



Minerva First Christian Church

Volume 59

Issue 3

Minerva First Christian Church's  
Mexican Christian Children's Home Missions Trip

# Spaghetti

Fundraiser Dinner

Yum! Eat Pasta, Share Hope

**March 29th**  
**11:30 am**  
Immediately after Worship service  
MFCC New Social Hall

Minerva First Christian Church  
Come support our mission to the  
Mexican Christian Children's Home

**Thank you!**

Join us in fellowship — Carryout is available

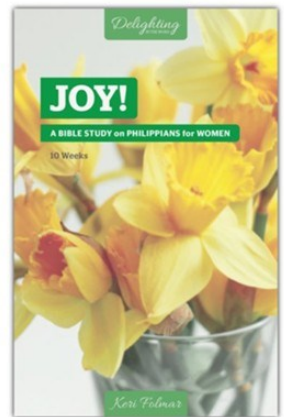
## JOY! A Bible Study for Women

The joy of knowing God. The encouragement for a daily walk with Him, from other ladies. Will begin at

**7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Come to the main doors of the sanctuary and I will let you in. Study guide is provided.

Questions, see Trish Bush.



MARCH 2026

# WOMEN'S Prayer Walk

Join us for a guided Prayer Walk through different stations around the church, each focusing on a unique aspect of prayer and reflection.

One station will invite us to step into the community to pray for and with a stranger, putting faith into action and sharing God's love beyond our walls.

We will conclude with a fellowship lunch inspired by the foods of the Last Supper.

Come ready to pray, reflect, and connect with God and one another.  
All women are welcome!

**3.21.2026 | 10:00AM**  
MINERVA FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
SEE RACHAEL SNYDER WITH ANY QUESTIONS

# FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Simon Sinek, in his book *Start With Why*, writes, "There are only two ways to influence human behavior: you can manipulate it, or you can inspire it. Very few people or companies can clearly articulate WHY they do WHAT they do. By WHY I mean your purpose, cause, or belief - WHY does your company exist? WHY do you get out of bed every morning? And WHY should anyone care?" As Christians, we should know better than anyone why we believe what we believe.

At Minerva First Christian Church, our vision for 2026 is Because of the One. We believe our lives have been changed because of Jesus, that our eternal destiny and our relationship with God have all changed because of Jesus. As those who have been called out of darkness into light, we desire that others, too, will come to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. The way we go about doing that is the mission of the church.

We have collectively and prayerfully cast the mission of Minerva First Christian Church as Sharing the Way, Teaching the Truth, and Living the Life. We will focus on the latter two in upcoming articles. As Christians, we are to be sharing the way of Jesus and the way to Jesus. Jesus before leaving earth to back into heaven gave us the great commission. In Matthew leaving earth to back into heaven gave us the great commission. In Matthew 28, Jesus commands us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. Preaching the Gospel to all creation means showing people who have not made Jesus Lord of their lives the way to do so.

We show them the way by the way that we live. We are not engaging in the things that the world does, such as looking out for myself. Rather, we are seeking to love our neighbors as ourselves, to minister to the lowly people that everyone has passed over. We are showing the way of Jesus by the way that we love our brothers and sisters in Christ. In Christ we have been adopted to the family of God. The church makes up this family, they are the ones that we get a chance to do life together with. The way that we love our brothers and sisters in Christ is going to show the world that we belong to Jesus. Many have this idea that if we live a good life that we can show the world Jesus by our good morals. Jesus only mentioned a couple of exterior actions by which the world would know that we belong to Him. The greatest way that we show the world that we belong to Jesus is by the way that we love those who belong to God's family. By loving the people of God well, we show the world that we belong to Jesus, and hopefully cause them to desire the same love.

Yet the other way that we share the way of Jesus is through opening our mouths. Jesus says that He came into the world to testify to the truth. At some point in our relationships with others we too must share that the way they we have peace with God and the way that they too can have peace with God is only thru Jesus Christ. If we truly believe that only those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and obey the Gospel are going to heaven, then we should, desiring our loved ones to go to heaven with us, share with them the way to peace with God.

# STOP

In Matthew 6:22-24, Jesus says this in the Sermon on the Mount:

*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

What/Who are you looking at? If you are looking at Christ your whole body will be full of light. You will be at peace. If you are looking at sinful things, you will be filled with darkness. You will be overcome with anxiety. If you are looking around at the wind, the waves, the storm, the present challenge – you will be overcome with dread.

“You cannot serve both God and money.” We say we follow Jesus. We say we are Christians. But does our thought processes on money reflect that? Do we agonize night and day figuring out our budget? Do we pour over ways to make more money so we can get the next thing? It is no coincidence that it is within this context that Jesus says the following words in Matthew 6:25-33:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Stop. Stop fretting. Stop fighting. Stop. God will provide. God knows what we need. He isn't puzzled by the things we are praying for. He hasn't forgotten you. He loves you. He sent His Son to die for you. He provides for birds, He clothes flowers. Are they concerned? Are they fretting? No. So if meager things like birds and flowers are taken care of, what in the world are you worried for? He knows what He is doing. Trust Him.

But that isn't all. Context is key. It is within this context where Jesus ends the chapter in Matthew 6:33-34:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as

# STOP (con't.)

well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Why do we need not worry? Because we are putting what God wants first. When should we worry? When we are not seeking God's Kingdom first. Why not worry about tomorrow? Or next week? Or next year? Because we are putting God's Kingdom, God's desires over our own. God honors us when we put Him first in our lives. It may not always look like we think it should look. It may not be instantaneous. But this is a promise, not just wishful thinking. "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Stop. Stop worrying. But another thing, stop putting other things over God.

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



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 20th - 21st, 2026 in Grove City, OH**

Registration Cost: \$30 - will also need money for lunch on 3/21

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

More Info: [ciy.com/superstart](http://ciy.com/superstart)

# FAMILY MATTERS

**We celebrate with the baptism of . . .** Jeff Solly. Jeff came forward and was baptized on Sunday Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. Jeff makes his home at 1200 Valley St., Minerva, OH 44657.

Let us lift our new brother in Christ up in prayer and welcome him to the fold.

**We express our sympathy . . .** to the family and friends of Mary Ford. Mary passed away on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Her service was held on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.

*"...weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."  
Psalm 30:5*

**Thank you . . .** The family of Jeremiah Ward thanks you so much for the cards, money and food for his funeral. We all could feel the love. Please continue to pray for all of us, but mostly for his little daughter who is only six.

**Thank you, thank you . . .** To my choir members. Always getting me to the church and then the devil set in and causes me to fall. Now I have to use a cane and my choir steps in once again, helping me up and down the steps. They have honored my with flowers for singing in the choir for over 60 years, but it was really them that helped me. Midge Polen Snyder thank you, thank you, thank you!!

## SHUT INS

Mrs. Pat Lowery  
23127 US Rt. 30  
Minerva, OH 44657

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

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

Scoo & Dolores McCully  
716 Lynnwood Dr.  
Minerva, OH 44657

Christa Archer  
25841 Quaker Church Rd.  
East Rochester, OH  
44625

Mr. Gary Schotts  
c/o The Inn/at Belden Village  
3729 - 38th St. NW  
Canton, OH 44718

# CHURCH CAMP SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE

Hello Church, I am writing to ask a favor from you. Would you prayerfully consider helping pay the way for a young person to go to church camp? The reality is that our MS/HS Trips fund will soon be unable to cover the cost of students going to church camp this summer.

Each year we offer students who are involved in our church an opportunity to go to church camp for free. This is how it works: if a student is involved in our youth ministry, MFCC will automatically pay half the cost for them to go to a week of camp. However, we also offer a Bible Memorization Pamphlet. When they memorize the passages of Scripture in the pamphlet they can then earn their way to a free week of camp!

Our goal is to continue this camp scholarship ministry. It has helped many students for years be able to have the opportunity to go to church camp, when without it they would never be given the chance to go. We also will be doing brunches in the near future to raise funds as well as car washes so the students are invested in the money that will be raised for them.

**With that in mind, would you be willing to donate to offset the cost of camp to our MS/HS Trips fund?** The power of what God can do during a week of camp in the life of a young person's heart cannot be overstated. It can be the moment where they come to know Jesus. It can be a moment when a seed is planted. It can be a moment where they find a place to belong and realize just how much they mean to God. This is why I ask! The scholarship amounts are below:



**FULL SCHOLARSHIP: \$300**  
**HALF SCHOLARSHIP: \$150**



**If either of these amounts are too much, feel free to donate any amount.** When donating, please be sure to make checks out to Minerva First Christian Church and in the memo line: "Camp Scholarship". If you have cash, please be sure to put that in an envelope labeled "Camp Scholarship".

You have no idea what it means to me that you are considering helping a student find a way to go to camp! Thank you for loving Jesus and our Church! God bless you, Church!

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

# MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Springtime is just around the corner, and we're looking forward to warmer weather and the bright colors it brings. With only three months left in the school year, MACS is busy finishing strong with many fun and meaningful activities planned for our students.

February was a pivotal month for MACS. We now have 108 students enrolled, and our efforts are focused on welcoming new families and highlighting the strengths of our Christ-centered programs in the local community. Please continue to pray for our staff and students, and for opportunities to connect with more families and encourage growth in every area of student life.

We are currently enrolling students for the next school year in Preschool through 8th Grade. Our Winter Open House drew 12 families (13 children) to campus, and 11 families expressed interest in preschool programming—an encouraging sign for preschool growth. Please pray that we will connect with families seeking a Christian education, and pray for wisdom for our staff and school board as they prepare for the coming year.

Thank you to those who were able to attend our events in February. We had our Science Fair, which was a great success thanks to the hard work of our staff and students. Student projects showcased curiosity and creativity, with strong family engagement. We had 16 projects school-wide.

Also, we had a great Rigatoni Dinner Fundraiser on February 20th. It was a wonderful community evening that raised funds for student events and upcoming trips, including CIY SuperStart for grades 4–6 and the Ark Encounter/Creation Museum for grades 7–8. We are excited to offer these opportunities to our students.

We are deeply grateful for the congregation's ongoing support of Minerva Area Christian School. Your prayers, encouragement, and involvement make a real difference in the lives of our students and staff. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry; your support helps us provide a Christ-centered education where children grow academically, spiritually, and personally.

## Upcoming Dates

- MACS Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 17 at 5:15 PM
- Easter Break: March 30 – April 6

Thank you again for your continued support of MACS.

## MARCH CALENDAR

Mar. 1 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Mar. 1 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
Mar. 3 - Joy, Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm  
Mar. 4 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 4 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 5 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Mar. 8 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Mar. 8 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
Mar. 10 - Home Dept. Soup Day  
Cooking @ 10; deliveries @ 2:30  
Mar. 11 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 11 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 12 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00  
Mar. 15 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Mar. 15 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
Mar. 18 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 18 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 19 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 pm  
Mar. 19 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Mar. 20-21 - CIY SuperStart (grds. 4-6)  
Mar. 21 - Ladies Prayer Walk 10:00 am  
Mar. 22 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Mar. 22 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
Mar. 25 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 25 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Mar. 26 - ASX 3:15 - 5:00 pm  
Mar. 28 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 am  
Mar. 29 - Spaghetti Dinner 11:45 am  
Mar. 29 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Mar. 29 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
Mar. 30 - April 6 - No School Easter Break  
April 5 - Easter Breakfast & Celebration  
Service

## HOME DEPT. SOUP DAY

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

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.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

#### 8:00 AM @ MFCC



Join us for  
Donuts & Devotion

## 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: **toilet tissue, bars of soap, peanut butter & cans of soup.** Monetary donations are always welcome. We will be making our distribution on **Thurs., March. 19<sup>th</sup>**, if you are able to help see Jay Harsh.

## PRAYER LIST

## Elkhorn Valley Christian Service Camp

Reagan Abner  
 Jennifer Allen  
 Mike Amatantelo  
 Alice Archer  
 Kassadee Archer  
 Christa Archer  
 Shawn Archer  
 Linda (Keller) &  
 Charlie Augsbach  
 Bill Becknell  
 Dorothy Birney  
 Arlene Brown  
 Shirley Catlett  
 Don Clapper  
 Lora Crabtree  
 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  
 Scoo & Dolores  
 M<sup>c</sup>Cully  
 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

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. 1</u>	<u>Feb. 8</u>	<u>Feb. 15</u>	<u>Feb. 22</u>
Worship	129	132	137	120
Bible School	70	80	72	74
Night of Worship				125

Sally Shaw  
 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

February 25, 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](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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 3 Dorothy Birney<br>98 years     | 22 Dave Dennis<br>Patty Morgan<br>David Unkefer      |
| 5 Judy Hasch                     | 23 Jerry & Judy Hasch<br>8 years                     |
| 9 Dolores McCully<br>Carol White | 26 Matthew Chambers<br>Bill & Kelly Shaw<br>44 years |
| 15 Marilyn Barley                | 28 Kathy Shaw  |
| 17 Kevin Cogan                   | 30 Teresa Seibert                                    |
| 18 Dan Bergman<br>Pippa Vert     | 31 John Long   |



**SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!**

	Mar. 1	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29
<b>Comm. Meditation</b>	John Russell	John Long	Bruce Doppelheuer	Nate Oberly	Jordan Vert
<b>Ushers</b>	John George	Bob Palmer	Mike Fountain	Chip Syme	Brandon Keen
<b>Deaconess</b>	Lisa George	Lisa George	Lisa George	Lisa George	Lisa George
<b>Shut-In Teams</b>	Jay Harsh & Zach Long	Dave Seibert & Jordan Vert	Brad Snyder & Chris Sanford	Bob Palmer & Nate Oberly	Kenny Hoopes & Zach Long