

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

January 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

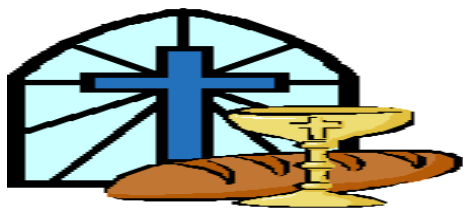
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship

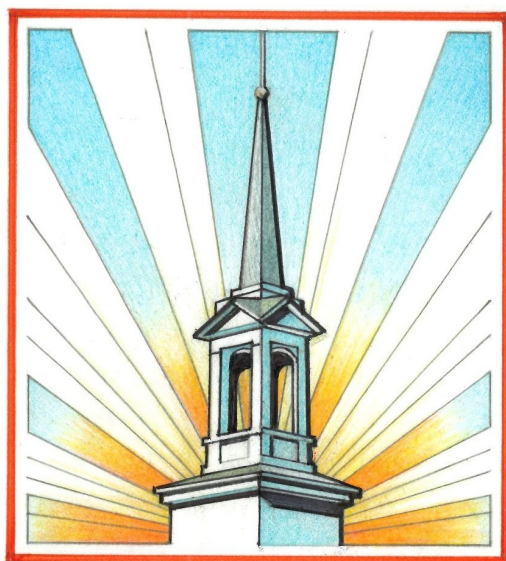




The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

January 4

Please “Like” our
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Venice Presbyterian



Instagram
venicepresbyterianchurch

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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

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



Prayer for New Year

*Another year with Jesus!
I thank Thee, Lord, today
for Thy unfailing
presence along
life's rugged way.*

*Guide me, O blest
Redeemer,
teach me to do Thy will,
and Thine own perfect
purpose in me
each day fulfill.*



Pastor's Musings

I'm writing this just a few days after the service during which our children blessed us by presenting their Christmas program. What a wonderful time it was to see all those happy, smiling – cheeky – faces sharing the Good News of God's love for us. The sight of our children – including Sorin on the video - declaring a message of Light in the midst of darkness was both timely and God-inspired. Thank you to Gayla Young for developing the idea and letting the children show us that darkness doesn't ever defeat light.

There are times when it's so easy to forget that message. Hardly a day goes by when our news feeds and media content aren't dragging us into a maelstrom of misery and mayhem. On one hand, staying informed is useful, and helps us to see just how much work there is to do in restoring God's order to our world. On the other hand, however, unless we're careful, the constant diet of slanted, sensationalized, and salacious information (much of which is either fake or deliberately skewed) will only serve to pull us down and draw us away from the Good News we are supposed to be sharing.

Here are a few simple tips, if you want some advice on dealing with such content:

1. Never trust just one source. As dependable as you may think a source is, they can all get it wrong. And, just because you happen to agree with something, doesn't make it "dependable."
2. If you're reading something, and you can't find the name of who wrote it – move on. If you're watching something and you can't find production details – move on.
3. Give yourself permission to turn it off! Just because you've started watching something, that doesn't mean you have to see it through.
4. However, it is often in our own best interests to expose ourselves to trustworthy content that we DISAGREE with. Don't just avoid content that looks at things differently than you do.
5. Do not trust technology to filter for you. You have to learn to filter content yourself.



In all of this, the responsible person in the room has to be us. And the Good News is that we are not left floundering on our own. We can be assured that we have God's Spirit to guide us. We are not left in darkness.

One aspect I feel must be addressed, and which was really brought home to me when the children presented their program, is that there is a war on innocence. As Christians, we maintain that those who would choose to wage that war will never win. It is part of our job as the Church to provide a safe and age-appropriate environment to allow our young people to grow up healthily and with access to guidance for those times when they feel drawn away from God. Once again, I am indebted to so many of you who have been there for our children, setting examples, offering counsel and mentorship, leading them in the paths they should follow. (Proverbs 22:6). Beth Ziepfel does such a great job with our LOFT group. Gayla and the team of Junior Church leaders really make a difference in the children's lives. And Dana Baker and her staff at the Preschool have an amazing rapport with their kids. Thank you all.

I am thankful for the children we have in our congregation. They enhance our life together as a community, and they bring a breath of fresh air to worship and church life. Let us treasure them and assure them of God's eternal love for them.

Yours in New Year Hope,

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>January</u>	<u>February</u>
04 Dan Young	01 Tami Adams
11 Greg Young	08 Gayla Young
18 Jerry Rohrer	15 Judy Bohne
25 Dave Toler	22 Dan Young

Communion Preparers

January 04	Gayla Young
February 01	Jerry Rohrer

Trustee of the Month

January	Dan Young
February	Clarence Bohne

Attendance

<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
02.....**	07.....83
09.....82	14.....Cancelled
16.....81	21.....96
26.....69	24.....104(Christmas Eve)
25.....55 (Thanksgiving)	28.....62
30.....86	

**** No attendance recorded**

Thankful for You!

JANUARY

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

Announcements

RAMM - No RAMM

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **January 5th**, 6pm, Annex

Coffee Conversation - Thursdays, **Beginning January 8th**,
9:30 am, Annex

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **January 13th**, 7pm, Annex

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

Handbells - Every **Wednesday**, 7pm

LOFT - Will resume on **January 11th** at 9:30am

Parish Life

Our next Potluck Luncheon is after church on **Sunday, January 11th**. Please bring food to share. As always, great food and fellowship that you won't want to miss!

Directory Updates

Houston Tyrrell
Sabreena Cherrington
120 Carrie Way
Independence, KY 41051

Bernice Roop
1460 Corydale Drive-Apt. 136
Fairfield, OH 45014

MISSIONS

Many thanks to all who donated to the Haven House gift box, and to the combined Noisy Offering supporting Hope for the Holidays, Giving Tree, and Haven House. Due to the congregation's very generous donations, \$1000 in gift cards were delivered to Haven House this year!

On **January 18th**, during coffee hour, members of the congregation will have the option to donate a little bit of time by helping to pack emergency winter kits for community outreach. If December was any indication, this promises to be an exceptionally cold, snowy winter, so these kits will include mylar blankets, thermal socks, and gloves, as well as personal care/first aid items. Tables will be set up at the back of the social hall, so people can pack a little, snack a little, or vice versa. Many hands make light work! Past contributions to Mission funds by the congregation will fund kit contents.

Community outreach continues to need gently used blankets/afghans/throws, warm socks, gloves, sturdy shoes/boots, and **“outdoor” winter jackets**. Sorted and flattened plastic bags to make mats are also needed. These things can be deposited in the boxes under the downstairs coat rack. Deodorant and shampoo for RAMM, non-perishable food items for VPC pantry, beverage tabs for Shriners, and cleaning supplies/paper goods for Haven House continue to be collected. Bins for these are upstairs under the side table in the narthex.

Remember the Birthday Blessings church if a loved one has a January birthday. A small donation is a great way to honor that 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.

JANUARY

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 	Church Closed (Polishing Floors)	Church Closed (Polishing Floors)	New Year's Eve
<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Deacons-Annex 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Communion 7pm Handbells
<p>11</p> <p>Potluck Luncheon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship-(Confirmation) 11am Junior Church 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm Session Meeting 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Handbells
<p>18</p> <p>Pack Winter Emergency Kits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 	<p>19</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Handbells
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Adult Sunday School 9:30am LOFT 10:30am Worship 11am Junior Church 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Boy Scouts 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Handbells

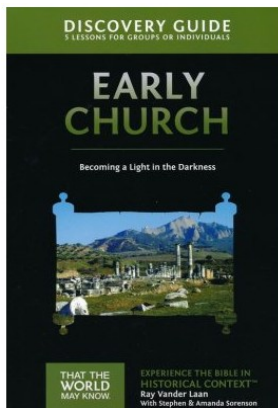
WED 31	THU Jan 1 New Year's Day	FRI 2	SAT 3
7 Practice Meeting	8 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversation	9	10
14 Practice	15 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversation	16	17 RAMM Food Pantry
21 Practice	22 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversation ● 11am JOY Group-Cooper's Hawk	23	24
28 Practice	29 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversation	30	31

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS

AT 9:00 A.M. SHARP!

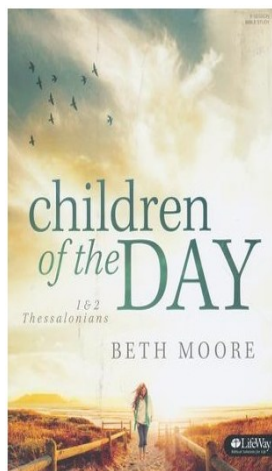
The Adult Sunday School class will meet at **9:00 a.m.** in the Annex on Sundays. We will be doing Ray Vander Laan's *The Early Church*. Everyone is welcome.



COFFEE CONVERSATION

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

Coffee Conversation will begin **January 8, 2026** at 9:30 am 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 Thessalonians 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!**





January Preschool



Registration for the 2026-2027 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?

Our Bible story for this month is God Made Me Special.

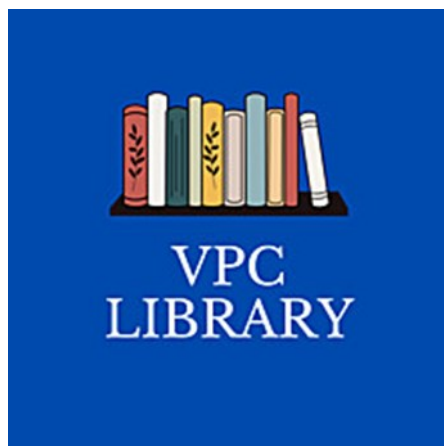
Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) – We will continue to work our way through the alphabet and work on learning the alphabet chant. We will continue to work on counting. We will continue to practice rhyming, syllables, and letter sounds.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) – We will continue working on the alphabet, letter sounds, and numbers 1-10. We will begin learning about syllables and rhyming words.

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) – We will be learning about letters, numbers, colors and shapes. We will begin learning about rhyming words.

Happy New Year!





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). 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).

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



A huge thank you to Ruth Guenther and to her daughter, Barb for hosting us for our yearly Christmas Party. The food was delicious and the time spent together was filled with laughter!

Next month we will be getting together on the **4th Thursday of the month which is January 22, 2026**. I can't believe it is already a new year. We will meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. and go to lunch at Cooper's Hawk in Western Hills. We will carpool for an 11:30 a.m. reservation. 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, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, Rick Weppler, 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.

Prayers for the Family of Dale Hanson, who sadly passed away.

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.

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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

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Barb Ross
- 04 Bernice Roop
- 05 Tami Adams
- 06 Rick Schwoeppe
- 09 Kim Bohne
- 09 Houston Tyrrell
- 18 Larry Hayes
- 21 Tommy Peacock
- 26 Donna Marsh
- 26 Robert Young III
- 26 Owen Ziepfel
- 27 Philip Fathman
- 31 Alan Marsh



ANNIVERSARIES

- 06 Rick and Sally Schwoeppe
- 14 Keith and Deloris Eby
- 16 Bob and Darlene Reynolds
- 17 Clif and Aly Bailey



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

LOADED CAULIFLOWER CASSEROLE

From Lois Beddard

Ingredients

- 6 slices cooked bacon, crumbled, turkey or other choice
- 1 large head of cauliflower, cut into florets
- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 (8oz.) package baby Bella Mushrooms, roughly chopped
- ½ tsp Salt
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 6 tbl. chopped fresh chives, divided

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish.
2. Cook bacon until evenly browned. Drain on paper towel, then crumble.
3. Place steamer insert in a saucepan and fill with water to below steamer. Bring water to boil, add cauliflower, cover and steam until tender, 15 to 20 minutes.
4. Combine sour cream, mayonnaise, garlic, salt and pepper in large bowl; add cauliflower, ½ of the bacon, 1 cup shredded cheese, mushrooms, and 3 tablespoons chives and mix well. Transfer mixture to prepared baking pan, top with remaining bacon and cheese.
5. Bake in oven until bubbling and cheese is melted, about 20 minutes. Sprinkle remaining chives over casserole.

(This was available at the JOY Christmas Luncheon)

