

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

March 2025

Established 1828



“Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples of Jesus”

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 - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service - 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship



The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

March 2nd

Please "Like" our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian
Church!



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Ross, OH 45061

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Owen Derrick

Administrative Assistant
Carol Gilmore

Intermediate Youth Director
Beth Ziepfel

Choir Director

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.

March Blessings!

Longer, warmer days. Greener trees and grasses. Spring flowers blooming. Birds chirping outside our windows, at the barn and all around. I am thankful for the many physical, tangible changes that March brings to us. Let March also be a time for new beginnings. A time to grab hold of second chances. A time to plant new seeds. Don't worry about mistakes and don't let any regrets take hold in your mind. Just as March brings about brighter days, let it also bring with it a clean slate. Give yourself permission to start over, to begin anew.

~Charity M. Richey-Bentley

Have A Blessed March!



From the Manse

Those of you who were in church on February 23, or who watched the service online, will have seen the wooden “fasting” cube I shared with the children during our “Growing Disciples” time. It seems that this cube has caught people’s attention, as I’ve been asked by several people where they can get one. My research has shown that, surprisingly, they don’t seem to be available anymore. So, when I shared this fact with Beth Ziepfel, our Director of Christian Education, she thought it would be a good idea if our LOFT group made some, and sold them as a fundraiser! What a great idea! So, watch out in the next week or so for these cubes to become available.

In the meantime, March 5th is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. This year, we will be journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem. Our theme for Lent will be “’Tis a Delightful Road” which is a line from the 4th verse of the hymn “O, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”, which isn’t in our hymn book but which we may introduce in worship during Lent.

We will be using this metaphor of journey as the theme for our Lenten season this year. Each service between now and Holy Week will look at different aspects of our travel that we encounter “on the road.” We will look at the various “road signs” that guide us on the pathway – a different road sign each service. Full disclosure - this theme is not an original one. I have borrowed it from a good friend and former colleague, Pastor Tom O Miller, from his book, “’Tis a Delightful Road: Signs of Faith in Life.”

Our journey together through Lent will take the following path:

Ash Wednesday	’Tis a Delightful Road
Lent 1	The Road to Follow
Lent 2	The Road Isn’t Clear
Lent 3	The Road Needs Work
Lent 4	Don’t Take This Road
Lent 5	The Road Isn’t There
Palm Sunday	The Cross Road
Maundy Thursday	The Unexpected Road

I hope you will join us on this journey. It promises to be an enlightening and meaningful walk to Jerusalem. In fact, 'tis a delightful road we are walking – because we walk it with our Savior as our guide and companion. We'll discover much along the way – about ourselves, about each other and about our Redeemer.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Owen Derrick, Pastor

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

March		April	
02	Lee Steenken	06	Dave Toler
09	Kim Young	13	Greg Young
16	Emily Young	20	Tami Adams
23	Beth Ziepfel	27	Aly Davis
30	Judy Bohne		

Communion Preparers

March 2nd	Kim Young
April 6th	Joy Minks
April 17th (Maundy Thursday)	Greg Young

Trustee of the Month

March Becky Berling

Attendance

January	February
05.....73	02.....80
12.....73	05.....64
19.....91	16 (No Service Due to Weather)
26.....63	23.....74

Thankful for You!

MARCH



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

Deacons Meeting - Wednesday, **March 5th** at 6:00 pm - Annex

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, **March 5th** at 6:00 pm - Potluck dinner with service to follow

RAMM Meeting - Thursday, **March 6th** at 6:00 pm

Trustees Meeting - Tuesday, **March 11th** at 5:30 pm

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **March 11th** at 7:00 pm - Annex

Grief Counseling - Thursday, **March 13th** at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm
At Shepherds Ground Coffee Shop

Dorcas Circle - Tuesday, **March 18th** at 10 am - Hostess Donna Marsh

Togetheress - Tuesday, **March 25th** at 1:30 pm - Annex

Parish Life

SOUPer Bowl Success! A total of 107 cans of soup were collected at the Potluck Luncheon. 30 for the Chiefs and 77 for the Eagles. Last year's total was 66. Thank you very much! Great job! RAMM already had plenty of cans, so the 107 cans will be used for the VPC pantry.

March 5th Ash Wednesday

Bring food to share for the Potluck at 6 pm, followed by the service at 7 pm.

Please look at your current listing in our church directory. Do you need to make changes or additions? Do you still have your landline? Please let Carol know at

If you are bringing bags to church to be made into mats for the homeless, they must **NOT** have any holes in the bags. Please, please check your bags before bringing bags to church. Bags with holes need to be recycled. Thank you!

MARCH

On days with more activities than those listed, please refer to the

SUN 23	MON 24	TUE 25	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult SS ● 9:30am LOFT <p>2 more</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Pastor-Coffee ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm C ● 6:45p
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult SS ● 9:30am LOFT <p>2 more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Deacons Meeting 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Pastor-Coffee ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<p>NO Hand</p> <p>NO Hand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm F
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult SS ● 9:30am LOFT <p>2 more</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Pastor-Coffee ● 5:30pm Trustee Mtg <p>2 more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30a ● 5pm C ● 6:45p
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult SS ● 9:30am LOFT <p>2 more</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Pastor-Coffee ● 10am Dorcas Cir ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm C ● 6pm C ● 6:45p
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult SS ● 9:30am LOFT <p>2 more</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Pastor-Coffee ● 1:30pm Together.Cir. ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm C ● 6:45p
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult SS ● 9:30am LOFT <p>2 more</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Apr 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Pastor-Coffee ● 7pm NO Boy Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm C ● 6pm L <p>2 more</p>

church website at www.trhevenicechurch.com

WED 26	THU 27	FRI 28	SAT Mar 1
Choir Practice m Handbell Practice	● 9:30am Bible Study		
5 Handbell Prac. Handbell Prac. Potluck Dinner	● 9:30am Bible Study ● 6pm RAMM	7	8
12 m Bible Study Choir Practice m Handbell Practice	● 9:30am Bible Study	14	● 10am RAMM Pantry
19 Choir Practice Girl Scouts m Handbell Practice	● 9:30am Bible Study	21	22
26 Choir Practice m Handbell Practice	● 9:30am Bible Study	28	29
2 Choir Practice Deacons Mtg	● 6pm RAMM	4	5

MISSIONS

March brings Lent, Daylight Savings time, and the beginning of Spring! Finally!! As Pastor Owen noted in a recent children's talk, Lent in the Church is traditionally a time of “giving up” something, like sweets. It can also be a time to give up things like overspending, especially on one’s self or family. He suggested that we instead give any “extra” money to benefit those in need. That concept fits very nicely with supporting missions here at VPC. The congregation here does an excellent job of that! Look for Information toward the end of March on **One Great Hour of Sharing**, a mission this church has supported almost since its beginning 75 years ago.

Many thanks go to the congregation for donating two SUV loads of supplies for wildfire victims in LA. These were delivered to Matthew 25 Ministries on February 8th. Your generosity was much appreciated!

Sometimes it isn't money or goods that are required to fill a need in the community. Recently, Grief Counseling began in the Ross Community on February 13th. Grief was one of the top three topics of importance on the Mission Team surveys. Thank you to Young's Funeral Home, Pastor Owen Derrick, Pastor Witt of the Rooted Church, Shepherd's Ground Coffee House, and especially, Joe Young, for spearheading the program. These monthly gatherings will hopefully help to provide support for those suffering from loss of a loved one. Check our website or postings on Ross Talk for more information.

Even with the promise of Spring, community outreach continues to appreciate the donation of gently used blankets, afghans, and throws; shoes, boots, and socks. Folded and sorted plastic bags (without holes!) are needed to make mats. Personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant) for RAMM, non-perishable food for VPC Pantry, beverage tabs for Shriners, and cleaning/paper products for Haven House continue to be collected.

In honor of a March birthday, honor a loved one with a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church. OR...donate a book in that person's name for our new church library! What a blessing that would be!

HELPING HAND



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

RAMM Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at 6pm in the annex.

The RAMM monthly pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10:00 to 11:30 am 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 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please check with Carole Wheat for additional information.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group
We had a nice lunch at Snow's
Lakeside Tavern was good conversa-
tion and some Valentine themed
games! In March, we will be switch-
ing it in Colerain Township. There up
a little. Instead of going on a Thurs-
day, the JOY group outing will be to

hear the **Butler Philharmonic Choir** perform in
Middletown at the Sorg Opera House on Sunday, March 9th
at 3 pm. We will plan to leave the church at 1:45 pm in
order to give ourselves time to get parked and to our seats.
Our own dear Pastor Owen will be singing a solo and
Houston is directing the choir. The cost for the tickets is
\$25 per person. I will need to order them in advance so be
sure to sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table in the nar-
thex. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call
at 513-836-0020 or email me at gaylayoung@fuse.net.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

Save the date for VBS

This year's VBS is June 2nd - June 6th. Please keep your calendar clear. The theme for 2025 is TRUE NORTH - Trusting Jesus in a Wild World. Beth Ziepfel will be taking charge again this year. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities.

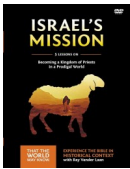


Junior Church

Junior Church is currently learning about FAITHFULNESS in its *Character By God's Design* curriculum. The kids will be singing in church on Palm Sunday. Gayla has made practice CDs to go home with each child's family. We are also practicing during Junior Church.

Youth Group L.O.F.T. = Living Our Faith Together through service, study, prayer & fun! The Youth Group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30. They continue greeting on the first Sunday and hosting Coffee Hour once each month. Our fun event for March will be bowling at Pohlman Lanes in Hamilton after church on March 9. We will be serving again at the Ronald McDonald House on March 23. **There will be NO LOFT on March 16.** Please contact Beth Ziepfel for more information 513-490-5408 givemeaz303@gmail.com.

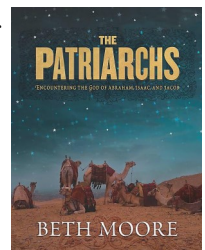
Adult Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School class has just begun a tour through the land of the Bible where God first gave His people their unique calling in the world. Now is a good time to come join in as we discover how God is still seeking the lost sheep of his flock. Join us Sunday mornings in the Annex as we work through Ray Vander Laan's study, *Israel's Mission*. See Kim Young for more information.

Coffee Conversations

Coffee Conversations is beginning *The Patriarchs* by Beth Moore where we will take an in-depth look at Genesis 12-50. We will see God's remarkable pursuit of relationship and the unfolding of His earthly plan: that through one nation—and ultimately, one man—all people on earth will be blessed. Many of the most profound and enduring concepts in the whole counsel of God's Word are initiated in this marvelous book of beginnings. Join us Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the annex. See Judy Bohne for more information.





March Preschool News



2025-2026 Registration

If you are interested in registering your child for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact us at 738-0158 or preschool@thevenicechurch.com.

What are we Learning this Month?

Our Bible story for March is The Lost Coin. We will be preparing for our Grandparent's Days, which are March 6 and 7.

Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) - We will focus on letter sounds and the beginning sounds in words and continue to practice rhyming and syllables. We will work on counting and identifying those tricky teen numbers and continue to practice patterns.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) - We will be preparing for Grandparent's Day and Easter. We will continue working on letters, sounds, shapes and numbers.

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) - We will be talking about spring weather and preparing for Grandparent's Day.



Spring Break is March 31 - April 4.



MANY THANKS!

Elizabeth and I want to sincerely thank everyone for the many prayers during her pregnancy. These really helped get her through some difficult times and deliver a beautiful healthy baby. The many cards she has been receiving are also much appreciated. Our church family has such an outpouring of love and kindness. I am enjoying all my time with Elizabeth and Maeve.

Sincerely,
Diana Vereker

.....

PRAYERS



**** Prayers for Beth Ballauer, Brayden Bastin, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Katie Gobin, Nick Guenther, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, Monica Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, Audrey Vogerl, Rick Weppler, Rosemary Wisecup, Joan Wright, and Jackie Yust.**

****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.**

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten Season traditionally observed as 40 days of prayer, fasting, and repentance in the days before Easter. In Ash Wednesday services, participants receive a blessing of ashes on their foreheads as a reminder of mortality. “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:19) The ashes are prepared by burning the palm fronds used at the prior year’s Palm Sunday celebration. They represent death and repentance, a reminder that we are human – mortal, sinful, and in need of repentance.

We plan to begin the Lenten season with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 5nd at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will allow us to enter into the season with prayer, reflection and repentance. Taking time each year to reflect on our lives, confess our sins to God, and recommit to walking with God is a powerful way to enter into Easter. Please plan to share in the fellowship of this important start to Lent.

We will be having a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. before the service. Please bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing you there.



The children will be singing during the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 13th. We have begun practicing the music in Junior Church. We will sing the *Antiphonal Hosanna* with the adult choir and we will be singing an additional song during the special music time. The children will be bringing home the music and words, so be sure to watch for it. We hope everyone will be able to join in the Palm Sunday celebration. If you have questions, call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at gaylayoung@fuse.net.

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Andrew Brown
- 01 Hannah Brown
- 01 Zach Webster
- 02 Brent Guenther
- 02 Marcus Guenther
- 02 Mike Schwab
- 02 William Steenken
- 04 Ethan Boyle
- 06 Mandy Guenther
- 12 Emily Goodin
- 16 AJ Eads
- 17 Dan Young



22 Tracey (Brown) and Kevin Spille

*Happy
Anniversary*

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

