

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

May 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:

May 3

Venice Presbyterian Church
4244 Layhigh Road
P.O. Box 41
Ross, OH 45061

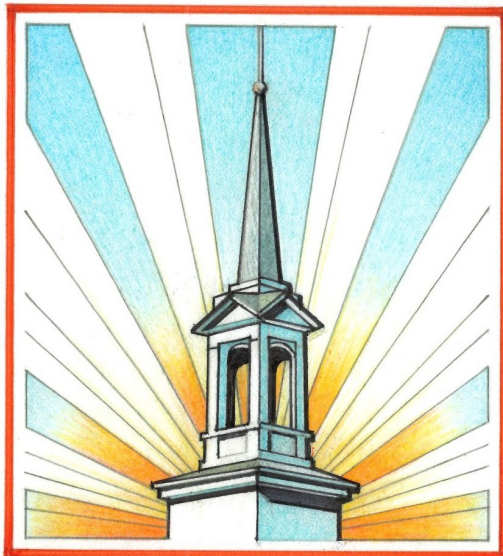
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Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Owen Derrick

Administrative Assistant
Carol Gilmore

Youth Director
Beth Ziepfel

Choir Director
Theresa Bailey

Music Director
Ben Tweedt

Audio/Visual
Owen Ziepfel

Custodian
Larry Hayes

Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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

Welcome May

May You be happy.

May You be well.

May You be safe.

May You find comfort.

May You have strength.

May You have courage.

May You find healing.

May You have peace.

May You have joy.

May You be filled with

loving kindness.

MAY YOU BE BLESSED

TODAY & Always.

Blessings..





Pastor's Musings

I'm still relishing memories from a truly blessed and inspiring Lent and Easter season, the latter of which we are still enjoying. Thank you all for the parts you played in making this a meaningful time for me. But mostly, I thank God for the wonderful gift of a risen Savior. Without Christ's death and resurrection, it would all be in vain. Thank God for Easter!

As we gather weekly, I've recently been pondering the "shape" of our worship services and the fact that each week, we follow a generally similar pattern of worship flow. In church terms, we call this the liturgical pattern, and while the pattern we follow is a little less structured than in some churches, even other Presbyterian churches, there is a definite shape to our service that we all kind of take as a given. But, I've been thinking about this concept of liturgy, and some of the elements that traditionally form a liturgy, and toying with the idea of exploring different elements of worship – including some additional music.

But before we even get that far, let's go right back to basics. Why liturgy? What is the purpose of a liturgical setting at all? After all, some churches have ditched liturgical practice altogether and have a less structured feel to their worship. It is a great question because, on the face of it, the liturgical model would seem outdated and slightly archaic. To answer this question, I would like to point out three things: one historical, one personal and one practical.

1. Liturgy links us with the ancient history of the church, stretching back to the very earliest days of the Christian movement. We confess that we believe in the communion of saints. A liturgical structure is a real live demonstration of that confession. I personally find this awe-inspiring.
2. On a personal level, I spent many years worshiping in a setting that was non-liturgical. While there is much about that time that I value, when I left under traumatic circumstances, I derived immense comfort from attending worship in a church with a liturgical framework. I valued, and still do, the knowledge that, in a liturgical framework, God has freedom to do what God wants. It can be the case that, when there is little or no structure to worship, then humans – particularly pastors – have more freedom to control than God does! I make this point as a general, ideological one, not against any specific pastors.
3. Liturgy is practical. It provides a framework for worship. There are four distinct parts: the Gathering, the Word, the Meal, and the Sending. One of the ideas I've been toying with is renaming some elements of our service to reflect this pattern more directly by, for example, referring to a Gathering Song rather than an Opening Hymn.



This is more important than you might realize. Many young people in the teenage/ young adult bracket are turning to liturgical worship, away from the “entertainment-style” model. That’s not as surprising as it seems. People in this age-group these days live hectic, frantic lives. They live in a society that is steadily chipping away at what rules there are. But people are not expecting their church to blindly follow that trend. Rather, they want the church to be a place – THE place, maybe - of structure, peace, harmony, and order. Liturgy offers this.

I invite you to ponder liturgy as we worship. Your feedback is invited. Your comments will be valuable. But above all your participation is welcomed.

Every blessing in the Risen Christ.

Pastor Owen

Ushers

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

Worship Assistants

May

03 Alan Marsh
10 Tami Adams
17 Kim Young
24 Jerry Rohrer
31 Youth Group

June

07 Kim Young
14 Dan Young
21 Beth Ziepfel
28 Lee Steenken

Communion Preparers

May 3	Greg Young
June 7	Sue Pigg

Trustee of the Month

May	Ron Mienheartt
June	Garrett Boyle

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE HOUR
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH.**

Attendance

March

01.....75
08.....70
15.....78
22.....69
29.....81 (Palm Sunday)

April

05.....131 (Easter Sunday)
12.....73
19.....67
26.....67

Thankful for You!



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

Announcements

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **May 4th**, 6pm, Annex

JOY GROUP - Thursday, **May 7th**, LaComedia Dinner Theater
(Meet at Church **9:30 am**)

VPP Board - Thursday, **May 7th**, 12:15pm, Annex

RAMM - Thursday, **May 7th**, 6pm, Annex

Trustees - Tuesday, **May 12th**, 5:30pm, Annex

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **May 12th**, 7pm, Annex

Graduation Celebration - Sunday, **May 17th**

Bob Evans Fundraiser - Monday, **May 18th**, 7am - 9pm
(**Main Street Location, Hamilton**)

Dorcas - Tuesday, **May 19th**, 10am, Sue Toler

Togetherness - Tuesday, **May 26th**, 1:30pm, Annex

Choir Practice - Every **Wednesday**, 5:30pm

Handbell Practice - Every **Wednesday**, 7pm

Coffee Conversation - Every **Thursday**, 9:30 am, Annex
No Coffee Conversation Meeting on 5/7

Parish Life

There will be no Potluck in **May**. Thank you for supporting our Fundraisers at Bob Evans Restaurant on Main Street in Hamilton. Our next date is **Monday, May 18th**.

MISSIONS

We are going to spread the Birthday Blessings around the local area! The Mission Team decided to support Harts for Hope with \$500 from the Birthday Blessings Fund. This local mission, founded by a local resident, organizes quarterly birthday block parties in four local neighborhoods: Ross Town and Country Mobile Home Park, Skyview Mobile Home Park, Venice Gardens/Birdland, and a mobile home park in Cleves. **ALL** the kids are invited for snacks, crafts, and a goodie bag. Kids with a birthday in that quarter get to pick a gift from the van. At Christmas Santa comes, and **ALL** the kids pick a gift and get a new pair of pajamas. Your Birthday Blessings donations will spread a lot of blessings and love to a lot of kids!

If you or a loved one has a May birthday, a small donation to Birthday Blessings is a great way to honor that birthday and ultimately spread more blessings around the community!

The Central United States and Upper Midwest just keep getting hit with tornadoes and severe weather. Matthew 25 will need to continually restock supplies, so we will continue to collect products for disaster relief.

A huge thank you to all who have already supported Matthew 25 with their prayers, monetary donations, or products.

Community Outreach continues to need gently used blankets, afghans, and throws, shoes, socks, and sorted and flattened grocery-sized bags to make mats. Non-perishable food items are needed for VPC Pantry, and RAMM needs personal care items, as well as peanut and jelly, canned meats, spaghetti meals, etc. Monetary donations are always appreciated, so \$500 from the Mission Funds were designated for RAMM by the Mission Team. Beverage tabs are still being collected for Shriners.

During a recent delivery of donated cleaning products and paper goods to **Haven House**, the staff member reported that currently some of the most needed items are: **chicken, jarred Alfredo Sauce, apple juice, kids' cereals, and powdered coffee creamer.** As a result, the Mission Team is writing a check for \$500, designated for chicken and food supplies. Your Noisy Offering dollars on the 4th Sunday (Mission Sunday) have helped make this possible.

Thank you all for your love and generosity, which have made all of this possible!

Deacons

The next Deacons Meeting will be on **May 4th at 6pm** in the Annex.



Clif and Aly Bailey would like to invite their church families to a long-overdue "**shindig**" to celebrate a year and a half of marriage and the further joining of two amazing churches! The **shindig** will be held after church (**around 12:30**) on **May 17th, 2026** at the Shandon Community House. Please RSVP to Aly via text or call at (513)907-3833 by May 10th. No gifts necessary! Just the joy of your presence!



Melanie Hanson
15 Harmony Dr.
Hamilton, Oh. 45013

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 next RAMM meeting will be on **Thursday, May 7th**, 6pm in the Annex.

The RAMM monthly pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 11:30am 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!

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.

YOUTH GROUP

L.O.F.T. = Living Our Faith Together through service, study, prayer & fun! Below are the youth events for May (pending approval by Session).

May

Sun 3	LOFT
	Youth will Usher/Greet this week
Sun 10	LOFT 9:30: Gather in the VPC kitchen!
	Service: Youth will setup/serve/clean up Mother's Day brunch!
Sun 17	LOFT
Sun 24	Last LOFT: Sundae Sunday! 🍦
	Fun: Picnic lunch (pack your own) and hiking at Miami Whitewater Forest

Junior Church

Junior Church is currently learning about STEWARDSHIP in its *Character By God's Design* curriculum. Our next lesson focus will be *PERSERVERANCE*.



Venice Presbyterian, Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>26</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:30pm - Togetherness 7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm - Choir 7pm - Handbell</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm - Deacons</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Cinco de Mayo 7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm - Choir 6pm - Girl Scout 6:30pm - Comm 7pm - Handbell</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Mother's Day Mother's Day Brunch 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm - Trustees 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Session Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30pm - Choir 7pm - Handbell</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Graduation Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church 2pm - Church Reserved</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7am - Bob Evans</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am - Dorcas-Sue Toler 7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm - Choir 6pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Handbell</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>No Boy Scouts 1:30pm - Togetherness</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm - Choir 7pm - Handbell</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6pm - Deacons</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30pm - Choir 6:30pm - Comm 7pm - Handbell</p>

REMINDER: Anytime there are changes or cancellations to our church calendar, please make them to the office hard copy and the website calendar. Thanks so much!

Office Number: 781-863-1111
 Email: churchoffice@venicepres.org



May 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

Thu		Fri		Sat	
29	Practice Practice 9:30am - Coffee 9:01pm - Notice: Your	30		1	2
6	Practice ts n Meeting Practice 9:30am - JOY Group- 12:15pm - VPP Board Mtg 6pm - RAMM - Annex	7		8	9
13	Practice Practice 9:30am - Coffee	14		15	16 RAMM Food Pantry
20	Practice ts Practice 9:30am - Coffee	21		22	23
27	Practice Practice 9:30am - Coffee Conv	28		29	30
3	Practice n Meeting Practice 6pm - RAMM - Annex	4		5	6

Please remember to call or email the church office so that the changes can be

Number: 513-738-1317
office@thevenicechurch.com



Vacation Bible School

VBS 2026 is coming soon! Please join us **June 8-12** from **9:00-11:45am** as we visit Rainforest Falls and explore the nature of God! Children ages 4-entering 6th grade are encouraged to register at www.thevenicechurch.com. Paper registration forms will be available in the church office or upstairs on the table outside the sanctuary as well.

Many, many volunteers are needed as well! If you are interested in helping set up or tear down, helping with activities or groups during the week, or if you would be willing to be our Bible Story presenter one day of the week, please contact Beth Z at **513-490-5048** or givemeaz303@gmail.com to make it official.

Let's make it the best week of the summer!



DRIVERS/HELPERS NEEDED

Session approved the rental of a 16 passenger van to be used to shuttle children to and from Vacation Bible School. This is an attempt to make VBS more accessible to children in the neighborhood.

In order to do so, drivers and helpers will be needed. If you are interested in this opportunity for a day or more, please reach out to Jerry Rohrer at 513-316-9465 or jrohrer22@yahoo.com. We need to know as soon as possible since a background check will be required. The church will pay for the background check.

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

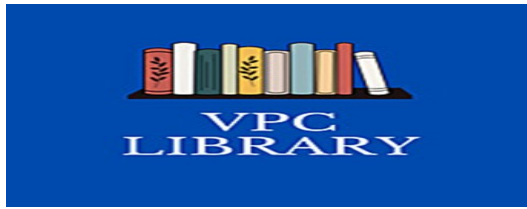
- **New members** - if you aren't a member at VPC but would like to find out what membership entails.
- **Confirmation** - anyone who hasn't been confirmed yet, or who wants to know what that means.
- **First Communion** - normally for children who haven't been taking communion. (Here at VPC, I work 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.

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES

It's graduation time, and we are happy to be honoring and recognizing the accomplishments of our **2026** graduates on **Sunday, May 17**. If you, or someone in your family, are 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 in store. You can email the information to the church office (churchoffice@thevenciechurch.com) or to Helen Rohrer at HLWR0707@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Rohrer or Candy Wepler. Thank you.





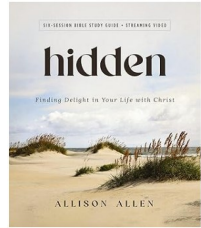
The Venice Church Library is open for business! First of all, thank you to everyone whose generosity has made the library possible. Over the past few months, donations of books, shelves, and money through the noisy offering have meant that our shelves are well stocked. There are some wonderful books 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).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SUNDAYS
AT 9:00 A.M. SHARP!**



The Adult Sunday School class meets at **9:00am** in the Annex on Sundays. We will study the Series “*Hidden: Finding Delight in Your Life with Christ.*” by Allison Allen.

We will finish the last three sessions in May.

COFFEE CONVERSATION (Thursday mornings @ 9:30 a.m. in the Annex

The Coffee Conversation Group will continue with the study, "*The God of the How and When*" by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. Trusting God when You Don't Know the Details - The Bible reveals that God's plans are greater than our own and that he executes those plans in his own timing. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways”. Isaiah 55:9. This six-session study, tells the stories of five people in Scripture - Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua and Mary, the Mother of Jesus - who also wondered how and when God would come through for them. Each of them had to step out in faith and obey God without knowing the details of what would happen in their story. As we study their examples, we will discover what it likewise means for us to trust that God's ways are higher than our own - and what it takes to step out in faith.

NOTE: On the third Thursday of each month we will meet at 9:00 am instead of 9:30 am.



May Preschool News



We will be wrapping up the 2025-2026 school year at the end of this month. We are grateful for this year with our students and all of our wonderful families. We are proud of our students and how much they have all grown since September.

This month we will be reviewing what we have learned this year and getting ready for our parent conferences. We will be making the handprint t-shirts for our students to wear to our graduation ceremonies at Timberman Ridge MetroPark on May 27 and 28. The last day for teachers is Friday, May 29. Have a great summer!



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



The May JOY Group activity will be on **May 7th**. I have gotten 15 tickets to go to LaComedia Dinner Theater for the “**Jesus Christ Super Star**” Production. We will leave the church at **9:30am** for our **10:30am** reservation. Dinner will be served around 11:00 a.m. with the production to follow. I only have 15 tickets at this time, so please sign-up if you would like to go. The cost is \$50 and that does not include gratuities or if you get

some specialty drinks. I have talked to the reservation manager and she will have someone available to get food for anyone who is not able to get down for the buffet. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla.

Prayers

**** Prayers for Denny Butterfield, Wilma Butterfield, Marcia Collinsworth, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, Rick Wepler, Bill Wickert, Jane Wickert, and Joan Wright.**

****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 currently.**

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 07 Tad Adams
- 08 Addison Asher
- 09 Shirley Hamilton
- 10 Rick Wepler
- 11 Winnie Ziepfel
- 14 Ellie Boyle
- 15 Andrew Bailey
- 15 Dianne Derrick
- 15 Carole Wheat
- 15 Kim Young
- 17 Kara Brandenburg
- 20 Scott Smith
- 21 Ann Regan
- 23 Ryan Gries
- 23 Jenny Grubbs



ANNIVERSARIES

- 09 John and Sue Pigg
- 14 Brent and Mandy Guenther
- 17 Clarence and Nancy Bohne
- 22 Rick and Candy Wepler
- 30 Jody and Rebecca Asher





BOB EVANS FUNDRAISER: Thank you to everyone who participated in the March and April Fundraisers at Bob Evans on Main Street in Hamilton. The next Bob Evans Fundraiser is on **Monday of May 18th**. Same as before: All day **7 am - 9 pm** at the Hamilton Main Street Bob Evans, dine-in or carry-out, show printed flyer, flyer on your phone, or tell them when paying at the register. We get 15%. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES DISASTER RELIEF: NEEDED PRODUCTS

VPC is supporting Matthew 25 in their disaster relief efforts in the Central and Midwestern United States. Your donations will help them restock their supplies and allow ongoing aid to those affected by the severe storms in March. The items below were suggested by Matthew 25. Please put them on the table under the stairs in the downstairs lobby (where the puzzles were):

1. **Cases of bottled water**—12 or 24 count
2. **Personal care products**—antibacterial soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, lotion, etc.
3. **Cleaning supplies**—laundry detergents, general cleaner, sponges, bleach (powdered preferred), mops, scrub brushes, buckets, rubber gloves, etc.
4. **Paper products**—Toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
5. **Baby/infant supplies**—diapers, wipes, diaper rash ointment, baby wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion, etc.
6. **First aid items**—Bandages, gauze, pads, first aid tape, antiseptic creams, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, instant cold packs, etc.
7. **Candles and flashlights**—include appropriate batteries for flashlights.
8. **Clean-up supplies**—Protective eyewear, work gloves, garbage bags, etc.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can write a check to Venice Presbyterian with Matthew 25 Disaster Relief in the memo, and we will then send one check to Matthew 25.

Thank you so much for your support!