

MAY 2026

Happy
Mother's
Day

*the joy of the LORD is
your strength*

- Nehemiah 8:10



FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

To impact this world... *because of the One.*

That phrase isn't just a slogan—it's a story.

It's my story. I've been impacted. Deeply. Personally.

There were seasons of my life where I felt completely lost—like I had “died” a thousand times trying to figure things out on my own. Searching. Striving. Coming up empty. And then Jesus stepped in. Everything changed. All that He has done for me... I can't help but say, *thank You*. From experiences in Asia to where I stand now, I can see His hand guiding every step. And today, I have the privilege of being one of your pastors—and I truly love it. Not because of a title, but because of the calling. We're here for something bigger than ourselves. We're here to impact lives—in Minerva, in our communities, and across the world. All because of the One. So How Do We Do This? That brings us to the mission of the church. Mission: Sharing the Way Teaching the Truth Living the Life Simple. Clear. Powerful. But what does that actually look like? Teaching the Truth. Sometimes we overcomplicate this. Sharing the gospel doesn't have to be a polished presentation or a perfectly recited formula. It can be much simpler—and much more real. It looks like inviting someone. Letting them know you're praying for them. Asking, “What can I pray for in your life?” It's everyday faith, lived out in everyday conversations. And sometimes, one of the most powerful ways we “share the way” isn't through what we say—but through how we suffer. A Powerful Witness The way Christians walk through suffering can be one of the strongest testimonies to a watching world... or a deterrent if we miss it. Scripture reminds us that we carry a treasure in **earthen vessels**—fragile, ordinary containers. Easy to crack. Easy to break. That's us. Human. Fallen. Weak. And yet inside us? The gospel. The Holy Spirit. The hope of heaven. The very glory of God revealed in Christ. An unsurpassable treasure... living within fragile lives. Hope in the Middle of Hardship. So what happens when life gets hard? When we face calamity... When we're perplexed and don't know which way to turn... When the pressure feels overwhelming... We don't lose heart. We continue. Not because we're ignoring reality or pretending everything is fine. Faith isn't denial. We acknowledge the pain. We face the struggle honestly. But behind it all—there's a deeper reality: **Hope**. God's presence is still with us. His faithfulness hasn't changed. Even in suffering, we are not forsaken. And as we walk through those moments with faith, it becomes a powerful witness to the world around us. People see something different. Something real. They see that even in hardship...God continues to deliver. God continues to come through. This is how we accomplish the mission.

We **share the way**—simply, authentically. We **teach the truth**—clearly and faithfully.

We **live the life**—even when it's hard. And through it all, we remember why. Because of the One.

TEARS FOR THE LOST

A few years back the main speaker for the e2 Conference was Bob Russell. Bob Russell was the Lead Minister at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky for 40 years. He shared the following story in one of the main sessions while we were there:

"I used to teach a "What We Believe class". One night after a lesson on "What is Christianity All About?" a college girl came up and introduced me to a friend that she had brought to the class. She said, "I invited her to come because I am hopeful that she will become a Christian like I did a year ago, she's got some questions."...The girl had a question about evolution, I tried to answer it, she asked a question then about suffering, tried to answer that, she asked a question [why's] there so many denominations, tried to answer that. I could tell she was asking questions, not because she had intellectual doubt, she was asking questions because her heart was hard, she wasn't ready. So I said to her, "Would you read Lee Strobel's book...[The] Case for Christ...? She said, "Ok". I looked at the college girl who had brought her, tears were streaming down this girl's cheeks. She said, "I'm sorry, I just want her to become a Christian so bad I can taste it." And I was convicted. I couldn't remember the last time I wept for somebody who's unsaved. I couldn't remember the last time I even invited somebody to church. What about you? If we want our church to be united in the mission, the main mission is to seek and save the lost."

In this same sermon, Russell also talked about how the longer we have been a Christian, the less we tend to evangelize. Like Russell, I have been convicted. Convicted that I need to have more love and concern in my heart for those who are lost! These people are going to Hell. Let's not sugarcoat it. People that have not accepted Jesus and been baptized are going to eternal hell, damnation away from God for all time. Like this girl that brought her friend to Bob Russell, we should be stressed out over those we know who are lost, because of the fact that we know their destination without Him.

Self-evaluation. Ask yourself: when was the last time I told someone that Jesus died on the Cross for their sin in a personal conversation? Ask yourself: when was the last time I just invited someone to come with me to church? When Jesus walked the earth, He went here and there and everywhere speaking to people about the coming Kingdom of God. A Christian is just supposed to be a "little Christ", so are we doing the same things Jesus did? Everywhere we go do we tell people about the saving message of the Cross of Jesus? CON'T...

TEARS FOR THE LOST . . . CON'T.

Church, it is our RESPONSIBILITY to tell others about Jesus. Ours, the church's. Not just Pastor Chris, not just the Youth Minister, not just the elders. Ours. What did Jesus say in Matthew 28:18-20, right before He ascended back into Heaven?

"Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

"Go and make disciples..." Are you making disciples? Am I making disciples of Jesus? Warning: This will require us to have conversations with the lost about Jesus. Are we selfish or are we or are we weeping for the lost?

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

GLORIFY GOD
AMONG THE NATIONS

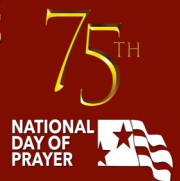


Join us at 9:15 am to pray for our neighbor and nation

SEEKING HIM
IN ALL GENERATIONS
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



UP-COMING EVENTS



June 24 - June 26

MACS SUMMER STEM CAMP JUNE 24 - 26 12:00-3:00 PM

Exploring God's Creation Through STEM
For students entering
Kindergarten through 8th Grade
Cost: \$20 (FREE if you bring a friend)
Open to ALL students in our community

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the
R. Dale George Scholarship
are available in the
Church Office.

They must be returned
by June 30th.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

MAY 11TH
7:30 PM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



SIGN UP HERE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
MINERVA FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JUNE 14TH - 18TH

6:00PM - 8:30PM

BIBLE LESSONS, GAMES, SNACKS, CRAFTS & PRIZES

FAMILY MATTERS

We express our sympathies . . . to Melody Fisher, her family and friends with the passing of Bill Fisher. Mr. Fisher passed away on April 8th. His services were held on Friday, April 17th. Bill was a Vietnam Veteran and has been a member of MFCC for many years.

Our condolences are also sent . . . to Rick, Stephanie & Lindsay, their families and the friends of Connie Morris. Connie had fought a good fight with her health for many years. She passed away on Monday, April 27th. Her service will be Tuesday, May 5th at 11 am here at First Christian with calling hours on Monday, May 4th 2-4 & 6-8 pm at the Gotschall-Hutchinson Funeral Home.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4

Dear Minerva FCC Family, We want to thank you for all the love and support that we have received from all of you during Shawn's illness and multiple surgeries, my physical issues, and Kassadee's surgeries. The last several months have been one of the most difficult seasons of our lives. So many of you blessed us with delicious meals, (thank you Julie Brown for taking on the task of arranging this), beautiful cards, monetary gifts (while Shawn was out of work for months), visits from Pastor Zach and Pastor Chris at home and in the hospitals, and those of you that just sent inspirational text messages to keep us going on the lowest days, meant so much, not to mention the continued prayers that I know so many of you have been saying on our behalf! We could not have made it through this trial without each of you, our MFCC family!

Much Love and God's blessings to you all, The Archer Family

Thank you . . . The family of Bill Fisher would like to thank everyone for their caring words and sympathy during this time. Thank you to Zach and Chris for visits and doing the service. Also thanks to the guys that brought communion to Bill, he really enjoyed talking to all of you.

To the ladies of the Church that made the dinner for us, it was wonderful and we really appreciate all you did.

Bill Fisher Family

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



We've entered the final month of the school year, and there's a wonderful lineup of events as we finish strong. Families, students, and congregation members are invited to join in the celebrations and community gatherings planned throughout May. Here are some of the highlights of upcoming events:

National Day of Prayer: Thursday, May 7, at 9:15 AM. All are welcome to attend this special time of prayer and reflection. Please join us as we come together to lift up our school, church, and community.

End-of-Year Programs. Our Preschool program will be held on Wednesday, May 13, and the K–8 program will take place on Thursday, May 14. Both events promise to be joyful occasions. Please come and celebrate the students' accomplishments with us. They are going to be awesome displays of the growth our students have made this year!

STEM Camp: Wednesday, June 24 through Friday, June 26. Open to children entering Kindergarten through 8th grade. To register, visit minervafcc.com/stem-program. We look forward to a fun, hands-on learning experience for our campers.

Looking ahead to summer, we're excited about upcoming projects and activities; stay tuned for more details. For families considering MACS for the 2026-2027 school year, enrollment is still open, but spaces are limited. Encourage interested families to contact the school and attend our admissions events this month to learn more about our Christ-Centered programs.

Thank you for making this year an amazing experience for our students and staff. We look forward to closing it out with joy and anticipation for what lies ahead.

Upcoming Events

National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 7th at 9:15 am
End of the Year Program, Preschool, Wednesday, May 13th, 6 pm
End of the Year Program, K-8, Thursday, May 14th, 6:30 pm
Last Day of School, Thursday, May 21st

MAY CALENDAR

SHUT INS

May 3 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
May 3 - Evening Bible Study 5:30 pm
May 6 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 6 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 7 - MS Open Gym Basketball 5:30 - 7
May 9 - Ladies Event 11:00 am
May 10 - Mother's Day
May 11 - General Board Meeting 7:30 pm
May 12 - Home Dept. Meeting 1:00 pm
May 13 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 13 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 14 - MACS K-8 Closing Program 6:30
May 17 - Deacons Pantry after am service
May 17 - AWANA 5:00 - 6:30 pm
May 20 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 20 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 21 - MACS Preschool Program 6:30pm
May 25 - Memorial Day — Office Closed
May 27 - FLIP (grades 4-6) 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 27 - Upper Room 6:30 - 7:30 pm
May 30 - Church Elections
June 5 - Blood Mobile 12 - 6 pm

Mrs. Shirley Aultfather
15341 Lincoln Street
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Marge Warrick
9170 Southview
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Sally Shaw
4325 Woodale Ave. SE Lot 17
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Alice Archer
c/o St. Luke's
220 Applegrove St. NE
North Canton, OH 44720

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

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



MEN'S BREAKFAST

DEACONS PANTRY

**NO MEN'S
BREAKFAST
IN MAY**

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
 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^cCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Lynn Morgan
 Sheila Murray
 Tim Parker
 Eric Prowe
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Gary Schotts

LADIES EVENT



**SATURDAY,
 MAY 9 @ 11 AM**

**SPECIAL
 LADIES EVENT**

MORE DETAILS

ATTENDANCE

| | <u>April 5</u> | <u>April 12</u> | <u>April 19</u> | <u>April 26</u> |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Worship | 178 | 133 | 151 | 135 |
| Bible School | 82 | 61 | 74 | 71 |

Sally Shaw
 Allie Swank
 Carol Thomas
 Marge Warrick
 Mike Weekly

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 30, 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

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 David & Jo D. Unkefer 44 years | 20 Tim Bush Carol Thomas |
| 4 Jill Long | 24 Marilyn Hoopes |
| 9 Kathy Syme | 26 Melody Fisher |
| 10 Shelly Fountain | 27 Diana Palmer |
| 15 Lilly Vert Tim & Trish Bush 55 years | 29 Barbara (B.J.) Dunlevy Johnny Costea |
| 18 Bob Palmer | 31 Jean Miller |

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

| | May 3 | May 10 | May 17 | May 24 | May 31 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Comm. Meditation | Bruce Doppelheuer | Nate Oberly | Jordan Vert | Dave Bush | Zach Long |
| Ushers | Chip Syme | Mike Fountain | Bill Shaw | Brandon Keen | John Georg |
| Deaconess | Dorothy Thomas | Dorothy Thomas | Dorothy Thomas | Dorothy Thomas | Dorothy Thomas |
| Shut-In Teams | Brad Snyder & Bruce Doppelheuer | Mother's Day No Shut-ins | Bob Palmer & Zach Long | Kenny Hoopes & Jordan Vert | Mike Fountain & Chris Sanford |