



Minerva First Christian Church

Volume 58

Issue 7

JULY 2025

blessed

IS THE NATION WHOSE
GOD IS THE

Lord

PSALM 33:12



FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Living the Christian life involves carrying a cross. Jesus says in Luke 9, Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow after Me. This is a daily dying to our own wants and desires. There was a young couple on their wedding day. Before the wedding, the groom came to me and said, "Pastor, I will give you \$100 if you change the wedding vows. When you get to the part to ask me to honor, love, and obey, just leave that part out for me. Then, he handed me \$100. During the wedding, when it came time for the young man's vows, I asked him, "Will you bow down before your bride and obey her every command, serve her breakfast in bed each morning, and never look at another woman as long as you both shall live?" In a tiny voice, the groom said "yes". Then, he whispered in my ear, "What happened?, I thought we had a deal?" I gave him back his \$100 and told him that the bride had offered me more money!

Carrying my cross daily means that I am not seeking my own preferences and wants but dying to my own wants, especially if it means furthering the kingdom. The apostle Paul writes in Romans chapter 15, "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up."

One issue that we will never compromise on is the truth of God's Word. God even tells us to defend Biblical inerrancy at all costs. But when it comes to my own preferences, I have to learn to die to myself. An elder in a church describes this sentiment the best when he once told me I may not like the newer music in church, but if it reaches young people for the Lord, I just need to learn to die to myself. This is the attitude we all must have. Not just concerning music.

If you look around the sanctuary, you can see some new graphic banners added and some new invitation stands with invitations you can give to your friends and family to invite them to church. These are much-needed changes that go far in helping the sanctuary to look more modern. None of these changes affect how we worship Christ, what we believe, or what we will continue to teach and preach.

I love the rich theology of the old hymns. I love the way they tell the story of the Bible in song. They are so good at capturing the person and character of God. My children love new contemporary Christian music. Every morning before school, my son asks me if he can listen to some of his favorite songs. Some of them are just not for me, but I am thankful they weren't made to sing to me, but to God. This is a very good lesson in learning to die to myself.

I think the important thing to look at when we are faced with a similar situation is to ask oneself Is this just my personal preference. To only speak about the love of God and to never talk about the judgment or wrath of God is not a matter of preference; rather, this is a matter of not preaching the whole counsel of God. On the other hand, I miss the old way we did communion with the little cups and the little pieces of bread stacked upon each other. Yet this is not a cause I am going to take up, for this is a matter of personal preference.

Heavenly Father, please help us to be unified in doctrine, where there is matters of personal preference or freedom God help us to value other's opinion over our own. In all things O' God I pray that we would seek peace and unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In Jesus name.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd. If you have grown up in Church, you know that phrase. You have heard it over and over again. We see it on t-shirts and other random places. I am wearing a bracelet that says it right this moment as I write this. We know it comes from Psalm 23, probably easily the most well known Psalm of all time. A vast majority of people have probably heard Psalm 23 at some point in their lives, even if they aren't a Christian or if they even know what it is when they hear it...

The point is that we have probably heard that phrase so many times that we take it for granted. But when David originally wrote that line thousands of years ago, what was he getting at? Remember, when he wrote it he was a shepherd himself. Saying that someone is "your shepherd" meant something. It wasn't just a nice term of endearment.

Being a shepherd was messy and tiring. It wasn't a job that was paid very well, but it was a job in which you had to be alert at all times. Upon doing some quick research, I was reminded of all the things a shepherd did for the sheep.

Shepherds provided for the sheep. They gave them food and water. If the sheep needed something, the sheep cannot provide it for itself, the shepherd must provide it for them. Shepherds protected the sheep. Wolves and other animals would love to get a quick snack by gobbling up a sheep, but not on a good shepherd's watch. No matter the threat, a good shepherd stood against any threat to their flock.

Shepherds guided the sheep. Sheep are lost without a shepherd. They need the guidance of that shepherd in order to have any hope of getting where they need to be. They rely on the shepherd. One of my favorites in this list is that shepherds heal and care for the sheep. If a sheep is wounded or sick, they cannot take care of themselves. It is the shepherd who binds up their wounds, gives them the medicine they need to keep going.

Shepherds watched out for the sheep. Never did they lay their guard down. If a shepherd had to sleep, they would sleep in the door way of the sheep pen to keep any threats to the flock out. They put their life on the line in order to preserve the lives of the sheep. Finally, shepherds KNOW their sheep. They aren't just a number. The shepherd knows how each one acts, their tendencies, and he calls them by NAME. He understands each of his sheep on a deeper level than anyone else.

Con't . . .

CON'T.

The Lord is my shepherd. Now when you read that, it should hit different. Jesus would refer to himself as "The Good Shepherd" in John 10. Oh how thankful I am to that Good Shepherd. Jesus also tells us that the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. Don't forget, that's you and me. He provides all we need. He protects us from the whiles of the devil. He leads and guides us right to where we need to be. He binds up our wounds, heals our hurts, and eases our pain. He laid down His life for us at the Cross, willingly. And He KNOWS each of us by name. He knows our faults, He knows our stupidity, He knows our weaknesses and shortcomings. He really sees us for who we really are. And yet each day He never ceases to put down that shepherd's staff. Praise the Good Shepherd for all He has done in your life today.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, and if you let Him, He is yours too.

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

FAMILY MATTERS

We celebrate the baptisms of . . . Quinn Mangun on May 25th and Gage Dominick on June 1st. Both boys will be Freshmen at Minerva High School. Quinn lives at 22780 Fairview Drive, Minerva. Gage lives at 10514 Harry June Circle, Minerva. They love basketball and are a part of the Thursday night Basketball Open Gym. We praise God for their obedience in following God's instructions for baptism.

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16

Thank you . . . to all my Christian friends for stepping up to help my daughter and son-in-law after the fire. It was greatly appreciated. After four very rough months, they've bought another place and moved in at the end of April. Still a lot to do, but please keep them in your prayers. Thank you also for the prayers on behalf of my grandson, Damian Randall. His tests results came back with good results—Praise God. — Charlotte Russell

We send our sympathies to . . . Marilyn Hoopes and her family with the passing of her daughter-in-law, Debbie Hoopes. Debbie passed away on Tues., June 17th. There are no formal services at this time.

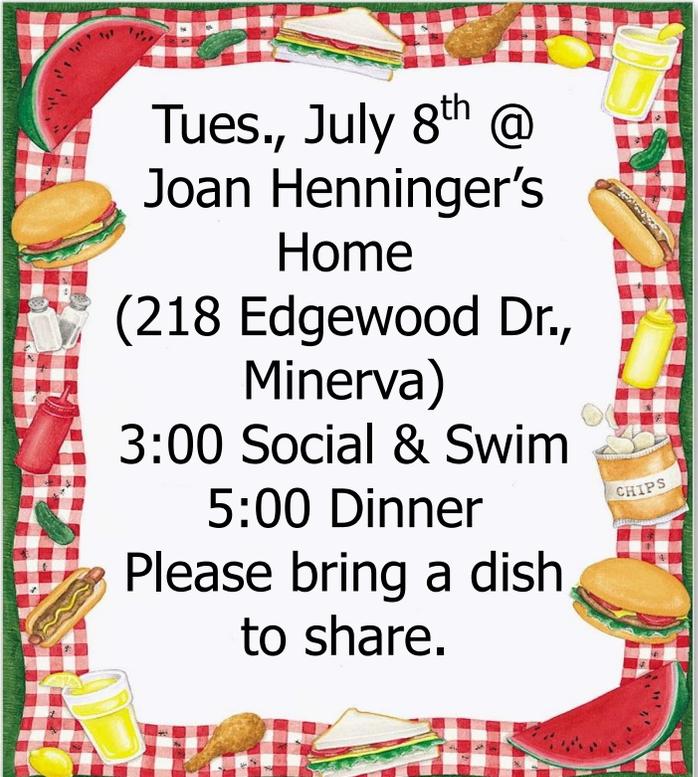
OUR SHUT-INS

Mr. Bill Fisher
8298 Lincoln St. SE
East Canton, OH 44730

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

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

HOME DEPT. PICNIC



Tues., July 8th @
Joan Henninger's
Home
(218 Edgewood Dr.,
Minerva)
3:00 Social & Swim
5:00 Dinner
Please bring a dish
to share.

Help NEEDED



- The trustee's are looking for volunteers for the following projects.

- Weed spraying in parking lots

- Various painting projects indoor and outside

- Pew upholstery repair

- If interested please see a trustee. Thank you!



2025 -2026 Giving Envelopes

- **Please pickup your envelopes at the welcome desk!**
- Envelope boxes are sorted by number.
- If envelopes aren't picked up by July 15th please contact the office to get yours.



**YOUTH
BASKET-
BALL**

Middle School Boys & Girls
Basketball
Thurs., 5:30-7:00



MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



What a delightful summer we've enjoyed so far! Bathed in glorious sunshine, we've celebrated a season filled with heart-warming events and cherished moments. Our Minerva Area Christian School community joyfully participated in the Minerva Homecoming parade and VBS here at MFCC. These occasions brought us together in love and fellowship, creating memories we'll treasure for years to come.

As we bask in the warmth of summer, our dedicated staff is already preparing for the upcoming school year with enthusiasm. Classrooms are being lovingly arranged, and the school is being refreshed to welcome our students back in the fall. We invite you to join us for a **MACS Work Day** on **Saturday, July 26th, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. Your helping hands would mean the world to us as we prepare our school for the new season. Every moment you share with us is a blessing!

We're thrilled to announce that MACS is celebrating its **60th school year!** This milestone is a testament to God's faithfulness and the unwavering support of our community. Throughout the year, we'll host special events to mark this joyous occasion, and we warmly invite you to join in the celebration. Stay tuned for more details on how you can be part of this milestone.

On **Tuesday, July 1st**, we're hosting our **Summer Open House** for families eager to learn more about MACS. Interested families can register at minervafcc.com/open-house. With limited spaces available in certain grade levels, we encourage you to spread the word and urge families to secure their child's spot as soon as possible. Together, we can welcome new families into our loving community!

We also reach out with a heartfelt request for your support in providing **school supplies** for our students. Items like pencils, crayons, scissors, and more are essential for a successful school year. A complete list of needed supplies is available in the church office. Your generosity will ensure our students are equipped to thrive, and we are deeply grateful for any contribution you can make.

As we enjoy the final days of summer, we wish our students, staff, and families a season filled with joy, rest, and precious moments with loved ones. With God's guidance, the future shines brightly for MACS. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful difference in our community, sharing His love every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for an exciting new school year this fall!

JULY CALENDAR

July 1 - MACS Open House 10 - 12
July 3 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:30 pm
July 4 - Office Closed
July 8 - Home Dept. Picnic
3:00 Social & Swim 5:00 Dinner
July 9 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
July 10 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm
July 14 - General Board Meeting 7:30pm
July 16 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
July 17 - Deacons Pantry 9 - 10:30 am
July 17 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm
July 23 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
July 24 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm
July 26 - Men's Breakfast 9:00 am
July 26 - MACS Work Day 8:30 - 1:00
July 30 - NO Upper Room
July 31 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm

EVENING SERVICES

We are going to pause our Sunday Evening Bible Study through the Summer. We will resume in the Fall.

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

**JULY GENERAL
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 14 @
7:30 pm**

DEACONS PANTRY

Each month our Deacon's Pantry distributes food and some paper products to 15 - 20 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, July 17th**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, JULY 26th
9:00 AM
@ MFCC**



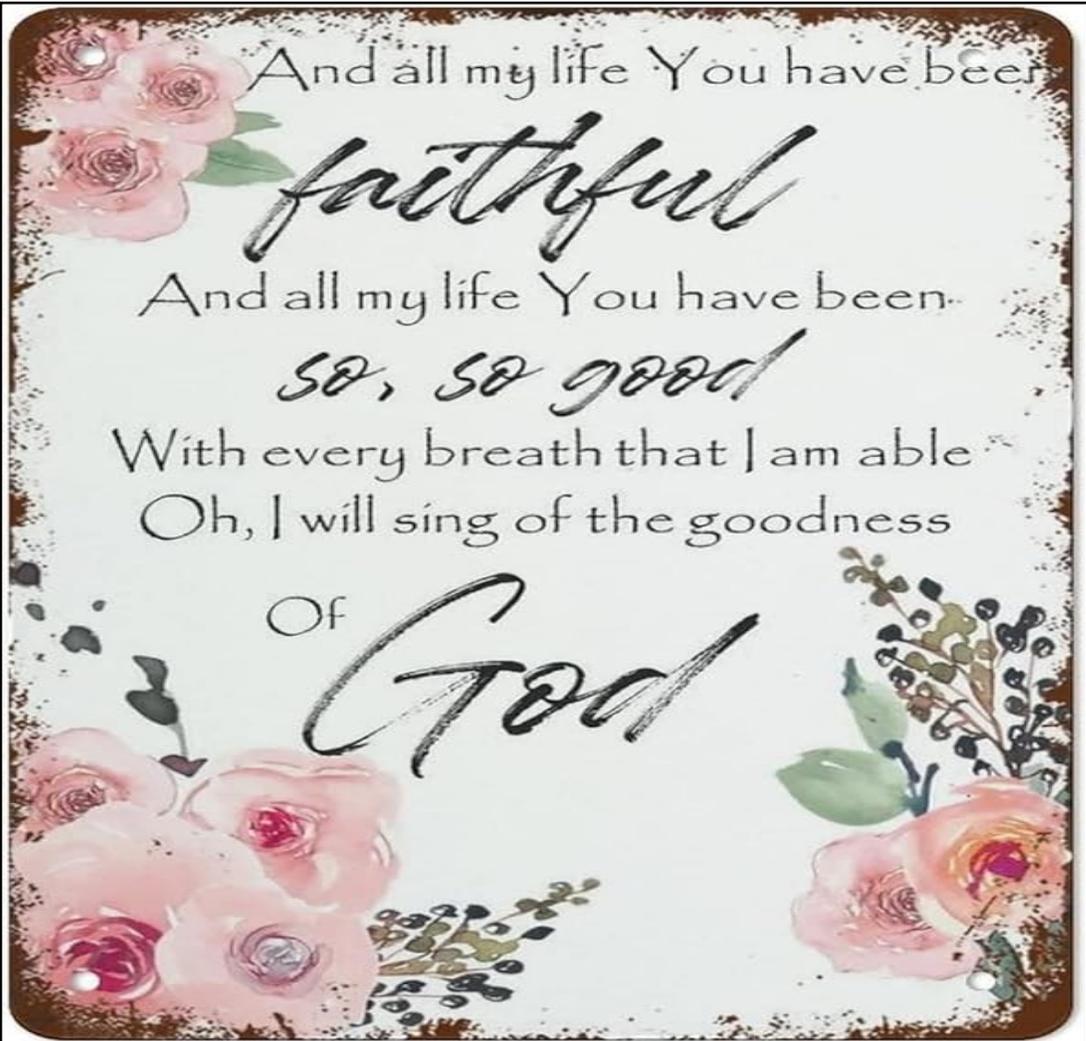
Join us for
Donuts & Devotion

PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Jennifer Allen
 Alice Archer
 Christa Archer
 Kassadee Archer
 Bill Becknell
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Larry Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Larry Hartshorn
 Lois Hawkins
 Todd Hetherington
 Betty Hoopes
 Dave Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 George Horvath
 Lee Iden
 Leroy Kibler
 Rory & Nancy King
 Mary Long
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Sondra & Dan
 Lowery
 Carol Martin
 Scoo & Dolores
 M'Cully

Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Emily Owens
 Barbara Palmer
 Eric Prowe
 Alan & Linda Richter
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Kat Schehl
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker

Gary Schotts
 Lynette Shatzer
 Kathy Shaw
 Sally Shaw
 Dean Shotwell
 George Shotwell
 Joan Shotwell
 Jerry & Carol Strait
 Allie Swank
 Carol Thomas
 Jeremiah Ward
 Marge Warrick



ATTENDANCE

	<u>June 1</u>	<u>June 8</u>	<u>June 15</u>	<u>June 22</u>	<u>June 29</u>
Worship	156	117	141	136	n/a
Bible School	68	72	75	71	n/a

MILITARY

Military: CSS 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

June 27, 2025

Church Services

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

SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday-Friday
8:00 a.m.- 4:00 pm
Closed for lunch 12 - 1

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Carol George
Dave & Terri Bush | 16 Donna Dennis
Luis & Chere Torres
42 years |
| 3 Roseanna Throckmorton | 20 Nathan Brown
Vickie Grindstaff |
| 5 Barbara Norton | 23 Josiah Sanford
Dan & Flora Bergman
48 years |
| 6 Brad Snyder | 24 Bill Shaw |
| 7 Shawn Archer | 25 Alexis Oberly |
| 9 Case Oberly | 28 Isabelle Brown |
| 13 Ruby Guy
Herb & Pat Lowery
69 years | 31 Caleb Snyder
Brent & Julie Brown
21 years |
| 14 Ginny Stryffeler
Mike & Lani Lowery
35 years | |

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Comm. Meditation	John Long	Bruce Doppelheuer	Nate Oberly	Jordan Vert
Ushers	Bob Palmer	Mike Fountain	Chip Syme	John Bowman
Deacons	Shirley Catlett	Shirley Catlett	Shirley Catlett	Shirley Catlett
Shut-In Teams	Jay Harsh & Brad Snyder	Jordan Vert & Mike Fountain	Chris Sanford & John Long	Kenny Hoopes & Nate Oberly