

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

December 2025

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

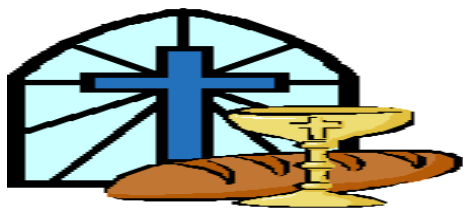
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

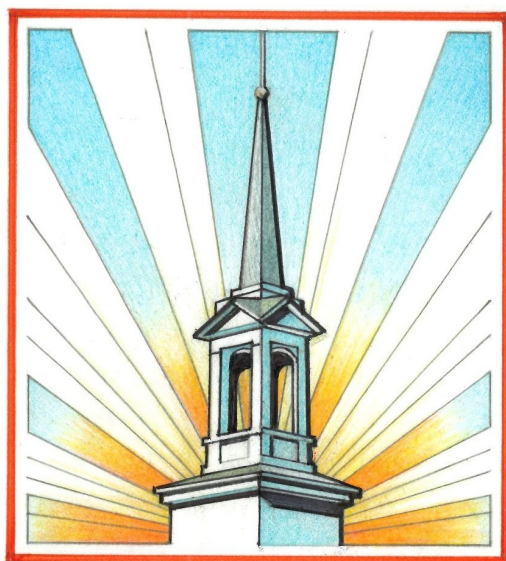




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

December 7

Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00a-12:00p
Phone
(513) 738-1317

Fax
(513) 738-0456

Email
churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com

Website
www.thevenicechurch.com

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

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

Faith
makes all things
possible.

Hope
makes all things work.

Love
makes everything
beautiful.

May you have an
abundance of all three
& more, everyday in

December

God Bless you and your loved ones.





Pastor's Musings

The season of Advent arrives quietly each year, slipping in just as the world grows its noisiest. While stores light up with decorations and calendars fill with year-end busyness, the Church invites us into something very different: a rhythm of holy waiting. Advent is not simply a countdown to Christmas. It is a spiritual practice, a posture of expectation, and a reminder that God often works in the silence long before we see the light.

Advent begins in the dark. The days shorten, the nights lengthen, and creation itself seems to settle into stillness. Rather than resisting this darkness, the Church leans into it. We light a single candle—one small flame against the shadow—because we are a people who believe that even the smallest light can change everything.

That first candle of Advent whispers **love** into a world weary with disappointment, discouragement, and division. God's love is not abstract; it is embodied in Jesus Christ—love that took on flesh to live among us. Advent urges us to practice that same love through generosity, compassion, and presence. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is simply to show up with intention and care.

The second week of Advent turns our hearts toward **hope**. Hope is not naïve optimism or wishful thinking. Hope is confidence rooted in the character of God. Throughout Scripture, God comes to His people in unexpected ways: as a whisper to Elijah, a promise to Abraham, a song to Mary, and ultimately as a child in a manger. Advent reminds us that God has a history of showing up right when it seems least possible. So we wait—not passively, but with active trust. We look for the signs of God's presence already stirring in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our lives.

Joy arrives in the third week, symbolized by the rose-colored candle. This joy is not dependent on circumstances but grounded



in the good news that God is with us. Joy can be found in simple acts: a shared meal, a kind word, a moment of prayer, or the laughter of children. Advent joy is a reminder that God delights in us and invites us to delight in Him.

Finally, the candle of **peace** draws us closer to the heart of the season. True peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the presence of Christ's wholeness. In a world that feels fractured and hurried, Advent invites us to slow down and breathe. It asks us to become peacemakers—people who listen more than we speak, who mend rather than tear, who seek understanding instead of winning arguments. The Prince of Peace comes to guide our feet into the way of peace, beginning with the quiet transformation of our own hearts.

As we move through Advent, may we resist the pressure to rush ahead to Christmas. Instead, let us embrace the slow, sacred journey of preparation. May the candles we light each week illuminate not only our sanctuary but also our lives. And may this season awaken in us a renewed **love, hope, joy, and peace**, as we welcome Christ once again into the world and into our hearts.

Advent blessings,

Pastor Owen

Blessings, I Christ,

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

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
07 Kim Young	04 Dan Young
14 Judy Bohne	11 Greg Young
21 Children's Program	18 Jerry Rohrer
28 Tami Adams	25 Dave Toler

Communion Preparers

December 7	Karlana Boyle
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Sue Pigg

Trustee of the Month

December	Nancy Bohne
January	Dan Young

Attendance

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
05.....79	02..... **
12.....109	09.....82
19..... 72	16..... 81
26.....69	23.....95
	25.....55 (Thanksgiving)
	30.....86

**** No attendance recorded**

Thankful for You!

DECEMBER

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

Announcements

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **December 1st**, 6pm, Annex

Communication Meeting - Weds., **December 3rd**, 6:30pm, Annex

RAMM - Thurs., **December 4th**, 6pm, Annex

Trustees - Tues., **December 9th**, 5:30pm, Annex

Session Meeting - Tues., **December 9th**, 7pm, Annex

Choir Practice - Every Wednesday, 5:30pm
(No Practice on 12/24)

Handbells - Every Wednesday, 7pm
(No Practice on 12/24)

NOTE: The Church will be closed on **December 29th and 30th**, so the floors can be polished.

MISSIONS

MISSIONS Christmas is the season for giving, and we have so many opportunities to share with others: Hope for the Holidays, Giving Tree, Haven House, RAMM, VPC Pantry, and Community Outreach. Venice has been SO generous already, and December is just beginning! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, donated food or other needed items, or made monetary donations. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Donations for **Haven House** families will continue to be collected until **December 14th**. Those donations will buy gift cards to be distributed to families to buy gifts for their children, food for Christmas dinner, or special Christmas treats for the kids. Please remember the **Haven House families** and drop some money in the wrapped box on the side table in the narthex.

With the arrival of cold weather, blankets/afghans/throws, sturdy shoes/boots, warm socks, gloves, and sorted, flattened plastic bags to make mats are very important for community outreach. Please place donations in the bins under the downstairs coat racks. Paper goods and cleaning supplies for Haven House, beverage tabs for Shriners, shampoo and deodorant for RAMM, and non-perishable food items for VPC pantry may be deposited in the bins under the side table upstairs in the narthex.

If you or a loved one have a December birthday, honor that special birthday with a small donation in the Birthday Blessings church on the credenza.

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

Ther RAMM meeting will be **Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 pm** at the VPC Church 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

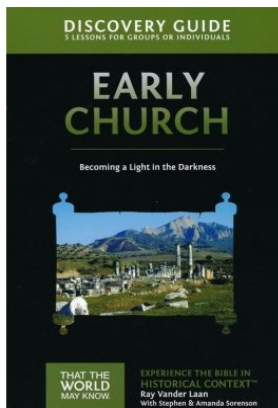
If anyone would like to help sort and hang clothing, we meet every Wednesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please check with Carole Wheat for additional information.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

(SUNDAYS

AT 9:00 A.M. SHARP!)

The Adult Sunday School class will meet at **9:00 a.m.** at the annex on Sundays. In December we will be doing Ray Vander Laan's *The Early Church*. Everyone is welcome.



COFFEE CONVERSATION

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

"Coffee Conversation" is on Thursday mornings, at **9:30 am** in the annex. We are studying Romans. It will run for 12 weeks. The study we will be using is "*Romans: Good News That Changes Everything*" by Melissa Spoelstra. Anyone interested in working through Paul's letter to the Romans is welcome to join the group. The get togethers run from **9:30 am** to about **11:30 am**. **Coffee is always available and plentiful!**



December Preschool News



In December, we will learn about the birth of baby Jesus.

We will be learning about Christmas and practicing the songs for our Christmas program. We will be reviewing everything we have learned so far this year and get in a little extra practice before Christmas break.

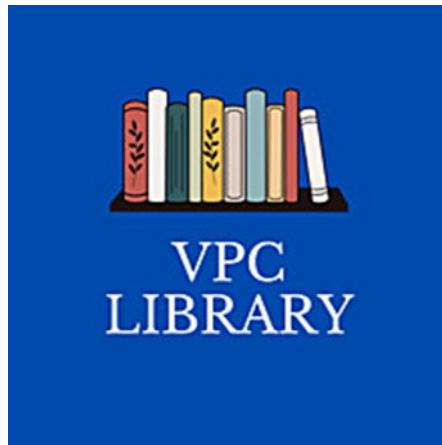
Our Christmas programs will be on **December 18** and **19** at 10:00 am.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!
Barb, Anna, Tracy and Dana



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<div>30</div> <div>Potluck Luncheon</div> <div>9am - Adult Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - LOFT</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Junior Church</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6pm - Deacons</div>	<div>2</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>5:30pm - Choir</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts</div> <div>6:30pm - Communion</div> <div>7pm - Handbell</div>
<div>7</div> <div>9am - Adult Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - LOFT</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Junior Church</div>	<div>8</div> <div>5pm - Mary Unwin</div>	<div>9</div> <div>5:30pm - Trustees</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>7pm - Session Meeting</div>	<div>5:30pm - Choir</div> <div>7pm - Handbell</div>
<div>14</div> <div>9am - Adult Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - LOFT</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Junior Church</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>5:30pm - Choir</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts</div> <div>7pm - Handbell</div>
<div>21</div> <div>9am - Adult Sunday</div> <div>9:30am - LOFT</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Junior Church</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	
<div>28</div> <div>9am - Adult Sunday</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Junior Church</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Church Closed</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Church Closed</div>	

Thu		Fri		Sat	
3	4	5	6		
r Practice uts m lls	9:30am - Coffee 6pm - RAMM - Annex				
10	11	12	13		
r Practice lls	9:30am - Coffee				
17	18	19	20		
r Practice uts lls	10am - Preschool 11am - Joy Group	10am - Preschool	RAMM		
24	25	26	27		
	Christmas Day				
31	1	2	3		
	New Years Day				



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 (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).

A Note From The Deacons:

A simple “Thank You” just does not justify our gratitude for all the wonderful goodies you bring for us to share at Coffee Hour. The variety of items that you bring in is outstanding. VPC has to have the best Coffee Fellowship time of any church in the area!!! So, with our continued thanks, we ask that you continue to fill our weekly table during the upcoming busy season.

But we do have a favor to ask. When you bring something such as cheese/crackers – dip & chips, etc. Would you please take any remaining crackers or chips home with you. We just do not have the space to store these items. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

NOTE: The next Deacons meeting will be on Monday, **December 1**, at 6:00 pm in the annex.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group

We had wonderful food at the Joy Group outing to Ron's Roost. I always recommend the fried chicken there!

Our annual Christmas party at Ruth Guenther's house will be on December

18th. We will plan to have lunch at 11:30 a.m. followed by some games and a small gift exchange. Bring a dish to share and a gift of around \$10 to exchange. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla. Hope you will plan to join us for food, fellowship, and fun!





The Children's Christmas program this year is "*Jesus is the Light of the World.*" It will be performed during the worship service on **December 21st**. There will be a practice on **December 20th** in the sanctuary at **10 a.m.** It should only last about 45 minutes to 1 hour.

The play this year is based on the scripture John 1: 1-14. The children will tell us how the light of Jesus can overcome darkness.

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.

DECEMBER 2025

- Friday, Dec. 5: Service Night at Community Meal Center
- Sunday, Dec. 7: LOFT 9:30-10
 - Youth will usher/greet this Sunday
- Sunday, Dec. 14: LOFT 9:30-10
 - Youth will setup/serve/clean up for Coffee Hour
 - Hope for the Holidays Shopping Day (after church with lunch)
- Sunday, Dec. 21: LOFT 9:30-10
- Sunday, Dec. 28: No LOFT today!

LOFT Living Our Faith Together

HOLIDAY DESSERTS NEEDED!

RAMM Christmas Pantry is Saturday, **December 20th** this year. In addition to a ham, we'd like to provide our clients with a dessert for their Christmas meal. We are asking for donations of round or square 8" cakes, a plate of cookies or a plate of brownies. We'd like either the dessert, or the packaging to have some Christmas decoration on them, if possible. If you are willing to donate one or more of these desserts, please let me know. If you're working at the pantry or sharing closet that day, please bring them with you at that time. Otherwise, I will be collecting your donations at the VPC Annex on **Friday, December 19th, between 9:00am and 9:30am**. If you have any questions, please call me at 513-738-1966.

Thank you in advance for you generosity!

Martha Young



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias will be available to beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas and may be ordered **in memory or in honor of loved ones**. The price is **\$15.00 per plant**. Order envelopes are on the table at the top of the stairs. The deadline for orders is Sunday, **December 14th**. Please remember to take your poinsettias home after the



Thank you to our Church family for the cards and prayers. The love and support we received with the passing of my brother, words cannot thank you enough.

Blessed

The Unwin Family

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 6

10 am – 2 pm

Lunch, Crafts, Bake Sale,
Granny's Closet & Vendors



Venice Presbyterian Church
4244 Layhigh Road
Ross, Ohio

Prayers

**** Prayers for Denny Butterfield, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, Rick Wepler, 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 at this time.**

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.

CHURCH CLOSING: The floors of the church will be polished on **12/29** and **12/30**. Please note the church will be closed at that time.

GIVING/STEWARDSHIP: For anyone who would like an update on their giving to date this year, please contact Helen Rohrer at **513-616-1924** or who will be able to give you an up-to-the-minute picture of where you are in relation to your pledge. Thank you for your continuing generosity.



BIRTHDAYS

02 Allen Boyle
02 Michael Ziepfel
03 Carroll Metzger
03 Bill Wickert
11 Jerry Rohrer
13 Chloe Godbey
14 Jay Butterfield
17 Joy Minks
19 Helen Rohrer
20 Chris Mastin
24 Dennis Rauen
28 Richard Vereker
30 John Brown
31 Ruth Guenther



ANNIVERSARIES

12 Rob and Gwen Kohlman
27 Scott and Tracey Smith



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

PUMPKIN CAKE from Erla Erven via Sue Pigg

This cake was a hit at a recent Togetherness Circle, and members recommended that it be shared.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 13x9 pan with baking spray, or grease and flour 2 layer cake pans.

Beat until oil is dissolved:	Sift together and add; then beat 2
4 eggs	minutes:
2 cups sugar	2 cups flour
1 cup oil	2 tsp. Soda
	2 tsp. Cinnamon
	1 tsp. Baking powder
	1 tsp. Salt

Last, add and mix well:
2 cups canned pumpkin
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped pecans

Bake 40 minutes for 13x9 pan, or until toothpick tests clean.
(no time given for layer cake!!) Cool.

CREAM CHEESE ICING: Beat all well
4 cups sifted confectioners sugar
1 stick SOFTENED butter or margarine
8 oz. SOFTENED cream cheese
1 tsp. vanilla

