

NOVEMBER 2025

Minerva First Christian Church

*One
Grateful
Night*

**Thanksgiving Meal
Carnival Games
Candy Prizes
Bounce Houses**

✨ ALL FREE ✨

***Children must be
accompanied by an adult**

November 9th 5:00 PM

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

I love the way that God has created each of my children with their own personalities. Some are cleaner and neater, while others are messier and artistic. My son Malachi is more easily distracted. So when I am talking to him or disciplining him, I literally have to hold his face in my hands while I am talking to him. We live at a time when distractions are all around us, vying for our attention every waking hour. It is critical for our Christian walk that we spend time daily in God's Word and in prayer.

Yet many times I am often like Malachi when it comes to prayer time or in the daily reading of the word of God. I start pretty good, but in no time, I get distracted and all too often give in to the distractions. So what began as a quiet time with the Lord, too often turns into a searching of my social media feed. So how do I stay focused in an age that is ripe with distractions?

Colossians 3 commands me to fix my thoughts on the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. To do this, to spend time with God, to retreat from the world and into His presence daily, I must practice intentional living. When I am reading God's Word, when I am in prayer to God, one way that I can stay focused is to silence my notifications and my calls on my phone. It is such a little thing, but it really does pay to turn it to silent. Most likely, you will not meet any pressing issues as you spend time with the Lord.

Jesus says When you pray, enter into your closet and pray to your heavenly Father, who sees what is done in secret. The principle here is to position yourself, even physically, away from all that would need your attention while you are spending time with God. So spend time with Him in a room that doesn't have a television. Close the door to the room that you are going in so that people know you are currently occupied.

Another practice that almost guarantees I will not be disturbed or become distracted while spending time with the Lord is waking earlier to ensure my time with God is not interrupted. This goes for when I am on vacation as well. Waking up before my spouse and my children ensures a less distracted time with the Lord.

These are not hard things to do. These are super practical ways that you and I can practice to ensure a thriving and growing relationship with the Lord. The more concentrated time that you spend with Christ, the more dividends it will pay concerning your relationship with God.

NO ONE SAID IT WOULD BE EASY

Being a true Christian brother or sister. This may seem like something that is actually pretty easy, right? You show up to church on Sunday and greet your brothers in sisters, right? No, in fact, it's much more than that. It goes way deeper than that, and it can actually be a very difficult thing at times. Here are a few things in my very short experience that I would say are key to being a true brother or sister in Christ.

1. Even though they may be a lot different than you, love them anyway.

One thing is for sure, all Christians are not alike. One may have great interest in hiking and fishing, while another may find knitting to be their passion... Bad examples aside, this really is true. What binds all Christians together is that we love and serve Jesus, and that means we love each other because we love Him. It also makes us the Church. My gifts and talents would be nothing without the rest of your gifts and talents combined to magnify God's love and grace to the world. When the Church is truly working together, it is an unstoppable force.

2. Be prepared to be hurt, and be ready to forgive.

As wonderful as the Church can be when it is clicking on all cylinders (which is our goal!), the Church is made of a bunch of imperfect, human people that make a lot of mistakes. And more so than that, we sin! We do stupid and mean things to our brothers and sisters. When someone does something wrong to you, be ready to forgive. Be willing to meet with that person, talk things out and grow the relationship. Don't give up on people. Jesus didn't give up on us. I am so glad He didn't.

3. Pray for future members of the Church

Right now as I write this article there are people walking the streets of Minerva that have no idea there is a God in Heaven that loves them with a never-ending love. They have no idea that some day they will be involved in a Church that is going to change Minerva for Jesus. But folks, they are out there, we just have to go get them. Being a true brother or sister in Christ means also looking for new brothers and sisters. Pray we unite, and stamp out the forces of Hell, Satan, and darkness.

Finally, don't forget that we have little brothers and sisters (our children) watching us to see how we treat other brothers and sisters in Christ. How we treat others is how they will grow up to treat others. Scary, but true...

Thanks and God Bless,
Zach Long
BeRomans12
Together – We Build

SHUT INS

Mrs. Barbara Palmer
16415 Freed St. SE
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Betty McIntosh
16621 Lisbon St. NE
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Donna Long Dyer
33 Deland Ave.
Columbus, OH 43214
(Donna was the secretary
at MFCC for many years)

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

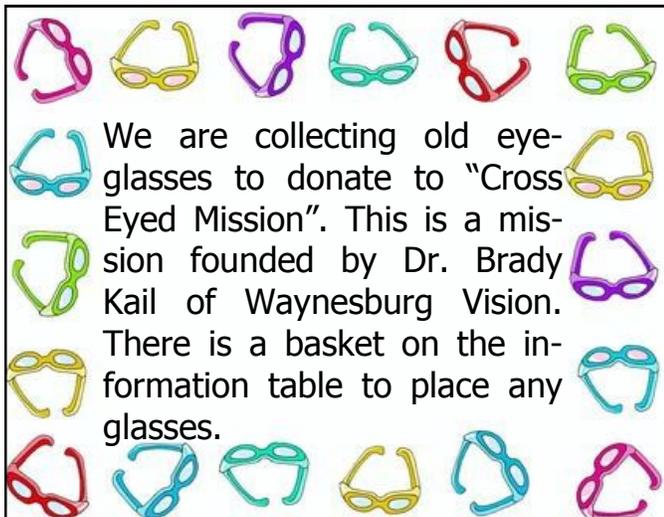
Mr. John Toalston
1125 Whitacre Ave. SE
Minerva, OH 44657



FAMILY MATTERS

We send our sympathies . . . to Kat Schehl with the passing of her sister, Charlie Swagler. Services were held in Akron on October 13th.

*"Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you."
1 Peter 5:7*



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.

ANGEL TREE



We will be partnering with the Salvation Army to make Christmas happier for some local children. Later this month, there will be tags on the Christmas Tree in the lobby, if you would like to take one and bring the gift back. The gifts do not have to be wrapped. The tags have a paper on the back with suggestions for the children - they are not asking you to purchase everything on the lists. Please have the gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 10th.

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Our school year is already two months underway, and we're gearing up for the wonderful holiday season ahead. MACS has some exciting events lined up for our students to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's going to be a fantastic time to be part of our school community!

Last month, our fall field trips were a big hit. Our K-4 students explored Arrowhead Orchards, while our K-8 students visited the McKinley Museum. Our preschoolers had a delightful outing to Varian Orchard. These were awesome events, and we thank all of the venues for their hospitality

We've also had our fall fundraiser through Stoller's Pastries. Students sold these delicious treats to support various student activities. Thank you to all who participated in the fundraiser. It allows us to continue to offer exciting student events.

On October 29th, we hosted our annual Pumpkin Prayer celebration for preschool through 4th-grade students. It's a wonderful way to share the Gospel message through a fun, seasonal activity.

We will be having a Family Movie Night on Friday, December 5th, at 6 pm. At this event, you can tour our beautifully decorated classrooms—each themed by our students and teachers. Enjoy a homemade Christmas dessert. Cap the night with popcorn, candy, and a showing of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" in the Sanctuary. This is open to the public. We hope you can join us!



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov. 2 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Nov. 2 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm
Nov. 2 - Choir Christmas Practice 6:30 pm
Nov. 4- Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Nov. 5 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 5 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 6 - ASX 3:15 - 5:30 pm
Nov. 9 - One Grateful Night 5:00 pm
Nov. 10 - General Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Nov. 11 - Home Dept. Meeting 1:00 pm
Nov. 11 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Nov. 12 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 12 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 13 - ASX 3:15 - 5:30 pm
Nov. 16 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Nov. 16 - Evening Bible Study 5:00 pm
Nov. 16 - Choir Christmas Practice 7:30 pm
Nov. 18 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Nov. 19 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 19 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Nov. 20 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 am
Nov. 20 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm
Nov. 22 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
Nov. 23 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Nov. 23 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm
Nov. 23 - Choir Christmas Practice 6:30 pm
Nov. 25 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Nov. 26 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 26 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving
Nov. 28 - Office Closed
Nov. 30 - No Evening Services
Dec. 5 - Red Cross Blood Mobile 11 - 5



GENERAL BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER GENERAL BOARD MEETING

NOV. 10th
@ 7:30 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 **Thurs., Nov. 20th**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, NOV. 22nd

8:00 AM
@ MFCC



Join us for
Donuts & Devotion

PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Jennifer Allen
 Alice Archer
 Kassadee Archer
 Shawn Archer
 Bill Becknell
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 Donna Long Dyer
 (past Church
 Secretary)
 Barbara Dunlevy
 John George
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Larry Hartshorn
 Todd Hetherington
 Dave Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 George Horvath
 Lee Iden
 Rory & Nancy King
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Sondra & Dan
 Lowery
 Scoo & Dolores
 M^cCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Emily Owens
 Barbara Palmer
 Tim Parker
 Eric Prowe
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts



ATTENDANCE

	<u>Oct. 5</u>	<u>Oct. 12</u>	<u>Oct. 19</u>	<u>Oct. 26</u>
Worship	111	132	139	152
Bible School	63	70	67	88

MILITARY

Military: CSS Jesse Clark; Sgt. Kurt Warrick, Staff Sgt. E6 Michael Derrick, John William Mozz. **Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 300 West Lincoln Way
 Minerva, Ohio 44657

October 30, 2025

Church Services
 minervafcc@hotmail.com
 Celebration 10:15 am
 Sunday School 9:00 am

OFFICE HOURS
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 pm

Minerva First Christian Church
MinervaFCC.com



Staff

Mr. Chris Sanford
Lead Minister
 502-218-9081
 csanford155@gmail.com

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 330-936-5723
 cstofer@minervaareachristianschool.org

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Ray Leatherberry | 23 Larry Palmer |
| 5 George Horvath | 26 Michelle Cogan |
| 12 John & Debbie Bowman
55 years | 27 Jake & Holly Reed
32 years |
| 13 Mary Jo Hardman
Chris Sanford | 29 Chere Torres |
| 15 Everett Schehl | 30 Maureen DeSantis |
| 17 Matt & Kasie Hogue
7 years | |
| 18 Brandon Keen | |
| 19 Mike Fountain | |
| 21 Alicia Sterling | |



SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30
Comm. Meditation	Jordan Vert	Dave Bush	Zach Long	John Long	John Russell
Ushers	Chip Syme	John Bowman	Bill Shaw	Brandon Keen	John George
Deaconess	Jo D. Unkefer	Jo D. Unkefer	Jo D. Unkefer	Jo D. Unkefer	Jo D. Unkefer
Shut-In Teams	Bruce Doppelheuer & Brad Snyder	Zach Long & Mike Fountain	Jordan Vert & Kenny Unkefer	John Long & Jay Harsh	Dave Seibert & Chris Sanford