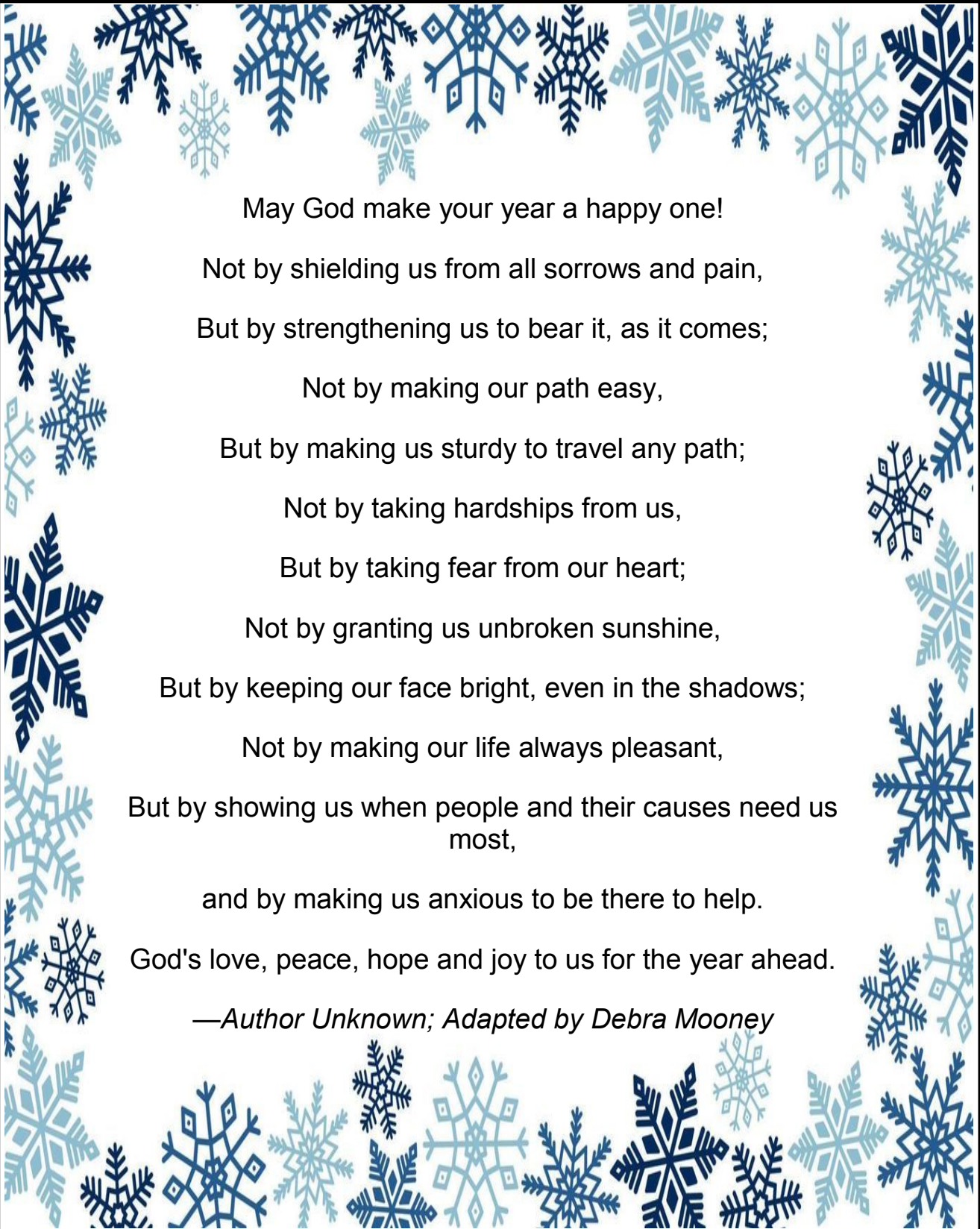


JANUARY 2025



May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us
most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

—*Author Unknown; Adapted by Debra Mooney*

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

In a 2018 article in the Guardian, the question is asked can we choose our own identity? The article states "Isn't it up to her? What could be more personal than the question of who she is — what she is? Isn't your identity, as people often say, "your truth"? The question is straightforward; the answer is anything but. And that's because a seismic fault line runs through contemporary talk of identity, regularly issuing tremors and quakes. Your identity is meant to be the truth of who you are."

Who are we? Who determines what I am, who I am, what my purpose in life is? If one seeks these answers apart from a Biblical perspective on life, one will only and always end at arbitrary, subjective, and confusing conclusions. That is, if my identity is determined not by a source outside of myself, but it rests completely on how I feel, then everyone is free to decide if they are male or female, cat or dog, even whether they are 30 or if they are 3.

Thankfully the source of our identity is also the source of sanity in the midst of ever increasing confusion. God is the one who determines not only my objective identity, but my purpose, and my value. Jesus speaking of His followers says you are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.

As the salt of the earth, the church collectively preserves God's objective moral standards. Jesus places on us the responsibility to preserve morality in the midst of unspeakable moral decay eroding the culture. The culture's standards change as rapidly as do the opinions of the people that make up the culture. This is seen most clearly in politics. Those running for office, if they desire to be elected, must say what the culture wants to hear. Donald Trump just came out and was clearly wavering on the issue of abortion. Why? As abortion becomes a normalized practice in our culture, politicians must adapt, or face the likely chances they will not be elected to public office. Yet Jesus is King, He is not running for office and He certainly does not need man to bestow any authority upon Him. As such, His standards by which the church is tasked with presenting to the world never changes in an ever changing world.

Jesus also calls His followers to be cities upon a hill. Imagine you are a traveler in the first century, wandering thru the endless expanses of wilderness returning home. All you have seen for the last couple of miles, the last couple of hours is darkness. Then, you climb that rise, and there in the distance, on the highest hill is a city alight with life. All of us would breathe a sigh of relief. The city is a visible sign of hope. In the city you will find a place to rest, people to connect with, and security.

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN . . . Cont.

This is what the church is! In a world that is engulfed in the darkness of falsehood and hopelessness, how refreshing the church looks. In the church those who are searching will be able to find love, they will be able to find community. Most importantly they will be able to find Jesus. the One, who puts an end to the confusion of identity by telling us who we really are.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-3

FAMILY MATTERS

We send our sympathies to . . . The family and friends of Janet Greathouse. Janet passed away Sat., Dec. 14th. Her service was held Fri., Dec. 20th.

. . . Also, to Bill Becknell and his family and friends with the passing of his wife, Linda. Linda passed away on Wed., Dec. 18th. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Thank you . . . for your support, prayers, visits and calls. I truly appreciate each and everyone of you. It has been a long process and I have a couple of more months of therapy. God bless you and keep me in your prayers as I continue the healing process. Connie Morris

. . . to everyone who helped in any way during the holiday season. So many things happen "behind the scenes" and we want you to know that they did not go unnoticed. Whether you sang in the choir, led music, sang special music, decorated, planned an activity, helped set up or tear down scenery, so many other thing that just happened to get done — just know you were noticed and **appreciated!!**

HUMILITY

It's a defining characteristic of any Christian. You know someone is humble by how they live. It is easy to look at someone and recognize if they are humble or not. But how humble are you? If you just answered in your head that you are pretty humble, or maybe even really humble, chances are you are not humble. You see, a wise Sunday school teacher once taught me, "The second you think you are humble, you aren't anymore."

To be honest, Church I think we all need a lesson in humility. Our American culture today is always demanding that we look out for ourselves. We are entitled. We are deserving. We owe no one anything. When everyone deserves and is entitled to everything, chaos ensues. The attitude that Jesus advocates for is lost. Sadly, this lack of humility creeps its way into the Church as well. In some ways, it is not so much creeping as it is marching right in and parading itself around to great applause! Instead of thinking about new folks coming into the Church, too often we plant ourselves on an opinion that we will not budge on. This results in many lost opportunities to share the Gospel with others. What if us sacrificing our preference for something means salvation for someone else? Isn't that change worth it? Isn't in that instance laying down our pride worth it?

By the way, this is serious stuff. In James 4:6 the Bible tells us clearly, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." I don't know about you, but I don't think as Christians we want God to be opposing us... Any relationship with Jesus starts with humility. When you come to Christ you must ADMIT that you are the one that is messed up. You are the one caught in your sin. Jesus brings us out of that horrible place. However, once we are saved, in order to continue a life for Jesus, the attitude of humility has to continue. Church, once we think we got this life figured out on our own, we will fall.

Let us not forget Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." I think one of the best examples of a person being put in their place and being reminded of who God is and his greatness is in the book of Job. Don't get me wrong here, Job was a righteous man, he loved God. He obeyed God. But for so many chapters in the book of Job we either hear Job constantly contemplating why these terrible things have happened to him, or we hear his friends give their meager attempts at explaining to Job their opinion on why these things are happening to him. Most of it doesn't get Job anywhere until God Himself finally speaks in the final chapters. Job 38:1-4 says this:

Continued

HUMILITY (Cont.)

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?

Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

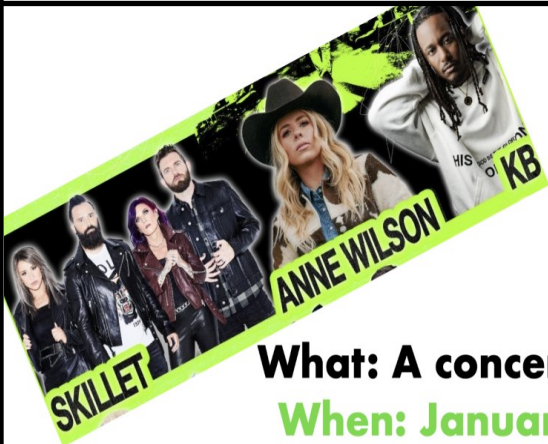
You can imagine the Lord's BOOMING voice ripping through the sky, Job's face in total shock and awe. "Oh yeah, God knows more than I do." That is the simple reality of it, what we must be willing to accept. You and I don't know everything, as much as we would like to think we do! Peter would tell us in 1 Peter that we need to "clothe ourselves in humility". In what areas do I need to be more humble? In what areas do you need to be more humble? Let us look to God's Word, compare ourselves with Jesus, and it will become pretty clear where we need to change.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Zach

BeRomans12

"Together – We Build"



What: A concert featuring top Christian artists

When: January 31st, 2024 in Cleveland, OH

Who: 6th-12th grade, you may invite friends!

Leaving Minerva FCC @ 3:30pm, will return around 12am

Cost: \$15 Cash

You will also need money for food in the arena as well as souvenirs if you so choose

Text Zach @ 330-417-4834 ASAP if you are going!

OUR SHUT-INS

Mr. Bill Becknell
3275 Union Ave. SE
Minerva, OH 44657



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

Mrs. Sandy Russell
42933 SR 39
Wellsville, OH 43968

Mrs. Alice Archer
c/o St. Luke's
220 Applegrove St. NE
North Canton, OH 44720

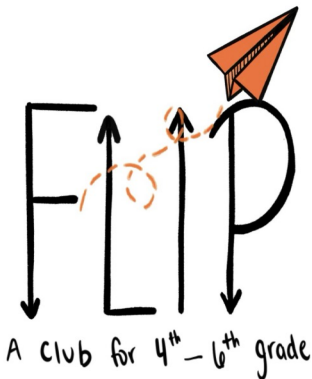
Mrs. Shirley Aultfather
15341 Lincoln St. SE
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Virginia Miller
22742 US Rt. 30



Hey 4th - 6th graders! FLIP IS BACK!

So, what is FLIP?



What: A club for 4th-6th grade that meets once a week to have a great time with each other and the Lord! FLIP includes:

- Games
- Music
- God's Word

Where: Minerva FCC, Youth Room

When: **Wednesday** nights from 6:30pm - 7:30pm starting back **January 15th, 2025**

Why: To show students they are loved by God while giving them a place to belong.

A club for 4th - 6th grade

Questions? Call or Text Zach Long @ 330-417-4834

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

UPPER ROOM

Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm at Minerva FCC



6th-12th grade



Come and enjoy some food with us as we look at

what a life for Jesus really looks like!

If you are 6th grade or older, you can come to both FLIP and Upper Room!

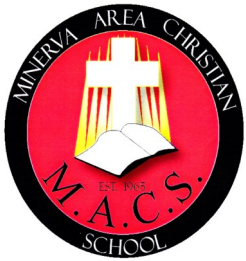
Questions? Call or Text Zach Long @ 330-417-4834

AFTER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



Thursdays
3:30—5:00 pm
Grades 1 - 5

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Happy New Year from MACS! We hope your Christmas was filled with joy and warmth. As we prepare to welcome students back on January 6th, we reflect on the blessings of 2024 and look forward with excitement to all the wonderful things 2025 has in store.

Our Christmas celebrations were great times of worship. Our students spread cheer in the most delightful ways during their parties and programs. It was a joy to see families come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus and make memories right here at school!

Exciting News for New Families! In February, we'll open our doors to new student applications for the 2025-2026 school year. If you know families looking for a nurturing, faith-based education for their children from Pre-K to 8th Grade, please encourage them to contact us. We're eager to meet and share what makes MACS unique!

Mark your calendars for our Open Houses:

- Saturday, February 22nd
- Thursday, February 27th

Detailed information is available at minervafcc.com/open-house. It's a perfect chance to explore our campus, meet our team, and see where your child's journey could begin.

If you are looking for a way to support MACS, Kishman's gift cards can be purchased from the office in increments of \$25, \$50, and \$100. The school receives 10 percent back on any gift card purchased. If you shop at Kishman's it is a great way to support the school!

As we embark on this new year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters at MFCC. Your support allows us to continue our mission and witness the incredible work God is doing in our community. Here's to another year of growth, learning, and celebration! As we help children know the love Jesus has for them.

Upcoming Events:

- Return from Christmas Break - Monday, January 6th
 - No School: MLK Day Monday, January 20th
- MACS January Board Meeting - Tuesday, January 21st, 5:15 pm

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 5 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 5 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 7 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Jan. 9 - AXS 3:30 - 5:00 (grades 1-5)
Jan. 12 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 12 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 13 - General Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Jan. 14 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Jan. 14 - Home Dept. Meeting 7:00 pm
Jan. 15 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Jan. 15 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Jan. 16 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 am
Jan. 17 - AXS 3:30 - 5:00 (grades 1-5)
Jan. 18 - Habitat for Humanity 8:15 - noon
Jan. 19 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 19 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 21 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Jan. 22 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Jan. 22 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Jan. 23 - ASX (grades 1-5) 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Jan. 26 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 26 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 28 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Jan. 29 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Jan. 29 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Jan. 30 - ASX (grades 1-5) 3:30 - 5:00 pm

EYE GLASSES

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.



GENERAL BOARD MEETING

January Board Meeting
Monday, Jan. 13th
@ 7:30 pm

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Saturday, January 18th
8:15 am - noon
324 Jackson St., Minerva
We will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity again for another work day. We will be doing demolition (no prior experience necessary). You must be 18 year or older. If you have questions, please contact Mike Fountain @ 330-323-2615.

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, Jan. 21st**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.

PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Jennifer Allen
 Alice Archer
 Christa Archer
 Kassadee Archer
 Bill Becknell
 Doug Bell
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 Donna Dennis
 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 & Dan
 Lowery
 Scoo & Dolores
 McCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Eric Prowe
 Heidi Randall
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts
 Lynette Shatzer
 Kathy Shaw

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

We have a new Sunday School Class meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. We meet in the upstairs classroom that has the couches in it. Our topic is Christian Doctrine, why we practice what we practice as a Church. This Class is taught by Pastor Sanford. You are welcome to join us!



ATTENDANCE

	<u>Dec. 1</u>	<u>Dec. 8</u>	<u>Dec. 15</u>	<u>Dec. 22</u>	<u>Dec. 29</u>
Worship	132	130	120	131	134
Bible School	75	63	61	55	45

Sally Shaw
 Dean Shotwell
 George Shotwell
 Midge Snyder
 Jerry & Carol Strait
 Allie Swank
 Carol Thomas
 Cheri Grimes Torres
 Jeremiah Ward
 Marge Warrick
 Eva Wolf

MILITARY

Military: CSM Jesse Clark; Sgt. Kurt Warrick, Staff Sgt. E6 Michael Derrick, Bill Muzz. **Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
 Minerva, Ohio 44657

January 6, 2025

Church

minervafcc@hotmail.com

Celebration 10:15 am

Sunday School 9:00 am

Sunday Evening 5:00 pm

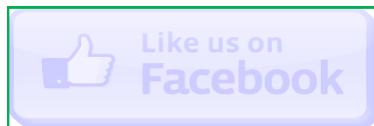
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

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**

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

cstoffer@minervaareachristianschool.org

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>7 Dave Seibert</p> <p>10 Lou Ann Sell</p> <p>11 Marge Warrick</p> <p>12 Ken Hoopes</p> <p>18 Brent Brown</p> <p>21 Trish Bush</p> <p>22 Lynn & Patty Morgan
31 Years</p> | <p>25 Mindi Chambers
Ralph McCully
Ralph & Dolores
McCully 17 years</p> <p>26 Barbara Palmer
97 years</p> <p>29 Jean Cogan
Helen Truex</p> <p>30 Sally Shaw</p> |
|---|---|



SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26
Comm. Meditation	John Long	Jordan Vert	John Russell	Bruce Doppelheuer
Ushers	Bob Palmer	Chip Syme	John Bowman	Bill Shaw
Deacons	Trish Bush	Trish Bush	Trish Bush	Trish Bush
Shut-In Teams	Jordan Vert & Dave Seibert	Bob Palmer & Kenny Hoopes	Nate Oberly & Mike Fountain	Bruce Doppelheuer & John Long