

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

August 2026

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

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www.thevenicechurch.com

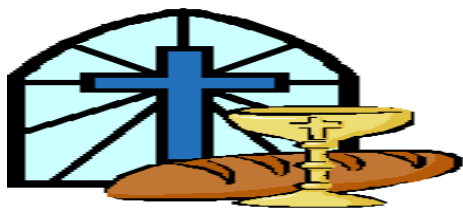
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

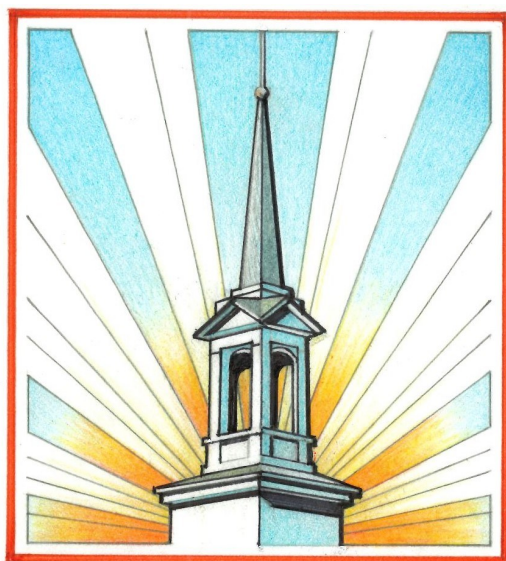




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

August 2

Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

Venice Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Owen Derrick

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Youth Director
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Choir Director
Theresa Bailey

Music Accompanist
Max Kreeger

Audio/Visual
Owen Ziepfel

Custodian
Larry Hayes

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



welcome **AUGUST**

MAY YOU FIND REFUGE UNDER THE
SHELTERING TREE OF GOD'S PRESENCE,
PROTECTED AND COMFORTED BY HIS
UNWAVERING LOVE.

THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM



Pastor's Musings

The Bible is the central text of all that is Christian. As true as that statement is, it doesn't prevent us as Christians from arguing over its contents, disagreeing over its interpretation, or dividing ourselves over doctrines that each side will claim to be "Biblically-based." Too often, I encounter people who have a real desire to explore faith, or who have in the past had a meaningful faith life, but who now shy away from "organized religion" partly because they feel ill-equipped to handle these debates.

I find that horribly sad. The words of scripture are life-giving, yet in our hubris and arrogance, we turn it into a weapon with which we beat others into submission. So, in this newsletter article, I'm going to try to put the Bible into some perspective for us.

The Bible is a book of faith

The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.

The language of Scripture is our first language of faith

The language of the Bible becomes our language. It shapes how we think and speak about God, about the world, and about ourselves. We become renewed, enlivened, and empowered as the language of Scripture forms our hearts, our minds, our community conversation, and our commitments.

We have a calling as the people of God

Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture. We are renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word. As we live into our calling as people who are formed by Scripture, we become renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered through the cross of Christ to serve God and neighbor.

The Bible is Clear...

So, recently, in my Facebook stream, I've been seeing a series of posts that present the Biblical message in what I would term a more rounded way than we normally see. You see, in reality, the Bible can be made to say just about anything. "There is no God" (Ps 14:1) If context is ignored, the words become a malleable, almost meaningless jumble of letters that we can rearrange to suit ourselves. But when we actually look at the whole counsel of Scripture, we get a better picture of what God is really saying to us. So, take a few minutes and ponder the overall picture the example below presents. Perhaps, like me, you'll find that, when you see the bigger picture, the Bible becomes clearer.

Every blessing in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Owen



THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Moabites are bad. They were not to be allowed to dwell among God's people (Dt. 23).
BUT THEN comes the story of "Ruth the Moabite," which challenges the prejudice against Moabites.

—

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: People from Uz are evil (Jer. 25).
BUT THEN comes the story of Job, a man from Uz who was the "most blameless man on earth."

—

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: No foreigners or eunuchs allowed (Dt. 23).

BUT THEN comes the story of an African eunuch welcomed into the church (Acts 8).

—

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: God's people hated Samaritans.
BUT THEN Jesus tells a story that shows not all Samaritans were bad.

—

THE STORY MAY BEGIN with prejudice, discrimination, & animosity, but the Spirit moves God's people towards openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance, & affirmation.

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

August

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

September

06 Emily Eberwine
13 Dan Young
20 Jerry Lutterbie
27 Sue Pigg

Communion Preparers

August 2 Jerry Rohrer
September 6 Joy Minks

Trustee of the Month

August Clarence Bohne
September Becky Berling

Attendance

June

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

July

05..... .. 73
12..... .. 72
19..... .. 63
26..... .. 61

Thankful for You!

August



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

Communication Meeting - Wednesday, **August 5th**, 6:30pm, Annex

RAMM - Thursday, **August 6th**, 6pm, Annex

Back-to-School Carnival - Saturday, **August 8th**, 11am-12:30pm,
Elda Elementary School

Trustees Meeting - Tuesday, **August 11th**, 5:30pm, Annex

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **August 11th**, 7pm, Annex

RAMM Food Pantry - Saturday, **August 15th**, 10am-11:30am,
Ross Administration Building

Bob Evans Fundraiser - Monday, **August 17th**, 7am - 9pm
(Main Street Location, Hamilton)

JOY Group Outing - Thursday, **August 20th**, 9:30am
Doscher Candy Factory (Meet at Church)

Youth Sundae Sunday - Sunday, **August 30th**, 9:30am

PARISH LIFE

The next Bob Evans Fundraiser is **Monday, August 17th** at the Hamilton Main Street location, 7am-9pm. Eat in or carryout. Just be sure you let them know when paying.

We are planning on reprinting the church directory in September. Look at your listing and let Carol know of any changes or additions, **513-738-1317**. We want to keep the directory as up-to-date as possible. Thank you.

Many thanks to Kim Young for putting together the back packs.

MISSIONS

A huge THANK YOU to everyone, including the LOFT group, who volunteered on Tuesday evening, July 28th, to help stuff the hygiene bags for the Back-to-School Event. 175 grade-appropriate bags for elementary, middle school, and high school students were quickly assembled in the Annex, ready to be distributed on August 8th. Many, many thanks to Tami Adams, who once again expertly facilitated and organized this part of the RAMM event!

VPC recently supported Matthew 25 Ministries with both product and monetary donations for disaster relief. On July 21, in our neighboring state of West Virginia, all 55 counties were declared a state of emergency due to flooding, mudslides, power outages, and road closures after heavy rain and storms. Matthew 25 immediately responded, bringing essential supplies and free laundry and shower services. This is just one example of what your support can help accomplish when disaster strikes.

Collection continues for gently used blankets, socks, and shoes, as well as flattened and sorted plastic grocery bags for community outreach. Haven House appreciates cleaning supplies and paper goods. VPC Pantry needs non-perishable food items, and RAMM needs personal care items, as well as non-perishable food. Beverage tabs are still being collected for Shriners.

If you or a special someone has an August birthday, a good way to honor that birthday is with a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church, located on a stand in front of the credenza in the narthex.



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

The next RAMM meeting will be on **Thursday, August 6th**, 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.



SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29
10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church		No Boy Scouts 6:30pm Assemble Back to School B	
2 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	3	4 7pm Boy Scouts	5 6:30pm Comm M
9 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	10	11 No Boy Scouts 5:30pm Trustees Meeting Annex 7pm Session Meeting	12
16 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	17 7am Bob Evans Fundraiser	18 Preschool Teacher Setup No Boy Scouts No Dorcas Meeting	19
23 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	24 Preschool Teacher Setup	25 Preschool Teacher Setup 7pm Boy Scouts	26 Preschool Teacher
30 Youth Sundae Sunday 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church	31 Preschool Teacher Setup	Sep 1 Preschool Orientation 6pm Deacons Mtg 7pm Boy Scouts	Sep 2 Preschool Orientation 12:30pm VPP Bo 6:30pm Comm M

Office Number: 51
Email: churchoffice@theyoungmens.org

August

ED 9	THU 30	FRI 31 ● 5:30pm Youth Pool Party	SAT Aug 1
5 Meeting	6 ● 6pm RAMM - Annex	7	8 ● 10am Youth Group-B-T-S Setup ● 11am Back to School-Elda School
12	13	14	15 RAMM Food Pantry
19 ● 9:30am JOY Group-Doscher Candy	20	21	22
26 Setup	27 Preschool Teacher Setup	28 Preschool Teacher Setup	29
2 ion ard Meeting Meeting	3 Preschool-1st Day ● 6pm RAMM - Annex	4	5

3-738-1317
venicechurch.com



BOB EVANS FUNDRAISER: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fundraiser at Bob Evans on Main Street in Hamilton. The next Bob Evans Fundraiser is on **Monday, August 17th**. 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.

Deacons

The next Deacons Meeting will be on **September 1st** at **6pm** in the Annex.

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

COFFEE CONVERSATIONS (Thursday mornings @ 9:30 am in the annex)

“Coffee Conversation” will resume **Thursday, September 17th**. Labor Day is later this year. We are working through *The God of His Word*. The names of God will be explored and we will discover what those names reveal about God's nature and character. We will also learn that God's love, mercy and care for His creation never changes. The God of His word always keeps His word and He promises to always care for you! We will review **Session 1 "God of Creation"** and begin **Session 2 "God of Mercy"**. Those of you who have your books, please read those lessons and those who would like to join us, I have books for you. Let me know if you have any questions.

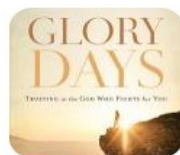


Judy Bohne (513)895-3079

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sunday mornings @9:00 am)

Our Adult Sunday School class will start on **Sunday, September 20th at 9:00 am**. We will be doing Max Lucado's *Glory Days Living Your Promised Land Life Now*.

Synopsis: Life has a way of taking the life out of us. Often we go through situations where the challenge seems so much greater than our strength. During such times, we can find hope and inspiration from the story of Joshua. God is telling us that our best days - our "glory days" - are still ahead of us. We only need to grasp that truth and live in faith to realize the promise.



NOW WHY THE 20TH? Greg and I will be out of town from **September 5 to September 13**.

Kim Young



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group

Our July outing to Shaker Trace Nursery was very interesting. We appreciated the tour of their updated facility. We then had a wonderful time of food and fellowship at Kreimer's

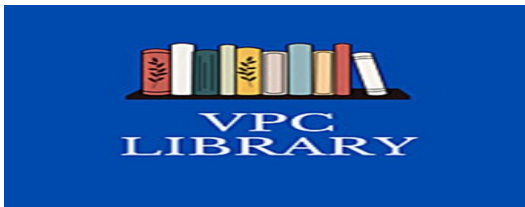
Restaurant in Miamitown. Our

next outing will be on **Thursday, August 20th**. I have tickets for a tour of the Doscher Candy Factory in Newtown, Ohio. Tickets are \$15 to go on the tour and there is limited space available, so plan to sign up early to reserve your spot. We are also planning to have brunch before going on the tour. I am still waiting for confirmation on the location. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and have brunch and then go on to Newtown for a scheduled tour at 12:30 p.m. We hope that you are able to join in on the fun! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at gaylayoung@fuse.net.

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.





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.

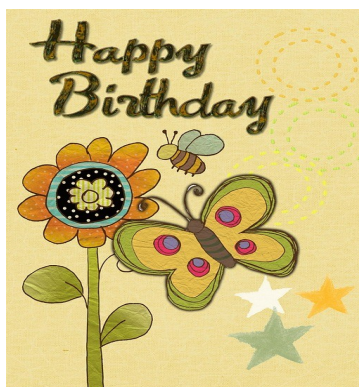
Checking out books - there is a link to the library catalog on the Venice Presbyterian Church [website](http://www.thevenicechurch.com) www.thevenicechurch.com. Feel free to peruse the collection. To keep check out simple, there will be a 3-ring binder on the white table. Please write the title of the 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).



BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Dave Toler
- 4 Jasmine Ross
- 4 Tracy Smith
- 5 Pastor Owen Derrick
- 9 Nate Bailey
- 12 Missy Jo Peacock
- 13 Emily Young Eberwine
- 17 Jean Wilhelm
- 18 Martha Young
- 20 Ted Young
- 21 Joyce Brown
- 24 Jan Krier
- 24 Jerry Lutterbie
- 24 Mike Peacock
- 25 Lois Metzger
- 26 Vicki Kirk



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dave and Carole Wheat
- 4 Dan and Gayla Young
- 12 Pete and Becky Berling
- 17 Richard and Diana Vereker
- 20 Bill and Jane Wickert
- 20 Ted and Saralee Young
- 22 Bill and Lee Steenken
- 29 John and Joyce Brown
- 31 Dan and Bonnie Doherty



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, Joan Wright, Bob Young.**

****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.**

