

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

April 2024

Established 1828



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

Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road

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Ross, Ohio 45061

Phone: (513) 738-1317

email: churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com

www.thevenicechurch.com

Adult Sunday School - 9:00a

Worship Service - 10:30a

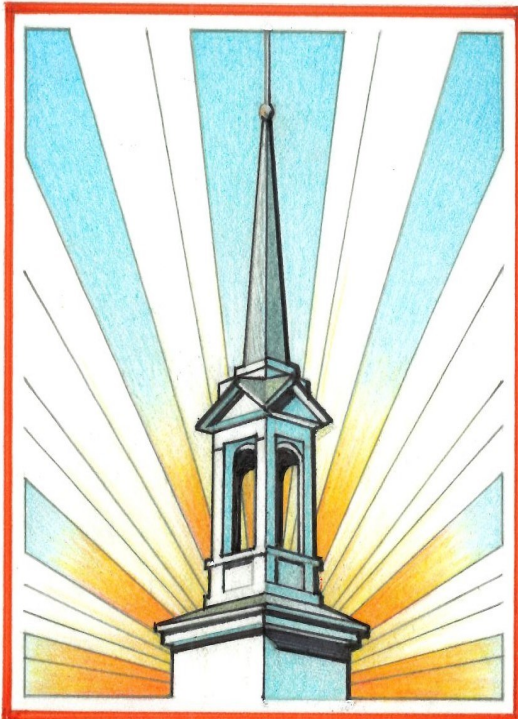
Junior Church - during worship



The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

April 7

Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian
Church!



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STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Owen Derrick

Administrative Assistant
Gwen Kohlman

Intermediate Youth Director
Beth Ziepfel

Choir Director
Houston Tyrrell

Music Director
Ben Tweedt

Audio/Visual
Owen Ziepfel

Custodian
Larry Hayes

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

April

Be present.

Let the day flow with grace.

Expect joy. Be positive.

Serve with compassion.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you're not alone.

Give thanks for everything.

See goodness in others.

mary
davis


everyday spirit



From the Manse

I'm reading again a book I read a few years ago that deeply affected how I see the church. The title of the book is "Becoming a Blessed Church" by Rev. N. Graham Standish. I'm reading it again because I think it is an important book for us as a congregation. Eventually, I would like to make several copies available for congregation members to read.

What is so important about this book? Well, first of all, I want Venice Presbyterian to be a blessed church. I think that the topics discussed in the book can help us in this regard. The book looks at the spiritual life of a congregation and asks some searching questions, such as "what role does God play in your congregation's decision-making?" I believe this book can help us be transformed as a congregation. As has been said before, the advice in this book can help us be transformed from "doing" church to "being" church.

Another important aspect of this book is that it gives some useful practical tips about bringing about this transformation. As we move forward, you may notice some of these suggestions being tried out. Some of them may work; some may not. What is important is that we all approach the potential changes constructively. There may well be things that won't be done the way they've always been done. That doesn't make either the old way or the new way right or wrong. It simply means that we're trying something new. Constructive feedback is always welcome.

Of course, no mere book can bring about this transformation. However, I am convinced that, with sincerity and honesty, we can all grow in our faith as we allow God space - in our own lives and our corporate life as a congregation - to lead us where God wants us to go.

After all, what is a blessed church? Is it one where everyone is comfortable and unchallenged? Or is it one where God is constantly refreshing us with the breath of the Holy Spirit - maybe even surprising us by what we are being asked to do?

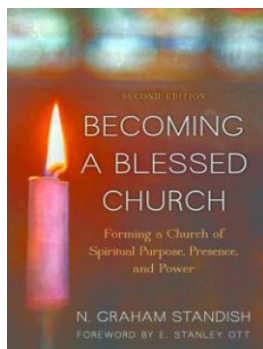
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Pastor Standish offers a threefold definition of the blessed church. He suggests that a church that knows its spiritual **Purpose**, dwells in the **Presence** of God and operates under the **Power** of God, is a blessed church. Indeed, he presents the Holy Trinity as a role model for this church – The Father gives us Purpose, Christ incarnate is the Presence of God in our midst, and the Holy Spirit is the Power given to us to enable us to fulfill God’s Purpose and be God’s Presence in the world.

I firmly believe we can be that kind of congregation – a congregation with Purpose, Presence and Power. Furthermore, I believe that, as we become the blessed church that God wants us to be, we will become more than a blessed church – we’ll become a blessing church: a church that blesses others and takes delight in doing so. In fact, how much more blessed could we be as a church than to be a blessing to others.

Yours in the risen Christ,

Pastor Owen Derrick





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

Announcements

Member Class Coming Soon - Pastor Owen will be starting a Member Class for new members in the church. More information to follow soon.

Deacon Meeting - Wednesday, **April 3rd** at 6:00 p.m. in the Annex

Dorcas Circle - Tuesday, **April 16th** at 10 a.m. at the home of Sue Toler. Judy Bohne will offer the devotion.

Session Meeting - Thursday, **April 11th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex

Togetherness Circle - Tuesday, **April 23rd** at 1:30 p.m. in the Annex

Trustee Meeting - Tuesday, **April 9th** at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex

Parish Life

Big Buls Fundraiser - Please mark your calendars and tell everyone you know about our fundraiser at Big Buls, 2461 Ross-Millville Road on Monday, **April 22nd**, 11 am - 10 pm. It is valid for dine-in or carry-out. You don't need to say anything or show anything, just eat. We get 10% for everyone eating at Big Buls on April 22nd. You can eat lunch and supper at Big Buls and VPC benefits!

Just a reminder: If you received flowers in a vase from a Potluck Luncheon, please return the vase to Joy so they can be re-used. Thank you very much!

Church Coffee Hour - We are still in need of donations on Coffee Hour Sundays. The Deacons are grateful for all the wonderful goodies being received!



Ushers

1st Sunday	Youth Group	<i>Lee Steenken will call on usher</i>
2nd Sunday	Deacons	<i>volunteers according to this</i>
3rd Sunday	Men of the Church	<i>General Usher Schedule.</i>
4th Sunday	Women of the Church	

Worship Assistants

April	May
7 Dave Toler	5 Alan Marsh
14 Greg Young	12 Jan Krier
21 Bill Steenken	19 Kim Young
28 Tami Adams	26 Jerry Rohrer

Communion Preparers

April 7th	Jan Krier
May 5th	Karlana Boyle

Trustee of the Month

April	Pete Berling
May	Ron Mienheartt

Attendance

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
07.....87	04..... 83
14.....71	11.....74
21.....74	14.....54 Ash Weds.
28.....65	18.....78
	25.....84

Thankful for You!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

April 2024



INTERMEDIATE YOUTH GROUP

(Sunday mornings 9:30-10:15 in the LOFT room of the annex).

L.O.F.T. = Living Our Faith Together through service, study, prayer, & fun!

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming events from Beth:
513-490-5048 or givemeaz303@gmail.com

Zoo pictures



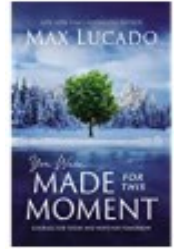
KUDOS! Our youth did an absolutely wonderful job singing praises with the choir on Palm Sunday! Huge thank you to Gayla Young for working with the kids and coordinating the event. Thanks to the teachers and parents for their help with practicing. It was a blessing!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Sunday mornings @ 9 a.m. in the annex)

Adult Sunday School is beginning Max Lucado's *You Were Made For This Moment: How the story of Esther inspires us to step up and stand for God*. Are you weary from your challenges, wounded by your battles, or worried your world is spinning out of control? Have the struggles pilfered the life out of your life? If so, the book of Esther brings welcome news: Relief will come! Join us! See Kim Young for more information.



JUNIOR CHURCH

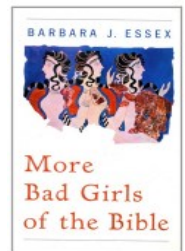
(Sunday mornings during worship)

Junior church continues meeting each Sunday during church. We are into our 2nd series of lessons in the *Grow Together Now* curriculum. Our lesson focus is on PEACEMAKING. Jen Guenther is taking the 3rd Sunday teaching position. Teachers are now as follows: wk1-Becky Berling, wk2-Karlana Boyle, wk3-Jen Guenther, wk4-Cindy Licata, wk5-Nancy Bohne, and Sub-Gayla Young. Many thanks to Gayla for her ongoing support with our youth.

COFFEE CONVERSATIONS

(Thursday mornings @ 9:30 a.m. in the annex)

We are continuing with *More Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara Essex. See Judy Bohne for details



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



We had a festive time at the Dingle House Restaurant in West Chester. The food was great and I would recommend the fish!

Our next JOY Group outing is our Tea Party that is set up for **April 18th** at 2:30 p.m. at the Benninghofen

House in Hamilton. We will meet at the church that day at 2 p.m. It will be set with formal heirloom place settings. The party will begin with a brief etiquette overview followed by a review of the tea options. Each place setting will have a tea menu for reference. The featured teas are organic and primarily grown in Butler County. The meal will consist of three courses: savory sandwiches, scones with cream and jam, and a selection of desserts. After the tea service Cassie Ruhlman will provide a brief talk on Regency Era tea time traditions. Hope you will all be able to join us! The cost is \$50/person. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email her at gaylayoung@fuse.net.

March Outing

Dingle House Restaurant





April Preschool News



It is hard to believe that we only have 2 months left for this school year! This year has gone very quickly. Our Spring Break is April 8-12. We are looking forward to receiving our caterpillars after Spring Break so our students can observe them as they grow and change into butterflies. Towards the end of the month, we will be making the handprint t-shirts for our graduations at the end of May.

We still have spots available for the 2024-2025 school year.

Call 513-738-0158 or email

preschool@thevenicechurch.com

What are we Learning this Month?

Our Bible story this month is Noah's Ark.

We will be learning about spring things such as butterflies – our caterpillars will be arriving soon! We will be reviewing what we have learned throughout the year.



PRAYER LIST



**** Prayers for Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Katie Gobin, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Rick Weppler, Rosemary Wisecup, and Jackie Yust.**

****Prayers for the family of Dana Mehl. Memorial Service information will follow soon.**

Missions

Many, many thanks to everyone who supported the **One Great Hour of Sharing!** If anyone would still like to donate, envelopes are still available on the credenza. It's not too late!

As always, many thanks also to the congregation for their generous support of Haven House, VPC Pantry, RAMM, and the Noisy Offering. Donations of gently used blankets/afghans/throws and sturdy shoes and socks for the needy are **still greatly appreciated and needed**, as are sorted and flattened plastic bags. Please continue to save those beverage tabs for the Shriners', too!

Just in case you think those donations of blankets/throws, shoes, socks, hats, gloves, mats, hypothermia kits, and wound care kits weren't useful, Tami Adams reports that since we started this mission project, these have been distributed:

156 blankets/throws	10 pairs of shoes/boots
213 pairs of socks	14 mats/bags
65 pairs of gloves	45 hypothermia kits
26 hats	60 wound care kits

WOW!!

Thank you to Nancy Berling and Karlana Boyle who donated birthday decorations for the March birthday kids at **One Way Farm!**

Do you or a family member have a birthday in April? Honor that birthday person by making a small donation in the **Birthday Blessings** church!

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 Wepler.



RAMM
www.rammbutler.org

The RAMM meeting will be Thursday, **April 4th** at 6:00 p.m. in the Annex.

The RAMM monthly pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 11:30am (except November and December when it's 10-12am), at the Ross Intermediate School. 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!

RAMM is in need of dog and cat food. Thank you!

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.

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL IS CELEBRATING ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY

The Venice Presbyterian Preschool will be celebrating 45 years of teaching and learning excellence for preschoolers from all around this area. The celebration will take place on Sunday, **April 21, 2024** at 10:30 a.m. during the worship service. A reception in our Fellowship Hall will follow.

The Preschool was started in 1979, as a vision of the Rev. Bryan Kile, then the minister of the church. Donna Marsh also shared this vision. It filled a need in Ross and surrounding areas to educate three through five year-old children to prepare them for kindergarten. Many parents who attended have now sent their children and even grandchildren to the preschool.

Venice Presbyterian Church invites all past and present students, teachers and aides to join this celebration at the church on April 21st. Our preschool staff will be honored and we hope there will be staff from previous years there as well. The Venice Presbyterian Church is proud of the history and success of our Preschool and looks forward to many more successful years of service to Ross and the surrounding area.



PRESCHOOL STAFF BIO's

Dana Baker – Mrs. Baker is the VPP administrator and teaches the Blue Class (the oldest group). This will be her 6th year back at VPP (she also taught at VPP from 2002-2004). She lives in Okeana with her husband, daughter, and lots of pets.

Barb Fathman – Mrs. Fathman teaches the Red Class (the middle group). She lives in Okeana with her husband, 4 kids and a lot of animals. Mrs. Fathman has worked at VPP for 8 years.

Anna Meade – Mrs. Meade is the teacher in our Yellow Class (the youngest 10 students). This is her third year teaching at VPP and prior to that she was a substitute teacher for VPP for 2 years. Mrs. Meade has 3 kids, a sophomore at Miami, and a senior and freshman at Ross.

Mollee Baker – Ms. Mollee is our 3-day aide and helps out wherever she is needed. Her sister attends VPP.

Gina Lewis – Ms. Gina is our 2-day aide and helps out wherever she is needed (mostly in Mrs. Meade's class!). Her two granddaughters attend VPP.

(Left to Right)
Barb Fathman, Dana Baker, Mollee Baker,
Anna Meade



(Left to Right)
Gina Lewis, Dana Baker, Barb Fathman,
Anna Meade



RUMMAGE SALE



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The VPC Youth Group will be holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, **July 13th**, from 8:00am-2:00pm. Here is how you can help:

1. Save your newspapers and circulars for us. We need them to wrap breakable purchases at our sale.
2. Save grocery bags, both plastic and paper.
3. Go through your closets, cupboards, drawers, attics and basements, and put aside anything you no longer want or need.
4. Box up your items, newspapers, circulars and bags and bring them to the Annex to be placed in the basement with other rummage sales items. PLEASE-Mark that all of these items are for the Youth Group Rummage Sale. Please **DO NOT** leave items outside at the Annex, as things have a way of disappearing from the porch sometimes!

More information will follow in the next couple of months. If you have any questions, call Martha Young 513-738-1966.

*The VPC Youth Group thanks you in advance!



WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES

Once again, we will be honoring and recognizing the accomplishments of our 2024 graduates on Sunday, **May 19th**. If you, or someone in your family, is graduating either from high school or college, please let us know. Please send us their name, the name of their school, and a little note of accomplishments or any items of interest. If known, include any future plans they might have. You can email the information to the church office (churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com) or Helen Rohrer at HLWR0707@yahoo.com. We would appreciate having this information by May 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Rohrer or Candy Wepler. Thank you!





BIRTHDAYS

- 05 Mary Ann Guenther
- 09 John Pigg
- 10 Angie Tweedt
- 11 Tracey Spille
- 12 Richard Bohne
- 13 Joe Young
- 22 Leon Collinsworth
- 24 Pete Berling
- 26 Aly Davis



ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Ron and Kathy Mienheartt
- 23 Carroll and Lois Metzger
- 26 Jerry and Trish Lutterbie



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office at 513-738-1317. Thank you.