

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

April 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:

April 6th

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



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Ross, OH 45061

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Owen Derrick

Administrative Assistant
Carol Gilmore

Intermediate 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.

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


every day spirit



From the Manse

As I sit at my desk penning this newsletter article, I am struck by the fact that, in a few short weeks, Holy Week will be upon us. Holy Week is the week before Easter Sunday, when Christians think about the events that led to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In particular, it means looking at some uncomfortable concepts such as betrayal, denial, injustice, and wrongful execution using barbaric methods.

As much as we believe that our humanity today in 2025 is more evolved than it was back in 1st century Judaea, if we're honest, not much has changed. Humanity still shows itself to be cruel, selfish, manipulative, and willing to trample on the lives of others in order to further the perceived agenda of the powerful. We may think that we'd behave differently from the fickle crowd baying for Jesus' crucifixion, but in reality, I think we're all so enmeshed in the groupthink of our siloed information-givers, we'd all just go along with whatever our chosen news channel fed us at the time.

Does that sound harsh? Have I insulted you and your preferred worldview? Normally, I would back away from such a directed point, but as I look at the events of Holy Week and why they happened, I realize that even moderate middle-ground seeking can be problematic when faced with unbridled evil. Even fair-minded compromise is inappropriate when power is being used to crucify Goodness.

I can hear the responses now. "Jesus isn't being crucified now." "That was a very specific time and a very unique set of circumstances." "We aren't confronted with the same challenge as that presented during the events of Holy Week." My response is that Jesus Himself would say the opposite. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says it: "...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Maybe this should be the measure against which we evaluate everything we do.

- As we contribute to social media, ask ourselves "would I write this way to Jesus?"
- As we speak to others, "would I say these things to Jesus?"

- As we go about our daily lives, interacting with our family, neighbors, colleagues, and strangers, “would I behave this way if that other person was Jesus?”
- And as we observe the actions of those who represent us, ask “would I be comfortable if this was how Jesus was treated?”

There are those who would prefer that we swerve around these disturbing details in the story. They want to skip all the bad bits and jump from the “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday, to the dazzlingly-brilliant news of Easter Sunday. For such people, the violence and grim reality of the Crucifixion are uncomfortable distractions from the fluffy, egg-shaped, bunny-infested celebration of the risen Christ.

Well, as much as I enjoy a cream egg, the uncomfortable events of Holy Week do matter. They lay bare the brokenness of the human condition, and they show God’s love for humanity in its fullest expression. The Good News of Easter only means as much as it does because of the very real trauma of Holy Week, especially Good Friday.

I truly hope your Easter is a joyous one. It becomes all the more so, when you add the perspective offered by Holy Week. I would encourage you to seek some time during that week to contemplate God’s limitless love for humanity, and find a way of expressing that love for those around you.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Owen Derrick

Ushers

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

Worship Assistants

April	May
06 Dave Toler	May 04 Alan Marsh
13 Greg Young	May 11 Jan Krier
20 Tami Adams	May 18 Kim Young
27 Aly Davis	May 25 Jerry Rohrer

Communion Preparers

April 6th	Joy Minks
April 17th	Greg Young (Maundy Thursday)
May 4th	Karlana Boyle

Trustee of the Month

April Pete Berling

Attendance

February	March
02.....80	02.....87
05.....64	05.....38 (Ash Wednesday)
16 (No Service Due to Weather)	09.....81
23.....74	16.....76
	23.....81
	30.....67

Thankful for You!



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

Deacons Meeting - Wednesday, **April 2nd** at 6:00 pm - Annex

Communications Meeting - Wednesday, **April 2nd** at 6:30 pm

RAMM Meeting - Thursday, **April 3rd** at 6:00 pm

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **April 8th** at 7:00 pm - Annex

Grief Counseling - Thursday, **April 10th** at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm
At Shepherds Ground Coffee Shop

Parish Life

April 17th Maundy Thursday

There will be a pot luck dinner followed by a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17th. The potluck dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in the social hall and the service will begin at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

There will also be a community Good Friday service at Shandon Congregational Church on Friday, April 18th at 7 p.m.

Please plan to attend the services as we reflect on the journey that Jesus took as he made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Please look at your current listing in our church directory. Do you need to make changes or additions? Do you still have your landline? Please let Carol know at 513-738-1317, so the directory can be kept up-to-date.

If you are bringing bags to church to be made into mats for the homeless, they must NOT have any holes in the bags. Please, please check your bags before bringing bags to church. Bags with holes need to be recycled. Thank you!

MISSIONS

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, we will join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the globe. Through the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering that day, **OGHS** works for a better world by supporting three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Our congregation at Venice has participated in One Great Hour of Sharing almost since its inception, 75 years ago. Last year VPC donated over \$860 for this very worthwhile mission! Look for informative flyers in your bulletins and special envelopes for your offering starting April 6th.

We continue to collect gently used blankets, afghans, and throws; sturdy shoes, and socks for community outreach. Sorted and folded plastic bags (without holes!) are needed to make mats. In addition, beverage tabs for Shriners, paper products/cleaning supplies for Haven House, and personal care items, (especially shampoo and deodorant) for RAMM are appreciated. The VPC Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items.

If you have an April birthday, don't forget to honor a loved one with a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church!

HELPING HAND



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

RAMM Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at 6pm in the annex.

The RAMM monthly pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10:00 to 11:30 am 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 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please check with Carole Wheat for additional information.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



We all enjoyed the Butler Philharmonic Choir performance in Middletown at the Sorg Opera House on Sunday, March 9th. We had a pretty large group supporting our own dear Pastor Owen. He did a great job!

Our next outing for the Joy Group going to be on Thursday, April 3, 2025. We will meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. to arrive for a 6:00 p.m. seating and the 7:00 p.m. show at Café Vivace. The entertainment is the Ben Tweedt Trio.

We will order dinner and drinks before the show begins. Tickets are \$20 and then there is a \$15 minimum that each person must spend on dinner and/or drinks. Gayla will be out of town, so Kim Young will be handling the activity. I have purchased and reserved 14 seats at this time. Be sure to sign-up on the sign-up sheet so that we can reserve a space for you. Any questions, call Kim. Thanks everyone! An apology to everyone who counts on our activities being on the 3rd Thursday each month. I promise to get back on schedule for May!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Calling all VBS volunteers!



This year's VBS, TRUE NORTH - Trusting Jesus in a Wild World is taking place June 2 - 6 from 9:00-11:45 am. We not only need volunteers to help out with the event that week, but help with setup the week before and teardown afterward (June 8). Please contact Beth Ziepfel if you are able to help out: givemeaz303@gmail.com or 513-490-5048



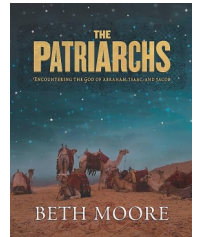
Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School will finish *The Mission of Jesus* on Sunday April 6th and begin the Ray Vander Laan series, *Clash of the Kingdoms* on April 13. We will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday but will continue on April 27th and finish in May. *Clash of Kingdoms* follows Paul in Athens and settles among the Greco-Roman's of Corinth who value wealth, class, worship multiple gods, and decadent behavior. How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Please join us Sunday mornings at 9am in the annex. See Kim Young for more information.



Coffee Conversations

Join us Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the annex. Coffee Conversations is continuing working through *The Patriarchs* by Beth Moore. See Judy Bohne for more information.



Junior Church

The children will be participating in singing some special music during our Palm Sunday service on April 13. We are continuing to learn about FAITHFULNESS in our *Character By God's Design* curriculum.



APRIL

On days with more activities than those listed, please

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Apr 1	WED 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Adult SS • 9:30am LOFT 2 more		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7pm NO Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm C • 6pm D
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Adult SS • 9:30am LOFT 2 more	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Pastor-Cof • 7pm Boy Scouts • 7pm Session Mtg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm C
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Adult SS • 9:30am LOFT 2 more	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Pastor-Cof • 10am Dorcas Ci • 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm C • 6pm G
20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Adult SS • 9:30am LOFT 2 more	21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Pastor-Cof • 1:30pm Togethe • 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm C
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Adult SS • 9:30am LOFT 2 more	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am Pastor-Cof • 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5pm C • 6pm G

refer to the church website at www.trhevenicechurch.com

WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
Choir Prac Deacons M	• 6pm RAMM		
9 Choir Prac	10	11	12
16 Choir Prac Girl Scouts	17	18	19 • 10am RAMM Pa
23 Choir Prac	24	25	26
30 Choir Prac Girl Scouts	May 1 • 6pm RAMM	2	3

Youth Group L.O.F.T. = Living Our Faith Together through service, study, prayer & fun! Please contact Beth Ziepfel for more info. 513-490-5408 givemeaz303@gmail.com

April

- **Sunday, April 6 LOFT 9:30am**
 - Youth will usher/greet this week
- **Friday, April 11 Service day at Community Meal Center in Hamilton. Times TBD**
- **Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday LOFT 9:30am**
 - Set up, serve and clean up Coffee Hour
- **Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday NO LOFT**
 - Flub's and Fun at the Park night this week - TBD
- **Sunday, April 27: LOFT 9:30am**

LOFT Living Our Faith Together

LOFT enjoys service and fun!

Here we are bowling at Pohlman Lanes & volunteering at Matthew 25





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 the first week of April. We are looking forward to receiving our caterpillars after Spring Break so our students can observe them as they grow and change into butterflies. Our students have been working hard on their paper mâché piñatas, and they are excited to open them during our Easter parties. 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 2025-2026 school year.

What are we Learning this Month?

Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) – We will continue to practice letters and letter sounds. We will review patterns, rhyming and syllables. We will continue to work on counting and identifying those tricky teen numbers.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) – We will review what we have learned this year and talk about spring and Easter.

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) – We will learn about Easter and all things spring!



Deacons News



It's hard to believe that it is almost graduation time! We will be planning our graduation celebration for a Sunday in May. If you are a graduate or if you have a child or grandchild graduating, please let us know. Send a short bio to either Helen Rohrer's email (hlwro707@yahoo.com) or to the church office (churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com). Please submit this info by April 20. If you have any questions, please see any of the Deacons.

Also, St. Vincent de Paul was thrilled to have our china. They even came to the church to pick it up. We are pleased that it will be put to good use. And one more thing – Thank you for your continued support for our coffee hour by bringing delicious goodies for everyone to enjoy. This time to socialize is getting more popular every week. We couldn't do it without your support. The sign-up sheet is on the table at the top of the stairs. Remember, it doesn't have to be home made, store bought is good too!!



The children will be singing during the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 13th. We have begun practicing the music in Junior Church. We will sing the *Antiphonal Hosanna* with the adult choir and we will be singing the song "Kids Under Construction" during the special music time. We hope everyone will be able to join in the Palm Sunday celebration. If you have questions, call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at gaylayoung@fuse.net.

APRON FOR SALE

The Women's Circles of our church sold aprons a few years ago. We have ONE apron left, new in the package. It sells for \$15.00. The apron is red and has "VPC Women" written on the top. We wear these aprons when working Rummage Sales, Country Christmas, Funeral Luncheons etc. Some ladies simply like to use them at their home. If interested, please call Martha Young at 513-738-1966, or see me in church.





MANY THANKS!

Thank you for the many Valentine's Day and Birthday cards. It really brightened my day.

**With Love,
Nancy Renner**

Thank you for the many calls, cards and visits after my recent surgery. They were very much appreciated.

Donna Marsh



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PRAYERS

**** Prayers for Beth Ballauer, Brayden Bastin, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Nick Guenther, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, Monica Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, The Family of Audrey Vogerl, Rick Weppler, Rosemary Wisecup, Joan Wright, and Jackie Yust.**

****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.**



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.

