

MAX LUCADO – HAVE A JOYFUL 4TH OF JULY!

As we celebrate our country's freedom on this 4th of July, may you be encouraged by this level-headed instruction from the Bible:

The Apostle Paul wants young Timothy to lead the church in a godly fashion. His first command? "pray for all people." The flagship assignment of the church is prayer. Feed the hungry? Counsel the confused? Teach the lost? Absolutely. But first, we pray. The primary activity of a local church is intercession and worship.

Specifically, we "pray for rulers and for all who have authority..." This includes our president, vice-president, all elected and appointed officials. We ask God to use them to facilitate a haven of quiet and peace where worship can abound. We pray so that "...we can have quiet and peaceful lives full of worship and respect for God."

Remarkable. A peaceful society depends upon the prayers of the church. If we do not have a peaceful society—where worship and respect for God can flourish—what is the solution? Better government policy? A different president? New Congress? No, the first solution is a praying church.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray... then I will hear from heaven." (II Chron. 7:14 NIV)

HOLY LIVING IN A DIGITAL WORLD: NAVIGATING SOCIAL MEDIA AS A CHRISTIAN

Sunday, July 12th @ 6:30 pm

Join us @ FCC for a time of teaching
and study.

JULY 2020

TRUE FREEDOM

What a year 2020 has been so far! Now that we're past the halfway point, when one looks back at all that's taken place so far, it's a safe assumption that no one could've predicted what we've experienced during this peculiar and volatile time. Yet here we are - into the embrace of my favorite month, July. Most times, July is defined as the time to celebrate freedom, and the season in which we 'let freedom ring!' However, this year, there are many people around the nation who feel far from freedom. Indeed, as the news of COVID-19 seems unsettled, the entire world is enslaved to the 'new realities' of quarantine and social distancing. Even so, sadly, there are many people who spend their entire lives without ever experiencing true freedom that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

In the greeting of grace offered by the Apostle Paul to the churches in Galatia, Paul emphasizes to the people that they've been rescued by Jesus Christ "who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age." (Galatians 1:4, NASB) A quick glance at the news or social media reveals the fact that we certainly live in 'an evil age.' Of course this has been a reality every moment of history ever since Adam and Eve's fall. All men are born as slaves to sin, and if they are not rescued by Jesus Christ, it is manifested in a life of pridefulness and selfish pursuits in order to appease the sin master. Speaking in John 8:34, Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave to sin." (NASB) Commenting on man's condition, Martin Luther states that, "As long as a person is in the world he cannot by his own efforts rid himself of sin, because the world is bent upon evil. The people of the world are the slaves of the devil. If we are not in the Kingdom of Christ, it is certain we belong to the kingdom of Satan and we are pressed into his service with every talent we possess." It is a somber truth, but a reality men must accept if one desires to experience the freeing power of Jesus Christ. John Calvin confirms. "Apart from that renewal of the nature which is bestowed by the grace of Christ, there is nothing in us but unmixed wickedness. We are of the world ; and, till Christ takes us out of it, the world reigns in us, and we live to the world."

Even so, if you've publicly proclaimed the name of Jesus and have been baptized into union with him, you've been rescued from the sin master, and you are no longer a slave to sin. You have been set free by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who begins working in your life taking you from one level of glory to the next until, one day, you will be completely free from the clutches of sin and death! "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace." (Romans 6:14, NASB) It's no wonder Jesus proclaimed, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36, NASB)

If you've never publicly confessed Jesus and been baptized, you are still enslaved to sin and death. I implore you to make the decision to talk with us about accepting Jesus, being baptized, and experiencing freedom in Christ. If you are saved, and have been set free, I exhort that you live a life worthy of that calling by not letting sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts. Instead, let us display true freedom by presenting ourselves to our Lord as ones who are alive in Christ and dead to sin.

Brian Stoffer

PRAYER GUIDES - MINERVA FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



We are printing up Prayer Guides, which will have 30 days of prayers for our church, with topics such as our pastoral search, our children's ministries, etc. For each day's topic, a sample prayer and applicable Bible verses are included.

We want to be frugal with our resources, so we would like to give these to anyone who is willing to make a commitment to pray through this for three months. (We realize that on any given day, things may come up, and that's ok).

There will be a sample and a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. We will print them up as folks request them.

CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Many of our shut-ins continue to be isolated and unable to visit face-to-face with family and friends. Let us lift their spirits with cards and calls!

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
Colossians 3:14

Mr. Joe Johnson
815 Grant Blvd.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Barbara Unkefer
1179 Alliance Rd. NW
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Ruth Weaver
Oaks Retirement Community
800 S. 15th St.
Sebring, OH 44672

Mrs. Amy McGrew
4030 Whitacre Ave. SE
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. Jerry Grimes
2550 Cleveland Ave NW
Canton, OH 44709

Mrs. Carol Ray
c/o The Arbors
400 Carolyn Court
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Judy Hays-Hasch
935 Lynnwood Drive
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Mary Jo Hardman
c/o St. Luke's
4301 Woodale Ave SE,
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Kay Hanna
c/o St. Luke's
4301 Woodale Ave SE,
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Ruby Guy
c/o Patricia Crawford
1880 Tilton Rd.
Port St. Luci, FL 34952

Mr. Ralph Russell
9191 Metro
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Betty Frantum
8228 Andora Rd.
East Rochester, OH 44625



START LOOKING UP!

When we take a look around at our world right now, it is torn apart. We look around to see our nation divided because of racial issues. We look around and see our neighbors rioting, protesting, and looting. We look around and see the sickness and sadness caused by COVID-19. We look around in our own personal lives and see what we perceive is someone having a perfect life. We look around and see others with things we think that if we had our life would be complete. We look around way too much.

Maybe instead of looking around, we should look up. If we'd look up we'd see Jesus. We'd see a Lord who humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a Cross. If we'd look up we'd see a Good Good Father who sent His own Son to die for you and me. If we'd look up, and compare ourselves to Christ instead of each other, we'd all come to the realization that we all fall horribly short of the goal. If we'd look up, we'd all come together to unite as one to become more like Him. If we'd look up, everything would change.

However, I can't look up for everyone else, and neither can you. All we can do is look up ourselves. So, tough question time. Are you looking around or are you looking up? The words of the song, *Jesus Friend of Sinners* by Casting Crowns comes to mind:

*Always looking around but never looking up, I'm so double-minded
A plank-eyed saint with dirty hands and a heart divided
Oh Jesus friend of sinners
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus friend of sinners
Break our hearts for what breaks Yours*

By looking up at Jesus, we show the world that we aren't like everyone else. By looking up at Jesus we prove that we truly believe that He is the answer to our problems. If we look around, like everyone else, no one will ever know the difference, and they will never know the answer. Stop looking around and start looking up.

*"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but
the one who does the will of God lives forever."*

1 John 2:17

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

*pray
without
ceasing*

GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS

According to our by-laws, a quorum for a general board meeting is 15 members. This is 25% of full board membership (12 elders, 36 deacons, SS Supt, Treasurer, and historically, 3 ministers). This can be changed by majority vote of the general board present and voting, as long as there is 10 days' written notice.

We have been having difficulties, even before COVID, getting a quorum at our meetings. Therefore, I am giving notice that I would like the board to consider the following amendment to the by-laws at our **next regular board meeting, to be held on Monday, July 20, 2020:**

Replace "Fifteen (15) members of the official board shall constitute a quorum" with "A quorum of the General Board shall consist of at least 25% of the Board membership, but no fewer than ten (10)."

Because of this and other business, it is important that you plan on attending.

SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Did you know that MFCC Services are available Digitally on our website: Minervafcc.com?

"Do not forsake meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

PROJECT UPDATES

NEW ROOF

GOAL: \$60,000

TO DATE: (insurance check) \$47,059



NEW MAIN AIR CONDITIONER

GOAL: \$50,000

TO DATE: \$5,170

RE-SEAL/REPAIR PARKING LOT

GOAL: \$22,000

TO DATE: \$7,165



CHURCH ELECTION RESULTS

Elder

Nate Oberly
Brian Stoffer

Deaconess

Christa Archer
Connie Brewer
Mary Ann Dowell
Lisa George
Brenda Griffin
Kasie Hogue
Teresa Seibert
LouAnn Sell
Midge Snyder
Dora Sutton

Deacons

Daniel Fahl
John George
Kenny Hoopes
Marvin Jackson
Matt Jones
John Long
Matt Zahn

Home Department

Marilyn Bartley
Shirley Catlett
Debbie Costea
Brenda Griffin
Lani Lowery
Linda Sahli
Lynette Shatzer
Rachael Snyder
Dorothy Thomas
JoD Unkefer
Marge Warrick

Trustees

Marvin Jackson
Phil Sahli

Ushers

Billy Bryant
Mike Fountain
Bob Palmer
Bill Shaw
Kenny Unkefer
Matt Zahn

Sunday School Supt.

Susan Barr

Historian

Sandy Doppelheuer

Financial Secretary

Susan Barr

DO YOU HAVE OLD EYEGLASSES LYING AROUND?



We are collecting old eyeglasses to donate to "Cross Eyed Mission". This is a mission founded by Dr. Brady Kail of Waynesburg Vision. He takes groups on mission trips where they do eye exams and fit people with a pair of donated glasses that closest meets their needs. There is a box on the mission table to place any glasses. No matter what your prescription, someone can use them! For more information, please call the office. Thank you!

CIY MOVE 2020

CHRIST IN YOUTH

CIY MOVE 2020 is going to look a little different this year, well a lot different, actually. The actual event that usually takes place at Milligan college in Tennessee has been canceled due to COVID-19. However, CIY has been making sure that an alternative to CIY MOVE for all churches that were registered for the event originally will be provided. This alternative is called MOVE/AT and is designed for a variation of CIY to take place anywhere your youth group is at. MFCC's Youth Group, Twenty4Seven will be participating in this alternative version of CIY MOVE, dates and times are still to be determined, stay tuned! Please keep the adult leaders and teens that will be participating in your prayers. Thank you.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

R. Dale George and Donald G. Miller Scholarship applications are available in the church office. They must be returned by Friday, July 3.

ON-LINE GIVING

Offerings can now be made on-line on the Church Website: Minervafcc.com.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



MACS is preparing for the 2020-2021 school year, with will begin in September for the school. Currently, we are waiting on the guidelines from the Governor's Office and Ohio Board of Education to see what modification will need to be made because of the COVID-10 pandemic. We are preparing for several scenarios, but are doing everything we can to create an environment that will allow us to have as normal a school year as possible. We have taken steps to create as much classroom space as possible in an effort to allow for social distancing and are working on ways to ensure that we can effectively sanitize and clean all necessary items five days a week, while still following all safety and social distance guidelines. We ask for your prayers as we work through the summer to prepare for next school year.

We are still accepting applications for next school year for all of our grade levels (Preschool through 6th Grade). If you know any person who may be interested in their child attending MACS, please have them contact the school by calling 330.868.5728 or emailing Chris Stoffer at cstoffer@minervaareachristianschool.org. We are looking forward to an amazing school year, and helping our students grow both academically and in their relationship with God. Thank you for your continued support of MACS.

Chris Stoffer,
Administrator

PRAYER LIST

Pat Beadnell
 Robert Beadnell
 Linda Becknell
 Ellie & Larry Bender
 Dorothy Birney
 Arlene Brown
 Marcy Childester
 Don Clapper
 Donna Dennis
 Betty Frantum
 Jerry Grimes
 Ruby Guy
 Kay Hanna
 Mary Jo Hardman
 Judy Hays-Hasch
 Julie Hensen
 Todd Hetherington
 Pat Houze
 Lee Iden
 Joe Johnson
 Pearl Keller
 Nancy Kibler
 Rory King
 Pat Lowery
 Amy McGrew
 Shea Mitchell
 Connie Morris
 Eric Prowe
 Gary & Martha Prowe
 Barbara Rowe
 Ralph Russell
 Sandy Russell
 Paul Saling
 Don Shields
 Midge Snyder
 Tim Thorn
 Barbara Unkefer
 Janet Unkefer
 Ruth Weaver
 Thelma Weekly

Military: SFC Jessie Clark: 1st Lieutenant Isaac Graham; Thomas E. Greathouse, Jr.; Brandon Jenkins; Sgt. Kurt Warrick

Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.

SPECIAL FUND BALANCES AS OF MAY 31

Vehicle/Bus	\$2,216
Coffee Spot	\$3,274
Employee Medical	\$7,000
Missions	\$10,303
Deacons	\$3,198
Landscaping	\$1,933
Roof	\$47,059
Parking Lot	\$7,165
A/C	\$5,170
Audio/Visual	\$5,599
Kid's Corner Renovation	\$43,015
HS/MS Trips	\$10,518
Building	-\$10,792
YES Ministry	-\$113

MAKE EASY MONEY FOR MACS

KISHMAN'S CARDS - MACS receives 10% of the face value of the cards you purchase from the church office, while you still get your full amount to spend on groceries. Use gift cards instead of cash, and help our school. This is a great opportunity to make our funds go farther. Pick up your cards in the church office today to support MACS.

Giant Eagle Advantage Card - Please go on-line and connect your card with MACS. Use the code #5573. MACS receives a portion of your purchase.

ATTENDANCE

<u>June 7</u>	<u>June 14</u>	<u>June 21</u>	<u>June 28</u>
105	96	94	

MAY GIVING:

General Fund	\$26,533
Building Fund	\$10
Mission Fund	\$2,859

YTD as of 5/31/2020

General Fund given for budget	\$372,815
General Fund actual expenses	\$330,797

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
Minerva, Ohio 44657



Address Service Requested

June 26, 2020

Church

minervafcc@hotmail.com
Bible School 9:00 a.m.
Celebration 10:15 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday
330-868-4151

Minerva First Christian Church



MinervaFCC.com

Staff

Zach Long
Youth Minister
330-417-4834
zlong7@yahoo.com

MFCC Office
330-868-4151
minervafcc@hotmail.com

School

Minerva Area Christian School
330-868-5728
fccmacs@hotmail.com

MACS Administrator
Mr. Chris Stoffer
330-936-5734
Stoffer.chris@yahoo.com



2020 Preaching Theme
"2020... BEHOLD I DO A NEW THING!!"

JULY SERMON SCHEDULE

July 5	Brian Stoffer Preaching
July 12	Brian Stoffer Preaching
July 19	Brian Stoffer Preaching
July 26	Brian Stoffer Preaching

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Communion Meditation	John Long	Brian Stoffer	Bruce Doppelheuer	Dave Bush
Shut-ins				
Ushers	Bob Palmer Matt Zahn	Mike Fountain Kenny Unkefer	Bill Shaw Billy Bryant	Kenny Unkefer Bob Palmer
Deaconesses				





JULY 2020 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

	Milestones		Milestones
1 Carol George Dave & Terri Bush	42	16 Donna Dennis Bob Hetherington Luis & Chere Torres	37
3 Brian Stoffer		19 Mike & Mandie Mathis	12
5 Barbara Norton Eric & Teresa Hoffmeyer	12	20 Nathan Brown Vickie Grindstaff	
6 Hannah Reed Brad Snyder		23 Ralph Russell Dan & Flora Bergman	43
7 Shawn Archer		24 Bill Shaw Dan & Kim Weiss	16
9 Case Oberly		25 Alexis Oberly	
10 Thelma Weekly		28 Isabelle Brown	
12 Howard Snyder		29 David & Bobbi Napier	20
13 Ruby Guy John Hoffmeyer Joshua Reed Herb & Pat Lowery	64	31 Brent & Julie Brown	16
14 Ginny Stryffeler Mike & Lani Lowery	30		