

AUGUST 2025A decorative border surrounds the central text area, featuring a repeating pattern of red apples and white apple slices with red seeds, interspersed with colorful pencils (blue, orange, green). The border is set against a light blue background with a dotted line pattern.

A PRAYER FOR STUDENTS AS WE BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR

Lord, we ask that you surround students with peace as they begin a new year of classes. Give them a passion for learning new things and bless their hard work over the coming months. Surprise them with unexpected moments of joy. Guard their hearts against peer pressure and help them to be a light to those around them. Raise up this next generation of leaders and call them further into your grand and glorious story. Remind students that students that they are never alone, you are in every moment of their day.

A PRAYER FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Thank you Lord for the men and women who invest in the future of our children. No matter how big or small their role is, we are grateful. Bless each person with creativity and discernment as they lead others. Help them not to feel alone. Give them friends and coworkers who speak encouraging words. Protect them from feeling overwhelmed. May they sense your presence and your delight as they begin a new school year.

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

When God brought Israel out of Egypt, He promised to give them a good land, one that was flowing with milk and honey. Israel was to be God's instrument of justice since the nations that Israel would drive from the land had been engaging in unspeakably horrible sin for at least 500 years. Moses as a result of becoming angry with the people and in turn not treating God as holy before the people was himself kept out of the promised land.

Joshua, Moses successor, would be the man to lead them into the land that God had promised to give them, and he did just that. Joshua nearing the end of his life saw the idolatrous leanings of the people and called them to choose who they would serve and to do so with their whole heart. If the people wanted to follow their idols, go for it, but his resolve was to follow the true and the living God and the people echoed they would do the same. In the Book of Judges after Joshua had died, chapter two states there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

How is this possible? God, by His command in Deuteronomy chapter six to teach His ways and His law to their children, had ensured that there would never be a generation in Israel that arose that did not know the Lord. By obeying the command to talk about these things at all times, every successive generation would know God and know His works. The men did not keep their end of the command and as a result whole generations of Israel did not know God.

Perhaps the parents of this mentioned generation thought the kids would understand because after all the Tabernacle of God is in Shiloh. Surely they would be curious and ask so there really is no need as their parents to teach them. Or maybe they thought that was the Levite who was living in their town, that was his job. After all this is what he got paid to do was to help in the service of the tabernacle. Surely he could find time to teach their children about the ways of God.

The parents neglected their duty to instill in their children a knowledge of God. Today we are committing the same sin of omission. We are omitting the knowledge of God from the lives of our children. Surely it is more important that they make good grades, get into a good school upon graduation and marry the right spouse. They will come back when they are older, and if they don't we always have the church to blame for not pointing my kids in the right direction. This is how we operate and then when our kids are engaging in the same behavior as those who do not know God we are shocked.

God in His genius created the family unit. Where unconditional love is first and most visibly instilled and realized, where security is fostered and where the knowledge of God is germinated at the youngest of age. This is the Biblical pattern,

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN . . . Cont.

this is the design of God, and if we are going to honest, this system that God has arranged cannot be improved upon.

Yet now in 21st century America there exists whole generations of young people who have no knowledge of the Lord. They have no knowledge of what He has done in human history and in the lives of His people. They have no knowledge of His decree that man shall not pass out of existence and only those who are righteous by the righteousness of His Son He offers us when we believe and obey the Gospel will inherit eternal life.

Yet all is not lost. The knowledge of God still exists in written form, His works still have lasting consequences in our day. So no matter how old your children are, it is never too late to talk about the things of God when you eat together, when you ride together, when you go out to play together and when you are writing text messages on the phone together.

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.

We welcome . . . Eric Prowe to Minerva FCC on Sunday, July 20th. Eric is a brother to Christa Archer. His address is c/o St. John's Villa, 701 Crest St., House A, Carrollton, OH 44615.

"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 sympathies also go out to . . . The friends and family of Brady Barrick. He passed away on Sunday, July 13th. Brady was a member of MFCC and regularly attended one of our Bible Studies.

WHO ARE YOU REALLY SERVING?

"Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:14-15

Working with students can be a very humbling experience. Seriously, from pre-school students all the way to high schoolers, it can truly be eye-opening. We so easily forget that each student, each life has a story. Each person is going through something, and each person has a background, a history that we are entirely unaware of. That's why, maybe the next time somebody lashes out at you or reacts in a way that you deem unprofessional, or makes a mistake, instead of thinking about what they've done wrong and how ridiculous it is, think about what they may be going through. Ask them if there is any way that you can pray for them. Stopping that vicious cycle of wanting to get back at each other or to somehow get an edge is exactly what Jesus meant when He said, "Do unto others as you have them do unto you." Instead of yelling back or making a smart comment, try encouragement, or a hug even! Seriously, you might be surprised at what God does when you flip the script, and act more like Jesus.

That's why, as the book of Joshua notes above, it is so important to choose who you are going to serve. And, with this article being in a church newsletter, we all are going to unanimously come to the same conclusion that we serve the Lord, right? Well, obviously! I would be ashamed if any of us said anything less! However, it is very easy for those of us who have been a Christian a long time to confuse our way with God's way. We sometimes, and some of us all the time, live under this illusion and fog that we are serving Jesus, when in reality, if we're dead honest with ourselves, we are serving ourselves, our wishes, our own desires. And our own priorities may in themselves be good things, but if they are not to glorify and honor Jesus at their heart, it all means nothing.

Tying all of this together is 1 John 4:20: "If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." It's simple, if you love God, you will love people. If you love God, you will love the person who you cannot stand. You will love the person who you don't like. If you love the Lord, you'll treat others as Jesus would have treated them. A question of self-evaluation that may be tough for us to answer is this: Who are you really serving? Is it Jesus s? Or is it yourself?

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

OUR SHUT-INS

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

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

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

Mrs. Allie Swank
729 Lynnwood Dr.
Minerva, OH 44657

Amish Country Theater



Sat., Aug. 23rd

Bus trip with Perry Christian Church

Pigeon Forge's Brian Hoffman will have you in stitches as he re-creates some of Red Skelton's best-known comedy routines and characters.

Bus will leave Minerva First Christian @ 3 pm

Meal at Berlin Farmstead Restaurant @ 5 pm

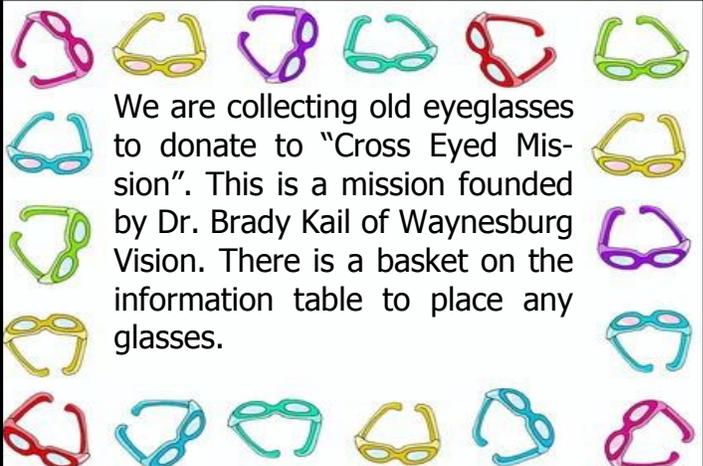
(Your choice — menu or buffet — Meal is on your own)

Cost for Show and bus ride is \$40 per person

Depart for Theater from restaurant at 6:15 pm

Depart from theatre near 9 pm for home.

Middle School
Boys & Girls
Basketball
Thursdays
5:30-7:00



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.



Women's Retreat

THEME: My Story, His Glory
September 5-6, 2025

Cost:

Friday & Saturday: \$45
Friday OR Saturday: \$30

Meals, lodging,
workshops, sessions &
activities included in
cost

REGISTRATION

Friday:

Early Bird 3-5pm (Commons)

Regular 5-7pm (Dining Hall)

Saturday: 7:45-9am (Dining Hall)



REGISTER

WWW.ELKHORNVALLEY.COM

740-768-2148

8200 Carnation Rd SE,
Bergholz, OH 43908



Senior Saints Day

September
16th
9am-3pm

\$25
PER PERSON



Speaker: Bob Stacy
Worship: Sons of Light

Schedule:

- 9:00am: Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 10:00am: Session #1
- 11:00am: Camp Update
- 11:30am: Break & Connect with others
- 12:00pm: Lunch
- 1:00pm: Free Time/Camp Tour
- 2:00pm: Session #2
- 3:00pm: Closing

Whether you've been to camp decades ago or are stepping foot on these grounds for the first time, this day is for you. Come be encouraged, cherished, and connected. Be encouraged and filled through the speaker and worship, connect with friends and others or recline in a rocking chair or take the camp tour and learn about what is happening at the camp! Join us for a heartwarming day designed just for you! Step away from the hustle and bustle and into the peaceful beauty of Elkhorn Valley!

REGISTER NOW

740-768-2148

info@elkhornvalley.com

www.elkhornvalley.com

Community Fundraiser

Friday, August 15th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Kickoff the year fundraiser



Hamburgers, Hot Dogs,
and Summer Treats
for donation only.

Picking vegetables from
the garden planted last school year.



SATURDAY, AUG. 23rd

@ Brock Park

5 - 8 pm

Games, Food, inflatables,
Prizes — Fun for the whole
family.

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



What a glorious summer we've enjoyed this year! The abundance of sunshine and warm days has filled our hearts with gratitude for God's beautiful creation. As we turn the page to August, the staff of MACS is brimming with excitement for the 2025-2026 school year, ready to share the love of Christ with our students and families.

Our K-8 program begins on Tuesday, August 18th, followed by our Preschool program on Tuesday, September 2nd. This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate our 60th school year, welcoming new families into our growing ministry. To kick off the year, we warmly invite you to our **Community Fundraiser on Friday, August 15th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**. Join us for an evening of fellowship, fun, and support for our school's mission—a perfect way to start the season!

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support and prayers, which sustain our ministry. Your generous donations of school supplies will bless our students as they embark on their learning journey. We trust that God has a divine plan for our school, and we ask for your continued prayers for our staff, students, and families. With many new faces among our staff and first-year students, we seek a smooth transition and a strong foundation for all.

As we look ahead, we are eager to partner with local families to nurture our children's faith, guiding them to know the boundless love of Jesus Christ. Let us hold fast to the promise of Proverbs 22:6 (NIV): *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."*

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission. May your August be filled with joy and blessings!

Upcoming Events

Community Fundraiser - Friday, August 15th 6 pm to 8 pm

MACS Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 26th, 6:45 pm

AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug. 1 - Blood Mobile 11 am - 5 pm
Aug. 3 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Aug. 6 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Aug. 7 - **NO** MS Basketball 5:30 -7:00 pm
Aug. 10 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Aug. 11 - General Board Meeting 7:30pm
Aug. 12 - Home Dept. Mtg. 1:00 pm
Aug. 12 - MACS Pre-K Open House 6 pm
Aug. 13 - MACS K-8 Open House 6 pm
Aug. 13 - **NO** Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Aug. 14 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 15 - MACS Community Fundraiser
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Aug. 17 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Aug. 19 - MACS K-8 First Day of School
Aug. 20 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Aug. 21 - Deacons Pantry 9 - 10:30 am
Aug. 21 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 23 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
Aug. 23 - Family Fun Day @ Park 5-8 pm
Aug. 24 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Aug. 27 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
(grades 6-12)
Aug. 28 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 31 - NO AWANA
Sept. 1 - Labor Day — Office Closed

EVENING SERVICES

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

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

**AUGUST GENERAL
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11TH
@ 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 **Thurs., August 21st**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd
8:00 AM
@ MFCC**



Join us for
Donuts & Devotion

PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Jennifer Allen
 Alice Archer
 Bill Becknell
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Larry Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 BJ Dunlevy
 John George
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Larry Hartshorn
 Todd Hetherington
 Dave Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 George Horvath
 Lee Iden
 Leroy Kibler
 Rory & Nancy King
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Sondra & Dan
 Lowery
 Carol Martin
 Scoo & Dolores
 M^cCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Emily Owens
 Barbara Palmer
 Eric Prowe
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts
 Kathy Shaw
 Sally Shaw
 Joan Shotwell
 Allie Swank

AUGUST MISSION SPOTLIGHT

This month we will be collecting school supplies for the students at MACS. Below is a list of needed supplies, please note some are a specific brand. Items may be placed on the Missions Table outside of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

24 Count CRAYOLA Crayons	ELMER'S Glue Sticks	Plastic sleeves for 3-ring Binder
8-10 Count CRAYOLA Broad line Markers	Fisker Scissors	3 ring binder with clear plastic pocket on the front
CRAYOLA fine tip Markers	#2 Pencils	Spiral notebooks
Thin EXPO Whiteboard Markers	Pencil Box	Spiral notebook journal
Dry Erase Markers/ Erasers	4 oz. PLAYDOH	100 Count Index Cards
12 Count CRAYOLA Colored Pencils	Pink Eraser	3 Subject Spiral notebooks
Black ink Pens	WIDE Rule Loose leaf Paper	Protractor
Blue ink Pens	Tissues	
Red ink Pens	Paper Towels	
Mechanical pencils	Gallon size ZIPLOCK Baggies	
Notecards	Sandwich size ZIPLOCK Baggies	
Highlighters	1 Subject spiral notebook	
8 Count CRAYOLA Watercolor Paint	Paper folders	
Bottles of ELMER'S School Glue	Plastic/vinyl folders	
	Plastic folders with pocket and 3-prongs inside	
	Baby Wipes	
	COLOROX wipes	



ATTENDANCE

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Worship	134	137	158	144
Bible School	67	69	63	59

Carol Thomas
 Jeremiah Ward
 Marge Warrick



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

July 31, 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

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
 cstofer@minervaareachristianschool.org

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Tucker Keaton
Jake Reed
Caleb Snyder | 15 Butch Vandegrift |
| 3 Chelsea Oberly
Barbara Patterson
Carter Sell
Jordan & Cassie Vert 12 yrs. | 18 JoD. Unkefer
Libby Mathis |
| 4 Shirley Catlett
KayD. Unkefer | 19 Mike Lowery |
| 8 Cassie Vert | 21 Connie Morris |
| 10 Arabella Breeze
Brad & Rachael Snyder
12 yrs. | 23 Jabin Reed |
| 13 Betty McIntosh | 24 Debbie Harsh |
| 14 Kelly Shaw | 25 Sondra Houze |
| | 26 Larry & Diana Palmer 47 yrs. |
| | 28 Jeanette Smith
Dave & Donna Dennis 52 yrs. |
| | 29 Jacob Unkefer |

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Aug. 3	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 31
Comm. Meditation	Dave Bush	Zach Long	John Russell	John Long	Bruce Doppelheuer
Ushers	Bill Shaw	Brandon Keen	John George	Bob Palmer	Mike Fountain
Deaconess	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer
Shut-In Teams	Bruce Doppelheuer & Dave Seibert	Zach Long & Jay Harsh	Bob Palmer & Brad Snyder	Mike Fountain & John Long	Chris Sanford & Kenny Hoopes