

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

June 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

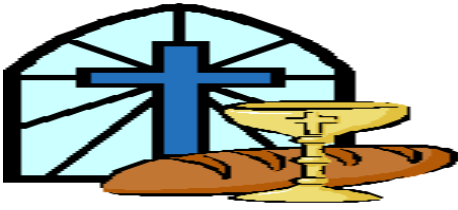
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

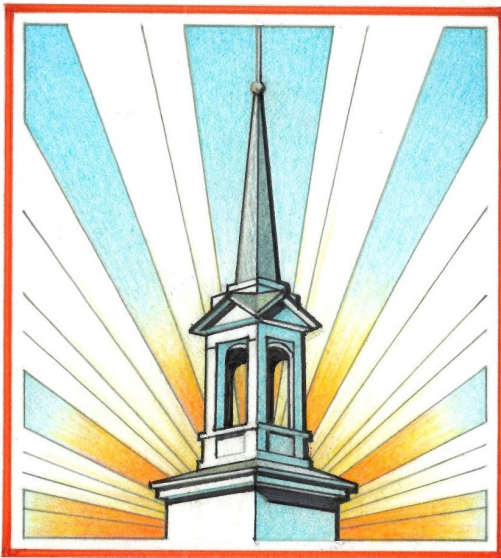




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

June 7

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Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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Pastor
Rev. Owen Derrick

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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.



JUNE

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



Pastor's Musings

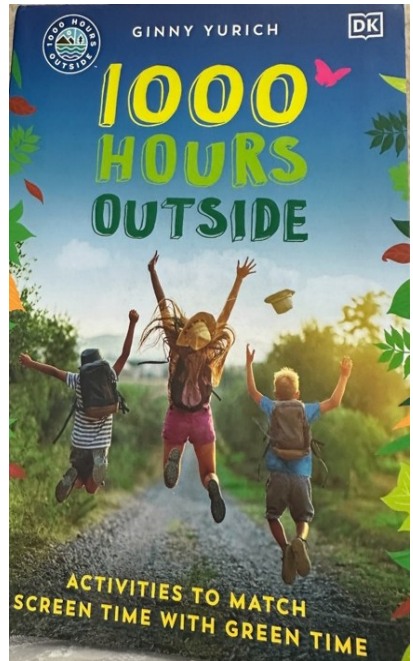
For this month's newsletter article, I'm going to do something I've never done before. I'm going to re-issue a previous newsletter article! As I was trying to think of what to say this month, I looked back at June last year and found the article below. As a result of me personally taking the message on board last year, I am now lighter, fitter, and have found a recreational activity I enjoy in soccer refereeing. So, I thought I'd re-publish the article, a) to remind myself to pay attention to my own words, and b) to remind us all of the wonderful world we inhabit, and the opportunities it affords us to enjoy God's glorious creation. So – from June 2025 (slightly edited) – here it is!

**I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 121:1-2

During a recent Sunday service, for the “Purple Bag” moment with the children (if you need to know about the “Purple Bag,” drop me a note and I'll tell you), Eddie and Ben Guenther brought a book to share. It was called *1000 Hours Outside: Activities to Match Screen Time with Green Time*. The concept of the book is that together, families (and individuals) can become intentional about tearing themselves away from all of the electronic media that tends to entrap us in our homes and replace that with time spent in the open air, enjoying God's creation.

I admit that the whole idea has caught my attention. During my talk with the kids that followed finding the book in the bag, I felt inspired to take the approaching summer months as an impetus to encourage the congregation to take on the challenge of finding 3 hours a day to get outside. It needn't be strenuous, or even activity-based. Sitting on your back porch watching the grass grow counts toward your 3 hours!





And, since I know we have some members in our congregation who are house-bound, I made the executive decision (since we're making the rules up as we go along anyway!) that anyone visiting someone who can't get out can count that time toward their 3 hours – because, let's face it, your visit is like a breath of fresh air to that person. (And, incidentally, it'll be like a breath of fresh air to you too!)

I've even had a word with our congregational librarian, and she has agreed to purchase a few copies of the book for the church library! So – no excuses. Let's enjoy the approaching summer and take this opportunity to step out into God's beautiful world.

As we lift up our eyes, we see God's creation with renewed perspective. With eyes cast down – whether through sadness, or insecurity, or to check phone messages – we miss so much of the universe around us. We fail to see the glory in a beautiful sunset, the majesty of a towering oak tree, or the vast panoply of night-time stars that are spread across the night sky. We also miss the joyful glint in a loved-one's eyes, the neighbor playing catch with his son in the yard, the Amazon driver stopping to let a family of ducks cross the road.

So, let's agree to accept the challenge of 3 hours a day outdoors. With heads held high!

Have a truly blessed Summer,

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

June

07 Kim Young
14 Dan Young
21 Beth Ziepfel
28 Lee Steenken

July

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

Communion Preparers

June 7	Sue Pigg
July 5	Gayla Young

Trustee of the Month

June	Garrett Boyle
July	Dan Young

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE HOUR
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH.**

Attendance

April

05.....131 (Easter Sunday)
12..... 73
19.....67
26.....67

May

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

Thankful for You!

JUNE



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

Announcements

Communication Meeting - Wednesday, **June 3rd**, 6:30pm, Annex

RAMM - Thursday, **June 4th**, 6pm, Annex

Vacation Bible School - **June 8th – 12th**, 9am—11:45am

Trustees - Tuesday, **June 9th**, 5:30pm, Annex

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **June 9th**, 6:30pm, Annex

Bob Evans Fundraiser - Monday, **June 15th**, 7am - 9pm
(Main Street Location, Hamilton)

JOY GROUP - Thursday, **June 18th**, 11:30am, Garver's Family
Farm Market (**Meet at Church at 10:30am**)

RAMM Food Pantry - Saturday, **June 20th**, 10am - 11:30am,
Ross Administration Building

Potluck Luncheon - Sunday, **June 28th**, After Service

PARISH LIFE

Thank you to everyone who has brought in plastic bags to be made into mats and carrier bags for the homeless. Please check your bags before bringing them to church. Bags must be clean with no holes or slits.

Our next fundraiser at Bob Evans on Main Street in Hamilton is **Monday, June 15th, 7am to 9pm**. Dine-in or carryout. Just show flyer at check-out. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!

Our next potluck luncheon is after church on June 28th. Please bring food to share. As always, there will be great food and fellowship you don't want to miss.

MISSIONS

Tuesday, **June 23rd, from 1-3 pm** is Matthew 25 Volunteer Day! VPC has booked that day and time at Matthew 25 to volunteer on-site in whatever way is helpful to them. This is a hands-on opportunity for all ages, youth, and adults. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the top of the stairs. We hope for a large group of 15-20 people.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported Matthew 25 with prayer, products, or monetary donations.

We received a very appreciative email from Harts for Hope, thanking both Missions' Birthday Blessings Fund and the Women's Circles for their generous donations. In addition, their quarterly newsletter arrived, sharing the news that, despite the cold, they partied with fifty-seven kids in four neighborhoods and celebrated twenty-nine birthdays in the first quarter of 2026!

Thanks to Joy Minks, the little Birthday Blessings Church has a new stand for better visibility. The idea is that it will be placed in **FRONT** of the credenza instead of hiding at the end of the credenza. If you or a special person has a June birthday, a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church is a great way to honor that birthday! Those Birthday Blessings Funds will then be used to make kids' birthdays more special by supporting Harts for Hope.

Community Outreach continues to collect gently used blankets, shoes, socks, and sorted and flattened plastic, grocery-sized bags for mats. VPC Pantry needs non-perishable food items, and RAMM needs personal care items, as well as peanut and jelly, canned meats, spaghetti meals, etc. Beverage tabs are still being collected for Shriners, and Haven House appreciates paper goods, cleaning products, kids' cereal, powdered coffee creamer, apple juice, and jarred Alfredo sauce.

Deacons

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



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

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

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

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

The next RAMM meeting will be on **Thursday, June 4th**, 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.

June Preschool News

Normally we do not put anything in the June newsletter since we are on summer break. I wanted to share some pictures with you from this year. Pastor Owen came to visit and speak with our students every Wednesday and Thursday morning during the school year.

As preschool goes, there were many wiggles, many off topic stories to share, and many reminders to keep their hands in their own lap. Even though they struggled at times to sit still and listen, they were very happy to see Pastor Owen when he came in. When it was time for him to leave, he would get many hugs.

When Pastor Owen missed a day after he fell, our students were concerned that he was hurt and many wanted to make get well soon cards for him. One student wrote some letters on the front of his card and told me it said, “Happy Splat Day!”

They loved acting out the story of The Good Samaritan and they thought it was great that Pastor Owen played the part of the injured man by laying on the ground. Recently, they loved how he was able to “magically” pull a coin from behind their ears.

Thank you, Pastor Owen for your patience and humor with our sweet students!





SUN 31	MON Jun 1	TUE 2	WED 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Comm Me
7	8	9	10
NO COFFEE HOUR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 12pm Church Reserve-Joy Minks 		Vacation Bible School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Trustees Meeting Annex 6:30pm Session Meeting 	
14	15	16	17
Flag Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am Bob Evans Fundraiser 7am/9pm 		
21	22	23	24
Father's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Mathew 25 Ministries 	
28	29	30	Jul
Potluck Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Comm Me

REMINDER: Anytime there are changes or cancellations to our church calendar, please make to the office hard copy and the website calendar. Thanks so much!

Office Num
Email: churchoffic

D	THU	FRI	SAT
Meeting	4 ● 6pm RAMM - Annex	5	6
	11	12	13
	18 ● 10:30am JOY Group Luncheon	19 Juneteenth	20 RAMM Food Pantry
	25	26	27
Meeting	2 ● 6pm RAMM - Annex	3 Independence Day (substitute)	4 Independence Day

Please remember to call or email the church office so that the changes can be

Number: 513-738-1317
 Email: office@thevenicechurch.com



Vacation Bible School

VBS 2026 is coming soon! Please join us **June 8-12** from **9:00-11:45am** as we visit Rainforest Falls and explore the nature of God! Children ages 4-entering 6th grade are encouraged to register at www.thevenicechurch.com. Paper registration forms will be available in the church office or upstairs on the table outside the sanctuary as well.

Many, many volunteers are needed as well! If you are interested in helping set up or tear down, helping with activities or groups during the week, please contact Beth Z at **513-490-5048** or email at givemeaz303@gmail.com to make it official.

Let's make it the best week of the summer!

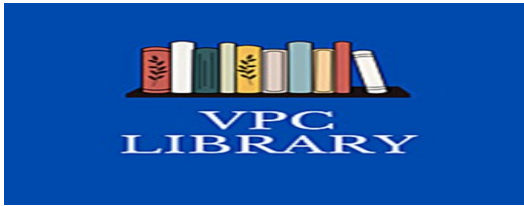




I believe that I am speaking for the entire congregation, when I say a big **THANK YOU** to the LOFT Youth Group and the Ziepfel Family helpers. The Mother's Day Brunch was delicious and we Mothers did not have to lift a finger to help. We appreciate all of you who shopped, diced, cooked, served and cleaned up after our special brunch.

Thank you from All of the Mothers and Others!





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).

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



On **May 17th** we celebrated Graduation Sunday and honored the young people associated with our congregation. Pictured is **Chole Godbey** who graduated from Miami University and will be teaching at her high school alma mater, Ross High School.

Also being honored were the following:

Michael Shafer, the grandson of John and Sue Pigg, who also graduated from Miami University.

Mazzy Ozias, the granddaughter of Rick and Candy Weppler, graduated from the University of Cincinnati

Kohen Mabry, great grandson of Lois Beddard, graduated from Ross High School and Butler Tech and **Francesca Ray Beddard**, Lois' granddaughter graduated from The University of Virginia.

Ella Margaret Young, the granddaughter of Bob and Martha Young graduated from Butler Tech.

Ethan Bohne, grandson of Richard and Judy Bohne, graduated from Purdue University.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



Last month the JOY Group went to LaComedia Dinner Theatre to see the musical, Jesus Christ Superstar. The food was amazing and the play was outstanding! In the month of June, we will be taking a trip to Garver's Family Farm Market in Middletown for lunch at their delicatessen and hopefully a tour of the market. We will plan

to meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 18th to arrive for an 11:30 reservation time. 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, do not hesitate to call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at gavlayoung@fuse.net.



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, June 15th**. 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.

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 Wilma Butterfield, Marcia Collinsworth, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, 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 currently.**

June

BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Sally Schwoeppe
- 06 Grace Asher
- 06 Gary McBreen
- 07 Genevra Butterfield
- 07 Elianne Derrick
- 07 Carol Shelton
- 11 Ashley Kirk
- 13 Keith Eby
- 25 Don Osborn
- 29 Gwen Kohlman
- 30 Judy Bohne



ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Tom and Cindy Licata
- 12 Matt and Kara Brandenburg
- 18 Tom and Vicki Kirk
- 18 Mike and Debbie Schwab
- 21 Marcus and Jennifer Guenther
- 23 Dennis and Jennifer Rauen
- 25 Ben and Angie Tweedt
- 29 Allen and Karlana Boyle



MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES DISASTER RELIEF: NEEDED PRODUCTS

VPC is supporting Matthew 25 in their disaster relief efforts in the Central and Midwestern United States. Your donations will help them restock their supplies and allow ongoing aid to those affected by the severe storms in March. The items below were suggested by Matthew 25. Please put them on the table under the stairs in the downstairs lobby (where the puzzles were):

1. **Cases of bottled water**—12 or 24 count
2. **Personal care products**— antibacterial soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, lotion, etc.
3. **Cleaning supplies**—laundry detergents, general cleaner, sponges, bleach (powdered preferred), mops, scrub brushes, buckets, rubber gloves, etc.
4. **Paper products**—Toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
5. **Baby/infant supplies**—diapers, wipes, diaper rash ointment, baby wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion, etc.
6. **First aid items**—Bandages, gauze, pads, first aid tape, antiseptic creams, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, instant cold packs, etc.
7. **Candles and flashlights**—include appropriate batteries for flashlights.
8. **Clean-up supplies**—Protective eyewear, work gloves, garbage bags, etc.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can write a check to Venice Presbyterian with Matthew 25 Disaster Relief in the memo, and we will then send one check to Matthew 25.

Thank you so much for your support!

