

# 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

email: [churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com](mailto:churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com)

[www.thevenicechurch.com](http://www.thevenicechurch.com)

Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

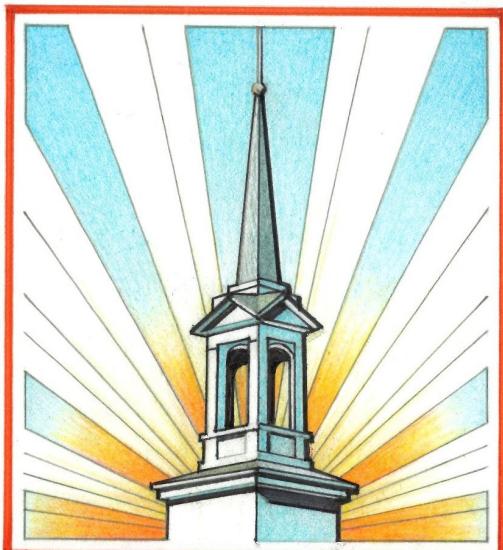
Junior Church - during worship





*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*  
will be celebrated on:  
**February 1**

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Venice Presbyterian



**Instagram**  
venicepresbyterianchurch

## Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road  
P.O. Box 41  
Ross, OH 45061

### **Office Hours**

*Monday-Friday*

*9:00a-12:00p*

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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.



# 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

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  
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

**February**  
01 Tami Adams  
08 Gayla Young  
15 Judy Bohne  
22 Dan Young

**March**  
01 Lee Steenken  
08 Kim Young  
15 Emily Eberwine  
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

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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 6pm, Annex

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

**Trustees** - Tuesday, **February 10<sup>th</sup>**, 5:30pm, Annex

**New Members Class** - Wednesday, **February 11<sup>th</sup>**, 7pm, Annex

**VPP Board Meeting** - Thursday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, 12:15 pm, Annex

**Dorcas Meeting** - Monday, **February 16<sup>th</sup>**, 1:00 pm, Sharon Thomas

**Session Meeting** - Tuesday, **January 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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## Parish Life

Please bring cans of soup on Sunday, **February 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 18<sup>th</sup>**, **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 Weppler.

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

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 choir Practice mm	5 9:30am - Coffee	6	7
11 choir Practice couts Members	12 9:30am - Coffee 12:15pm - VPP Board	13	14 Valentine's Day
18 ck Dinner Wednesday	19 9:30am - Coffee 11:30am - JOY Group	20	21 RAMM Food Pantry
25 unchtime choir Practice couts 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.
	<b>Service:</b> 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	<b>Fun:</b> Snow Tubing at <a href="#">Perfect North slopes</a> - 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!

Karlena 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.

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## **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

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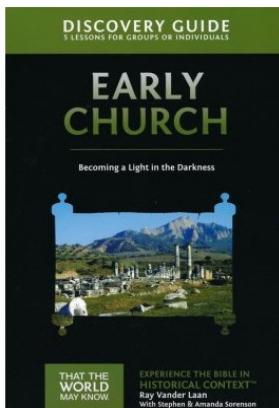
**New Members' Class:** There will be an opportunity for anyone wishing to explore becoming a member at Venice Presbyterian this coming Wednesday, **February 11<sup>th</sup>** at **7 pm** in the Annex.

# 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.

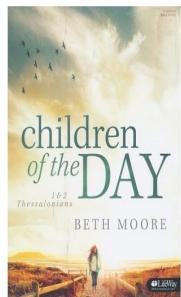


## COFFEE CONVERSATION

### (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 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!

**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

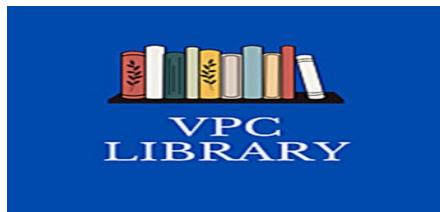
If you are interested in registering your child for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact us at 738-0158 or [preschool@thevenicechurch.com](mailto:preschool@thevenicechurch.com). Registration will open to the public on February 1.

## 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](http://www.thevenicechurch.com) [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

A large, elegant, red cursive script that reads "Thank You!" is centered on a light gray background with a subtle grid pattern.

**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 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Weppler, 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.

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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](mailto: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.

