

# Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

July 2026

Established 1828



*“Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples of Jesus”*

## *Venice Presbyterian Church*

4244 Layhigh Road

PO Box 41

Ross, Ohio 45061

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[www.thevenicechurch.com](http://www.thevenicechurch.com)

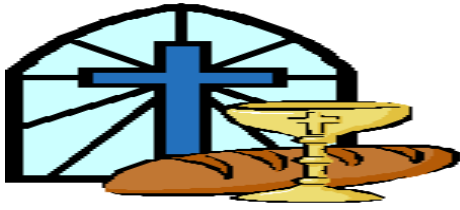
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship





The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
will be celebrated on:

**July 5**

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

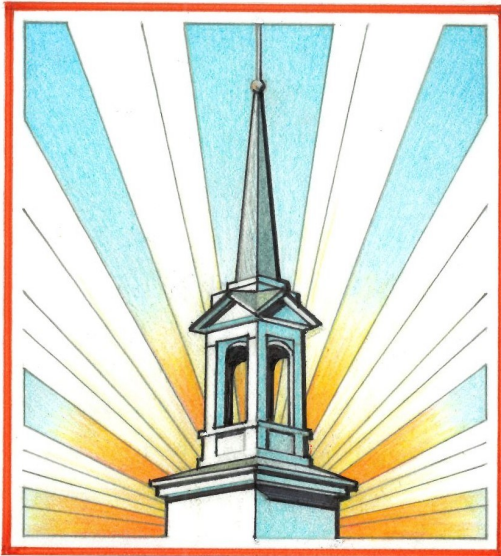
**Office Hours**  
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Venice Presbyterian



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**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.



Lord Jesus,  
Thou who art the Way, the Truth, and  
the Life; hear us as we pray for the  
truth that shall make all free.

Teach us that liberty is not only to be  
loved but also to be lived.

Liberty is too precious a thing to be  
buried in books. It costs too much to be  
hoarded.

Help us see that our liberty is not the  
right to do as we please,  
but the opportunity to do what is right.

- Peter Marshall



# Pastor's Musings

By the time you receive this newsletter, our nation will either be on the brink of, or just beyond, its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a nation. When I became an American citizen in 2007, I was very conscious that I was joining a long line of people who have sought to fulfill their own dreams in this land of dreams. To many Americans, being an American is something they were born into. They can claim their citizenship as a birth-right. In 2007, I claimed my citizenship as a matter of personal choice. Does that make me less or more American? I don't think so. From everything I've been able to glean of what it means to be American, it makes me equally American with all those who obtained their citizenship by birth. I treasure my US citizenship because I know what it cost so many people to provide the freedom I now have to choose to become a citizen of this great nation.

I think I've shared this with you all before, but I am going to share it again as we approach July 4<sup>th</sup> and this momentous anniversary, because it is a fact that resonates deeply with me.

Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, was brought up in the town of Helensburgh, Scotland, 3 ½ miles across the water from my home town of Greenock. In his life, Bell had many, many achievements for which he could have claimed justifiable credit. Yet the epitaph on his gravestone (see photo – I know it's not great quality) reads as follows:

*Alexander Graham Bell  
Inventor-Teacher  
Born Edinburgh, March 3, 1847  
Died a Citizen of the U.S.A., August 2, 1922*

Bell could have listed his numerous inventions and honors. But that he was a citizen of the U.S.A. was his most cherished accomplishment.



Yet as important as my American citizenship is to me, my citizenship of God's kingdom is even more important. I look at the blessings we all enjoy as "citizens" in God's kingdom. When we come to our Lord's Table at communion, we come as equal "citizens," whatever route we took to get there. Some of us were "born and raised" as Christians, others of us have gradually discovered our citizenship, or even suddenly awoken to the reality of God's grace in our lives. Whatever our personal journey to Christ's Table, we all stand before His grace as equal citizens, without rank or favor. In that truth, we can take great comfort.

In this month of patriotic celebration, may we all rejoice in the freedom we enjoy as Americans. But also, let us rejoice in the universal "freedom wherewith Christ has set us free" (Gal 5:1). For, "if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Yours in Christ Jesus,

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

### July

05 Richard Bohne  
12 Judy Bohne  
19 Dave Toler  
26 Jerry Lutterbie

### August

02 Dan Young  
09 Beth Ziepfel  
16 Greg Young  
23 Alan Marsh  
30 Youth Group

## Communion Preparers

July 5                      Gayla Young  
August 2                  Jerry Rohrer

## Trustee of the Month

July                         Dan Young  
August                     Clarence Bohne

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## Attendance

### May

03..... 74  
10..... 72  
17..... 74  
24..... 61  
31.....52

### June

07..... 70  
14..... 80  
21..... 69  
28..... 58

*Thankful for You!*

# JULY



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

**Communication Meeting** - Wednesday, **July 1st**, 6:30 pm, Annex

**RAMM** - Thursday, **July 2nd**, 6pm, Annex

**Ben Tweedt Celebration of Music** - Sunday, **July 12th**,  
(Reception to follow)

**Trustees Meeting** - Tuesday, **July 14th**, 5:30 pm, Annex

**Session Meeting** - Tuesday, **July 14th**, 7pm, Annex

**Joy Group Outing** - Thursday, **July 16th**, 1:00 pm, Shaker Trace  
Nursery (Meet at Church at 1pm)

**RAMM Food Pantry** - Saturday, **July 18th**, 10am - 11:30am,  
Ross Administration Building

**Bob Evans Fundraiser** - Monday, **July 20th** 7am - 9pm  
(Main Street Location, Hamilton)

**NOTE: Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd  
in observance of Independence Day**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PARISH LIFE**

No potluck luncheon in July.

The third Monday of July, **July 20th**, is our fundraiser at the Hamilton Main Street location, 7 am - 9 pm. Eat in or carryout. Just be sure you let them know when paying. Thru May, we have raised \$505. Thank you very much for supporting this fundraiser.

## MISSION

Thanks to Beth Ziepfel, who reserved the date for the Matthew 25 volunteer group, eleven youth and adults from VPC spent a busy two hours sorting clothing at the Blue Ash facility on June 23rd. Those eleven volunteers were Greg Young, Kim Young, Jan Krier, Beth Ziepfel, Julia Ziepfel, Winnie Ziepfel, Sharon Tragesser, Jenny Grubbs and her grandson Theo, Chris Mastin, and Sue Pigg. Thank you all for volunteering! A big thank you also to Jan Krier, Greg Young, and Beth Ziepfel for transporting people and products. Our congregants' monetary donations in the form of a check totaling \$200 were also delivered to Matthew 25. Many, many thanks for your generosity!

Those of us who were new to the experience also went on a tour and learned that Matthew 25 serves people not only in the US, but all around the world when floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, or food/home insecurities are occurring. Matthew 25 is one of the largest relief agencies in the world! Their website is full of useful information, like what donations they will accept and that a family or small group of four can just walk-in on a Saturday 2-4pm to volunteer—although pre-registering is always appreciated.

July brings planning for the Back-to-School Event, and Mission dollars will again be used to purchase headphones and earbuds for Elda students in need.

Community Outreach continues to need sorted and flattened plastic bags to make mats, as well as gently used blankets, socks, and shoes. Non-perishable food items are always needed for VPC Pantry and RAMM. RAMM can also use personal care items. Beverage tabs are still being collected for Shriners, and Haven House can use cleaning supplies, paper goods, and kids' cereal.

If you or a special person has a birthday in July, a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church is a great way to honor that person! Birthday Blessings donations will be used to spread blessings around our community, through our continued support of Harts for Hope and other community projects.



**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](http://www.rammbutler.org)**

The next RAMM meeting will be on **Thursday, July 2nd**, 6pm in the Annex.

The RAMM monthly pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 11:30am at the Ross Administration Building. 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.

## Deacons

The next Deacons Meeting will be on **September 7th** at **6pm** in the Annex.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Wilma Butterfield  
4111 Brown Farm Dr.  
Hamilton, OH 45013**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nancy Renner  
c/o Jill Meyer  
1230 Catalpa Ride Dr.  
Lebanon, OH 45036**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bernice Roop  
3948 Ficus Ct.  
Hamilton, OH 45013**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bill & Jane Wickert  
Austin Woods Community  
3583 Austin Road  
Geneva, OH 44041**

*Please call the church office (513-738-1317) or  
email (churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com) with  
any address change*



SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31
<p><b>Potluck Luncheon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship</li> <li>11am Junior Church</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Boy Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Comm N</li> </ul>
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship</li> <li>11am Junior Church</li> </ul>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>No Boy Scouts</b></p>	
<p>12</p> <p><b>Ben Tweedt Music Celebration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship</li> <li>11am Junior Church</li> </ul>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>No Boy Scouts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30pm Trustees Meeting</li> <li>7pm Session Meeting</li> </ul>	
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship</li> <li>11am Junior Church</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am Bob Evans Fundraiser</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <p><b>No Boy Scouts</b></p> <p><b>No Dorcas Meeting</b></p>	
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship</li> <li>11am Junior Church</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>No Boy Scouts</b></p>	

**REMINDER:** Anytime there are changes or cancellations to our church calendar, changes can be made to the office hard copy and the website calendar. Thank you.

**Office Number:**  
**Email:** churchoffice@...



WED Jul 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
Meeting	● 6pm RAMM - Annex	Office Closed Independence Day (substitute)	Independence Day
8	9	10	11
15	16 ● 1pm Joy Group Shaker Trace Nurser	17	18 RAMM Food Pantry
22	23	24	25
29	30	31	Aug 1

endar, please remember to call or email the church office so that the  
ks so much!


ber: 513-738-1317  
ce@thevenicechurch.com



**BOB EVANS FUNDRAISER:** Thank you to everyone who participated in the May Fundraiser at Bob Evans on Main Street in Hamilton. The next Bob Evans Fundraiser is on **Monday, July 20th**. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BIG THANKS!**

To Venice Dorcas Circle and Venice Togetherness Circle: Thank you so much for your donation to Harts for Hope!. We are Thankful to have your support for the work we do in our Community! With Love, Ali Allen and The Harts for Hope Team. 

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers for my recent and unexpected hospital stay. I'm so grateful for all you! VPC has always been a wonderful church home for my family. Blessings to all of you!  
Kara Brandenburg

Thanks for Beth Zeipfel for being the VBS Director this year. Because of her hard work, organization, and care she made this the best week of the Summer!!



### Rainforest Falls VBS TEAM

A huge THANK YOU to all who gave their time to make VBS a success this year! Everyone gave of themselves so fully and willingly and the record number of kids who attended were blessed by the love of God shown through the words, actions, smiles and love of His people.

<b>Crafts:</b> Jen Guenther, Lois Beppard	<b>Sticky Scripture:</b> Kim Young, Dyllan Brandenburg	<b>Snacks:</b> Sharon Tragesser, Jenny Grubbs, Jan Krier, Chris Mastin
<b>Imagination Station:</b> Karlena Boyle	<b>Bible Adventures:</b> Pastor Owen Derrick, Dave and Sue Toler, Jerry Rohrer, Rev. Clif Bailey	<b>Games:</b> Becky Berling, Cindy Licata, Andrew Garland
<b>Registration, Check-in:</b> Martha Young, Sharon Thompson Monday Registration crew: Jean Wilhelm & Emily Young	<b>Music:</b> Aly Bailey <b>Opening/Closing:</b> Aly Bailey, Kim Young, Dyllan Brandenburg	<b>Publicity, Administration:</b> Emily Goodwin, Carole Gilmore, Martha Young, Beth Ziepfel
<b>Tech Team:</b> Bob Young, Owen Ziepfel, Audrey Sparks  <b>Spotlight Video:</b> Elianne Derrick	<b>Group Leaders:</b> <b>TOUCANS</b> - Gayla Young, Barb and Candace Fathman <b>TREE FROGS</b> - Winnie Ziepfel, Ella Young <b>CHEETAHS</b> - Trish Lutterbie, Kyler Grey <b>CHIMPANZEES</b> - Sue Pigg, Addison Asher <b>PYTHONS</b> - Chloe Godbey, Quincy Dillaman <b>SUPER SUBS:</b> Kaylee Grey, Julia Ziepfel, Mary Unwin, Reagan Beneker	
<b>Decorations:</b> Gayla & Dan Young Sharon & Denny Thompson Becky & Pete Berling Kim & Greg Young Chris Mastin Jen Guenther Jenny Grubbs Chloe Godbey		
Cindy Licata Emily Goodwin Sue Pigg Richard and Nolan Bohne Karlena and Garrett Boyle Jill and Chris Foxx Mary and Kevin Unwin		

## JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



### JOY (Just Older Youth) Group

The JOY Group went to Garver's Family Farm Market in Middletown for lunch at our last outing. The food was very tasty, and I recommend everyone going to their site on Facebook to see

what their daily specials are each week.

Our July outing will be held on **July 16<sup>th</sup>**. Due to the time of the tour that we will be taking of the new Shaker Trace Nursery, we will meet at the church at **1:00 p.m.** for a 1:30 p.m. reservation time. After the tour of Shaker Trace, we will be going down to Kreimer's Restaurant in Miamitown for an early dinner.

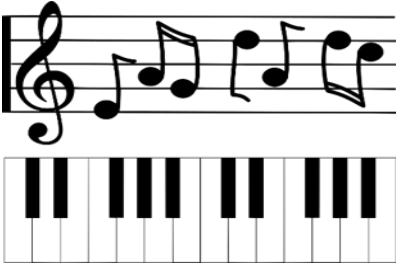
So, plan to eat a light lunch since we will be having some good German food for dinner at around 3:00 p.m. We plan to be back to Ross at around 5:00



p.m. I hope you will plan to join us for food, fun, and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at [gaylayoung@fuse.net](mailto:gaylayoung@fuse.net).

## CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF BEN TWEEDT

Plan to join us during the worship service on **July 12<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate Ben Tweedt and his musical talent. We will be listening to some of Ben's favorite songs and have a chance



to sing along with him to some of our favorites. Then plan to stay after worship for a coffee hour reception time to honor Ben and what his music has meant to our congregation.

## CHURCH OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC



Be sure to mark your calendar for the annual church outdoor worship and picnic to be held on **September 13, 2026** at from **10:30am** until **3:00pm**. It will be held at Heritage Park again this year. Chicken, drinks, and service ware will be provided, but each family is asked to bring a potluck dish to share. There will be more information as we

get closer to September.

# July

## ***BIRTHDAYS***

- 06 Sorin Davis
- 07 Jacob Butzin
- 08 Candy Wepler
- 16 Dyllan Brandenburg
- 17 Kim Williams
- 18 Joey Godbey
- 18 Tom Kirk
- 23 Darlene Reynolds
- 25 Crystal Beneker
- 27 Becky Berling
- 29 Debbie Schwab
- 31 John Krier
- 31 Chase Young



## ***ANNIVERSARIES***

- 07 Jerry and Helen Rohrer
- 11 Kevin and Mary Unwin
- 11 Michael and Beth Ziepfel
- 12 Leon and Marcia Collinsworth
- 20 John and Jan Krier



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

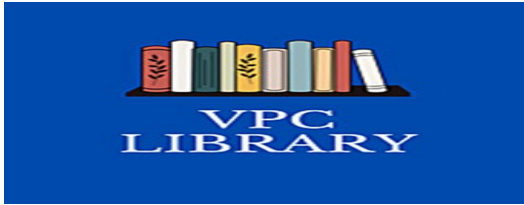
- **New members** - if you aren't a member at VPC but would like to find out what membership entails.
- **Confirmation** - anyone who hasn't been confirmed yet, or who wants to know what that means.
- **First Communion** - normally for children who haven't been taking communion. (Here at VPC, I work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

## Prayers

**\*\* Prayers for Kara Brandenburg, Wilma Butterfield, Marcia Collinsworth, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Bernice Roop, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, 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 at this time.**



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](http://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](mailto:dkhderrick@gmail.com)).



