

AUGUST 2026

MACS Back to School Picnic!



Sunday, August 23rd at 6pm!

All families are welcome for a night of free food, fun, and fellowship to celebrate the new school year!

**ALL MEMBERS OF
FIRST CHRISTIAN ARE
ENCOURAGED TO JOIN
US!**



FUNDRAISING NIGHT AT JOHN'S BAKERY AND CAFÉ!

**August 12 & 13
4 - 8 PM**

20% of all sales from the evening will be donated to The Minerva Local LifeWise Academy

Carry Out is also available @
330-868-3684

LifeWise Academy offers
Bible Education
DURING
School hours.

Is you would like more info. on LifeWise, please contact Sharon Eckles, Minerva Program Director 330-205-9525

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Jesus Didn't Come From a Perfect Family—And That's Good News for Us

When most people come to the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, they are tempted to skip it. After all, it's a long list of unfamiliar names that can seem disconnected from everyday life.

But Matthew intentionally begins his Gospel with a family tree because it tells us something essential about Jesus.

Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish audience. His central message is that everything God promised in the Old Testament finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew quotes the Old Testament over fifty times and alludes to it hundreds more. Jesus is the promised King, the fulfillment of God's covenant, and the rightful ruler of God's Kingdom.

Yet before Matthew tells us about Jesus' birth, miracles, or teachings, he introduces us to His family.

And what a family it is.

It's fitting that God chose Matthew to write this Gospel.

Matthew wasn't a religious insider. He was a tax collector serving under Roman occupation—a profession despised by his own people. Tax collectors often enriched themselves by collecting more than Rome required. They were viewed as traitors, dishonest, and among the lowest members of Jewish society.

Yet Jesus walked up to Matthew and simply said, "Follow Me."

Jesus didn't wait until Matthew had cleaned up his life. He loved him where he was and transformed him into something new.

The same is true for us.

His own genealogy is filled with people who loved God deeply—and people who rebelled against Him just as deeply.

Families can become our greatest source of encouragement, but they can also become our greatest source of pain. Jesus knows both.

Matthew mentions King Ahaz almost in passing (Matthew 1:8-9), but his life carries an important warning.

Ahaz had every opportunity to know the Lord.

His grandfather, Uzziah, began his reign faithfully before pride led to his downfall. His father, Jotham, served God well. Ahaz inherited a prosperous kingdom and a godly heritage.

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Yet he deliberately chose another path.

Second Chronicles 28 tells us that he rejected God's Word, embraced the idolatry of the surrounding nations, and even sacrificed his own children in the fires offered to Molech.

His greatest tragedy wasn't ignorance.

It was refusal.

Isaiah 7 records one of the saddest moments in his life. God graciously invited Ahaz to ask for a sign. Ahaz replied that he would not "test the Lord."

At first glance, it sounds humble.

It wasn't.

His mind had already been made up.

It's a bit like praying for strength to keep a diet while secretly keeping éclairs hidden in the refrigerator. We ask God for guidance while already planning to disobey.

God often brings us to places where our own wisdom, resources, and abilities are no longer enough so that we learn to depend entirely on Him. Ahaz refused that invitation.

His life reminds us that if we want our children to seek God, it must begin with us. We cannot consistently place comfort, convenience, sports, careers, or entertainment above Christ and then be surprised if the next generation follows our example.

But even here, family influence is not destiny.

Ahaz's son, Hezekiah, became one of Judah's greatest kings.

Then comes another surprising name.

Manasseh.

If Ahaz illustrates rebellion, Manasseh illustrates both incredible wickedness and incredible grace.

His father, Hezekiah, had worked tirelessly to remove idols and restore worship throughout Judah.

Manasseh rebuilt everything his father had torn down.

Paul's words in Galatians come to mind: "If I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor."

Some things don't need rebuilding.

Manasseh embraced astrology, spiritism, and idolatry. He led the nation further into sin than the pagan nations God had previously judged. Jewish tradition even records that the prophet Isaiah

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

was executed during his reign.

His story seems beyond redemption.

Until it isn't.

God allowed the Assyrians to capture him, bind him with bronze shackles, and lead him away into exile.

There, broken and humbled, Manasseh finally cried out to the Lord.

Second Chronicles tells us that God heard him.

God restored him.

God forgave him.

After all he had done, Manasseh discovered that God's mercy was still greater than his sin. That's one of the most encouraging truths in Scripture.

Your past does not determine your future.

Ahaz started badly and finished badly.

Manasseh started badly but finished well.

Where you begin is not nearly as important as where you finish.

Then Matthew mentions perhaps Israel's greatest king.
David.

David was the unlikely shepherd whom Samuel anointed after passing over every one of his older brothers. He became known as a man after God's own heart, wrote many of the Psalms, and led Israel faithfully.

Yet David also committed adultery with Bathsheba and orchestrated the death of her husband, Uriah.

Matthew doesn't hide it.

In fact, he intentionally reminds us that Jesus came through the line of David and Bathsheba.

Even the greatest saints have chapters they wish they could erase.

David's sin brought devastating consequences to his family—betrayal, violence, and heartbreak. Yet God's grace continued working through David's life despite his failures.

The genealogy of Jesus reminds us that God has always worked through imperfect people.

FROM THE PREACHER'S PEN

Some came from godly homes.

Some came from rebellious homes.

Some left a legacy of faith.

Others left a legacy of failure.

Yet God's redemptive plan continued through them all.

Your family history does not determine your usefulness in God's Kingdom.

Perhaps you come from generations of faith. Thank God for that heritage and continue walking in it.

Perhaps you come from generations of dysfunction, addiction, anger, or unbelief. Love your family, forgive where necessary, and resolve by God's grace to begin a different legacy.

The greatest truth Matthew's genealogy teaches is this:

Jesus stepped into a broken family tree to redeem broken families.

And because of Him, every family story can have a new beginning.

CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

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

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

Mrs. Shirley Aultfather
15341 Lincoln Street
Minerva, OH 44657

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



Linda Palmer
7355 Canton Rd. NW
Malvern, OH 44644

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

FROM THE YOUTH PASTOR . . .

[The following is a lesson I had with the students of Upper Room (6 th -12 th grade) recently. Although students often find themselves feeling like they aren't enough, I think it happens to us adults as well. I hope it encourages you!]

Have you ever went to buy something at the store and the person at the register says how much it is, and then you realize you don't have enough money to pay for it?

That ever happened to any of you?

How did you feel?

Embarrassed?

Yes. I have been there too, and you think, wow.
How could I have done that?

Now, times that by like a million, and that is what it feels like to feel like you as a person are not enough.

Not good enough for your friends.
Not good enough to get the grades needed.
Not good enough for the job you may want.
Not good enough to make the team.
Not good enough for your parents.
Not as good as your siblings.

You name it, the list can go on and on where we don't feel like we are good enough. That we will never be enough, that we will never measure up to the person we need to be.

Now, let me blow your mind with a statement I am betting you wouldn't think I would say as a pastor...
Ready?

Alone, on your own, you are right. You aren't good enough.

There are so many people that would want me to say things like this:

"You are good enough. You have it deep down inside of you. You just have to be yourself and everything will be totally fine!" "You're the best, you're Now, let me blow your mind with a statement I am betting you wouldn't think I would say as a pastor... Ready? Alone, on your own, you are right. You aren't good enough. There are so many people that would want me to say things like this: "You are good enough. You have it deep down inside of you. You just have to be yourself and everything will be totally fine!" "You're the best, you're the brightest, you just shoot for the stars and everything will be great!"

But is that really true? No, it's not.

Con't.

FROM THE YOUTH PASTOR . . . Con't.

If we are being honest, some of us aren't good enough to make the team.
Some of us aren't good enough to get the grades that are expected of us.
We may never get the job we want.
We may disappoint our friends and not be who they want us to be.

Wow. Great lesson, Zach! Way to encourage us, right?
Well, I am sorry that sounds so bleak, it's because it is...

But it's also what life looks like without God in the equation.

When we allow God to be who He is in our lives, EVERYTHING CHANGES, and changes for the better.

When we come to Him, accept what Jesus did for us on the Cross and surrender our lives to Him, we don't show Him a list of things that we aren't enough in, we ask Him the question: "Who do YOU want me to be?" "What have YOU designed me to do?"

Because when we admit, "God, I am not enough! I can't do it alone." - THAT IS A GOOD THING! NOW YOU ARE BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF, AND GOD!

And God says, "Good. I am glad you finally realized this. Now, let me introduce you to this guy named Jesus, who took your place, and HE IS ALWAYS ENOUGH."

What if you stopped asking yourself, "Am I enough?" And started asking yourself, "Is Jesus enough?"

When Jesus comes into your life, you don't have to be enough, for anyone! Because He takes your place. HE IS ALWAYS ENOUGH.

Now, you still may not make the team, but maybe that isn't who God designed you to be? Maybe you haven't gotten the best grades, or look the coolest, or aren't as cool to everyone as your brother or sister is. But maybe you aren't supposed to be?

When you realize Jesus is enough for your life, you start to see the things that He has gifted you to do, and you realize that in Him, since He is enough, you are enough, but only through Him.

So, next time you are tempted to ask yourself, "Am I enough?" - You are asking the wrong question.

Instead, you tell that Devil, "Jesus IS ENOUGH!" And that's what matters most.

And if you need to make that decision to follow Jesus, to be baptized, think more about that and let me know.

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

AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug. 4 - Upper Room 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 7 - Red Cross Blood Mobile 11 - 5
Aug. 11 - Home Dept. Mtg. 1:00 pm
Aug. 12 - Upper Room 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 16 - Deacons Pantry after am service
Aug. 19 - Upper Room 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 22 - Family Fun Day @ Park 5-8 pm
Aug. 23 - MACS Back to School Picnic
6-7:30
Aug. 26 - MACS First Day K-9
Aug. 26 - Upper Room 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Aug. 29 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 pm
Aug. 30 - Evening Service & AWANA
5:30 pm

The Barnabas Project

Barnabas was known as the "Son of Encouragement." (Acts 4:36) Everywhere he went, he pointed people to Jesus, encouraged them in their faith, and believed in them when they needed it most.

This school year, we'd love for you to be a Barnabas to one of our students. Choose one student to pray for throughout the school year. Pray for their walk with Jesus, their friendships, their family, their struggles, and all the things they'll face this year. Every so often, write them a note, share a favorite Bible verse, or simply remind them that someone is praying for them.

You may never know how much a prayer, a kind word, or a simple note can mean to a student. But God can use those small acts of faithfulness in big ways. Let's be a church that comes alongside the next generation, encourages them, and reminds them they are seen, loved, and never walking alone.

Names of M.A.C.S. & Minerva Local students will be at the information booth



GENERAL BOARD MEETING

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

MEN'S BREAKFAST

**MEN'S BREAKFAST
AUGUST 29TH**

UP-COMING OPPORTUNITIES

Family Camp @ Elkhorn
"At The Cross"
Sept. 4th-7th

Women's Retreat @ Elkhorn
Sept. 11th-12th

Senior Saints Day @ Elkhorn
Tues., Sept. 15th

Aspire Women's Event
in Louisville
Oct. 16th

Questions regarding the ladies
events, contact Trish Bush
330-936-2306

More info at the info center.

FAMILY MATTERS

We express our sympathies . . .

. . . to Marjorie Warrick and her family with the passing of her son, Keith. He passed away on July 4th. His services were held on Saturday, July 11th. Marge's address is 9170 Southview, Minerva, OH 44657.

. . . to the family and friends of Gary Schotts. Gary passed away on July 12th. A Memorial Service will take place Monday, August 10th at 11 am at MFCC.

. . . to the family and friends of Ruby Guy. Ruby passed away on Monday, July 13th, her birthday. What better way to celebrate your birthday, but with Jesus!! Ruby was the wife of our past Minister, Art Guy. A service will be held in Minerva at a later date.

Congratulations to . . . Brad & Rachael Snyder with the birth of their daughter, Hannah. She was born on Monday, July 6 and shares her birthday with her dad. Her big brothers, Caleb & Ethan are excited to have her home. They live at 9706 Louisville St., Louisville, OH 44641.

ENCOURAGE/CONNECT/PRAY

As MFCC and MACS continue to partner together, we would like to give you the opportunity to join MACS as we encourage, pray and connect with our students and their families. There is a list of student's names and ages at the information center. Please take a student or two (cross off their names) from the list and pray for this child as the school year begins. You can send them a card (drop off at the office or the offering). We ask for you to keep them and their family in prayer, asking God to be with them as the school year begins, new schedules are in place and that any anxieties or nervousness be subsided. We do have some families that are not connected to a Church, we want to be the Church to them, showing God's love.

There are also several opportunities available for your to volunteer, serve, share your talent, help with projects that might be of interest to you. Let us know how you would like to become involved! We look forward to hearing from you.

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



We've had a wonderful summer this year. The sunny, warm days have reminded us to be thankful for God's creation. Now, as August begins, the MACS staff is excited for the 2026-2027 school year and ready to share Christ's love with our students and families.

Our K-8 program starts on Wednesday, August 26th, and our Pre-school program begins on Tuesday, September 8th. To start the year, we invite you to join us for a special event.

We're hosting a Kickoff Picnic on Sunday, August 23rd at 6 pm. Come enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun, and support for our school's mission. We will provide food and drinks, and you are welcome to come tour the school and meet some of our families and students. It's a great way to begin the new season together!

Thank you for your steady support and prayers, which help our ministry. We believe God has a special plan for our school, and we ask for your continued prayers for our staff, students, and families. With many new staff members and first-year students, we hope for a smooth start and a strong foundation for everyone. If you'd like to pray for a student, you can find their names in the Sanctuary lobby. We invite you to join us in this prayer opportunity.

As we look ahead, we are eager to partner with local families to nurture and support our community. We invite families to get involved in a variety of ways, such as volunteering in classrooms and helping with school events. Whether you have time to serve at a special event, share your talents, or help with a project, your involvement helps us build a strong and welcoming community. Together, we can help our children grow in faith and learn about the love of Jesus Christ. Let's remember the promise from Proverbs 22:6 (NIV): *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."*

Upcoming Events

August Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 18 at 6:45 pm

Kickoff Picnic, Sunday. August 23rd at 6:00 pm

PRAYER LIST

Reagan Abner
 Alice Archer
 Christa Archer
 Linda (Keller) &
 Charlie Augsbach
 Bill Becknell
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Shirley Catlett
 Don Clapper
 Lora Crabtree
 Barbara Dunlevy
 Larry Hartshorn
 Todd Hetherington
 Dave Hoopes
 Evelyn Hopkins
 Grace Hopson
 George Horvath
 Lee Iden
 Carolyn Kandel
 Rory & Nancy King
 Ray Leatherberry
 Herb & Pat Lowery
 Scoo & Dolores
 McCully
 Jean Miller
 Shea Mitchell
 Sheila Murray
 Eric Prowe
 John & Sandy
 Russell
 Gene Schmucker
 Kathy Schmucker
 Lynette Shatzer
 Shawn Shatzer
 Sally Shaw
 Alicia Smith
 Carol Thomas
 Marge Warrick

AUGUST 22, 5-8PM
MUNICIPAL PARK & STAGE



FAMILY FUN DAY

FREE EVENT.
GAMES. PRIZES. INFLATABLES. FOOD.



ATTENDANCE

	<u>July 5</u>	<u>July 12</u>	<u>July 19</u>	<u>July 26</u>
Worship	113	111	124	142
Bible School	70	60	61	77



MILITARY

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



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
Minerva, Ohio 44657

July 30, 2026

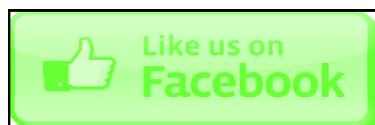
Church Services

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Tucker Keaton Jake Reed Caleb Snyder	14 Kelly Shaw 18 JoD. Unkefer
3 Chelsea Oberly Barbara Patterson Jordan & Cassandra Vert 13 years	19 Mike Lowery 23 Jabin Reed 24 Debbie Harsh
4 Shirley Catlett Kay D. Unkefer	25 Sondra Houze
8 Cassandra Vert	26 Larry & Diana Palmer 48 years
9 Matt Sterling	28 Jeanette Smith Dave & Donna Dennis 53 years
10 Arabella Breeze Brad & Rachael Snyder 13 years	29 Jacob Unkefer
13 Betty McIntosh	

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30
Comm. Meditation	John Long	Zach Long	Nate Oberly	Jordan Vert	Dave Bush
Ushers	Bill Shaw	Matt Sterling	Bill Shaw	Chip Syme	Owen Sterling
Deaconess	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer	Sandy Doppelheuer
Shut-In Teams	Bruce Doppelheuer & Dave Seibert	Mike Fountain & Kenny Unkefer	Ed Barr & Bill Shaw	Jake Reed & Brad Snyder	Kenny Hoopes & Brandon Keen