

APRIL 2026



## 60 year anniversary celebration



Friday, April 10  
6:30 to 9 pm

6:30 to 7:15

Open House

7:15 to 8

Reception

8 to 9

Worship

join us as we celebrate what God has done  
through MACS

## FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

With the invention of GPS gone are the days of pulling over to a gas station and asking for directions. When I was first enrolled in Bible college and was looking for a church to preach at, I tried out at a church in Southern Indiana. This was when we did not have cell phones or cars with GPS equipped in every one of them. So before I made the trip to this church, I printed out the directions to this church from the internet which was still fairly new at this time. However, when I reached one road that was given to me on these directions, I had to drive through a creek! Yes you read that right, I drove my Honda Civic through a creek. That was until I came to the next, deeper creek which I could not drive through. My parents who were behind me, drove me to the church in their truck and my car was left in the middle of a creek. After we told the church which road my car was left on, the reply was "why did you take that road? We have people in 4 wheel drives that don't go down that road."

With most things in life, directions are extremely important. If someone who knew the area would have given me directions to this church, I would not have ended up stuck in a creek. This is the way of the Christian life. At some point and time, someone shared with you the way to Jesus. It could have been a preacher in a sermon or a friend who invited you to come to his church. However it was done, someone shared the way of Jesus with you so that you would know how to arrive at Jesus.

The Bible says in 2 Peter 3 that God wills none to perish. God desires not one person to die without knowing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. God wants every single person to come to heaven to be with Him. Since this is God's desire, we who follow Jesus should make this desire our own. The vision of the First Christian Church at Minerva is everything changes, everything and everyone has hope because of the One. Because of Jesus, life has meaning, we have hope, and life. Now how we go about impacting lives because of Jesus is the mission of the church. This mission of the First Christian Church in Minerva is first by showing the way to Jesus.

God has so graciously put people in our life to show us the way to be restored to a right relationship with God. That is one work we as a Church want to be about. We want to be actively showing people the way to have peace with God. We do this by showing them the way to Jesus and showing them the way of Jesus.

# "INTERFERENCE"

If you watch football regularly chances are you know what the penalty of interference is. Interference is when the pass is thrown deep down field (usually) and the defender realizes he's been beat by the wide receiver. So, instead of playing the ball legally by looking back and going for the ball, the defender essentially just gives up and goes right for the receiver, thus "interfering" with the progression of the play. This results in a penalty against the defense and it usually means a significant move up the field for the offense because of the penalty. This is a Voice article, right? That is correct. You haven't stumbled upon an NFL officiating handbook by accident...but seriously, what does this have to do with Scripture?

Well, in Ephesians 1 Paul tells us just how blessed we are in Christ. God loved us so much that He gave His Son for us, and He even thought about us before the foundation of the world. Paul says this in Ephesians 1:3, which is just part of a sentence by the way:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the  
heavenly places in Christ,"

God the Father and Jesus the Son have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places! Upon further study of the word "blessed", it shows us more of the heart of God and His love for us. In Greek, the word Paul uses here for blessed is the word *eulogētos*, which is derived from the word *eulogēō*. When looking deeper into the meaning of these words, we see that it does mean to bless or uplift as we are commonly aware of in the English language, however it also implies a certain "interference". Except, unlike in football, this is a good interference. God interferes for our good and blesses us in ways that we may not even be comfortable with. He blesses us when we may not even want to be blessed!

When thinking of this I cannot help but think of Romans 5:8:

"But God commends his own love toward us, in that while  
we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

We chose to rebel in the garden, we chose sin over our creator, and we were in a hopeless mess, but then, God interfered. Jesus chose to bless us, to die for us, even when we were still sinning. Even though some of us will choose to not care, and to continue to spit in His face. He saw that we were in a desperate situation, and so God interfered, and oh am I thankful that He did! Now, we should thank him for His divine interference!

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through  
our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

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

# FAMILY MATTERS

**We express our sympathies . . .** to the family and friends of Barbara Palmer. Mrs. Palmer passed away on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Her services were held on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at MFCC. Barbara had been a member of MFCC for over 68 years. She was the Church organist for over 30 years and served in many ways over those years in the Church as a Deaconess & Home Dept. along with many other positions.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28*

## REMEMBER OTHERS WITH CARDS

Mr. Bob Palmer  
P.O. Box 149  
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Palmer  
235 Calway Ave. SE  
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Linda Sahli  
215 Woodland St.  
Burkesville, KY 42717

Mrs. & Mrs. Jim Palmer  
74 Central Avenue  
Westerville, OH 43081

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



## IRCC TULIP TEA

Join us for our annual IRCC  
*Tulip Tea*  
**WOMEN'S LUNCHEON**

Saturday  
*April 18, 2026*  
Doors open 10am - Program 10:30am  
Luncheon to follow

**FEATURING SPEAKER**  
*Dr. Robert F. Miller*  
Christian counselor-supervisor, licensed psychologist  
& social worker, based in Carroll County

MUSIC BY LOUISVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WORSHIP TEAM

**INDIAN RUN  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**  
8368 Hill Church St. SE, East Canton OH

Free will offering  
will be collected

Also bring an item to  
benefit Ohio Hospice  
patients:  
(Travel size or regular size)  
Shampoos, soap, shower  
soap, body wash, lip balm,  
toothpaste, toothbrush,  
good razors, combs,  
brushes, lotions, wash  
cloth, towels, shaving  
cream, cotton swabs, nail  
files, new grippy socks

Register online at  
[ChristForEastCanton.com](http://ChristForEastCanton.com)  
Or call the church office  
330-488-2938

**RSVP BY APRIL 11**

# MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Happy Easter! As we enter this sacred season, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the resurrection of our Savior. Easter is always a special time at MACS, and we are thankful for the opportunity to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and the hope it brings to our school community.

With only about seven full weeks remaining in the school year, we are moving quickly toward the finish line. This stretch is always full of activity, learning, and important milestones. We ask for your continued prayers as our students complete comprehensive assessments, participate in field trips, and finish the year strong.

## **This past month, our students did some amazing things:**

**CIY SuperStart:** Twenty-one of our students attended CIY SuperStart last weekend. It was a meaningful experience filled with worship, teaching, and fellowship.

**Easter-Themed Art Project:** Our students are creating a beautiful Easter display for the front doors of the church. We hope this artwork brings joy and encouragement to everyone who sees it.

Easter Break begins this Friday and continues through Monday, April 6th. We pray this long weekend provides rest, renewal, and time to celebrate Christ's victory.

## **MACS 60th Anniversary Celebration**

Join us on **Friday, April 10th**, as we celebrate 60 years of God's faithfulness to Minerva Area Christian School from 6:30 pm to 9 pm.

Special Feature: Live worship from *Profound Revival* at 8 pm

This will be a memorable evening for our entire community.

## **Important Dates to Remember**

**High School Information Night – Tuesday, April 7th at 6:30 PM**

**Kindergarten Information Night – Monday, April 13th at 6:00 PM**

We look forward to connecting with families as they explore the next steps in their child's education. If you are aware of any families that may be interested in having their child attend MACS, please have them contact our school!

Thank you for your continued support of MACS. We believe that God is blessing this ministry to be a place where families can feel comfortable sending their child and where their child can grow in all areas of their lives!

## APRIL CALENDAR

April 5 - Easter Breakfast & Celebration Service  
April 7 - Joy, Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm  
April 8 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 8 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 10 - Red Cross Blood Mobile 12—5 pm  
April 10 - MACS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
April 12 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
April 12 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
April 13 - Joy, Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm  
April 14 - Home Dept. Meeting 1:00 pm  
April 15 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 15 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 16 - Deacons Pantry 9:00 - 10:30 pm  
April 19 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
April 19 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
April 21 - Joy, Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm  
April 22 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 22 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 25 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 am  
April 26 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm  
April 26 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm  
April 28 - Joy, Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm  
April 29 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
April 29 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 AM @ MFCC**



Join us for  
Donuts &  
Devotion

## TORRES UPDATE

We spent March 5<sup>th</sup> thru the 14<sup>th</sup> with the Tennessee medical team. First, we helped buy supplies and pack them and then we prepared vitamins and medicines in individual packaging to give to the people. On Sunday we traveled in a bus and SUV to Ixtepec, Puebla where we installed in a church building. Monday thru Thursday 5 doctors, a dentist, foot care, reading glasses and pharmacy saw 916 patients! Luis and Chere work with registering the people while Chere also helps with nursing. Everything is given to the people as the churches in US donate all that is needed. We praise God for allowing us to serve with this team and show God's love to the people there.

The 1999 Nissan Pathfinder we use is with the mechanic again. Please pray with us about God leading us to a newer used vehicle that we can afford. Thanks for your prayers as we serve Him in Mexico, Luis & Chere Torres

## RED CROSS BLOOD MOBILE

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
11 am - 5 pm

## DEACONS PANTRY

The food for Deacons Pantry will be given out after Sunday service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. In order to receive the food one must at least attend that 3rd Sunday service .

## PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner  
 Jennifer Allen  
 Mike Amatantelo  
 Alice Archer  
 Christa 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  
 Scoo & Dolores  
 M<sup>c</sup>Cully  
 Jean Miller  
 Shea Mitchell  
 Lynn Morgan  
 Connie Morris  
 Sheila Murray  
 Tim Parker  
 Eric Prowe  
 John & Sandy  
 Russell  
 Gene Schmucker  
 Kathy Schmucker  
 Gary Schotts  
 Sally Shaw

## MAN CAMP @ ELKHORN VALLEY CAMP



**Speaker: Dr. James Estep**  
**Theme: Reclaiming Manhood**

Jim currently serves as the director of the Doctor of Educational Ministries program at Dallas Theological Seminary (Dallas, Texas) since July 2024. He has held ministries in Kentucky (Elmfork Christian Church and Church of Christ, Latonia), Indiana (East Columbus Christian Church), Michigan (Calvary Christian Church, South Lansing Christian Church), and most recently as Equipping Pastor at One Church (aka Heritage Christian Church) in Fayetteville, Georgia. He is also a co-founder, board member, and the Texas Regional Coach for e2: Effective Elders, a ministry committed to equipping elders to leadership in the local church, speaking at many church-leadership conferences across the United States. ([www.e2elders.org](http://www.e2elders.org)).

### Schedule:

**8:30am-9:00am:** Registration at Dining Hall Porch  
**9:00am-10:30am:** Main Session  
**10:30am-11:00am:** Small Groups  
**11:00am-12:00pm:** Free Time  
**12:00pm:** Lunch  
**12:30pm-2:00pm:** Free Time  
**2:00pm-3:00pm:** Main Session

### Activities:

Pickleball  
 Fishing  
 Cornhole  
 Rock Wall

Axe Throwing  
 Trap Shooting

Hand Gun Range  
 (must bring own firearms)

### COST:

**\$35**

SCAN TO REGISTER

## ATTENDANCE

	<u>Mar. 1</u>	<u>Mar. 8</u>	<u>Mar. 15</u>	<u>Mar. 22</u>	<u>Mar. 29</u>
Worship	137	113	148	129	144
Bible School	74	67	77	65	71

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

April 1, 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

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3	Shawn & Christa Archer 33 years	18 Zach Long
4	Becky Lutz	21 Kim Hoopes
5	Christa Archer	22 Lynn Morgan
7	Chip & Kathy Syme 57 years	24 Roger & Barbara Patterson 45 years
8	Boyd Dowell	26 Kenny & Sandi Unkefer 12 years
10	Holly Reed	28 Jay & Debbie Harsh 24 years
14	Janet Johnson Alissa Seibert	29 Kassadee Archer
16	Betty Hoopes	30 Herb Lowery

## SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>Comm. Meditation</b>	Dave Bush	Zach Long	John Russell	John Long
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Shaw & Brandon Keen	John George	Mike Fountain	Bob Palmer
<b>Deaconess</b>				
<b>Shut-In Teams</b>	Mike Fountain & Zach Long	John Long & Jordan Vert	Jay Harsh & Chris Sanford	Dave Seibert & Nate Oberly