



JANUARY 2026



This is the new logo for the First Christian Church in Minerva. It is why we exist. All of us have been impacted by Jesus who is the One in which the new vision refers. We have purposely concealed His identity so that it will be a point of curiosity to those we meet and interact with, and our prayer is that they will ask well who is the One? Our prayer and our desire is to impact this world because we have been so impacted by Jesus.

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Many people today fear the unknown, and as we turn the clock forward to 2026, we face a whole new year of unknowns. There are elections in November, and many fear the direction that our country is headed in. There is the Norovirus that is making its rounds, along with the flu, and many are afraid not only of catching it but also of the severity of what they will suffer if they do.

The Taiwanese people are a lot like us in that they, too, fear the unknown future. As a result of this fear, many put their trust in fortune tellers, who they believe can predict the future with some degree of accuracy. Yet most of these deal only in generalities and cannot give you the specifics of what is to come.

As Christians, how should we look to an unknown future and uncertainty in 2026? Many Christians, like the world around them, turn to worldly means to try and get some clarity on what is to come. Many actively read the horoscopes in the newspaper, or even play games on social media that promise that this year will be the year of prosperity or the year when only good things will come about. Yet, as people of faith, how does the Bible instruct us concerning the unknown future?

One way that we respond as Christians is to rest in the fact that God does know the future with exhaustive accuracy. In Isaiah, God is rebuking the Israelites for abandoning the worship of the One True God, for that of idols that are made with human hands. God then issues a challenge to these followers of these idols: ask your idols what the near and the distant future holds. The difference between these impotent blocks of wood and the Living God is that God knows all things, and that includes the future. In the 46th chapter of Isaiah, God issues this proclamation I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.

The difference between the true God and all false ones is that God has exhaustive knowledge of the future. Jesus tells us what our attitude is to be towards the future: don't worry. In His glorious Sermon on the Mount, our Lord instructs us not to worry about tomorrow, for by doing so we can change nothing, and the only one whom it disturbs is ourselves.

As people who trust in God for our salvation, we can trust God to guide the future to His desired ends. Not only that, Romans 8 tells us that God works all things together for good for those who love Him. We may not be able to see how a certain situation is going to work out for our good, but we can certainly trust the God who already knows the future, and already is working it out for our good and His glory.

"Because of The One"

As the MACS students head back to school, the topic we are on in MACS Chapel is the incarnation of Jesus. Some students had a hard time wrapping their minds around this at Christmastime, so we are covering it more in depth to help them understand it. Can't say I blame them for not fully understanding it. In fact if anyone says they fully understand the incarnation I think they are probably being a little prideful!

Let's think about this concept carefully: Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, God Himself, the Son of God, equal with God, who has existed before time began, chooses to empty Himself and become a baby. It seems so impossible, so unbelievable, so breathtakingly awesome that any time I really give it any significant thought, it brings tears to my eyes.

There is no greater understanding of humility, no example of servanthood greater than Jesus' willingness to become a man. And then, beyond that, He didn't choose to become a man who is worshiped and bowed down to (like He could have if He wanted to, after all that's what He deserved), but to become a man who was argued with, spat upon, and ultimately killed on a Cross. Again, Jesus emptying Himself is the perfect picture of humility.

Why did Jesus do all this? Because of the One. For Him it was because of His Father's perfect will—His will. Jesus laid down His life because of the One. That perfect will of God was willing to save the creation that rebelled against Him. The perfect will of God is the will that so loved the world He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. We should be infinitely grateful that Jesus became a man and died upon a Cross because of the One perfect will of Him and His heavenly Father.

Jesus couldn't be any clearer in John 10:30 when He says of His relationship with His Father: "I and the Father are one." He goes on to say to Philip in John 14:9 that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. Jesus sets the example for us, as always. When people see us as His Church, they should see Jesus Himself. When they see us in how we live and speak and act they should see a picture of Jesus and all that He represents.

It means when people see us living in our world, they should see us living Because of The One. Because of Jesus. Why do we act different than the world? Because of The One. Why do we not speak to each other the way the world does? Because The One. Why do we prioritize worship? Because of The One. Why do we do all the things we do in our lives? Because of The One. Are you living Because of The One, or because of something else?

In Christ's Love,
Zach Long
BeRomans12
"Because of The One"



color for a CAUSE



Join us Minerva First Christian for a special community event to color our Valentine's cards for the Blessing Balloon project! These cards will accompany the balloons we deliver during the week of Valentine's Day.



your markers, crayons, or colored pencils— we'll have some supplies, but we encourage you to bring your own!

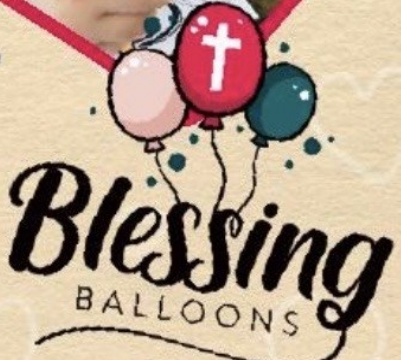
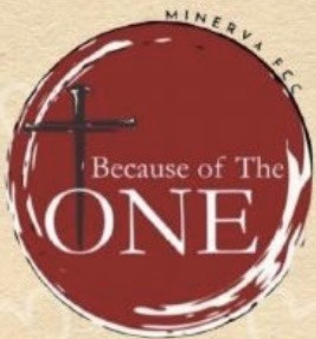
ALL AGES WELCOME!

JOIN US

MINERVA FCC

JANUARY 23RD 5-7PM

300 W Lincolnway, Minerva, OH 44657

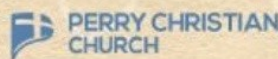


LIFT UP
BALLOONS & DESIGNS

ReliaRide **iii**
PHYSICAL TRANSPORTATION

innis maggiore
AD AGENCY

For more information: linktr.ee/blessingballoons



SHUT INS

Mrs. Connie Morris
c/o The Arbors
400 Carolyn Court
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Shirley Aultfather
15341 Lincoln Street SE
Minerva, OH 44657

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

Mrs. Marge Warrick
c/o 370375 East 5750 Rd.
Terlton, OK 74081

Mrs. Sharon Lewis
c/o St. Luke's
4301 Woodale SE
Minerva, OH 44657

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



FAMILY MATTERS

Our hearts and prayers go out to . . . Michelle Ward (Mother), Midge Snyder (Grandmother), and Delilah Ward (Daughter) of Jeremiah Ward. Jeremiah passed away on Christmas Evening after a long battle with cancer. One of Jeremiah's proudest moments was being baptized at Lake Mohawk by John Long. A Celebration of Life will be held here at First Christian on Saturday, January 10th 4-6 pm.

We extend our sympathy to . . . the family and friends of Beverly Walker. Beverly passed away on Dec. 16th. Her services were held on Sat., Dec. 20th. She was a member of Minerva First Christian for many years.

With Thanks and Gratitude . . . Major David Moore would like to thank everyone for the prayers lifted on his and his unit's behalf as they were going into dangerous territory as part of their mission. There were some injuries but everyone is healing. Your prayers were much appreciated. Major David Moore and Charlotte Russell

Thank you . . . for the prayers and visits and to the Home Department for the goodies. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. God bless, Connie Morris

***"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another".
John 13:34***

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, JAN. 31st

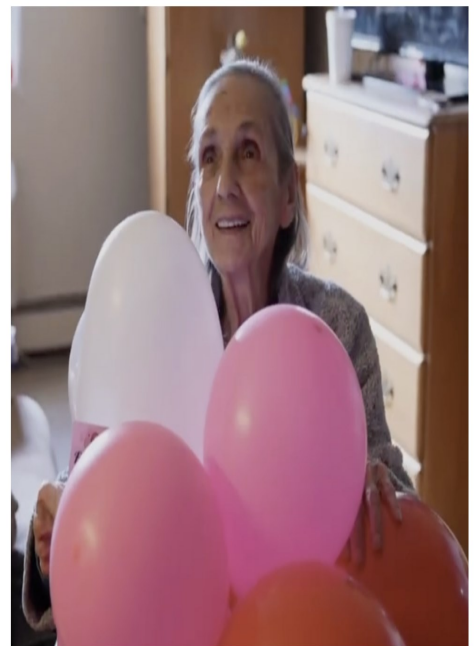
8:00 AM @ MFCC



Join us for
Donuts & Devotion

WE'RE COLLECTING 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.



Blessing Balloons is a "community project with many community partners to service seniors in our community by providing them with balloons but also with spreading the love of Jesus to everyone." Care facility residents across Stark County will receive a bouquet of balloons and a hand colored card showing them they are loved by Jesus! Below are ways you can get involved!

• **1/23/26, 5-7pm: Coloring Event at Minerva FCC**

Color cards seniors will receive on delivery day

• **2/1/26, 2pm: Balloon Production Day at Minerva FCC**

Prepare balloons seniors will receive on delivery day

• **2/5/26: Delivery Day!**

Deliver balloons, cards, and blessing to seniors at local facilities



Scan for more info &
to sign up!

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Happy New Year from MACS!



We hope your Christmas season was filled with joy and warmth. As we welcomed students back on January 5th, we reflected on the many blessings of 2025 and look forward with excitement to all that God has in store for 2026.

Our Christmas celebrations were wonderful times of worship. Our students spread cheer in delightful ways through their classroom parties and Christmas programs. It was a joy to see families gather together, celebrate the birth of Jesus, and create meaningful memories right here at school.

In February, we will open enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year. If you know families seeking a nurturing, Christ-centered education for children in Pre-K through 8th Grade, please encourage them to reach out. We would love the opportunity to meet them and share what makes MACS such a special place.

- Winter Open House
- Thursday, February 12th, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

More details are available at minervafcc.com/open-house. This is a wonderful opportunity to tour our campus, meet our staff, and learn more about the MACS experience. Please help us spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors.

If you're looking for a simple way to support MACS, Kishman's gift cards are available in the school office in \$25, \$50, and \$100 amounts. The school receives 10% back from every card purchased—an easy and meaningful way to bless our students and programs.

As we begin this new year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters at MFCC. Your prayers, encouragement, and partnership allow us to continue our mission and witness the incredible work God is doing in our community. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and helping children know the love Jesus has for them.

Upcoming Events

No School MLK Day: Monday, January 19th

MACS January Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 20th at 5:15 PM

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 7 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 8 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm
Jan. 11 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 11 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm
Jan. 12 - General Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Jan. 13 - Home Dept. Meeting 1:00 pm
Jan. 14 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 14 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 15 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 pm
Jan. 15 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00
Jan. 18 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 18 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm
Jan. 19 - No School
Jan. 21 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 21 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 22 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm
Jan. 23 - **Coloring Event**
Jan. 25 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Jan. 25 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm
Jan. 28 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 28 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Jan. 29 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm
Jan. 24 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
Jan. 31 - Family Game Night 5:30 pm
Feb. 6 - Blood Mobile 11 am—5 pm

MISSION TRIP LOVE OFFERING

The Christmas Love Offering is going to the Mission Trip scheduled for July to the Mexico Children's Christian Home. The goal was \$5,000. At this time \$2,415 of the goal has been met. If you would like to make a donation, please make a notation on the check/envelope. Thank you for your support.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving statements will be available Sun., Jan. 18th for those that requested a printed statement. Email statements will be delivered the week of Jan. 12th for those requesting that option. If you haven't requested a giving statement and would like one, please fill out the form on the welcome desk and place it in the offering or contact the church office and one will be provided the following week. Giving statements will not be produced unless requested. Thank you for your cooperation.



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 **Thurs., Jan. 15th**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.

PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Jennifer Allen
 Mike Amatantelo
 Alice Archer
 Kassadee Archer
 Shawn Archer
 Linda (Keller) &
 Charlie Augsbach
 Bill Becknell
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 David Dennis
 Donna Long Dyer
 Barbara Dunlevy
 John George
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Larry Hartshorn
 Todd Hetherington
 Dave Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 Grace Hopson
 George Horvath
 Lee Iden
 Rory & Nancy King
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Dan Lowery
 Scoo & Dolores
 M^cCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Connie Morris
 Sheila Murray
 Barbara Palmer
 Tim Parker
 Eric Prowe
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts



Saturday, January 31ST

Chapel/Multipurpose Room

Starting @ 5:30 pm

Bring your favorite appetizer or snack

Games, puzzles & drinks provided

Please sign up at the information table

See Mike Fountain with questions

ATTENDANCE

	<u>Dec. 7</u>	<u>Dec. 14</u>	<u>Dec. 21</u>	<u>Dec. 28</u>
Worship	129	81	113	118
Bible School	68	38	69	57

Kathy Shaw
 Sally Shaw
 Joan Shotwell
 Allie Swank
 Carol Thomas
 Marge Warrick



MILITARY

Military: CSS Jesse Clark; Sgt. Kurt Warrick, Staff Sgt. E6 Michael Derrick, Sgt. David Moore, John William Mozz.
Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 300 West Lincoln Way
 Minerva, Ohio 44657

January 9, 2026

Church Services

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
 8:00 am- 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
 cstoffer@minervaareachristianschool.org

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7 Dave Seibert	23 Quinn Mangun
10 Landen Sterling	25 Mindi Chambers Ralph McCully
11 Marjorie Warrick	Ralph & Delores McCully 18 years
12 Kenny Hoopes	26 Barbara Palmer 99 years
18 Brent Brown	
21 Trish Bush Todd Weirich	29 Jean Cogan Helen Truex
22 Lynn & Patty Morgan 32 years	30 Sally Shaw

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Jan. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 19	Jan. 25
Comm. Meditation	Zach Long	John Russell	John Long	Bruce Doppelheuer
Ushers	Brandon Keen	John George	Bob Palmer	Mike Fountain
Deaconess	Trish Bush	Trish Bush	Trish Bush	Trish Bush
Shut-In Teams	John George & Chris Sanford	Jay Harsh & Nate Oberly	Dave Seibert & Bruce Doppelheuer	Brad Snyder & Zach Long