

FEBRUARY 2025



BUT seek first HIS

KINGDOM

AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,

and all these things
will be given to you
as well.



Matthew 6:33



FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

David Hume the famous Scottish skeptic is probably known as the father of the argument from evil to disprove the existence of God. His argument was God is the benevolent and omnipotent creator. If such a creator exists, then there can be no evil. There is evil in the world. A benevolent and omnipotent creator does not exist. God does not exist. So does this deal the deathblow to the theistic worldview?

First let's look at the argument. It is true that God is good and He is the Creator of all things. Yet this is where the argument begins to fail, that since God exists there can't be any evil. How does this logically follow? Most would say because God is good and all powerful, He would have stopped evil before it began, or He would put an end to it now. In fact the whole argument rises or falls on this premise. Since God is all good, and all powerful, then where does evil come from? The answer is rather simple. Freedom of the will! If freedom of the will exists, it logically answers the problem of evil in our world. How so?

There is evil in the world. A benevolent and omnipotent creator does not exist. God does not exist

One of the greatest gifts God gave to man is the freedom of the will. To dispute the argument of freedom of the will is actually self defeating, because you are using freedom of your will to argue against it. No one is forcing you to argue against personal freedom!

God knowing that we would use our freedom to commit acts of atrocity, gave us the gift in the first place so that we can commit acts of benevolence. Since we have been given this gift, some have abused the gift and committed evil acts. Yet we cannot fault God for abusing the gift he bestowed upon us, anymore than we can blame the car a young person gets for a present and drives drunk and kills someone. No one in their right mind would say it is the car or even the maker of the car's fault for this young person drunk driving and killing someone. So why are we so quick to blame the One who gave us free will when we are the ones who abuse that free will to commit evil. So we can restate the argument as follows There is an omnibenevolent, omnipotent God who bestows free will on his creatures. Those creatures choose to abuse the gift of God (free will) and commit acts of evil. Therefore God exists and evil is a result of man's free will.

Keep the conversation going. Be social and share and comment.

REFORMING OUR HEARTS

If you read 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles you will quickly find out that after King David and King Solomon, there are A LOT of evil kings that rule over Israel and Judah... Idol worship is rampant. Some even sacrifice their own children to false gods. At times it is total chaos. This is what happens when the One True God is not your One True King...

But there are a few good kings mixed in here and there. King Hezekiah and King Josiah to name a couple. King Josiah was just 8 years old when he began to reign in Judah, but the change he would bring about would be what would make his reign one of the most admirable. The changes he would enforce would cement his legacy as a king who put God first, and not himself first.

Things in God's people's history had gotten so bad, that they didn't even know where the book of the law was! Imagine so much sin, so much idolatry ruling for such a long time that a Bible cannot even be found! That is how much the nation of Judah had digressed... The Bible tells us that the book of the law is found in the 18th year of Josiah's reign as king. When he finds out what it says and how the people have been missing out on how they are supposed to be living, look how King Josiah responds...

*When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.
(2 Kings 22:11)*

Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant. (2 Kings 23:1-3)

Take a moment to read 2 Kings 23, you will see all the changes that King Josiah made, and how he was entirely serious about bringing the nation back to the Lord. The verse below summarizes perfectly the reign of King Josiah:

(continued . . .)

... REFORMING OUR HEARTS

Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did— with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. (2 Kings 23:25)

Looking out over his kingdom, King Josiah saw the change that needed to be made, and he made it. Scripture doesn't tell us that he waited around for a few years or even that he consulted with some of his officials before making this decision. He knew that for the longest time God's people were not acting like God's people, and that needed to change, immediately.

When you look out over your life, are there any high places that need removed in your life? Any shrines or altars to false gods that need torn down, cut down, and ground into powder? (metaphorically or literally?!) Are the desires in our heart that we claim to be God's desires for our lives, really ours instead of His?

Israel and Judah both during this time in their history loved to worship both the Lord and other gods. One day worshipping the One True God, another day worshipping Baal. Church, I gotta be honest. I think we do the same thing a lot of times. We might worship the One True God on Sunday morning, but do we worship money, or things, or something else the rest of the week? Who really sits on the throne of our heart?

Does reform need to be made in your heart in the same way Josiah made reform in the nation of Judah? Way too many Christians just go with the flow, and praise God one day a week, don't be that kind of Christian. Worship the Lord always! He deserves it.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Zach
Be Romans12
"Together – We Build"

FAMILY MATTERS

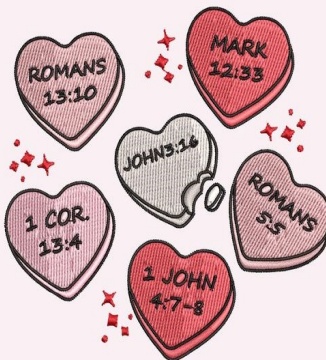
We celebrate with the baptism of Jacob Unkefer. Jacob was baptized on Sunday, January 19th by Pastor Zach. He is the son of Kenny & Sandi Unkefer and younger brother to KayD. They make their home at 8004 Lorey Rd., East Rochester, OH 44625.

We also welcome . . . the Cochran Family. Michael & Morgan came forward on Sunday, January 26th to transfer their membership to MFCC. They have three children, Jeremiah, Joshua & James. Their home address is 3067 Arbor Rd. NE, Carrollton, OH 44615. WELCOME!

OUR SHUT-INS

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


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



Mrs. Lois Hawkins
c/o Centreville Village
1082 Kensington Rd. NE
Carrollton, OH 44615

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

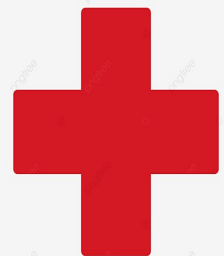
EYE GLASSES

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.

BLOOD MOBILE

**FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 7TH
11 AM - 5 PM**

Give the gift of
Life!





Scan code to sign up!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

5:30PM- CONCLUSION OF GAME

FREE PIZZA, CHIPS, COOKIES, & DRINKS!



**JOHN & JILL LONG'S HOUSE
3023 DEUBLE AVE. SE EAST CANTON**



**TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED FROM MFCC IF NEEDED, LEAVING AT 5:30PM,
WILL RETURN AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE GAME**

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

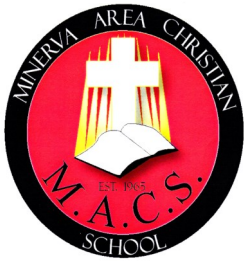
February 16th, 2025 @ 5pm

TO REDEEM THE WHOLE CREATION
YOU DID NOT DESPISE THE CROSS

Minerva First Christian Church

Join us as we worship with Perry Christian Church's
Worship band!

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



As we enter the third nine weeks, we're thankful that the year has gotten off to a great start with community, fun, and learning, even amidst four snowy days that added a bit of winter wonder to our schedule.

On February 16th, our MACS Choir will uplift the congregation at MFCC during the Sunday service. We warmly invite all families to join us in worship and song. Our students will be very excited to be a part of the service.

Furthermore, we have upcoming Open Houses scheduled for February 22nd and 27th, we're actively engaging with local churches and preschools to spread the word about our Christian education. If you know of a local family who may be interested in their child attending MACS, have them contact the office to sign up for an Open House.

On Thursday, March 6th, we will hold a fundraising event at McDonald's in Minerva. Stop by between 5 pm and 8 pm to get some food and support MACS. A portion of the sales will be donated back to the school! We hope you can join us.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

Upcoming Events

No School: President's Day Monday, February 17th

Board Meeting Tuesday, February 18th, 5:15 pm

Open House: Saturday, February 22nd, Thursday, February 27th



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb. 2 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Feb. 2 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Feb. 4 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Feb. 5 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Feb. 5 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Feb. 6 - AXS 3:30 - 5:00 (grades 1-5)
Feb. 7 - Red Cross Blood Mobile 11-5 pm
Feb. 8 - Ladies Galentine's Day Event 11 am
Feb. 9 - NO AWANA
Feb. 9 - NO Adult Bible Study
Feb. 9 - MS/HS Super Bowl Party 5:30
Feb. 11 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Feb. 11 - Home Dept. Meeting 7:00 pm
Feb. 12 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Feb. 12 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Feb. 13 - AXS 3:30 - 5:00 (grades 1-5)
Feb. 16 - MACS Choir Singing in AM Service
Feb. 16 - Night of Worship 5:00 pm
Feb. 17 - No School
Feb. 18 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Feb. 19 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Feb. 19 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Feb. 20 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 am
Feb. 20 - ASX (grades 1-5) 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Feb. 22 - MACS Open House 10 am - 12 pm
Feb. 23 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Feb. 23 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Feb. 25 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Feb. 26 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Feb. 26 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Feb. 27 - ASX (grades 1-5) 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Feb. 27 - MACS Open House 6-7:30 pm

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

**NO February
Board Meeting**

GALENTINE'S DAY EVENT



Join us on Saturday,
February 8th at 11
am for our ladies
Galentine's Day
event, for fun,
food
and fellowship.

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, Feb. 20th**, 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
Soo & 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

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School 9:00 am
(classes for all ages)

Celebration 10:15 am
(Nursery & Children's Classes)

AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
(grades K-5)

Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Jan. 5</u>	<u>Jan. 12</u>	<u>Jan. 19</u>	<u>Jan. 26</u>
Worship	112	110	119	135
Bible School	53	55	62	65

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 30, 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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2	Lisa George Malachi Sanford	14	Frank & Maureen DeSantis 44 years
3	Samantha Sanford Dorothy Thomas Mike Weekly	16	Kyle Lowe
		17	Ryan Zahn
4	Marilyn Humphries	19	Sandy Doppelheuer
6	Evelyn Hopkins Hosanna Sanford	22	Ashley Zahn
		23	Alice Archer
9	Debbie Costea	24	Cindy Pilati
10	Lucinda Hoopes	25	Kathy Syme
14	Carolyn Kandel	27	Jeremiah Cochran

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23
Comm. Meditation	Nate Oberly	Zach Long	Dave Bush	John Long
Ushers	Brandon Keen	John George	Bob Palmer	Mike Fountain
Deacons	Mary Ann Dowell	Mary Ann Dowell	Mary Ann Dowell	Mary Ann Dowell
Shut-In Teams	Jay Harsh & Brad Snyder	Chris Sanford & Dave Seibert	Jordan Vert & Bob Palmer	Kenny Hoopes & Nate Oberly