

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

February 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

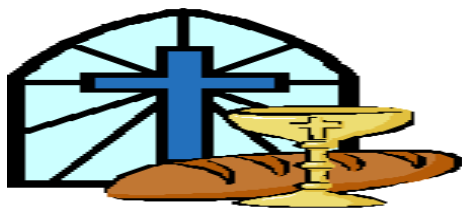
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

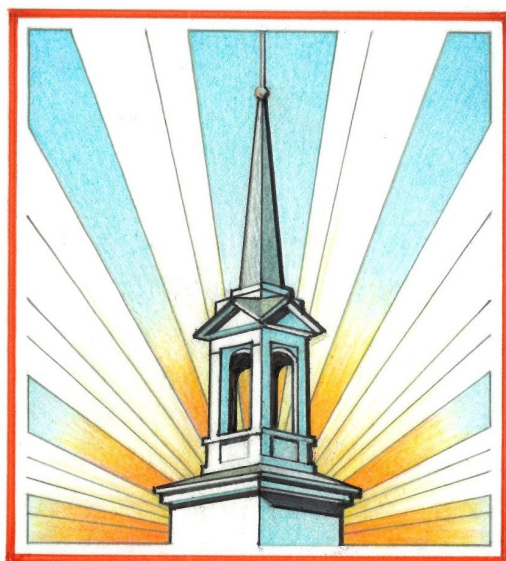




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

February 1

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Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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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

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

The background is a solid, vibrant red. Scattered across the left side and top are several hearts made from white paper, some of which are folded or rolled into intricate shapes. The main text is centered on the right side in a white, elegant script font.

Hello February

May you trust in God's perfect plan
and timing this month, knowing
that He is working all things
together for your good.



Pastor's Musings

This year, Easter falls quite early, meaning that Lent will be starting in the middle of February with the Ash Wednesday service on February 18th.

Even though we'll be leaving the season of Epiphany, we should carry the light of Epiphany into our Lenten journey. While many see Lent as a solemn – maybe even dull – season, we should never lose sight of the fact that we are light for the world (Matthew 5:14) and we carry the Light of the world (John 8:12) with us wherever we go – even into the recesses of self-examination during Lent.

I'm doing something a little bit different this Lenten season. We will be holding Wednesday lunchtime services throughout Lent. We'll meet at **12:15** in the fellowship hall (after the preschool leaves) and we'll have a short, informal gathering during which, we will look at the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's gospel, and specifically about how it informs our lives today, in the world we find ourselves.

Wednesday, February 18, Ash Wednesday – 7 pm (supper at 6 pm)

Sunday, February 22, Lent I – 10:30 am

***Wednesday, February 25, Lunchtime service – 12:15 pm
(fellowship hall)***

Sunday, March 1, Lent II – 10:30 am

Wednesday, March 4, Lunchtime service – 12:15 pm (fellowship hall)

Sunday, March 8, Lent III – 10:30 am

***Wednesday, March 11, Lunchtime service – 12:15 pm
(fellowship hall)***

Sunday, March 15, Lent IV – 10:30 am

***Wednesday, March 18, Lunchtime service – 12:15 pm
(fellowship hall)***

Sunday, March 22, Lent V – 10:30 am

***Wednesday, March 25, Lunchtime service – 12:15 pm
(fellowship hall)***

Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday – 10:30 am

Wednesday, April 1, Lunchtime service – 12:15 pm (fellowship hall)

Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday – 7 pm (supper at 6 pm)

Friday, April 3, Good Friday – 7 pm

Sunday, April 5, Easter Sunday – 10:30 am



I invite you to make these services a part of your Lenten journey, if you are able. Let us each explore this teaching of Jesus with open hearts and minds, and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate for us the way in which we should shape our lives to make us effective in our ministry together.

Join us on this voyage of reflection and let us approach Easter's joy with a renewed sense of vision and purpose.

Pastor Owen Derrick

Ushers

1st Sunday	Youth Group	<i>Lee Steenken will call on usher</i>
2nd Sunday	Deacons	<i>volunteers according to this</i>
3rd Sunday	Men of the Church	<i>General Usher Schedule.</i>
4th Sunday	Women of the Church	

Worship Assistants

<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
01 Tami Adams	01 Lee Steenken
08 Gayla Young	08 Kim Young
15 Judy Bohne	15 Emily Eberwine
22 Dan Young	22 Beth Ziepfel
	29 Youth Group

Communion Preparers

February 01	Jerry Rohrer
March 01	Kim Young

Trustee of the Month

February	Clarence Bohne
March	Becky Berling

Attendance

<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
07.....83	04.....70
14.....Cancelled	11.....110 (Confirmation)
21.....96	18.....76
24.....104(Christmas Eve)	25.....Cancelled
28.....62	
30..... 86	

Thankful for You!



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

Announcements

RAMM - No RAMM Meeting

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **February 2nd**, 6pm, Annex

Pancake Breakfast - Boy Scout Troop 923 will be holding their Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **February 8th** after the church service.

Trustees - Tuesday, **February 10th**, 5:30pm, Annex

New Members Class - Wednesday, **February 11th**, 7pm, Annex

VPP Board Meeting - Thursday, **February 12th**, 12:15 pm, Annex

Dorcas Meeting - Monday, **February 16th**, 1:00 pm, Sharon Thompson

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **February 17th**, 7pm, Annex

Ash Wednesday - January 18th, 7pm

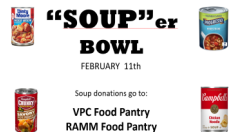
Choir Practice - Every **Wednesday**, 5:30pm

Coffee Conversation - Every **Thursday**, 9:30 am, Annex

NOTE: Handbell Practice will start back up February 25th

Parish Life

Please bring cans of soup on Sunday, **February 8th** for the RAMM and VPC pantries. Let's beat last year's total of **107 cans** collected. Thank you very much to everyone who supported the Bob Evans fundraiser. We are still waiting on the amount raised.



MISSIONS

VPC is truly blessed to have such a wonderful congregation! On **Sunday, January 18th**, **MANY** willing hands helped pack **400** Winter Emergency Kits for Community Outreach! Many, many thanks to everyone who stayed after church and took a few extra minutes to help accomplish this task.

These kits will be available and distributed throughout Butler County at these locations:

VPC Pantry

RAMM Pantry

New Life Mission-Hamilton

Oxford Winter House Shelter- Oxford

Community Meal Center-Zion Lutheran Church/Hamilton

Faith Mission Outreach-New Miami

Feed the Hungry/Dream Center-Middletown

West Chester Police Dept.

Other locations as needed

With the frigid winter weather this year, community outreach appreciates donations of gently used **blankets**/afghans/throws, socks, gloves, sturdy shoes/boots, and “outdoor” winter jackets. In addition, sorted and flattened plastic bags to make mats continue to be collected.

As usual, donations of beverage tabs for Shriners, non-perishable food for VPC Pantry, cleaning supplies/paper goods for Haven House, and personal care items (toilet paper, deodorant, etc.), canned spaghetti meals, canned meats, cereal, oatmeal, etc. for RAMM are much appreciated.

If a special someone has a February birthday, a small donation to Birthday Blessings is a way to honor that special person on their special day.



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 should be **Thursday, March 5** pm at the VPC Church Annex.

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

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	2 6pm - Deacons	3 7pm - Boy Scouts	5:30pm - Ch 6:30pm - Co
8 Boy Scouts Pancake 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	9	10 5:30pm - Trustees 7pm - Boy Scouts	5:30pm - Ch 6pm - Girl S 7pm - New M
15 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	16 Presidents' Day 1pm - Dorcas-Sharon	17 No Boy Scouts 7pm - Session Meeting	6pm - Potluc 7pm - Ash V
22 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	23	24 7pm - Boy Scouts	12:15pm - L 5:30pm - Ch 6pm - Girl S 7pm - Handl

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Choir Practice Comm	5 9:30am - Coffee	6	7
11 Choir Practice Scouts Members	12 9:30am - Coffee 12:15pm - VPP Board	13	14 Valentine's Day
18 Lunch Dinner Wednesday	19 9:30am - Coffee 11:30am - JOY Group	20	21 RAMM Food Pantry
25 Lunchtime Choir Practice Scouts bell	26 9:30am - Coffee	27	28

February LOFT Events

Sun 1	LOFT (9:30 - 10:00)
	Youth will Usher/Greet this week
Sun 8	LOFT (9:30 - 10:00)
	Youth will eat pancake breakfast, then go up to the LOFT room to finish writing cards of love and encouragement.
	Service: 12:30ish - We will leave the church and travel to the nursing home on Millville Ave. to deliver heart pillows and notes
Sun 15	LOFT
Mon 16	Fun: Snow Tubing at Perfect North slopes - Meet at VPC at 11:30am (eat lunch before you come!), and travel to Perfect North. Tube tickets last two hours, so we will likely be back sometime around 3ish. Bring a friend!
Sun 22	LOFT

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday school will not be meeting Sunday February 1st or February 8th. When we meet again on February 15, we will continue our Max Lucado study, *God Never Gives Up On You, the story of Jacob*.

Thanks!

Karlana Boyle

LUNCHTIME GATHERING

Starting on **Wednesday, February 25th**, we will be holding lunchtime gatherings services throughout Lent. We'll meet at **12:15** in the fellowship hall (after the preschool leaves) and we'll have a short, informal get-together during which, we will look at the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's gospel, and specifically about how it informs our lives today, in the world we find ourselves. We should be finished by **1 pm**. Feel free to bring your lunch. Pastor will brew some coffee, if there's demand.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

I was happy to volunteer for 2025 as the Chairperson, but not able to again this year. Please give thought and consider volunteering to head up this annual tradition. Fellowship, good food, as well as a wonderful mission fundraiser can be found in this December event.

Thank you, Shirley Hamilton

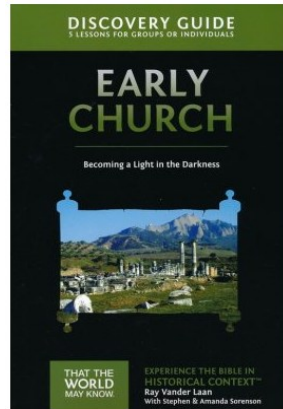
New Members' Class: There will be an opportunity for anyone wishing to explore becoming a member at Venice Presbyterian this coming Wednesday, **February 11th at 7 pm** in the Annex.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS

AT 9:00 A.M. SHARP!

The Adult Sunday School class will meet at **9:00 am** in the Annex on Sundays. We will be doing Ray Vander Laan's *The Early Church*. Everyone is welcome.



COFFEE CONVERSATION

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

Coffee Conversation will meet at **9:30 am** on Thursdays in the annex. The New Testament believers carried the Spirit of God as they walked along the shores of Thessalonica, just as you carry that light today. Shine brightly as you study 1 and 2 Thessaloans in *Children of the Day* by Beth Moore. This will be a 9 week study. If you are interested in joining us for this study, please let Judy Bohne know so that there will be a study guide for you. The get togethers run from **9:30 am** to about **11:30 am**. Coffee is always available and plentiful!

NOTE: On the third Thursday of each month we will meet at 9:00 am instead of 9:30 am.



February Preschool News



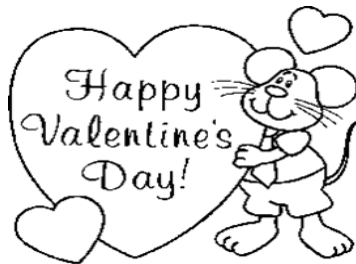
2026-2027 Registration

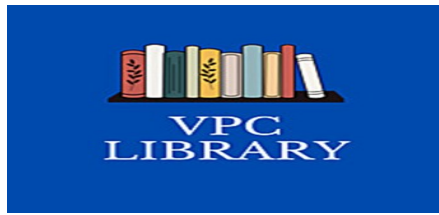
If you are interested in registering your child for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact us at 738-0158 or preschool@thevenicechurch.com. Registration will open to the public on February 1.

What are we Learning this Month?

We will continue working on letters, numbers, shapes and counting. The Bible story this month is The Good Samaritan. We are practicing songs and making lots of artwork for our Grandparent's Day, which will be at the beginning of March. Towards the end of February, we will begin working on the paper mâché for our Easter egg piñatas.

We will be having our Valentine's Day parties at the preschool on
February 12 and 13!





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 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



THANKS YOU: A special note of thanks goes to our Venice friends for the cards, prayers, love and support during Dale's illness and his recent passing. His spirit lives on in our hearts, and he would be deeply grateful for your kindness. Blessings to all of you, From Melanie Hanson

THANK YOU: It is not enough to just say "Thank You" for all the thoughts and prayers given to me since my fall. It has been a tough journey, but all of the concern has made it better. I thank you all very much for the help to recover. With God's Love, Jan Krier

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



The JOY group had a great time at Cooper's Hawk at our January outing. It was cold outside, but the food was tasty and the company was even better! Our next outing will be on Thursday, **February 19th**. We are planning to eat in Hamilton at Agave and Rye. We will meet at the church and carpool for an 11:30 a.m. luncheon. Please let me know if you will be going by signing the paper in the

narthex. I will call the restaurant to let them know an approximate number attending. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla. Hope you will plan to join us for food, fellowship, and fun!



Prayers

**** Prayers for Denny Butterfield, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Pat Jackson, Ron Mienheartt, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, Rick Weppeler, 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.**

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.

*****.

REMINDER: Anytime there are changes or cancellations to our church calendar, please remember to call or email the church office so that the changes can be made to the office hard copy and the website calendar. Thanks so much!

Office Number: 513-738-1317
Email: churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

04 Alex Schwab
07 Drake Miller
11 Amy Brandenburg
11 Lee Steenken
12 Ron Mienheartt
15 Dave Wheat
18 Lois Beddard
19 Nancy Renner
21 Greg Young
22 Zoey Guenther
23 Bettie Carmack
23 Trish Lutterbie
23 Jennifer Rauen
24 Jane Wickert
27 Lisa Brandenburg
27 Deloris Eby
28 Saralee Young



ANNIVERSARIES

12 Denny and Sharon Thompson
25 Mike and Sharon Tragesser



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

