Veníce Víew

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

January 2024

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 - 9:00a Worship Service - 10:30a Junior Church - during worship



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on:

January 7th

Please "Like" our Facebook page. Venice Presbyterian Church!





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Beth Ziepfel

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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.



New Year is a time of great celebration in Scotland. I'm not quite sure why it has developed into quite as big a deal there, although I might hazard a guess that the copious amounts of the alcoholic beverage bearing the name of the nation might have something to do with it! And of course, no New Year party would ever be complete without a rousing rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" – penned by Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. While, for the sake of Christian decorum, we might set aside Scotch as a motivator, the words of "Auld Lang Syne" – most of which are strange-sounding and mysterious to most of us – may give us a glimpse as to why the Scots choose New Year as a time of joyful reflection and remembrance. Here's the complete poem (with my translation into English alongside!)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne!

Chorus

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne, We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint stowp! And surely I'll be mine! And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.

Chorus

We twa hae run about the braes, And pou'd the gowans fine; But we've wander'd mony a weary fit Sin' auld lang syne.

Chorus

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn, Frae morning sun till dine; But seas between us braid hae roar'd Sin' auld lang syne.

Chorus

And there's a haun, my trusty fere! And gie's a haun o' thine! And we'll tak' a right gude-willie waught, For auld lang syne.

Chorus

Should old acquaintance be forgotten, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgotten, and days long ago!

Chorus

For days long ago, my dear, for days long ago, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for days long ago.

And surely you'll buy your pint mug! and surely I'll buy mine! And we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for days long ago.

Chorus

We two have run about the hills, and picked the daisies well; But we've wandered many a weary foot, since days of long ago.

Chorus

We two have paddled in the stream, from morning sun till dinner time; But seas between us broad have roared since days long ago.

Chorus

And there's a hand my trusty friend! And give me a hand of yours! And we'll take a real good-will draught, for days long ago.

Chorus

Continued on Next Page

This is a poem of friendship through the years. It talks of childhood camaraderie that is little dampened by the passing of time and a bond that—even though the subjects have "wander'd mony a weary fit" and been separated by "[braid] seas" that "hae roar'd"—remains strong and trusty.

Perhaps there's a lesson in this New Year tradition for us as Christians too. Might we, as we begin a new year, ponder our journey and look back at the year – perhaps even the years – gone by with gratitude and love for those whom God has blessed us with in our lives? The Bible is full of examples of the kind of time-transcending friendships and bonds that "Auld Lang Syne" hints at: David and Jonathan, Jacob and Esau, Ruth and Naomi, Paul and Timothy. I'm sure you could add others. Such friendships last a lifetime and enrich us in ways it is hard to explain, and easy to take for granted.

Yet even as valuable and life-giving as such bonds undoubtedly are, there is one relationship that each of us has that surpasses all others in its depth, width, height and breadth. Through Christ, God has befriended us in a way no other friend can. Before we were formed in the womb, God knew us (Jer 1:5), and God will know us for all eternity (John 3:16).

So here's another poem. This one was written by Joseph Scrivens and – you'll be happy to know – requires no translation from me. It – like "Auld Lang Syne" – lifts up a valuable friendship. However - unlike "Auld Lang Syne" - the friendship it lifts up is not a distant one, or one that has to suffer the pain of separation. This New Year, let us reflect on THIS friendship and rejoice that, with all that has gone on between us and Jesus, this friendship is a very current one that we celebrate today – not just for Auld Lang Syne!

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee;

thou wilt find a solace there.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Owen Derrick



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

Announcements

<u>Pastor Owen's Installation</u> - Sunday, **January 14th** at 2:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. All are welcome!

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

Dorcas Circle - No Meeting in January.

RAMM Meeting - No meeting in January.

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

<u>Trustees' Meeting</u> - Tuesday, **January 9th** at 5:30 p.m. in the Annex.

Parish Life

<u>Potluck Luncheon</u> - NO Potluck Luncheon in January. Parish Life will be hosting Pastor Owen's Installation reception on **January 14th** after the 2:30 installation. There will be punch, cake and fruit. On Superbowl Sunday, **February 11th**, we will have a SOUPer Bowl Potluck Luncheon. Please bring soup, salad, or dessert to share and a can of soup for the RAMM Pantry.

<u>Just a reminder</u>: If you received flowers in a vase from a Potluck Luncheon, please return the vase to Joy so they can be reused. Thank you very much!

<u>Church Coffee Hour</u> - 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
2nd Sunday Deacons
3rd Sunday Men of the Church
4th Sunday Women of the Church

Lee Steenken will call on usher volunteers according to this General Usher Schedule.

Worship Assistants

January 07 Dan Young 14 Greg Young 21 Jerry Rohrer 28 Dave Toler

Communion Preparers

Jan. 7th Gayla Young Jan. 14th Gayla Young (Pastor Installation) Feb. 4th Joy Minks

Trustee of the Month

January Dan Young February Clarence Bohne

Attendance

<u>October</u>	November
0162	0570
0879	1273
1566	1982
2280	2284 Thanksgiving Eve
2967	2682

Thankful for You!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER January 2024

INTERMEDIATE YOUTH GROUP

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

L.O.F.T. = $\underline{\mathbf{L}}$ iving $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$ ur $\underline{\mathbf{F}}$ aith $\underline{\mathbf{T}}$ ogether through service, study, prayer, & fun!

LOFT youth group visited Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati on Dec. 23 and provided a popcorn bar for the patients, families and staff. We learned about the amazing outreach that happens there every day and we can't wait to serve again!

LOFT also has big things coming in **January!** We are planning a major facelift to our youth room in the annex and we'll be painting and updating our furniture. If you have any of the items listed below that you'd like to donate, please contact Beth Ziepfel 513-490-5048 or givemeaz303@gmail.com. **Thanks for your**

support!

6 ft. or longer table
Office chairs
Large corkboard
Large dry erase board/panel

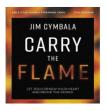
Matching couch covers Area rug or edged carpet remnant LED lights Painting supplies



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Adult Sunday School will start again on **January 7th**. We have two more lessons from Max Lucado's *In the Footsteps of the Savior*. Then, we are starting a NEW series on **January 21st**. <u>Carry The Flame</u> is a Bible study on renewing your heart and reviving the world. Do you ever feel like you need to be "qualified" to effective-



ly share the gospel and help build God's kingdom? In this study, Jim Cymbala inspires followers of Jesus to follow the call of the Holy Spirit and to carry the "flame" of our witness to this dark world. God is seeking and equipping ordinary men and women whose greatest qualification is that they make themselves available to him. This five part series will help us find the answers. See Kim Young for more information.

JUNIOR CHURCH
(Sunday mornings during worship)

What an amazing job our youth did with this year's Christmas Program, Color your Christmas with Love! Huge thanks goes to Gayla Young for writing and directing, to all the kids and their families for their hard work in preparing, to our teachers for their help, and we couldn't do it without our wonderful tech crew. Thanks to everybody who helped. What a wonderful way to share the story of our Savior's birth!







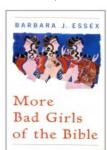


COFFEE CONVERSATIONS

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

Coffee Conversations is beginning a new study starting on Thursday, January 11th. Learn from More Bad Girls of the Bible. See Judy Bohne for details.





JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



A huge thank you to Ruth Guenther for hosting our annual Christmas Party this year. Everyone seemed to have a great time of laughter and good food!

Our next JOY Group outing will be held on **January 18**, **2024**. We will meet at the church at 11:00 to go out to eat at a restaurant that is still to be determined. We will try to update everyone with the weekly announcements once we decide where we are going. We promise it will be a good time and hope you can join us to start this New Year! There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email her at gaylayoung@fuse.net

2023 Christmas Party at Ruth Guenther's



News from the Deacons

There has been a change in the Deacons Board. We have reduced our number from 9 to 7.

What does this mean to you, our congregation? It means, you will now have the opportunity to be a TEAM member assisting in our various projects. You do not need to be a member of the church to be a TEAM member. So, everyone can join in!

Our first TEAM effort will be with our Coffee Hours. We have 3 different areas open for you to step in and help.

First is set up. This will require arriving by 10:00 and helping a Deacon prepare the coffee and punch and set out the goodies that are donated that day or are left over from the week before along with the plates, forks and spoons.

Second is serving. To serve, you leave the service during the last song and start pouring the coffee and punch. We usually set out a few first, then continue to serve as needed.

Third is clean up. After everyone is finished, washing the dishes used (we usually wash all the dishes used, even the ones people bring with their donation), put any new leftovers in plastic containers and put in the freezer and generally straighten up. A Deacon usually takes the wash cloths and towels home to wash and bring back the next week. All of these opportunities will be assisting a Deacon. Of course, the more volunteers we have, the fewer times you will be called upon.

MEN are encouraged to participate. There will be a sign-up sheet next to the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet.

If you are interested in being a TEAM member or if you have any questions, please talk to Helen Rohrer, Diana Vereker or Candy Weppler.

Missions

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND CHARITY

Venice Presbyterian Church was absolutely generous this year and showed love to others in need. In 7 months, 71 clients came and got food from our church pantry. We provided school supplies, backpacks, and personal care items for Ross students. According to Tami Adams, we have provided 156 blankets, throws, and afghans for the homeless. In addition, we have brought in an enormous amount of plastic bags to weave into sleeping mats for the homeless. We donated numerous personal hygiene items and birthday decorations for the kids at One Way Farm. We contributed \$590 worth of gift cards, and bins and bins of paper goods and cleaning supplies for Haven House. You, the congregation, contributed every week to the Noisy Offering, and in November, collected over \$485 to benefit the Barker family whose home burned earlier that month. Birthday Blessings donations totalled over \$321 between September and the end of November, resulting in sharing those blessings with Matthew 25 and Hope for the Holidays. If there is a need in our community, our congregation is absolutely generous!

VPC volunteers give generously of their time to get the RAMM pantry ready every month, and then to serve the clients on the third Saturday of the month. Thank you to Martha Young, who calls clients every month to remind them of the pantry. A big thank you to everyone who has helped this year! The RAMM Christmas pantry had 76 clients and many more received dinner from some of the other churches in the RAMM coalition, made up of 11 area churches. Hope for the Holidays, a RAMM Christmas project, provided over 200 children in 96 families with gifts. Each child received 3-4 gifts, both clothing and toys, which was amazing! Our church, VPC, was able to provide 37-\$50 gift cards to families in need this Christmas! Thanks to Kim Young, who made dozens of calls to Hope for the Holidays clients.

Also, in just three months, over 126 clients went through the **Clothing Closet**. Carol Wheat and her devoted staff are constantly getting things ready. Many thanks to Carol and her crew!

Christian love abounds in this community! Praise the Lord and God bless all of you who were so generous this year!

REMINDERS

Please continue to bring in flattened and sorted **plastic bags** free of holes and slits. Collect beverage tabs and bring those in for **the Shriners' mission project.**Donate gently used **blankets, afghans, and throws** for the homeless.
Sign up to donate birthday decorations for **One way Farm!** There is a new sheet

Sign up to donate birthday decorations for **One way Farm!** There is a new sheet at the top of the stairs!

Remember your birthday or a loved one with a small donation to **Birthday Blessings.**

Keep filling the bins for VPC Pantry, One Way Farm, and Haven House!

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 Weppler.



RAMM

There will be NO RAMM meeting in January.

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! Thank you for your continued generosity and support! RAMM now has a website:

www.rammbutler.org. You may now donate thru Venmo @ RAMM-Ross and Morgan Ministries!

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.



January Preschool News



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open to church members. Please contact the preschool at 513-738-0158 or email to preschool@thevenicechurch.com for information. Registration opens to our current families in January and we open registration to the public in February.

What are we Learning this Month?

Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) - We will continue to work our way through the alphabet and work on learning the alphabet chant. We will continue to work on counting and begin identifying those tricky teen numbers. We will continue to practice rhyming, syllables, and letter sounds.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) - We will learn about arctic animals. We will continue working on shapes, the tricky teen numbers, letters and letter sounds.

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) – We will explore snow, snowmen, snowflakes and ice. We will continue working on letters and letter sounds.

Happy New Year!





"This 'n That"

Paint with the Psalms

On Sunday January 28, following church, you are invited to "Paint with the Psalms". Venice Presbyterian is collaborating with White Oak Christian church to offer this opportunity FREE. Not only will all the painting supplies be provided but lunch will be served right after church also. I am not a painter but I was pleasantly surprised how easy it was to create a canvas with a meaningful Bible verse on it. Please sign up at church or call Becky Berling 513-600-9379.



Missing Book



Someone in the congregation (not sure who) borrowed a book from Sharon Tragesser, and she was wondering if you are finished and would kindly return it. The name of the book is <u>The Camel Club</u> by David Baldacci. Thank you from Sharon.



PRAYER LIST

- ** Prayers for Kenley Commins, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Gail Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Rick Weppler, Rosemary Wisecup, and Jackie Yust.
- ** Prayers for Larry Hayes, our custodian, who had shoulder surgery Friday, 12/22/23. For cards, his address is 4240 Hamilton Cleves Rd., Fairfield OH 45014.
- ** **Prayers for Kim Williams** who had knee replacement 12/14/23. Her address is 4157 Hamilton Cleves Rd., Fairfield OH 45014.
- **Prayers for Dana Mehl who was admitted to the hospital 12/27/23. Please, no phone calls or visits at this time. His address is 2095 Demoret Ln., Hamilton OH 45013.

Thanksgivings from Members to the Church



The Ladies of the Circles of our church want to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our Country Christmas a success! We profited \$3066. As has been said before, "It takes a Village!" We have an amazingly generous church here at Venice Presbyterian. In supporting our Country Christmas, you have made it possible for our ladies to continue donating to our local missions.

Thank you from the VPC Women's Circles

Thank you to all of the ladies that donated baked items to the RAMM Christmas Pantry. They were all so festive and looked delicious. Our clients were so very appreciative of your kindness.

Ross and Morgan Ministries

Many thanks to all that donated to our VPC "Giving Tree". Due to your generosity, 37 - \$50.00 Walmart Gift Cards were purchased and given to certain clients at the Christmas RAMM Pantry. This made for a happier holiday for those clients. Thank you for your generosity.

Ross and Morgan Ministries



BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Barb Ross
- 04 Bernice Roop
- 05 Tami Adams
- 06 Rick Schwoeppe
- 09 Kim Bohne
- 09 Houston Tyrrell
- 26 Donna Marsh
- 26 Bob Young
- 26 Owen Ziepfel
- 27 Phillip Fathman
- 31 Alan Marsh



ANNIVERSARIES

- 06 Rick and Sally Schwoeppe
- 14 Keith and Deloris Eby



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