

GOD CONTROLS THE CLOCK

Many people are asking, "Where is history heading?" A careful student of the Bible will see that God controls the clock of destiny. Amidst the world's confusion, God's omnipotent hand moves, working out His unchanging plan and purpose.

Not that we always see His hand at work. As the old English hymn writer William Cowper put it, "God moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform." God is not absent. By His providence he sustains us, and behind the scenes He is working to bring about His divine purpose.

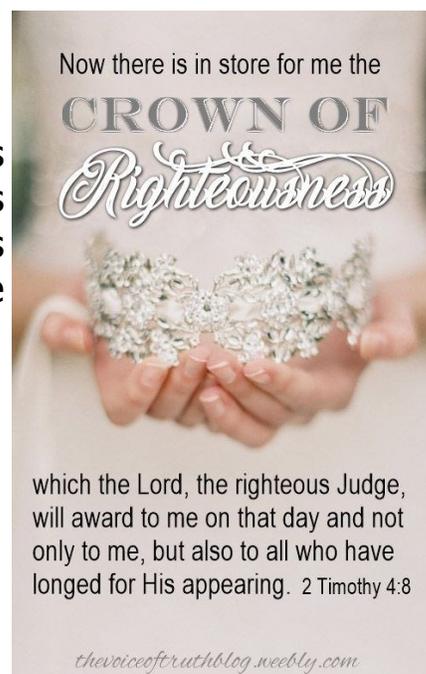
What is that purpose? Paul put it this way, "That . . . He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth" (Ephesians 1:10). Someday Satan's rule will be ended, and Christ will reign as Lord over all creation. Someday all the sin and rebellion of this corrupted universe will be destroyed, and Christ's kingdom of righteousness and peace will rule forever.

Don't be discouraged by what you see in the headlines every day. God is at work, and someday Christ will rule.

HOPE FOR TODAY

Many will be surprised at the way it all plays out. God's people will not. We know that this world and everything in it will pass away. Let's live in a way that let's Christ know that we're expecting Him.

Copied from "Hope for Each Day"
by Billy Graham



"PERSEVERE"

Here we are just one year removed from the start of COVID. Think of the many struggles that we have all been through. Our holidays celebrations haven't been the same. We each celebrated a birth that just wasn't the same like any other. These are just a couple of events that just weren't the same this past year. Through all of these I am sure we all at one time or another found ourselves struggling or overwhelmed. Although that seems like something we cannot do anything about I would disagree. I think there are three things we as Christians must do:

READ – We must devote as much, if not more time to reading, studying, and meditating on the Word of God. We must seek the comfort of the Lord through the Word.

Matthew 10:29-31

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Pray – We must be in constant communication with Our Lord and Savior. This does not mean we only talk to God through prayer, but instead we must hold to the full two-way conversation. We must pray in solitude and find comfort in our prayer time.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Fellowship – Although I know this seems impossible in the circumstances of COVID, I would challenge us to identify ways to fellowship. We must be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is how we can bear one another's burdens. This is how we can be an encouragement for one another in the times of struggle.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

With that said, I would like to share with you an article about Pastor Kyle Idleman. Pastor Idleman is Senior Pastor at Southeast Christian Church and is widely known for his book *Not a Fan*. The article is written by Jessica Hanewinkel and posted on outreachmagazine.com.

As a pastor, I've had so many conversations with people who were struggling. Across the board, what they seemed to need to hear was "Don't give up." A lot of people are encouraged not to give up by family and friends, but it's often said to comfort the person. There's nothing wrong with that, but what people often need, myself included, is some courage—more of a "get back in the game" message.

There was a time around 2008 when I was feeling burned-out. I went with my family to Haiti for eight weeks of mission work. Really, I wanted to have some time outside of the normal pastoral demands. While in Haiti, I connected with a Haitian pastor who has become a good friend. He almost immediately began to challenge the fact that I was feeling sorry for myself in ways that were not healthy. I started to realize the challenges he has to deal with and the joyful spirit he has in spite of them. I thought I wanted somebody to put their arm around me, but what I really needed was to spend time with someone who was going to be a little bit humbling and give me the perspective I was lacking.

I think the most normal human instinct when we're afraid or have a problem is probably to run from it. But eventually, we run out of places to go. We have to embrace the fight, and the fastest way toward light is to run through the darkness, not away from it. The shift from flight to fight is a shift from fear to faith. Part of faith is putting your dependence on God and asking him, and the people he's put in your life, for help. That requires vulnerability, which can be tough.

CONTINUED . . .

March 2021

MFCC Prayer Calendar

February '21
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28

April '21
S M T W T F S
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 Pray that we would become a church that GOES! | 1 Pray for the prayer focus of our church | 2 Pray that our church would grow through evangelism | 3 Pray for the members of the Home Department | 4 Pray for Sunday's worship service, that we would be challenged! | 5 Pray for those among us who struggle with sin (would that be all of us?!) | 6 Pray for our missionaries to Mexico, Chere and Luis Torres |
| 7 Pray that we would be a Church that GATHERS! | 8 Pray for the General Board meeting tonight. | 9 Pray that those who have been nominated for office will consider prayerfully | 10 Pray for the members of our local Fire Department | 11 Pray for Sunday's worship service, that someone would answer God's call | 12 Pray for the children who worship in 365 | 13 Pray for the parents of the children in 365 |
| 14 Pray that we would be a Church that GROWS! | 15 Pray that we would grow spiritually | 16 Pray that we would grow in numbers | 17 Pray for President Biden | 18 Pray for the Spirit of God to be poured out during Sunday's worship | 19 Pray for the man whom God is preparing as our Senior Pastor | 20 Pray for our Sr Pastor's family as God prepares them for a move |
| 21 Pray that we would become a church that GIVES! | 22 Pray that we would give our tithes and offerings with a cheerful heart! | 23 Pray that we would give of our time | 24 Pray for former President Trump | 25 Pray for God to speak mightily through our preacher on Sunday | 26 Pray for the teens who are involved in 24/7 | 27 Pray for the parents of the teens in 24/7 |
| 28 Pray that we would become a church that GOES! | 29 Pray for Zach as he seeks volunteers for Vacation Bible School | 30 Pray for our Tuesday evening Ladies' Bible Study | 31 Pray for Governor DeWine | 1 Pray for many visitors to attend our Easter service | 2 Pray for our Deacons | 3 Pray for those in our community suffering from Covid |
| 4 HE IS RISEN | 5 Pray for the teachers at MACS | | | | | |

"PERSEVERE" — Continued

People who feel like their struggle has never been harder have actually never been closer to having some kind of breakthrough. Instead, they quit because that's when it's the hardest. If they can stick with it, they'll gain momentum. The frustration for me as a pastor is that I can see they've never been closer to seeing victory. The challenge is to understand that and fight through it, because they're almost there.

Embracing a season of desperation by being vulnerable and dependent was a huge piece of this I didn't understand for a long time. My approach toward any kind of struggle, which is true for most, was that I just didn't want to do it. We want to be done with it and for God to get us out of it. But we need to do what Charles Spurgeon calls learning to kiss the wave that casts us upon the rock of ages. If we will learn to do that, we have the opportunity—when we most feel like giving up—to discover God's power and presence in our lives in a way we never have before. Now when I talk to someone who is really discouraged, my heart breaks for them. But I also know they are in a position to experience God in a way they never have before.

I pray that we each will take a stronghold in Our Heavenly Father. That no matter what challenges this world will throw our way, we know that there are better days ahead. As Christians, we know this is not our home, but we are just passing through.

God Bless,

Nate Oberly

CARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Mr. Bruce Doppelheuer
1135 Brush Road
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Joan Henninger
218 Edgewood Dr.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. Don Shields
851 S. Grant Blvd.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Shirley Catlett
3305 Paris Ave. SE
Paris, OH 44669

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

Mrs. Dorothy Birney
913 Grant Blvd.
Minerva, OH 44657



Mrs. Evelyn Baker
8301 Kensington Rd. NE
East Rochester, OH 44625

John & Evelyn Toalston
1125 Whitacre Ave. SE
Minerva, OH 44657

Mr. Howard Snyder
9161 Leopard Rd.
Malvern, OH 44644

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Smith
504 Jackson St.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Kate Hart
220 Edgewood Dr.
Minerva, OH 44657

Mrs. Barbara Palmer
16415 Freed St. SE
Minerva, OH 44657

FAMILY MATTERS

We extend our sympathies to. . . The family and friends of Betty Frantum. Betty passed away on Jan. 29th. Her services were Feb. 2nd.

. . . to Herb and Pat Lowery and their family with the passing of Herb's brother, William Lowery. He passed away on Jan. 30th. Private services were held.

. . . to James, Jamie, Joshua, and the family of Cheryl Lovejoy. Cheryl passed away on Jan. 31st. The service for Cheryl was held on Feb. 5th.

. . . to Betty Hoopes and her family with the passing of her brother, Gary Hadden. Mr. Hadden passed away on Feb. 11th. His services were Feb. 14th.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS

Don't forget . . .
Saturday, March 13th
Turn you clocks ahead one hour!

APRIL'S MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Our Mission Spotlight for April is yarn for the women's prison in Louisville. The women use the yarn to crochet blankets for children in crisis, and local pregnancy centers. 4 ply is the yarn needed.

We can even use the yarn that you may have left over from previous projects, doesn't have to be a full skein. Any color is great!

They mix and match the colors, and they are beautiful!

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, join us as we are in a new Study.

"War Room"

By: Stephen Kendrick & Alex Kendrick



Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm

In the Multi-Purpose Room
This is for ladies of all ages. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Bush.

DO YOU HAVE OLD EYGLASSES 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 basket on the mission table to place any glasses.

LONELY

Justin Bieber. I'm pretty sure that's the first time I have ever had to type that name out... If you know who Justin Bieber is you probably just chuckled to yourself as you read his name above... Maybe you don't know who Justin Bieber is, and that's ok, this article still pertains to you. Justin Bieber was a very popular singer when I was in high school. Interestingly enough I just found out that he and I are the same age, just about a month and a half apart actually, not that that matters in any way, really... In my mind he is still best known for his first big hit song, *Baby*. 11 years ago he was 16 and the dream crush of every teenage girl in America. But why am I telling you this?

For years, Bieber has been kind of a joke, at least from what I can tell. He's made fun of for being a dramatic teenage boy who hit it big with one song a long time ago and hasn't done much since. But he was in fact, a celebrity. He had the money, the fame, the career, pretty much everything he could ever want. By normal standards you would definitely say he was a very successful guy. He has even been known to claim he is a Christian, but there was never a lot of evidence for that. But just recently he released a song entitled, *Lonely*. As upbeat and carefree as his first hit song *Baby* was, *Lonely* couldn't be further from it.

Let's take a look at some of the chorus: "*What if you had it all but nobody to call? Maybe then you'd know me. 'Cause I've had everything but no one's listening...*" If you can, I encourage you to look this song up and listen to it, because you can hear the pain in Bieber's voice, the longing for something more (There are some inappropriate words in the song, so be careful where you listen to it). To me, this is a cry for help, a person who is desperate for answers. It reminded me of Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 2:10-11: "*And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.*"

Solomon found that nothing mattered without God. If God wasn't involved, there was no meaning. All was vain. This is what I believe Justin Bieber is going through as well. He is finding it very difficult to find meaning in the things of the world. In fact, his song perfectly takes a snapshot of what life is like without Jesus. You may have had everything, but it doesn't amount to anything because it's not eternal. Psalm 127:1 says this: "*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*"

The difference between Solomon and Bieber is that Solomon knew who to turn to. Solomon knew that God was his only hope when life seemed completely and totally meaningless. Does Justin Bieber know that? I hope he does, but I'm not so sure... From the sound of his song, it seems like he has lost all hope. I wish he could know that life didn't have to be that way. He needs the love and compassion of Jesus to swoop in and save him from his despair. He needs the hands of the Savior to lift his chin up and say, "You matter, and I've been listening to you all this time, just give it to me!"

Zach Long
BeRomans12
Together – We Build

MINERVA AREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



March is upon us and we at MACS are looking forward to Spring! This past month we have been focusing on teaching our students about God's love and the need for us to show His love to others. Our students participated in a food drive to help stock up the food pantries at Hanoverton Christian Church and here at MFCC. We had a great response to this, "MACS Gives Back" event and are proud of our school community. In March, we are launching our enrollment campaign for next school year. Applications will be available for pick up starting on March 1st and our Open House will be on March 4th. If you know anyone who may be interested in finding out more about MACS, please encourage them to register for our Open House at minervafcc.com/open-house or call the school office.

Our school book fair will also be the week of March 15th. If you are interested in purchasing books from the fair, we will have time available for in-person shopping or you can visit the MACS virtual book fair store at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/minervachristian>. Furthermore, you can now support MACS by shopping or filling your prescriptions at Rite Aid. To register for this program, please visit, support.rxfundraising.com/minervaareachristianschool.

Thank you for your continued support of MACS through this unprecedented school year. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our students and staff. We feel very fortunate to continue meeting in-person and sharing the message of God's love to our students.

Important Dates

Spring Open House Thursday March 4th 6 pm to 8 pm

Book Fair March 15th through March 19th

MACS School Board Meeting March 16th at 7 pm

Easter Break March 29th through April 4th

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9 (NIV)



MARCH CALENDAR

March 2 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:30 pm
March 2 - Trustee's Meeting 6:30 pm
March 3 - All Board Reports
March 4 - MACS Open House 6 -8 pm
March 6 - Prayer Meeting 10:00 am
March 8 - General Board Meeting 7:30pm
March 9 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:30 pm
March 13 - Prayer Meeting 10:00 am
March 15 - 19 - MACS Book Fair
March 16 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:30 pm
March 18 - Deacon's Pantry 9 - 11 am
March 20 - Prayer Meeting 10:00 am
March 23 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:30 pm
March 27 - Prayer Meeting 10:00 am
March 28 - Palm Sunday
March 29 - April 5 - MACS Spring Break
March 30 - Ladies' Bible Study 7:30 pm
April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY!!

GENERAL BOARD REPORTS

Please have all reports for the March General Board Meeting to the office **by Wednesday, March 3rd**.

DEACON'S PANTRY



THANK YOU MACS! THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE DEACON'S PANTRY DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS PART OF THEIR "MACS GIVES BACK". Each month our Deacon's Pantry distributes food and some paper products to 20 - 30 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: canned vegetables, fruit and soups peanut butter, mac & cheese, pasta & sauce, saltine crackers. Monetary donations are always welcome. Our next distribution will be on Thursday, March 18th 9 - 11 am. If you are able to help see Jay Harsh.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT MACS

MACS is now a part of the **RX Fundraising** Program at Rite Aid. Any time you shop or pick up a prescription we can receive a donation. Go to this website and sign up: support.rxfundraising.com/minervaareachristianschool.

MACS Scholastic Bookfair will be on March 15 - 19. Books may be purchased in person or you can go online to make purchases: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/minervachristian>. **Books make great Easter gifts!**

| PRAYER LIST | SPECIAL FUND BALANCES AS OF JAN. 31 |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|

Christa Archer
Linda Becknell
Dorothy Birney
Arlene Brown
Shirley Catlett
Marcy Childester
Don Clapper
Donna Dennis
Bruce Doppelheuer
Jerry Grimes
Kay Hanna
Mary Jo Hardman
Kate Hart
Judy Hays-Hasch
Joan Henninger
Todd Hetherington
Pat Houze
Lee Iden
Nancy Kibler
Rory King
Pat Lowery
Dolores McCully
Amy McGrew
Shea Mitchell
Connie Morris
Ken & Kathy Porter
Eric Prowe
Martha Prowe
Ralph Russell
Sandy Russell
Kathy Schmucker
Bill Shaw, Sr.
Don Shields
Howard Snyder
Barbara Unkefer
Ruth Weaver
Thelma Weekly

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Vehicle/Bus | \$2,266 |
| Coffee Spot | \$102 |
| Employee Medical | \$5,000 |
| Missions | \$10,925 |
| Deacons | \$2,769 |
| Landscaping | \$618 |
| Roof | \$7,418 |
| Parking Lot | \$7,385 |
| A/C | \$5,995 |
| Audio/Visual | \$5,451 |
| Kid's Corner Renovation | \$54,672 |
| HS/MS Trips | \$13273 |
| Building | -\$8,195 |
| 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.

| ATTENDANCE | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Feb. 7</u> | <u>Feb. 14</u> | <u>Feb. 21</u> | <u>Feb. 28</u> |
| 94 | 65 | 65 | |

JANUARY GIVING:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| General Fund | \$20,735 |
| Building Fund | \$175 |
| Mission Fund | \$5,530 |

YTD as of 1/31/2021

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| General Fund given for budget | \$199,716 |
| General Fund actual expenses | \$152,499 |

Military: SFC Jessie Clark: 1st Lieutenant Isaac Graham; Thomas E. Greathouse, Jr.; Mitchell Greer; Timothy Reed; Sgt. Kurt Warrick

Please let us know about Military updates/corrections.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

300 West Lincoln Way
Minerva, Ohio 44657



Address Service Requested

February 25, 2021

Church

minervafcc@hotmail.com
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
330-936-5723
Stoffer.chris@yahoo.com



2021 Preaching Theme
"2021... BEHOLD I DO A NEW THING!!"

MARCH SERMON SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| March 7 | Dave Bush Preaching |
| March 14 | Nate Oberly Preaching |
| March 21 | Nate Oberly Preaching |
| March 28 | Gary Johnson Preaching |
| April 4 | RESURRECTION SUNDAY Zach Long Preaching |

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!

| | March 7 | March 14 | March 21 | March 28 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Communion Meditation | Bruce Doppelheuer | Mike Fountain | Nate Oberly | John Long |
| Ushers | Mike Fountain | Bob Palmer | Matt Zahn | Bill Shaw |
| Deaconesses | Linda Sahli | Linda Sahli | Linda Sahli | Linda Sahli |

They took palm branches
and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

**“Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!”**

**“Blessed is the king
of Israel!”**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Milestones

Milestones

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <p>3 Dorothy Birney</p> <p>5 Judy Hays-Hasch</p> <p>6 Sabra Lucas</p> <p>9 Dolores McCully Carol White</p> <p>13 Carole Reckner</p> <p>15 Marilyn Barley</p> <p>18 Dan Bergman</p> | <p>93</p> | <p>22 Dave Dennis Patty Morgan David Unkefer</p> <p>23 Jerry Hasch & Judy Hays-Hasch</p> <p>25 Butch & Joann Vandegrift</p> <p>26 Matthew Chambers Bill & Kelly Shaw</p> <p>28 Kathy Shaw</p> <p>30 Teresa Seibert</p> <p>31 John Long Gary & Carol Schotts</p> | <p>3</p> <p>21</p> <p>39</p> <p>59</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|