

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

November 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

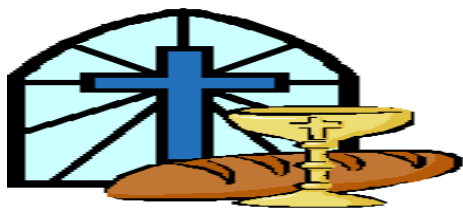
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

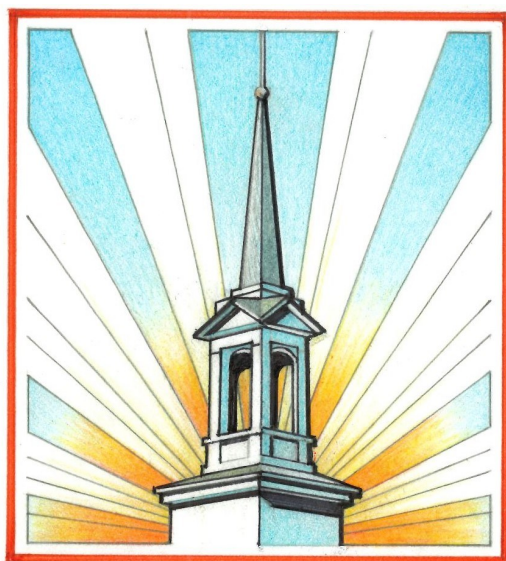




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

November 2

Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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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.





Pastor's Musings

Spiritual but not Religious

I hadn't intended to continue the series of articles on spirituality beyond the three previous months, but a conversation with a well-meaning, sincere young person recently prompted me to make one last contribution on the topic (for the moment, at least.) This conversation involved the young person expressing their lack of interest in "organized religion" but at the same time declaring that they are "spiritual but not religious." I know they were expecting me to rush to the defense of tradition, religion and whatever it is they thought I represented, but instead, I simply replied, "great! Then I'll see you in church on Sunday!"

For one thing, if you know anything about the way the church works, there's no way the adjective "organized" can accurately be used to describe it! But, more seriously, this distinction between spirituality and religiosity, while I find it a bit disingenuous, is one for which I have some sympathy.

Most people would regard me, in my role as pastor at Venice Presbyterian, as a "religious leader" and, so far as I perform duties that maintain certain traditions and historical rituals, they are probably right. However, I would rather see my role as that of "leader of a spiritual community." This distinction is an important one.

Religion is, first and foremost, about a series of rules and regulations, developed by its adherents to define the norms of life within that particular religious "club." These rules are the terms of membership of that club, and quite often, when people become zealous about those rules, that can spill over into a hyper-judgmentalism towards those not in the "club." Those who turn their back on "organized religion" are effectively rejecting that kind of religious behavior.

Spirituality, on the other hand, seeks to deepen the relationship between the individual and God, and thereby to create a loving bond between them and others. Rules and regulations don't really apply because the fundamentals of spirituality are relational, not regulatory. People who become zealous about spirituality are more likely to become aware of their own brokenness and need for closer communion with God and others, than they are to beat up others who don't follow their rules.



I firmly believe that Jesus did not set out to create a religion, but to call together a spiritual community. It is my prayer that Venice Presbyterian can more and more exemplify that kind of community. If you are – or know - one of the “spiritual but not religious” people who has shied away from the church because of what you think goes on there, then I would welcome a conversation with you. I think we might have more in common than you realize.

Blessings, I Christ,

Pastor Owen Derrick

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

November

02 Brent Guenther
09 Beth Ziepfel
16 Emily Young
23 Richard Bohne
30 Dave Toler

December

07 Children's Program
14 Jody Bohne
21 Kim Young
28 Tami Adams

Communion Preparers

November 2	Kim Young
December 7	Karlana Boyle
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	Sue Pigg

Trustee of the Month

November	Ron Mienheartt
December	Nancy Bohne

Attendance

September

07.....57
14.....69
21.....75
28.....78

October

05.....79
12.....109
19.....72
26.....69

Thankful for You!



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

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **November 3rd**, 6pm, Annex

Communication Meeting - Weds., **November 5th**, 6:30pm, Annex

RAMM - Thurs., **November 6th**, 6pm, Annex

Trustees - Tues., **November 11th**, 5:30pm, Annex

Session Meeting - Tues., **November 11th**, 7pm, Annex

Dorcas Meeting - Tues., **November 18th**, 10am, Martha Young

Potluck Luncheon, - Sun., **November 30th**, After church

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

Handbells - Every **Thursday**, 7pm

Parish Life

Potluck Luncheon: Our next potluck luncheon after church will be on Sunday, **November 30th**. Please bring food to share. Scotland pictures and stories will be shared.

Also, it's the first Sunday in Advent, so if you would like to make an Advent wreath, supplies will be available. As always, great food and fellowship that you won't want to miss!

MISSIONS

MISSIONS How can it be November? Thanksgiving is coming, and Christmas is less than 60 days away! We will again be supporting **Haven House** with gift cards during the Christmas season, but, like last year, we will be asking for monetary donations during November-December. The donated funds will then be used to purchase the designated gift cards to be given to Haven House. Please remember the **Haven House families** this Christmas!

Those gently used socks, blankets/afghans/throws (and sleeping bags!), and those plastic bags to make mats for sleeping on the ground that you donate to community outreach? Community outreach includes the larger Butler County Community, not just our own VPC Pantry and RAMM. **Community Meal Center at Zion Lutheran Church** in Hamilton, Ohio, is just one place where those socks are handed out and you might see a braided plastic mat rolled up in a bicycle basket.

Volunteering a few hours of your time at the Community Meal Center serving food, drinks, snacks, or cleaning up is a hands-on way to help those in need. Several members of our congregation regularly volunteer there: Sharon Thompson, who hands out some of the 415 crocheted and knitted hats she and her daughter Jenny have made, and Tami Adams, who uses her nursing skills to help those with medical issues. Beth Ziepfel and the LOFT youth group have also volunteered at the Community Meal Center. In addition, Lois Beddard has crocheted warm scarves to hand out to anyone who wants one. Genevra Butterfield has also done this in the past. THANK YOU to all who have volunteered time and talents!

Haven House continues to need cleaning supplies and paper goods, RAMM appreciates donations of shampoo and deodorant, and VPC Pantry needs non-perishable food items. Beverage tabs are still being collected for Shriners.

If you or a loved one has a November birthday, a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church is a great way to honor that birthday.

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, November 6th 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

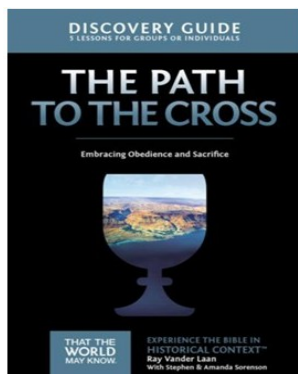
If anyone would like to help sort and hang clothing, we meet every Wednesday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please check with Carole Wheat for additional information.

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. We will be doing Ray Vander Laan's *The Path to the Cross* from October 26th through November 23rd. 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!



November Preschool News



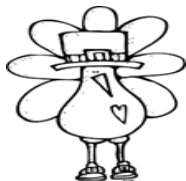
What are we Learning this Month?

We will be talking about what we are thankful for. Our Bible story for November is Who is Jesus? We will begin learning the songs for our Christmas Program.

Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) – We will continue to work on letters and letter sounds, focusing on the letters at the beginning of our names. We are still working on learning the letter chant! We will practice rhyming and clapping the syllables in words. We will also continue working on counting and number recognition, focusing on 6-10.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) – We will continue working on letter recognition and letter sounds for D and E, and number recognition with 0-10. We will learn about the colors brown and yellow and talk about turkeys and being thankful.

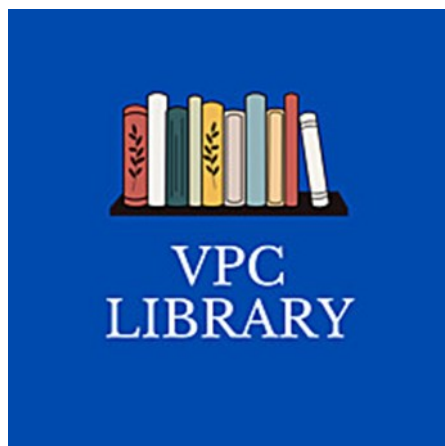
Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) – For November, our theme is being thankful. We will work on the color brown and the letters S and T. We will also continue working on name recognition.



Registration for 2026-2027 school year will open to church members in December. Registration opens to current students in January, and to the public in February. Please contact the preschool at 513-738-0158 or preschool@thevenicechurch.com to request the registration form or for more information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
26 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	27	28 1:30pm - Togetherness 7pm - Boy Scouts	5pm - Choir Prac 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Handbells
2 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	3 6pm - Deacons	4 7pm - Boy Scouts	5pm - Choir Prac 6:30pm - Comm 7pm - Handbells
9 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	10	11 5:30pm - Trustees 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Session Meeting	5pm - Choir Prac 6pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Handbells
16 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	17	18 10am - Dorcas-Martha 7pm - Boy Scouts	5pm - Choir Prac 7pm - Handbells
23 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	24	25 7pm - Boy Scouts	5pm - Choir Prac 7pm - Handbells
30 Potluck Luncheon 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	1	2 7pm - Boy Scouts	5pm - Choir Prac 6pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Comm 7pm - Handbells

Thu		Fri		Sat	
29	30	31	1		
5	6	7	8		
12	13	14	15		
19	20	21	22		
26	27	28	29		
3	4	5	6		



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 some thing 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, **November 3rd**, at 6:00 pm in the annex.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group We had a small, but mighty group at the outing to he Tousey House Tavern in Burlington, Kentucky on October 23rd.

If you have not eaten there, we definitely recommend the food and the atmosphere. November's Joy is still up in the air as to what we are planning. There were many people who wanted to go to the Golden Lamb, but they could only do reservations for 12 and not until 2 pm, so we are going to wait and do that next year. We also looked into the glass blowing on Colerain Avenue, but we would need to discuss whether we wanted to just see the demonstration or actually participate. We will discuss this at our December get-together at Ruth Guenther's house. So as of today, we will plan to meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 20th. I will have a restaurant lined up for lunch around 11:45. I will update everyone in a later email and in the church bulletin. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet so that I can give them a total number for the reservations. 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. We have started practicing the music and will be assigning speaking parts on November 2, 2025. CDs have been given out with the music, so if your child still needs one, just let me know. If your child would like to be a part of the program,

please let me know as soon as possible. The lines are easy to learn. The play 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 **513-836-0020** or email at gaylayoung@fuse.net. Thanks so much, Gayla Young

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.



I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your prayers, cards, and flowers during this difficult time of the passing of my son. Your love and support have been a great comfort to me, and I am deeply grateful for your presence and kindness!
Carol Gilmore

NOVEMBER 2025

- Sunday, Nov. 2: LOFT 9:30-10
 - Youth will usher/greet this Sunday
 - Fall Fun Day at the Z House - campfire, s'mores and ZIPLINE! 12- 2pm (call for address/directions)
- Sunday, Nov. 9: LOFT 9:30-10
 - Youth will setup/serve/clean up for Coffee Hour
- Sunday, Nov. 16: LOFT 9:30 -10:15
Service night this week at RAMM pantry TBD
- Sunday, Nov. 23: LOFT 9:30 - 10:15
- Friday, Nov. 28: Bowling Birthday Party @ Pohlman Lanes 4-6pm
- Sunday, Nov. 30: NO LOFT TODAY!

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!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



As we look forward during the Advent season, we will again be beautifying our sanctuary with poinsettias. These plants may be purchased and dedicated "In memory" or "In honor" of loved ones. This is always a meaningful and inspiring addition to our worship. The cost will be announced as soon as we receive feedback from our supplier. Donation envelopes will be included in the Sunday bulletins, or messages can be sent to the church office.

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, Tim Isaacs, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, 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.**

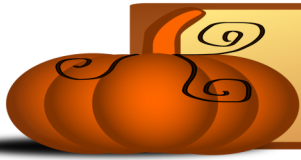
Anyone wishing to explore any of the following should let pastor know they are interested:

- **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.

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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.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Kevin Spille
- 13 Clarence Bohne
- 13 Clara Young
- 14 Bonnie Doherty
- 14 Natasha Ross
- 14 Sharon Tragesser
- 15 Bob Reynolds
- 16 Dan Doherty
- 24 Sue Pigg
- 24 Gayla Young
- 25 Sue Toler
- 27 Beth Ziepfel
- 28 Kaylee Grey
- 28 Kyler Grey
- 29 Aubree Spille

Happy
Birthday

ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Joe and Lauren Young
- 19 Greg and Kim Young
- 26 Dave and Sue Toler



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

