

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

March 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

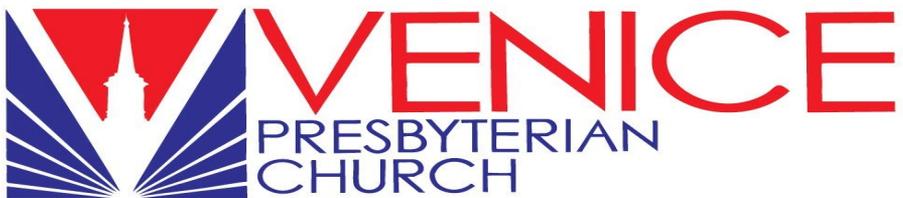
www.thevenicechurch.com

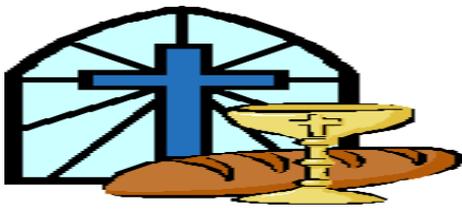
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship





The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

March 1

Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road

P.O. Box 41

Ross, OH 45061

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00a-12:00p

Phone

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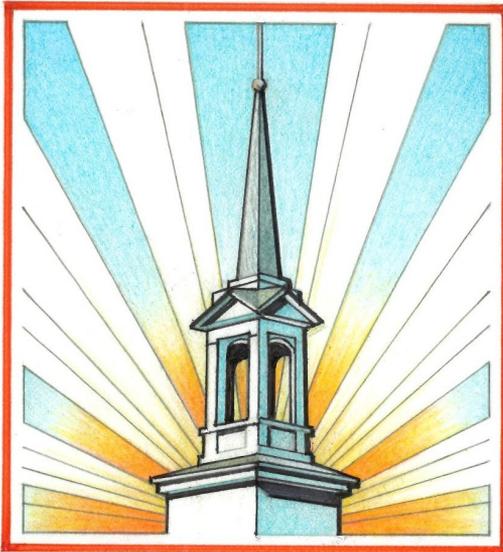
Email

churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com

Website

www.thevenicechurch.com

Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



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

Instagram
[venicepresbyterianchurch](https://www.instagram.com/venicepresbyterianchurch)

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

WELCOME **March**

Look for the
GOODNESS in everyone
whom you meet today
and every day forward.

Open Your Heart

and become someone
who gives a gift of peace,
joy or hope.. And watch
the ripple effect of
MIRACLES & BLESSINGS
unfold in your life.



Pastor's Musings

Well, Lent is already upon us and, before long, it'll be Easter!

During Lent this year, we are trying a few different things:

- On Wednesday lunchtimes, at **12:15**, we are meeting in the Annex Conference Room, to study Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, with a view to discovering what it means to have "Christian Ethics" in today's world. All are welcome, and if we run out of room, we will move to a larger space. We just had the first gathering today, and it was a wonderful time of sharing and discovery.
- You should have received an email with a Lenten Prayer Calendar, or a paper copy if you picked one up at church. Each day during Lent, we will be praying for people in the congregation. If you did not get a calendar, contact the church office (513-728-1317) and we will make sure you get one.
- If you live in Ross, you should have received a postcard showing our Lenten and Easter Services. There are a few of these postcards still available, and I encourage you to take some and hand them to anyone you want to extend a personal invitation to. Don't worry if they have already received a card in the mail. Your personal invitation will only serve to strengthen the connection they will feel.



- Lastly, there will be a few “tweaks” to our worship activities during the season. Look out for some pleasant surprises.

All of this, and many other aspects of our life together here at VPC, work together to – I hope – encourage you in your walk of faith and help to make VPC a place where you feel welcomed and at home.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Owen Derrick, Pastor

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

01 Judy Bohne
 08 Kim Young
 15 Emily Eberwine
 22 Beth Ziepfel
 29 Youth Group

April

05 Dave Toler
 12 Greg Young
 19 Tami Adams
 26 Aly Davis

Communion Preparers

March 01	Kim Young
April 2	Joy Minks (Maundy Thursday)
April 5	(Easter Sunday) No Communion

Trustee of the Month

March	Becky Berling
April	Pete Berling

Attendance

January

04.....70
 11.....110 (Confirmation)
 18.....76
 25.....Cancelled

February

01.....66
 08.....76
 15.....75
 18.....43 (Ash Wednesday)
 2266

Thankful for You!



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

Announcements

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

RAMM - Thursday, **March 5th**, 6pm, Annex

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

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **March 10th**, 7pm, Annex

Bob Evans Fundraiser - Monday, **March 16th**, 7am - 9pm

Dorcas - Tuesday, **March 17th**, 10am, Lois Beddard

Lenten Gatherings - Every **Wednesday**, 12:15pm, Annex

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

Handbell Practice - Every **Wednesday**, 7pm

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

NOTE: Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 8th**. Please remember to set your clocks ahead by **1-hour** before going to bed on **Saturday, March 7th**.

Parish Life

124 (cans) items were collected on SOUPER Bowl Sunday for the VPC and RAMM Pantries beating last year's total of 107 cans. There will be no Potluck Luncheon in March. Our next Potluck Luncheon will be on **April 2nd at 6pm** before Maundy Thursday **7pm** service. Thank you very much to everyone who supported the Bob Evans fundraiser. We raised \$169.90.

MISSIONS

Lent and Spring Cleaning have a lot in common. While March may have us thinking about decluttering, organizing, and cleaning our homes, it also is a time of spiritual cleaning. It is a time to give up negative behaviors like anger, selfishness, gossip, and jealousy, and instead focus on kindness, forgiveness, gratitude, and prayer.

While you are cleaning out clothes or linen closet, consider donating items you no longer need to the RAMM Sharing Closet, Community Outreach (gently used blankets, shoes, socks, gloves), or Matthew 25. Cleaning your pantry may yield non-perishable food items you have in excess or just don't like (**no expired items, please!**) that VPC Pantry or RAMM may appreciate. The junk drawer or your car's cup holder may have odd change for the Noisy Offering. Basement or garage cleaning could yield unused walkers, braces, or crutches that Matthew 25 would gladly take. Maybe, just maybe creating order and a peaceful environment at home may lead to more time to focus on God.

Donations of sorted and flattened plastic bags to make mats for Community Outreach, beverage tabs for Shriners, paper goods/cleaning supplies for Haven House, personal care items, spaghetti meals, canned meats, cereal, and oatmeal for RAMM are still needed.

March 29th is Palm Sunday, which is the traditional Sunday at our church for the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. Look for additional information about **One Great Hour of Sharing** in the Sunday flyers and in special handouts on the Sundays before March 29th.

In honor of a March Birthday, consider remembering a loved one with a small donation to the Birthday Blessings church.

Deacons

The next Deacons Meeting will be on **March 2nd** at **6pm** in the annex.

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 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.

MARCH

Venice Presbyterian, Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1</div> 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">2</div> 6pm - Deacons	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3</div> 7pm - Boy Scouts	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">4</div> 12:15pm - 5:30pm - C 6:30pm - C 7pm - Han
<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Daylight Saving Time</div> 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9</div>	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10</div> 5:30pm - Trustees 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Session Meeting	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</div> 12:15pm - 5:30pm - C 6pm - Girl 7pm - Han
<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">15</div> 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">16</div> 7am - Bob Evans	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">17</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">St. Patrick's Day</div> 10am - Dorcas - L. 7pm - Boy Scouts	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">18</div> 12:15pm - 5:30pm - C 7pm - Han
<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">22</div> 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">23</div>	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">24</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">No Boy Scouts</div> 7pm - Boy Scouts	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">25</div> 12:15pm - 5:30pm - C 6pm - Girl 7pm - Han
<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">29</div> 9am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - Coffee 9:30am - LOFT 10:30am - Worship 11am - Junior Church	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">30</div> 9:30am - Coffee	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">31</div> 9:30am - Coffee 12:15pm - Lunchtime 12:15pm - Togetherness	<div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">32</div> 9:30am - C 12:15pm - 5:30pm - C 6:30pm - C 7pm - Han

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Lenten Choir Practice Comm Meeting dbell Practice	5 9:30am - Coffee	6	7
11 Lenten Choir Practice Scouts dbell Practice	12	13	14
18 Lenten Choir Practice dbell Practice	19 9am - Coffee 11:30am - JOY Group	20	21 RAMM Food Pantry
25 Lenten Choir Practice Scouts dbell Practice	26 9:30am - Coffee	27 9:30am - Coffee	28 9:30am - Coffee
1 Coffee Lenten Choir Practice Comm Meeting dbell Practice	2 Maundy Thursday- 9:30am - Coffee 6pm - RAMM - Annex 7pm - Maundy Thursday	3 9:30am - Coffee	4 9:30am - Coffee

NOTE: Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 8th**. Please remember to set your clocks ahead **1-hour** before going to bed on **March 7th**.



EASTER LILLIES - We will be beautifying our Sanctuary with Easter Lilies once again this year. They may be purchased in honor, or in memory of loved ones. The price is **\$10.00** per lily, and the deadline to have orders in is **March 30th**. You may take your lily home after the Easter Service on **April 5th**.



LUNCHTIME GATHERING

We will be holding lunchtime gathering services throughout Lent. We'll meet at **12:15pm** in the Annex 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 **1pm**. Feel free to bring your lunch. Pastor will brew some coffee, if there's demand.

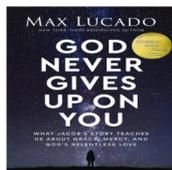


BOB EVANS FUNDRAISER: Thank you to everyone who participated in the January Fundraiser at Bob Evans on Main Street in Hamilton. We made \$169.90. We are going to continue the Bob Evans Fundraiser on **the third Monday of each month**. We are currently setup thru May. Dates are **March 16, April 20, May 18**. 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.

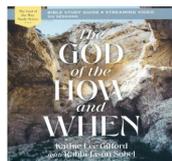
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SUNDAYS
AT 9:00 A.M. SHARP!**

The Adult Sunday School class will meet at **9:00am** in the Annex on Sundays. We are finishing two more sections of Max Lucado's "*God Never Gives Up on You.*". We will start a new series "*Hidden: Finding Delight in Your Life with Christ.*"



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



The Coffee Conversation group will begin our next study, "The God of the How and When" by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel on **March 19, 2026**. Trusting God when You Don't Know the Details - The Bible reveals that God's plans are greater than our own and that he executes those plans in His own timing." As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways". Isaiah 55:9. This six-session study, tells the stories of five people in Scripture - Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua and Mary, the mother of Jesus - who also wondered how and when God would come through for them. Each of them had to step out in faith and obey God without knowing the details of what would happen in their story. As we study their examples, we will discover what it likewise means for us to trust that God's ways are higher than our own - and what it takes to step out in faith.

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



March Preschool News



We are ready for spring and warmer temperatures!

2026-2027 Registration

If you are interested in registering your child for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact us at 513-738-0158 or preschool@thevenicechurch.com.



What are we Learning this Month?

Our Bible story for March is The Easter Story. We will be preparing for our Grandparent's Days, which are March 12 and 13. We are also working on our paper mâché piñatas, which we will break open at our Easter parties. Spring Break is March 30 - April 3. We will continue to work on letter recognition, letter sounds, counting and number recognition throughout the month.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Group

L.O.F.T. = Living Our Faith Together through service, study, prayer & fun!

LOFT's fun event for March is ice skating at Goggin Ice Arena in Oxford March 8 from 3:15-5:00. **All elementary kids are invited to join us!** Please let Beth Ziepfel know if you are planning to attend. See you on the ice! Beth Ziepfel
513-490-5408 givemeaz303@gmail.com.



Our service event this month is serving at the Community Meals Center in Hamilton on Friday **March 20**.

Be sure to check out some of the pics from our tubing fun at Perfect North Slopes!





Save the date for VBS!

Beth Ziepfel will be taking charge of VBS again this year. As usual, we will need lots of help to make it happen. So please keep your calendar open for the week of June 8-12. Stay tuned for details.

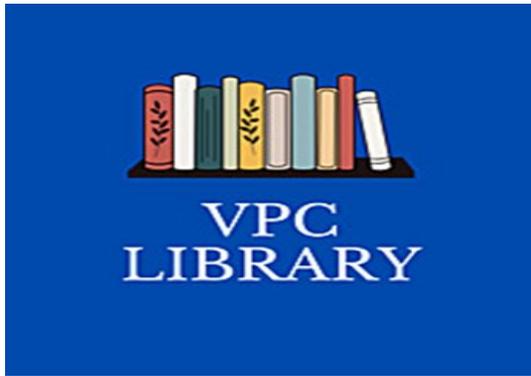
Junior Church

Junior Church is currently learning about STEWARDSHIP in its *Character By God's Design* curriculum. Our next lesson focus will be *PERSERVERANCE*.



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group
A huge thank you to Pete and Becky Berling for coordinating the JOY group outing to Agave and Rye. We did not have a large group, but I heard that the food and company were amazing. As of the newsletter

deadline I do not have a concrete plan for the March event. Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 19th and watch the bulletins for future information. As soon as I have a plan, I will let everyone know. Thanks for your patience. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla.



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).

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 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.**

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

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
- 11 Ray Beneker
- 11 Ryan Gries
- 12 Emily Goodwin
- 16 AJ Eads
- 17 Dan Young
- 19 Joel Sackenheim
- 26 Cindy Licata



- 01 Jay and Geneva Butterfield
- 02 Pastor Owen and Dianne Derrick
- 22 Kevin and Tracey Spille
- 31 Alan and Donna Marsh

*Happy
Anniversary*

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