

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

January 2022

Established 1828



*“Reaching God through:
Enrichment, Education and Extending Our Hands”*

Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road

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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

Youth Group - during worship



The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

Sunday
January 2, 2022

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Venice Presbyterian
Church!



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STAFF

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Debbie Schwab

Choir Director
Jacob Butzin

Music Director
Ben Tweedt

Custodian
Mike Schwab

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

Hello Venice Presbyterian Church! Welcome to January 2022. As we go into another year of following Jesus, serving our fellow humans, and welcoming others into our community, I am so thankful for all of you.

This month gives us a slow, sabbath-filled start. On January 8th, all deacons and ruling elders will be going through officer training. On January 9th in our Sunday morning worship service, they all will be ordained and installed together, as the leaders of our church, being our examples of following Jesus, serving others, and welcoming others. What a huge joy!

The group who has traveled through the book of Revelations and an Advent devotional study asked me, "What's next?!" This makes my heart so happy because I love learning, teaching, and growing with you all. So, onto the answer of what is next. Beginning January 13th (Thursday) at 6:30pm, we will begin meeting together again to discuss the book, *How the Bible Actually Works: In Which I Explain How An Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That's Great News* By Peter Enns · 2019.

This is a book that I read during one of my personal study leaves that still is inspiring me and calling me to the Bible more and more. It is a funny, challenging, and insightful book that will of course lead to spirit-filled conversations between participants. The book has wonderful maps, examples, and insights from the Old Testament professor and scholar Peter Enns. If you are interested, please let Pastor Mary know! Everyone is welcome and invited!!! Also, feel free to purchase your own copy of the book for the study. If you need help with purchasing it, please let Pastor Mary know.

Finally, in worship we will begin hearing stories on Jesus' birth, life, and ministry from all four gospels. For those of you who took the time to fill out the SurveyMonkey that was sent out, thank you! 12/14 participants voted for passages from all four gospels. I am very excited to go through this preaching series with all of you from January 9th through Lent to Easter Sunday.

I also look forward to being back with you all after vacation on January 5th.

Happy New Year!
Peace and love, Pastor Mary

Deacons

The Deacons will be will be meeting on Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30pm in the Annex.

Giving Tree Envelopes

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Giving Tree fund! We collected \$1,300.00! We were able to provide 26 families with a \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift card!

Many thanks to all persons who donated holiday cakes, cupcakes, brownies, breads and cookies to our RAMM Christmas Pantry. All of the desserts were so festive and looked delicious! I am sure the patrons were appreciative and had a brighter holiday due to all of you and your kindness.

Thank you so much!
Martha Young

The Venice Presbyterian Church pantry has had 172 visits through December. 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



Any questions, please see Dave Wheat, Carole Wheat or Rick Wepler.

This will give you an update on the Income vs Expenses for December and the year. Thank you for your continued financial support of the church.

| | EXPECTED FOR DECEMBER | ACTUAL FOR DECEMBER | STATUS FOR THE YEAR vs EXPECTED |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 2020 PLEDGES | 0 | 0 | \$2,116 |
| INCOME | \$12,020 | \$30,028* | \$18,574 |
| EXPENSES | \$18,810 | \$18,705** | -\$15,814 |

*Includes \$13,950 in 2022 pledges

**Estimated

Our operating expenses in total for the year are more than our income by \$59,818.

Major projects that have been done at the church this year which were not included in the budget are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Completion of attic cleaning: | \$16,008 |
| Live streaming services: | \$10,760 |
| Rewire Annex for internet: | \$ 3,267 |
| TOTAL | \$30,465 |

Major projects and operating expenses have utilized \$65,000 from investments in 2021.

Anyone who would like to review our full financial report for the month, please contact me.

Bob Young
Treasurer of VPC

ANNUAL REPORT

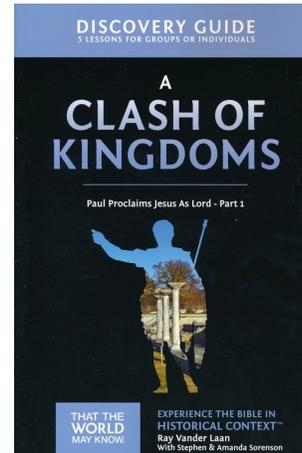
All committee reports for the 2021 Annual Report are due in to the office by Friday, January 14, 2022.

If you need a copy of last years report for reference, please contact the church office.

Christian Education

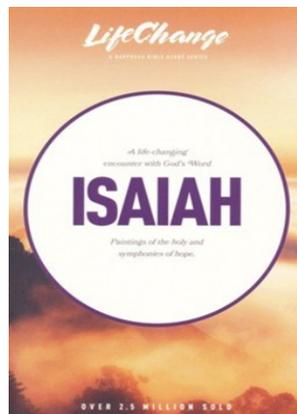
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kim Young will begin the final series of Ray Vander Laan's *Cultures in Conflict* on Sunday, January 9th at 9:00. Ray Vander Laan is amazing at explaining the Bible in a cultural and historical context. He compares scripture from all the Old and New Testament and makes it relevant to your life.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Judy Bohne is continuing her *Isaiah* Bible study on Thursday, January 6th at 9:30am. There are still books available so you can start the Bible Study in January. We are in a great place to start with the positive half of Isaiah.



Youth Group

The Youth Group's big outing is on December 29th and 30th. The older youth will be going to the Embassy Suites by Hilton Cincinnati RiverCenter Hotel in Covington, Kentucky. Everyone will be attending the Cincinnati Zoo's Festival of Lights that evening. Afterwards, there will be swimming in the indoor pool. Female chaperones will be with the ladies and a male chaperone will be with the gentlemen. It will be a sweet end to 2021.

The Session is actively searching for an Intermediate age Youth Director to work with our youth from 4th through 6-7th grade. It will be similar to KICK (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) and will meet during church. Pastor Mary has posted it on the Cincinnati Presbytery website.

Junior Church

The December 12th Christmas program called *An Impromptu Christmas* written by Gayla Young was such a success. Thank you Gayla for all your hard work and all the others who were helpful to her to put on such a cute play. Junior Church will continue to be held after the Choir song.

We are again looking for someone to do the fourth week of the month. All the materials are there and we hope for a volunteer ASAP.

MISSIONS

HAVEN HOUSE GIFT CARDS

Haven House Emergency Shelter is located in Hamilton and it is the only shelter which takes in families. We are so pleased to announce that we collected over \$1200 in gift cards. There will be a lot of happy families served by our congregation! The Haven House staff was thrilled!!!

ONE WAY FARM

We continue to have congregants bring good smelling items for the kids at One Way Farm. We have all the cakes and decorations through January. Later, a list for the February and March birthdays will be upstairs for sign up. We just had a Paw Patrol themed birthday for an 8 year-old who was so excited.

HOMELESS SHELTER

We have been able to give Tami Adams lots of warm hats, gloves and socks for the homeless. We need to have a committee meeting because Tami wants to talk to us about doing other things to help. Even though Kim is leaving the committee, she is committed to Missions at VPC.

Thank you for all the love, prayers and support we received during the loss of Mike's dad and my father-in-law, *Vernon Tragesser*. Your cards and visits to the funeral home were so comforting and uplifting!

We so appreciate you and our church family! *Mike and Sharon Tragesser*



Kim Young wants to thank the Presbyterian Women for the surprise of being made a Honorary Life Membership. It was a such a special moment and loved sharing the honor with Becky.

Thanks,
Kim



RAMM

The RAMM monthly open pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 11:30am, at the Ross Schools Administration Building. The monthly open pantry had 592 visitors thru December 2021. 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

Our next RAMM meeting will be held on Thursday, January 6th at 6:30pm at the VPC annex.



We thank the many donors, sponsors and volunteers that stepped up for our Thanksgiving and Christmas events. More than 100 families visited the Sharing Closet, and were provided food and gifts for the holidays!

We are so blessed by the number of people from VPC that show up to volunteer month after month! A very special thank you to Carole Wheat, Amy Wheat, Shirley Hamilton, Sue Toler, Diana Vereker and Helen Rohrer for keeping the Sharing closet so organized!

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



The JOY Group had a wonderful time at Ruth Guenther's house for our annual Christmas party. The food was tasty and Ruth's home is always decorated beautifully for the holiday season. Please be sure to join us in January as we head for lunch at the Market Street Grille in Harrison. We will plan to meet at the church on January 20th at 11:00 a.m. for an 11:30 reservation. There is a sign-up sheet at church or you can call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at gaylayoung@fuse.net. Hope you are able to join us for a time of food and fellowship.



January Preschool News



Happy New Year!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open to church members. Please contact the preschool at 513-738-0158 or 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 continue to work on learning the alphabet chant. We will work on counting and begin identifying those tricky teen numbers. We will continue to practice rhyming, syllables, letters, and letter sounds.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) - We will learn about the letters O, C, K, and Q, and the 2 day class will be learning about the numbers 5-10. The 3 day class will be learning about the numbers 9, 10, 11 and 12. We also will review the shapes.

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) - We will explore the letters H and I, the color blue, and the number 8. We will continue working on our names and rules for the classroom.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep **Nicara Wilson** in your prayers for healing.

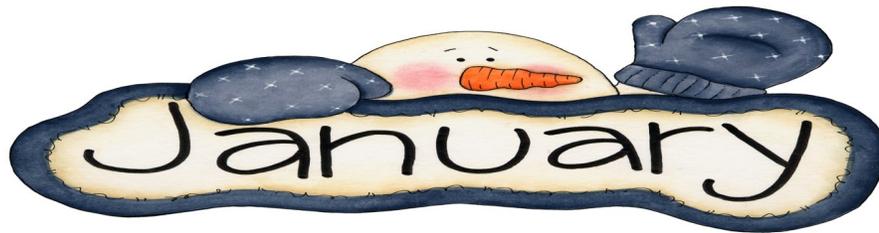
Please keep **Rick Wepler** in your prayers for healing. You may send a card to: 3209 Kirchling Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013

Please keep **Ruth Guenther** in your prayers for healing. You may send a card to: P.O. Box 175, Ross, OH 45061

Please keep **Nancy Renner** in your prayers for healing. You may send a card to: 2774 Laurie Ct, Fairfield, OH 45014

Our deepest sympathy to Barb Ross and family of **Ray Miller**. Barb's father, Ray passed away December 20, 2021. Memorials may be made to VPC, PO Box 41, Ross, OH 45061 or to Meals on Wheels, Community First, 230 Ludlow St, Hamilton, OH 45011

Please keep **Jennifer Hanson** in your prayers for healing. You may send a card to: c/o Dale & Melanie Hanson, 1634 Hine Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013



1-1 Barb Ross
1-4 Bernice Roop
1-5 Tami Adams
1-6 Rick Schwoeppe
1-9 Kim Bohne
1-22 Melanie Hanson
1-26 Donna Marsh
1-26 Bob Young
1-26 Owen Ziepfel
1-31 Alan Marsh



1-6 Rick and Sally Schwoeppe
1-14 Keith and Deloris Eby



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office. Thank you.