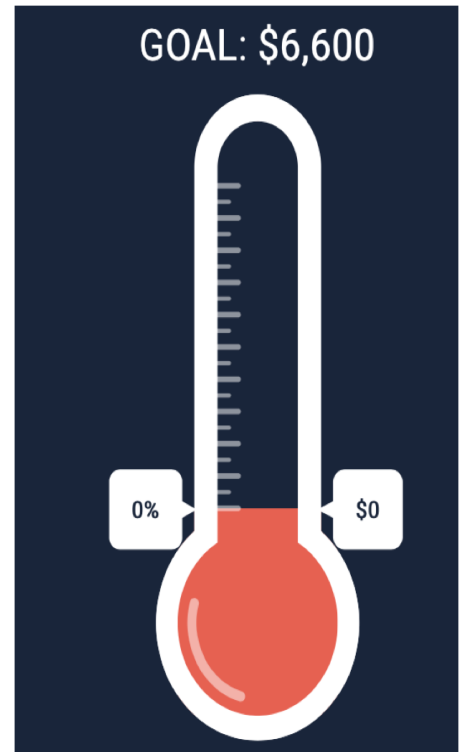




Elevator Repair **NEEDED**

The elevator is in **NEED** or repair. While the elevator is still usable (at this time) it is in need of a major repair due to its age, etc. This repair is to fix the door sensors which is causing opening and closing issues. The estimated cost of this repair is \$6,600.00. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the repair, please put elevator repair in the memo line of your contribution. Thank you! The Trustees



MARCH 2025

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

March 9th, 2025 @ 6pm

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!

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

The resurrected, glorified Lord Jesus Christ appears to John as he is exiled to the island of Patmos in 1st-century Rome as punishment for being a Christian. Jesus has a message for the seven churches in Asia Minor, and He begins His commendations and rebukes with the church at Ephesus.

Ephesus was the NYC of the ancient world. It was a prosperous port, city enriched by Asia Minor's trade. The population of Ephesus was large for an ancient city, and around 250k people were called Ephesus's home. It was one of the most important political and religious centers in Ancient Rome. Ephesus was the center for the worship of Diana and for the increasingly popular worship of the emperor.

In the midst of this sea of pagan idolatry, the church was a small island of salvation. To these beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, John writes. Jesus says to the Church at Ephesus I know your works. Do you ever feel at times that your service for the Lord and His Kingdom is almost entirely unnoticed? It may be unnoticed by man, but Jesus has an intimate knowledge of the work that you are doing for the kingdom, He sees all, notices all, and takes all of your works into account. One said all our works, if done in God's grace, and for God's glory, will never escape God's sight.

The Church at Ephesus had quite a lot going for them as far as their works were concerned. Their commitment to orthodoxy was stellar. Jesus says to them, you have not tolerated evil men in your midst, you have put them to the test, and when they have been found to be false you expel them. The church was intolerant of unrepentant and hardened iniquity.

Yet there was a major flaw in the Church of Ephesus. They were doing the right things, but not out of a love for the Lord. Whatever their motive was, it did not escape the notice of God. The Lord Jesus Christ says in verse seven, I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Too many times as Christians we are simply worn out from life's demands. Especially when we are trying to raise a family on top of everything. We get to a point, where in our Christian life, we are simply going through the motions. We know the things we should say, we know the things we should do, and we do them, not out of an abundance of love for Christ, but they are nothing more than muscle memory.

The remedy is not to try harder and really focus on seeking to do them with love as a motivator. The remedy is actually the very opposite. Stop! Do nothing! Psalm 46:10 says be still and know that I am God. Literally translated it says Cease and know that I am God. Cease not spending time in prayer or devotional time in God's Word. Cease trying to be everything to everyone. Continued . . .

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN . . . Con't.

Cease worrying about who will do something if you take a couple of weeks off from serving. The Lord cares more for who you are becoming than what you are doing. The Lord cares more about His relationship with you than the service that you can offer.

In such a fast-paced, always doing more culture, cease. On your off day, go to a park and seek God in prayer. Spend time in His word, reading and claiming His precious promises for yourself. Return to your first love. Cease doing and seek His face. You will be glad you did.

FAMILY MATTERS

We celebrate . . . the baptism of Chevella McDole. Chevella was baptized during MACS Chapel on Thursday, February 13th. She is a 7th grader at Minerva Area Christian School. Chevella is the daughter of Bill & Shanna McDole and they live at 307 W. High St., Minerva.

We also welcome . . . Matt & Alisia Sterling. They both came forward on Sunday, February 23rd to answer God's calling to be baptized. They reside at 747 East St., Minerva.

Rejoice! It's a joyful occasion welcoming you into the Family of God. We are so happy for you.

Thank you . . . To each and everyone for all your prayers and thoughtfulness to help us with meeting our needs after our house fire and losing our car. We still need continued prayers. Tony & Alecia Smith, Charlotte Russell's daughter.

Thanks Chris for the home & hospital visits, prayers & Educational book. To all the members for all your prayers, cards, flowers & visits. John & I thank you for your patience & support throughout these trials. We love you and are overwhelmed with your support.
Thank you very much, John & Sandy Russell

Thank you . . . To the MACS Students for the Valentine's Day cards. They were very much appreciated!

OUR SHUT-INS

Mrs. Sandy Russell
42933 SR 39
Wellsville, OH 43968

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



Mrs. Eva Wolf
515 Valley St.
Minerva, OH 44657

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

Mrs. Kathy Schmucker
3315 Union Ave.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. Bill Becknell
c/o Minerva Healthcare
1035 E. Lincoln Way
Minerva, OH 44657

"SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE"

I wrote the following article in January of 2023, but I felt it was just as applicable today as back then, I hope it helps you on your journey with Jesus.
- Pastor Zach

"Just how close can I get, Lord, to my surrender, without losing all control?"

Here I am, once again talking about a Casting Crowns song. I apologize, but this one is on my mind and for good reason. The song is titled Somewhere in the Middle, and speaks to the reality that we want to maintain control while surrendering to Jesus. Doesn't make sense, does it? Exactly. The point of the song is that each point it makes contradicts itself. Here are the lyrics to part of the first verse to give you a good example:

"Somewhere between the hot and the cold. Somewhere between the new and the old. Somewhere between who I am and who I used to be.
Somewhere in the middle you'll find me."

You cannot be hot and cold at the same time. You cannot be new and old at the same time. And, you cannot be who you are while also being who you used to be. It's one or the other. The problem is that we seem to live somewhere in the middle of those things, and it's that wishy-washy "riding the fence" faith that God despises. Instead of being hot in our faith, we are warm. Instead of being the new creation he has created us to be, we wallow in the mire of the middle, the mediocre. In Revelation, the Church in Laodicea was warned about this kind of faith, Revelation -16 says this:

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth."

Vomit is disgusting, repugnant, reprehensible! To think that our middle of the way faith could make Jesus use the illustration of vomiting is truly sobering. This kind of faith is nothing new. In the Old Testament this kind of wishy-washy middle of the way faith was commonly used by the Israelites. As they worshipped the false god Baal, they continued to make sacrifices to the Lord. We look at this sort of idolatry in wonder, but is it just how we live our lives today? We must seek to have sincere and genuine faith in Christ, as exemplified by Timothy as Paul writes to him in 2 Timothy 1. Listen to the heartfelt way Paul talks about Timothy's faith, and compare it to your own. Are you this sincere in your love for Jesus? 2 Timothy 1:3-7 says this:

CON'T. "SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE"

"I thank God, whom I serve as my forefathers did, with a pure conscience. How unceasing is my memory of you in my petitions, night and day longing to see you, remembering your tears, that I may be filled with joy; having been reminded of the sincere faith that is in you, which lived first in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, in you also. For this cause, I remind you that you stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control."

Is my faith genuine and sincere towards Christ? Is my surrender real? Have I waved the white flag only to take it down once it means I have to truly follow the command of my new King? "Just how close can I get, Lord, to my surrender, without losing all control?" We know control and surrender don't go along with one another, they can't, so we end up in the middle, allowing God to control the parts we are ok with, and death gripping the parts we will never give up. When will we truly learn to surrender, and stop living in the middle? When we stop living in the middle, we can finally live where we are supposed to be, in the center of His will.

"Lord, I know You're in this place, and I know You're by my side, loving me even on these nights, when I'm caught in the middle."

For His Glory Alone,
Zach Long
BeRomans12
"Together – We Build

HOME DEPT. SOUP DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH

The Home Dept. will be making soup for our shut-ins.



We will be cooking at 10 am.

Deliveries can be picked up at 2:30 pm.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Middle School
Boys & Girls
Basketball

Thursdays 5:30-7:00

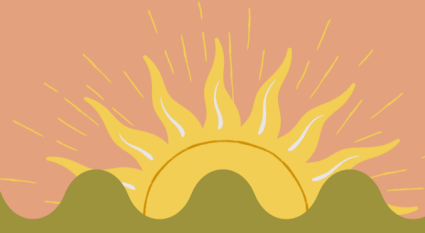
Beginning
March 6th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Hymn Sing with Soup and Salad Dinner

DINNER BY DONATION

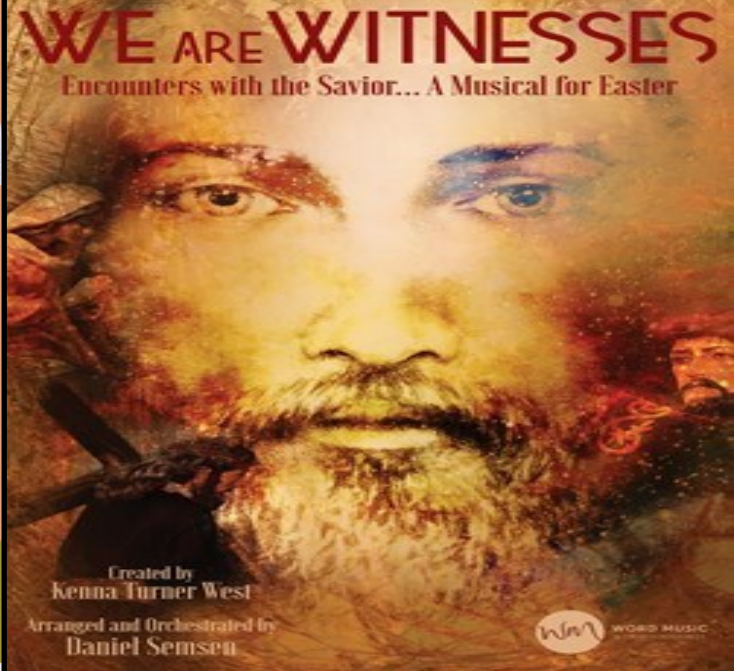
ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT
THE PURCHASE OF NEW
CHOIR MUSIC



Sunday
March
23rd

Dinner
at 5
Hymn
Sing at
6:30

DINNER WILL
BE HELD IN
THE NEW
SOCIAL HALL



EASTER MUSICAL
"WE ARE WITNESSES"
Saturday, April 12th @ 7:00

SuperStart!



BY GOD FOR KINGDOM WORK
2025

Scan code above
to sign up!

CIY SuperStart! - a retreat designed for 4th-6th graders to get closer to God while having a blast!

March 28th - 29th, 2025 in Grove City, OH

Registration Cost: \$30 - will also need money for lunch on 3/29

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

More Info: ciy.com/superstart

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Springtime is around the corner. MACS is looking forward to warmer weather and the beautiful colors of spring. Amazingly, we only have three more months in this school year, and we have so many fun and exciting things happening to end the school year. If you would like to join us at McDonald's on Thursday, March 6th, we will be holding a fundraiser for the school and a portion of the sales from the evening will be donated back to MACS.

We also have a family reading night called, "Reading under the Stars" which will be held on Friday, March 21st from 6 pm to 8 pm. We invite anyone who would like to attend to come and join us for a great time of reading, experiments, and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to invite anyone who may be interested in having their child attend MACS to the school.

We are currently enrolling students for the next school year in all grade levels, pre-school through 8th Grade. Please pray that we can connect with families who want a Christian education for their children. Also, pray for the staff and school board as we prepare for the next school year. We have been truly blessed over the past few years and continue to strive to be in alignment with God's plan for this ministry.

Lastly, if you are looking to help out MACS, we require basic school supplies such as pencils, papers, erasers, etc. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! We want to thank the congregation for their continued support of the school. We are so grateful for having the opportunity to partner with you and continue the legacy of MACS!

"May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, LORD, is in you." Psalm 25:21 NIV

Upcoming Events

McDonald's Fundraiser Thursday, March 6th, 5 pm to 8 pm
MACS Board Meeting Tuesday, March 18th at 5:15 pm
Reading under the Stars Friday, March 21st, 6 pm to 8 pm
No School - Thursday March 27th and Friday, March 28th

MARCH CALENDAR

Mar. 2 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Mar. 2 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Mar. 4 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Mar. 5 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Mar. 5 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Mar. 6 - AXS 3:30 - 5:00 (grades 1-5)
Mar. 6 - MS Basketball 5:30-7:00 pm
Mar. 6 - MACS McDonald's Night 5-8 pm
Mar. 9 - Night of Worship 6:00 pm
Mar. 10 - General Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Mar. 11 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Mar. 11 - Home Dept. Soup Day pick up 2 pm
Mar. 12 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Mar. 12 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Mar. 13 - AXS 3:30 - 5:00 (grades 1-5)
Mar. 13 - MS Basketball 5:30-7:00 pm
Mar. 16 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Mar. 16 - Adult Bible Study 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Mar. 18 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Mar. 19 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Mar. 19 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Mar. 20 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 am
Mar. 20 - ASX (grades 1-5) 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Mar. 20 - MS Basketball 5:30-7:00 pm
Mar. 21 - MACS "Reading Under the Stars" 6-8pm
Mar. 23 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Mar. 23 - Hymn Sing/Soup & Salad Dinner 5pm
Mar. 25 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm
Mar. 26 - FLIP 6:30 - 7:30 pm (grades 4-6)
Mar. 26 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Mar. 27 - NO ASX (grades 1-5) 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Mar. 27 - MS Basketball 5:30-7:00 pm
Mar. 28 - CIY Super Start leaving at 2:30 pm
Mar. 30 - AWANA (grades K-5) 5:00 - 7:30 pm

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

MARCH GENERAL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 10TH 7:30 PM

Please have all reports to the office by Thursday, March 6th

MAN CAMP

Sat., April 12 9am - 3pm

@ Elkhorn Valley Christian Service Camp

Cost: \$35

Speaker: Robin Hart

(former Minister @ Northside Christian Church)

Register by mail or online @

www.elkhornvalley.com

Pickleball, Cornhole, Axe Throwing,
Fishing, Trap Shooting, Hand Gun Range
(must bring own firearms)

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, March 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
 Larry Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Larry Hartshorn
 Lois Hawkins
 Todd Hetherington
 Betty Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 George Horvath
 Marilyn Humphries
 Lee Iden
 Ken
 Leroy Kibler
 Rory & Nancy King
 Mary Long
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Sondra & Dan
 Lowery
 Scoo & Dolores
 M^cCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Barbara Palmer
 Eric Prowe
 Heidi Randall
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts

Elkhorn Valley Christian Service Camp

For our March Spotlight, we will be collecting Food Donations for Elkhorn Camp. Items can be left on the missions table outside the Sanctuary. Below is a list of items that will help them as they serve campers this summer:

Elbow Noodles	Ziplock Bags
Maple Syrup	(Quart or Gallon size)
Mayonnaise	Croutons
Ketchup	Country Time Lemonade
Mustard	Mild Salsa
Ranch Dressing	Spaghetti Sauce
French Dressing	10 & 12 Oz. Foam cups
Italian Dressing	Dawn Dish Soap
Turkey Gravy Packets	#10 Cans of Fruit
Gallon Tea Bags	#10 Cans of Green Beans
Dill Pickle Slices	#10 Cans of Corn
(NOT spears or whole)	

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Feb. 2</u>	<u>Feb. 9</u>	<u>Feb. 16</u>	<u>Feb. 23</u>
Worship	193	122	131	145
Bible School	57	59	63	70

Lynette Shatzer
 Kathy Shaw
 Sally Shaw
 Dean Shotwell
 George Shotwell
 Tony & Alicia Smith
 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.
Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
Minerva, Ohio 44657

February 26, 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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 Dorothy Birney
97 years | 22 Dave Dennis
Patty Morgan
David Unkefer |
| 5 Judy Hasch | 23 Jerry & Judy Hasch
7 years |
| 9 Dolores McCully
Carol White | 25 Butch & Joann
Vandegrift 25 years |
| 15 Marilyn Barley
Aniyah Pappas
Ella Pappas | 26 Matthew Chambers
Bill & Kelly Shaw
43 years |
| 16 Daniel Gordon | 28 Kathy Shaw |
| 17 Kevin Cogan | 29 Teresa Seibert |
| 18 Dan Bergman
Pippa Vert | 31 John Long |

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

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