

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

October 2026

Established 1828



“Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples of Jesus”

Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road

PO Box 41

Ross, Ohio 45061

Phone: (513) 738-1317

email: churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com

www.thevenicechurch.com

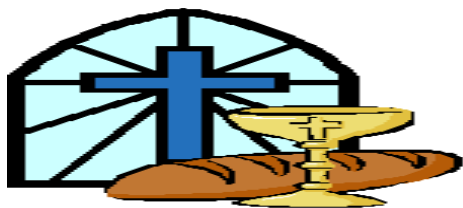
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

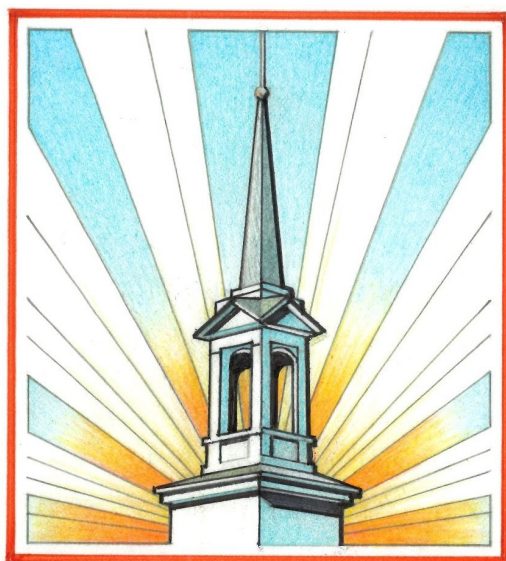




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

October 6

Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Owen Derrick

Administrative Assistant
Carol Gilmore

Youth Director
Beth Ziepfel

Choir Director
Theresa Bailey

Music Accompanist
Max Kreeger

Audio/Visual
Owen Ziepfel

Custodian
Larry Hayes

Venice View is published monthly.
All items should be submitted by the
third Tuesday of each month.

Welcome October!

May this blessing of
change bring you an
abundance of joy, love,
peace, good health and
happiness for the
month ahead and
ALWAYS.

inspire *Positive* IP
soul sensations SS



Pastor's Musings

Mental and Spiritual Well-Being

Mental and spiritual well-being are essential to whole-person health. Just as we attend to our physical needs, our emotional, mental, and spiritual lives deserve attention, compassion, and support.

Many people experience periods of anxiety, depression, grief, loneliness, stress, doubt, or exhaustion. These struggles can affect anyone, regardless of age, faith, or circumstances, and they are not signs of weak faith or personal failure. Seeking help does not mean that we lack trust in God. Rather, it can be one of the ways God cares for us through trusted friends, family members, pastors, counselors, doctors, and mental health professionals. Asking for help can itself be an act of faith: an expression of trust that God is faithful to care for us as beloved children.

Spiritual health is not measured by how often we feel happy or how certain we are. It is nurtured through prayer, worship, Scripture, reflection, gratitude, service, and connection with a faith community. It also grows when we bring our questions, disappointments, and doubts honestly before God. Throughout Scripture, faithful people experienced sorrow, fear, loneliness, and uncertainty. God meets us not only in strength and celebration but also in seasons of struggle.

At Venice Presbyterian, we strive to be a church family where people feel safe to speak honestly about what they are experiencing. We listen without judgment, pray with and for one another, offer practical support, and respect each person's need for confidentiality and professional care. Sometimes the most loving thing we can say is simply, "You are not alone."



Caring for ourselves can take many forms. We may need to rest when we are tired, spend time with supportive people, set healthy boundaries, participate in worship, make space for prayer and reflection, read Scripture, serve others, or ask for help when life feels overwhelming. These practices do not replace professional mental health care. Instead, they can support and strengthen us as we seek healing and wholeness.

May Venice Presbyterian continue to be a place of compassion, hope, and welcome—a community where no one feels ashamed to ask for help and where every person is reminded of their dignity, worth, and belovedness. Together, may we grow in mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being, trusting that God's care is present in every season and every part of life.

Blessings in Christ Jesus

Pastor Owen

Ushers

1st Sunday Youth Group
2nd Sunday Deacons
3rd Sunday Men of the Church
4th Sunday Women of the Church

*Lee Steenken will call on usher
volunteers according to this
General Usher Schedule.*

Worship Assistants

October

04 Lee Steenken
11 Jan Krier
18 Gayla Young
25 Jerry Rohrer

November

01 Dave Toler
08 Beth Ziepfel
15 Emily Eberwine
22 Richard Bohne
29 Youth Group

Communion Preparers

October 4 (World Communion) Kim Young
November 1 Karlana Boyle

Trustee of the Month

October Pete Berling
November Ron Mienheartt

Attendance

August

02.....64
09.....61
16.....86
23.....48
30.....74

September

06..... 70
13..... 44
20..... 63
27..... 59

Thankful for You!



Please look below and on the following pages for opportunities to participate, serve, and have fun!
Announcements

Ross Homecoming Parade - Thursday, **October 1st**, 5:30 pm

RAMM Meeting - Thursday, **October 1st**, 7:30pm, Annex

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **October 5th**, 6pm, Annex

Trustees Meeting- Tuesday, **October 6th**, 5:30pm Annex

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **October 13th**, 7:00pm, Annex

JOY Group Luncheon - Thursday, **October 15th**, Patterson Café
(Oxford, Ohio)

RAMM Food Pantry - Saturday, **October 17th**, 10am-11:30am
Ross Administration Building

Bob Evans Fundraiser - Monday, **October 19th**, 7am - 9pm
Bob Evans Main Street, Hamilton, OH

Dorcas Meeting - Tuesday, **October 20th**, 10am, Donna Marsh

Potluck Luncheon - Sunday, **October 25th**, After Church Service

Togetherness - Tuesday, **October 27th**, 1:30 pm, Annex

Choir Practice - Every **Wednesday**, 5:00pm

Coffee Conversation - Every **Thursday**, 9:30 am, Annex

The Venice Presbyterian Church pantry has had many visits throughout the year. We could not help this many families without your generosity and kindness. If you can bring just one item per week from our list of needed items, or would like to make a financial donation for “Venice pantry” to purchase needed items, it would be a great help.



1. Jelly & Peanut Butter
2. Cereal
3. Canned Meat (tuna, chicken)
4. Canned Pasta Meals and Soup
5. Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
6. Ramen Noodles

Any questions, please see Dave Wheat or Rick Weppeler.

RAMM
www.rammbutler.org

The next RAMM meeting will be on **Thursday, October 1, 7:30pm** in the Annex.

The RAMM monthly pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 11:30am at the Ross Administration Building. If you would like to volunteer your time or have donations of perishable or non-perishable food items, personal care items, or cleaning supplies, please contact Greg Young at 513-212-7950.

Financial donations are greatly appreciated by cash, check or Venmo to @ RAMM-Ross and Morgan Ministries. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Sharing Closet

If anyone would like to help sort and hang clothing, we meet every Wednesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please check with Carole Wheat for additional information.

MISSIONS

MISSIONS Did you know that your mission dollars may be helping people as far away as Nepal? As you may recall, Mission fund dollars, originally donated by VPC congregants, were in turn donated to Matthew 25 Ministries. Matthew 25 immediately worked with partners in-country to provide food, hygiene and medical supplies, and temporary shelter for those displaced by the catastrophic flooding and landslides in Nepal in late August.

Closer to home, your donations to Birthday Blessings and your support of Women's Circles activities have helped Harts for Hope celebrate 52 birthdays in four local communities this quarter!

The Noisy Offering on Mission Sunday (4th Sunday) will again support Haven House for the months of September and October. On September 27th, our Noisy Offering again resulted in a check being sent to Haven House, designated for meat and food. Thank you to the congregation for their generous monetary donations, as well as the donations of products.

The list of **needed items for Haven House** has been **updated**, and now includes: Baby Wipes, paper towels, Size 5-6 diapers **ONLY**, liquid laundry detergent, Size 4-5 pull-ups; size 5-6 pull-ups **ONLY**, liquid fabric softener, conditioner: **Suave or VO5, specifically**, spray air freshener, Gallon-size, zip-lock freezer bags, hand soap-small bottles toilet paper, Jarred Alfredo Sauce, liquid or powdered coffee creamer, Kids' cereal.

With the cooler weather of Fall, gently used blankets, throws, and afghans; sturdy shoes, and warm socks are needed for community outreach. Sorted and flattened plastic grocery bags to make mats are always appreciated. VPC Pantry needs non-perishable food items, and RAMM appreciates non-perishable food and personal care items. Beverage tabs may still be donated to Shriners.

Honor an October birthday with a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church. Our Birthday Blessings fund will help spread blessings and love at Christmas.



October

SUN 27 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	MON 28	TUE 29 1:30pm Togetherness Mtg 7pm Boy Scouts	WED 30 5:45pm Choir Practice
4 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	5 6pm Deacons	6 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 7pm Boy Scouts	7 5:45pm Choir Practice
11 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	12 Columbus Day 6pm Girl Scouts	13 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Session Meeting	14 5:45pm Choir Practice
18 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	19 7am Bob Evans Fundraiser	20 10am Dorcas Meeting-Donna Marsh 7pm Boy Scouts	21 5:45pm Choir Practice
25 Potluck Luncheon 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	26	27 1:30pm Togetherness Mtg 7pm Boy Scouts	28 5:45pm Choir Practice

REMINDER: Anytime there are changes or cancellations to our church calendar, changes can be made to the office hard copy and the website calendar. Thank you!

Office Number: 518-785-1234
Email: churchoffice@theyeswearechurch.org

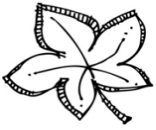
October



ED O actice	THU Oct 1 9:30am Coffee Conversation 5:30pm Homecoming Parade 7:30pm RAMM - Annex	FRI 2	SAT 3
y actice	8 9:30am Coffee Conversation 10:30am Grief Counseling 5:30pm Grief Counseling	9	10
4 actice	15 9:30am Coffee Conversation 11am JOY Group Luncheon	16	17 10am RAMM Food Pantry
1 actice	22 9:30am Coffee Conversation	23	24
8 actice	29 9:30am Coffee Conversation	30	31 Halloween

alendar, please remember to call or email the church office so that the
nks so much!

3-738-1317
venicechurch.com



October Preschool News



October is going to be a busy month at VPP!

We are going to Brown's Farm for an afternoon fall playdate on October 6th and 7th. Families and students can enjoy fun fall activities together. The Ross Lions Club will be visiting us on October 7 and 8 to offer free vision screenings. We are planning a pumpkin investigation for the week of October 12-16 so our students can learn all about pumpkins inside and out! Dolce Vita Photography will be coming to school on October 21 and 22 to photograph our students. Our first board game days and our Halloween parties will be on October 29 and 30.

What are we Learning this Month?

Our Bible story for October is Who is Jesus?

Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) - We are learning a letter chant to help us learn the letter sounds. We will be focusing on recognizing our names and identifying the letters in our names. We will continue learning about shapes, sorting and having fall fun!

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) - We will continue to work on name recognition. We will begin working on letters and numbers. We will be learning about fall!

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) - We will learn about fall and pumpkins. We will continue to work on name recognition and getting to know our classmates. We will learn about the color orange, and circles.



Parish Life

Wilma Butterfield's 98th birthday is Sunday, **October 11th**. We will celebrate with cake at coffee hour.

Many of you know Wilma Butterfield's sister, Joan Wright. She will be 90 on **October 15th**. If you would like to send her a birthday card, her address is 2401 Central Avenue, Cody, WY 82414.

Our next fundraiser at the Hamilton Bob Evans Main Street location is **Monday, October 19**, 7 am to 9 pm, eat in or carryout. Just be sure when paying to let them know you are there for the Venice Presbyterian fundraiser so we get 15%. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

Our next potluck luncheon is **Sunday, October 25th**. Please bring food to share. As always, great food and fellowship that you don't want to miss!

We are getting ready to reprint our church directory. Please check your current listing and email updates to Carol in our church office, churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com or call at **513-738-1317** so we can have the directory as current as possible.

Greetings from your Financial Secretary!

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the last quarter of the year. With that in mind, if you have any questions concerning the status of your 2026 pledge, please contact me either by phone (513-616-1924) or email (hlwr0707@yahoo.com) and I'll be happy to get the information to you. Helen Rohrer

Deacons

The next Deacons Meeting will be on **October 5 at 6pm** in the Annex.

IT'S COMING - GET READY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 5



Venice women are getting ready to share Christmas with the community. Various vendors, homemade crafts, baked goods, Granny's Attic, Opportunity Baskets, and of course lunch. Look for the sign-up sheets to help with various needs. We welcome all your help. Saturday, **December 5, 2026**. See you there.

COFFEE CONVERSATIONS (Thursday mornings @ 9:30 am in the annex)

"Coffee Conversation" is on **Thursday** mornings, at **9:30 am** in the annex. We are working through ***The God of His Word***. The names of God will be explored and we will discover what those names reveal about God's nature and character. We will also learn that God's love, mercy and care for His creation never changes. The ***God of His Word*** always keeps His word and He promises to always care for you! We will review **Session 1 God of Creation** and begin **Session 2 God of Mercy**. Those of you who have your books, please read those lessons and those who would like to join us, I have books for you. Let me know if you have any questions. Judy Bohne

(513)895-3079.

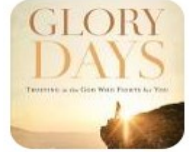


SPECIAL OFFERING

The Special Offering for Chance Mwangamba, who led worship at VPC on August 23rd, will continue on October 4th and October 11th. Chance, who is a student at the Presbyterian Seminary in Louisville, was involved in a serious car accident on his way home from the service that day. While Chance was uninjured, his car was totaled. Let's spread some love and encouragement his way!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL **(Sunday mornings @9:00 am)**

Our Adult Sunday School class will continue on **Sundays at 9:00 am**. We will be doing Max Lucado's ***Glory Days Living Your Promised Land Life Now.***



Synopsis: Life has a way of taking the life out of us. Often we go through situations where the challenge seems so much greater than our strength. During such times, we can find hope and inspiration from the story of Joshua. God is telling us that our best days - our "glory days" - are still ahead of us. We only need to grasp that truth and live in faith to realize the promise.



We're going to add a "**Did You Know?**" section to the monthly newsletter, where people can share snippets of useful information like "Kroger has cheap chicken this month" or "Don't eat yellow snow."

If you know of any interesting snippets which we can include in the monthly newsletter, please send an email to the church office at churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com or call the office at (513-738-1317).

Have you ever gotten the Kid's Meal at Culiver's? You get a Butterburger, fries and fountain drink. The Butterburger is generous size for a kid's meal. The bag the meal comes in has two coupons. One coupon is for free ice cream and the other coupon is towards free gifts like a football. You need ten coupons to get the gift. You won't be disappointed!

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



The JOY group really enjoyed our lunch excursion to Lynn's Freedom Café in Hamilton. The food was really good, the fellowship was wonderful, the cheesecake there is the very best. I highly recommend a trip to Lynn's Freedom Café to anyone who likes home-style food

and cheesecake for dessert. Next month, we will be trying another brunch location in Oxford, Ohio. We will be going on **Thursday, October 15th** to Patterson's Café. We plan to leave the church at **11 a.m.** to arrive in Oxford for an 11:30 a.m. reservation. Hope you can plan to join us. We are sure to have good food, great fun, and wonderful fellowship. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex so I can let the café know the number on the 15th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Thanks, Gayla



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The Children's Christmas program this year is called an "Interactive Christmas." It will be performed during the worship service on **December 20th**.

We will begin handing out parts and practicing our songs during Junior church at the end of October. We hope your child can be a part of the program. If you have any questions, please call or email me. Thanks so much. Gayla Young

The Shandon Congregational Church

HARVEST AUCTION

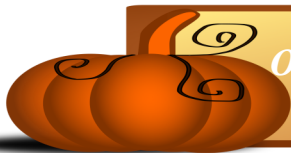
On Monday, October 12th The Shandon Congregational Church will hold its annual Harvest Auction at the Community House located at 3730 Millville Shandon Rd. The auction begins at 7:00 p.m. and an intermission will be held with complimentary refreshments served.

Traditionally pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, unusual gourds, plants & flowers, fall decorations, handmade craft items, and delicious baked goods are donated by church members and friends to be put up for auction. During the break, bidders can help themselves to a complimentary table loaded with delicious homemade pies, cookies, cakes, and candies, as well as coffee and other drinks for refreshments.

All proceeds from the auction will go to the RAMM pantry.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to The Shandon Congregational Church!





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

01 Aubree Guenther
02 Emma Asher
04 Nate Ziepfel
06 Mason Asher
06 Matt Brandenburg
06 Denny Thompson
06 Mary Unwin
09 Lauren Young
10 Rebecca Asher
11 Wilma Butterfield
12 Audrey Sparks
13 Kathy Mienheartt
18 Grace Lee
26 Martha Mehl
27 Ben Guenther
28 Rob Kohlman
28 William Lee
29 Jennifer Schwab



ANNIVERSARIES

06 Richard and Judy Bohne
10 Kirk and Shirley Hamilton
14 Bob and Martha Young

Anyone wishing to explore any of the following should let pastor know they are interested:

- **New members** - if you aren't a member at VPC but would like to find out what membership entails.
- **Confirmation** - anyone who hasn't been confirmed yet, or who wants to know what that means.
- **First Communion** - normally for children who haven't been taking communion. (Here at VPC, I work on the "open table" principle where anyone can take Communion, including children who have not received instruction yet. Nevertheless, even if a child has been taking Communion, learning about it and why we do it is still important.)

Classes will be arranged once we know who will be involved.

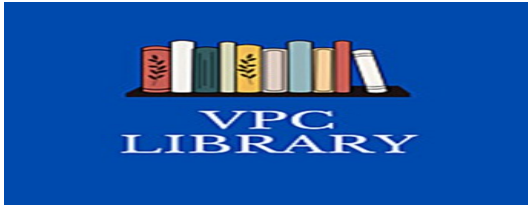


Thank you so much for keeping me on your lists. It means so much. My doctors told me last week my cancer is about gone. Some still in lung. Need to gain 10 pounds to get surgery that will close my head. **God bless you, Debbie Schwab**

Prayers

**** Prayers for Kara Brandenburg, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Pat Jackson, Jan Krier, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Bernice Roop, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Rick Wepler, Jane Wickert, Joan Wright, Bob Young and Prayers for the Family of Marcia Collinsworth.**

****Ongoing Love offering** for Debbie Schwab and her family. If you would like to give, please write "Debbie" or "Schwabs" on your giving envelope. **Prayers and cards are especially needed at this time.**



The Venice Church Library is open for business! First of all, thank you to everyone whose generosity has made the library possible. Over the past few months, donations of books, shelves, and money through the noisy offering have meant that our shelves are well stocked. There are some wonderful books available to be checked out. Feel free to come into the library and look around - and if you are not in a hurry, have a seat and read a book. We have a beautiful carpet for the wee ones.

Checking out books - there is a link to the library catalog on the Venice Presbyterian Church [website](http://www.thevenicechurch.com) www.thevenicechurch.com. Feel free to peruse the collection. To keep check out simple, there will be a 3-ring binder on the white table. Please write the title of the book, your name, and the date of checkout. When finished, please place the book in the basket below the table and enter the check-in date in the binder.

If you have questions, suggestions for books or other library related matters, please feel free to contact me - Dianne Derrick (dkhderrick@gmail.com).