

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**WELCOME**

**Brunch**

**September 21st, 2025**  
Immediately following Worship



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**FOLLOWING THE BRUNCH**  
**AT APPROX. 12:30 PM**

Please have all reports to the office by  
Sept. 12, 2025.

## FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

***Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17***

The Christian life is one that is lived out in the community of the saved. As Christ's Church, we are those who have repented of our sin, believed in Jesus Christ, and have been baptized into His name. On Sunday mornings, we are going through all the "one another's" in the Bible. We are told to love one another, pray for one another, and bear one another's burdens. All of these commands are for how to go about treating those in the household of faith. Sandwiched between what life should look like for the Christian on his inside and on his outside is what life should look like in relation to his fellow Christians.

Teach and admonish one another. To be able to do this effectively, in a way that is faithful to this command, requires humility. Humility is that blessed virtue that means that you are teachable. Michael Jordan is often called the greatest basketball player of all time, but even he wasn't always at the top. In fact, Jordan was famously cut from his high school varsity basketball team as a sophomore. Instead of sulking or blaming his coach, Jordan took it as a lesson. He listened to his coach's feedback: he needed to improve his fundamentals, defense, and consistency. Jordan worked harder than anyone else—arriving early, staying late, and pushing himself relentlessly. His willingness to be taught and corrected is what propelled him forward. Years after leading the Chicago Bulls to 6 Championships, he commented, My best skill was that I was coachable. I was a sponge and eager to learn.

Teaching is the importation of positive material. Admonition is the importation of the negative side of truth. When a fellow Christian points out something in our lives that they see is out of character and admonishes us, we need to respond in several ways. Don't just write their admonition off; maybe there is something to it. Maybe they see something in us that needs to be corrected and they are in love pointing this out so we can be better Christians.

# SHUT INS

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

Mrs. Barbara Dunlevy  
177 Union Ave. SE  
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Connie Morris  
205 Scranton Ave.  
Minerva, OH 44657

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

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

Mrs. Dorothy Birney  
c/o St. Luke's  
4301 Wooddale SE  
Room 206  
Minerva, OH 44657



## FAMILY MATTERS

**Thank you . . .** Thank you so much for all your help with using your church for Richard Phillip's calling hours and funeral service. We are so appreciative of the use of your beautiful sanctuary, the sound system and all that went in to a very beautiful service. Thanks again, Malinda Phillips and Pat Miller

**To my Church Family,** Thank you very much for all the beautiful cards, but especially all the prayers for my birthday. I feel so blessed I so many close friends. Also, many send cards and prayers I have not met. Also special thanks to Dorothy who stopped in. God bless them and everybody. Thanks for the Home Department and the Presbyterian Church for all the very nice people who bring my dinners.

In Christian Love, Betty McIntosh

**Thank you . . .** for your prayers, Pastor Chris' visits and phone inquires. Tim is hanging in there, but still has a long way to go. All is appreciated.

Tim Parker & Charlotte Russell

**Thank you . . .** for the school supplies donated to MACS. We appreciate your continued support. Your donations help to "fill the gap" when a family may be unable to purchase needed supplies.

MACS Staff & students

# Samson, Solomon, Sapphira & Ananias

The Biblical characters in the title above are not usually associated together, but they all did something in common that we're going to take a look at. First, Samson. Samson lived during the time of the Judges for Israel, in fact he was one of these judges himself. This was a messy time for Israel, a cycle of disobedience. Even so, the Lord did some amazing things through Samson, you can read about those in the book of Judges.

Samson is known for his immense strength, he was to never cut his hair, and then a distraction in the form of a woman came along... Her name was Delilah, and she was bound and determined to take Samson's strength away (no pun intended) to help Israel's enemy, the Philistines... Samson should not keep bad company, one of many bad decisions he makes, but the final straw happens in Judges 16:15-16:

Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it. So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."

Samson finally gave in, he had already begun to shift the most important voice in his mind from the Lord to Delilah, but now the transition was complete. Instead of valuing God's opinion above all else, he put the distraction first. The rest of the story? Delilah gets what she wants, the Philistines subdue Samson, his strength leaves him because of his disobedience to God. Valuing anyone's opinion over God's will always lead to destruction.

Solomon is known for his immense wisdom. He is warned by the Lord when he is given this wisdom to never turn his heart towards things other than God. For a long time he does well, God richly blesses him in every area. Then, similar to Samson, a distraction in the form of a woman comes along. Well, in Solomon's case MANY women. 1,000 to be exact... However, whether it's one or 1,000, the same problem takes place. 1 Kings 11:3-4; 9-11:

He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command. So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

Solomon began to think more highly of his wives than he did the Lord who had blessed him greatly. The consequences are disastrous, the Kingdom would be divided – 11 tribes to Israel – 1 tribe to Judah. Why? Because the King that was supposed to unite them under one banner of the

# Samson, Solomon, Sapphira & Ananias

con't.

One True God had allowed the opinions of his many wives to turn his heart away from what mattered most. Valuing anyone's opinion over God's will always lead to destruction. See the common theme between Samson and Solomon?

Sapphira is known for her immense foolishness... Unlike the first two stories, this one takes place in the New Testament era. Jesus has come, died on the Cross, and rose from the dead. The early Church is growing rapidly, and 2 aspiring people think they can pull the wool over the Lord's eyes in their offering to him... Sapphira and her husband Ananias sell a piece of land, they claim that they give the entire selling price to the Church. This is, of course, a lie. When Ananias comes before the apostles Peter calls him out, and Ananias himself is drug out dead because of his disobedience. Will his wife do the same? Acts 5:7-11:

About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Ananias and Sapphira both put their own opinions above the opinion of God's. They thought they could get away with lying to the Holy Spirit. Some would say they were even doing a good thing, they were still donating the majority of the selling price for the land to the Church right? That in and of itself would have been a good thing, the problem occurs when they want to claim it's for the entire selling price, when it was only for a portion. The problem is the lie. They both are distracted by each other's greed and deception. They valued their own opinions over God's. Valuing anyone's opinion over God's will always lead to destruction.

Church, these are some sobering passages of Scripture. They are meant to be. The same that was true for Samson, Solomon, Ananias and Sapphira is true for us as well. If we value our own opinion, someone else's opinion over God's, this will lead to destruction. If not in this life, it will in the next. Let us listen to the words of King Solomon before he got distracted, Proverbs 29:25: Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. It's a simple truth, put God's opinion first, but somehow it always becomes a problem if we aren't super careful. Whose opinion do you hold the highest in your life?

Thanks and God Bless,  
Zach Long  
BeRomans12  
"Because of the One"

# ART SHOW



JOAN HENNINGER  
WILL BE HAVING AN ART  
SHOW AT THE ART SPOT  
IN MINERVA ON SEPT. 12

5-9 PM

Her painting of the Church  
will be on display.



# Senior Saints Day

September  
16<sup>th</sup>  
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

# UPPER ROOM

Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm at Minerva FCC



6th-12th grade



Come and enjoy some food with us as we look at

what a life for Jesus really looks like!

If you are 6th grade or older, you can come to both FLIP and Upper Room!

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

## Hey 4th - 6th graders! FLIP IS BACK!

### So, what is FLIP?

What: A club for 4th-6th grade that meets once a week to have a great time with each other and the Lord! FLIP includes:

- Games
- Music
- God's Word

Where: Minerva FCC, Youth Room

When: Wednesday nights from 6:30pm - 7:30pm starting September 17th, 2025

Why: To show students they are loved by God while giving them a place to belong.



A Club for 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade

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

# MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



With great joy, we celebrate the launch of the 2025-2026 school year at MACS! Our classrooms are buzzing with the energy of students and staff, and we're thrilled to witness the Lord's faithfulness as we embark on this new season. Over the summer, our dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to refresh our school facilities, resulting in a beautifully updated environment that's ready to inspire learning and growth. We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed their time and talents to prepare our campus for this exciting year!

We are blessed to report that MACS continues to thrive, with robust enrollment reflecting our commitment to serving local families. This year, we're many new families, and we ask for your prayers as we seek to build meaningful relationships with them, offering support and sharing the love of Christ in all we do.

## **Mark your calendars for two opportunities to engage with our school community:**

**Book Fair (September 8–15):** Join us in the Chapel, located across from the school office, for our annual Book Fair! This year, we're partnering with Grace and Truth Publishing, a Christian publisher offering an inspiring selection of books. Stop by to explore their offerings, and know that every purchase directly supports MACS, as a portion of the proceeds is donated back to our school. It's a fantastic way to encourage reading while investing in our ministry!

**See You at the Pole (September 24):** We invite you to join us for this national day of prayer at 9:00 AM, as our students, staff, and community gather to lift up our school, community, and nation in prayer. Whether you join us in person or pray from afar, your intercession is a powerful blessing for our school and beyond.

## **Support Our Mission Through the MACS Annual Fund**

As we begin this school year, we humbly invite you to partner with us through our Annual Fund drive. MACS is proud to offer some of the lowest tuition rates in Ohio, ensuring Christian education is accessible to many. However, rising operational costs create a gap that tuition alone cannot bridge. Your tax-deductible donation to the MACS Fund helps us continue providing an exceptional, Christ-centered education. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 with 100% participation from our community. You can give securely at <https://donorbox.org/macs-fund>.

Your generosity and prayers are the heartbeat of this ministry, and we are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of MFCC and our broader community. Together, we are shaping the next generation to know and love the Lord!

### **Upcoming Events**

**Scholastic Book Fair, September 8th through 15th**

**Grandparents' Day Celebration, September 10th**

**MACS Board Meeting, September 16th at 6:30 pm**

**See You at the Pole, September 24th**

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept. 2 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Sept. 3 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
(grades 6-12)  
Sept. 4 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Sept. 4 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Sept. 7 - Evening Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Sept. 7 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Sept. 8 - General Board Meeting 7:30pm  
Sept. 9 - Home Dept. Mtg. 1:00 pm  
Sept. 9 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Sept. 10 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Sept. 11 - ASX - 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Sept. 11 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Sept. 14 - Evening Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Sept. 14 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Sept. 16 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Sept. 17 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Sept. 17 - Upper Room 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
(grades 6-12)  
Sept. 18 - Deacons Pantry 9 - 10:30 am  
Sept. 18 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Sept. 18 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Sept. 21 - Congregational Meeting/  
CIY Brunch  
Sept. 21 - Evening Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Sept. 21 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Sept. 23 - Choir Practice 7:00 pm  
Sept. 24 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Sept. 24 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
(grades 6-12)  
Sept. 25 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Sept. 25 - MS Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Sept. 27 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 am  
Sept. 28 - Evening Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Sept. 28 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING

**AUGUST GENERAL  
BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPT. 9<sup>TH</sup>  
@ 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., Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 27<sup>TH</sup>  
8:00 AM  
@ MFCC**



Join us for  
Donuts & Devotion

## PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner  
 Jennifer Allen  
 Alice Archer  
 Bill Becknell  
 Dorothy Birney  
 Arlene Brown  
 Shirley Catlett  
 Don Clapper  
 Lora Crabtree  
 Barbara 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  
 Scoo & Dolores  
     M<sup>c</sup>Cully  
 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  
 Kathy Shaw  
 Sally Shaw  
 Joan Shotwell  
 Allie Swank  
 Carol Thomas

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**CHOIR** resumes Tuesday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm

**ASX** (Grades 1-5) resumes  
Thursday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 3:30 - 5:00

**AWANA** (Grades K-5)  
Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 5 - 6:30 pm

**Adult Bible Study** begins  
Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm

**FLIP** (Grades 4-6) resumes Wednesday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 - 7:30 pm

**Upper Room** (grades 6-12) continues  
7:30 - 8:30 pm

**CIY Brunch** Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>  
right after our morning  
Service with our

**Congregational Meeting** to follow

## ATTENDANCE

	<u>Aug. 3</u>	<u>Aug. 10</u>	<u>Aug. 17</u>	<u>Aug. 24</u>	<u>Aug. 31</u>
Worship	122	142	143	146	141
Bible School	64	67	83	74	77

Jeremiah Ward  
Marge Warrick

## 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

September 3, 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](http://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

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Linda Vandegrift                   | 19 Don & Kathryn Clapper<br>61 years                 |
| 4 Dave & Teresa Seibert<br>43 yars   | 20 Bill Becknell                                     |
| 6 Matt Hogue<br>Floyd Stryffeler     | 21 Morgan Cochran                                    |
| 8 Ethan Logan                        | 22 Floyd & Ginny Stryffeler<br>20 years              |
| 9 Tanner Keaton                      | 23 Nathan Brown<br>Don Clapper                       |
| 11 Nate & Chelsea Oberly<br>15 years | 26 Lynette Shatzer<br>John & Lisa George<br>43 years |
| 16 Greyson Brown                     | 27 Ethan Snyder                                      |
| 17 Kasie Hogue                       | 30 Dave Bush   |
| 18 Jerry Hasch<br>Jesse Reed         |  |

**SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!**

	<b>Sept. 7</b>	<b>Sept. 14</b>	<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Sept. 28</b>
<b>Comm. Meditation</b>	Jordan Vert	Nate Oberly	Dave Bush	Zach Long
<b>Ushers</b>	Chip Syme	John Bowman	Bill Shaw	Brandon Keen
<b>Deaconess</b>	Connie Brewer	Connie Brewer	Connie Brewer	Connie Brewer
<b>Shut-In Teams</b>	Nate Oberly & Dave Seibert	Bruce Doppelheuer & Jay Harsh	Jordan Vert & Bob Palmer	Zach Long & Brad Snyder