

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

April 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

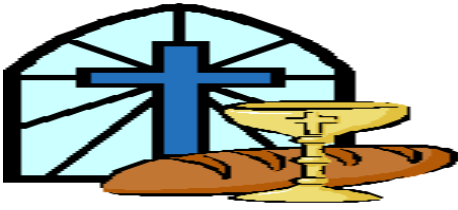
Adult Sunday School - 9:00 am

LOFT - 9:30 am

Worship Service- 10:30 am

Junior Church - during worship





The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

April 2 Maundy Thursday
Joy Minks

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

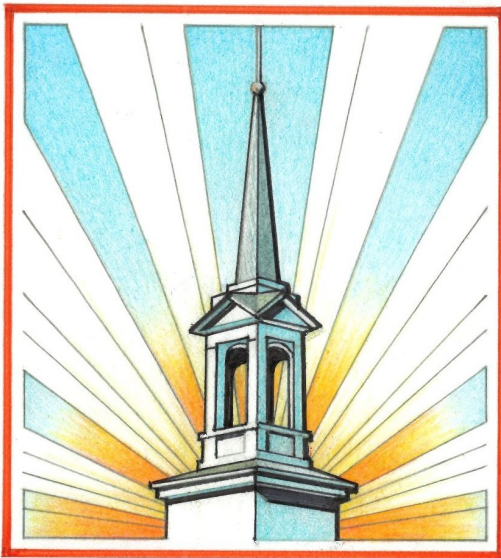
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Please “Like” our
Facebook page.
Venice Presbyterian



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

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

A woman wearing a grey, textured, belted robe is shown from the waist down, holding a woven wicker basket filled with several tulips in various colors (purple, red, yellow, white, and orange). She is standing in a vast field of tulips, with the background filled with rows of colorful flowers in shades of pink, red, yellow, and purple. The scene is bright and cheerful, suggesting a spring setting.

HAVE A BLESSED *April!*

**GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE
FAR EXCEED THE CIRCUMSTANCES
OF YOUR DAY.**

-Louie Giglio



Pastor's Musings

Following on from the sermon on Palm Sunday about the Ethics of Worship, I thought it might be a good idea to drill a bit deeper into what we really mean when we talk about worship.

I once visited a church that had a sign over the inside of the doorway going out of the sanctuary which read "The worship has ended: the service begins." The intent of the sign is to remind the worshipping community that the purpose of spending time together is to prepare us to carry out service on God's behalf in God's beloved world. I think that's great! There isn't a week goes by when I don't feel that my spiritual batteries have been recharged by being around you wonderful people. My fellowship with fellow believers energizes me to be a better servant, and that is what it is supposed to do.

However, there is one minor flaw in the way this message is presented by the sign over that door. As I see worship, and as I was trying to convey in my Palm Sunday message, worship does not end at the sanctuary door. We misunderstand the relationship God wants to have with us if we think that God is waiting in the sanctuary all week long until we get back together again! The very core of the Easter message is that God Incarnate isn't trapped behind closed doors (or heavy stone) but is alive and active in His creation. Christ commands us to go into the world and promises that the Holy Spirit will accompany us as we do. And so, the God we worship goes with us into the world and is actively engaged in all that we are doing.

When we realize this, suddenly, that creedal declaration from the Westminster Confession takes a clearer shape: that our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Everything we do becomes an opportunity to worship – to show God that He is worthy of our adoration and praise, and to be affirmed in our faith with the joy of Christ in our



actions. When we interface with family/friends/colleagues, it is an opportunity to worship God. When we put gas in our car, it is an opportunity to worship God. When we are changing diapers, it is an opportunity to worship God. All because God is worthy and with us.

So, while our times together are meaningful and uplifting, it's not accurate to say that worship ends once we walk through the sanctuary doors and re-enter our lives. It simply takes on new meaning and fresh expression – because God is worthy.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Owen Derrick

Ushers

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

Worship Assistants

April

05 Dave Toler
12 Jerry Lutterbie
19 Tami Adams
26 Aly Bailey

May

03 Alan Marsh
10 Jan Krier
17 Kim Young
24 Jerry Rohrer
31 Youth Group

Communion Preparers

April 2 Joy Minks (Maundy Thursday)
April 5 (Easter Sunday) No Communion
May 3 Greg Young

Trustee of the Month

April Pete Berling
May Ron Mienheartt

Attendance

February

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

March

01.....75
08.....70
15.....78
22.....69
29.....81

Thankful for You!



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

Announcements

Communications Meeting - Wednesday, **April 1st**, 6:30pm, Annex

Potluck Luncheon - Thursday, **April 2nd**, 6pm, Maundy Thursday
(Before 7pm service)

Deacons Meeting - Monday, **April 6th**, 6pm, Annex

RAMM - Monday, **April 6th**, 6pm, Church

Trustees - Tuesday, **April 7th**, 5:30pm, Annex

Session Meeting - Tuesday, **April 7th**, 7pm, Annex

Bob Evans Fundraiser - Monday, **April 20th**, 7am - 9pm
(Main Street Location, Hamilton)

Dorcas - Tuesday, **April 21st**, 10am, Chris Mastin, Annex

Togetherness - Tuesday, **April 28th**, 1:30pm, Annex

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

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

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

NOTE: There will be no Adult Sunday School on April 5th (Easter Sunday), April 12th, and April 19th and no LOFT on Easter Sunday.

Parish Life

Our next potluck is on **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd** at 6 pm, followed by the Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm. Our next fundraiser at Bob Evans will be on **Monday, April 20th** at Bob Evans on Main Street in Hamilton, dine-in or carry out. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

MISSIONS

Many, many thanks to everyone who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. Your generosity will help so many in need, in so many places around the world. THANK YOU!

Beginning in April, VPC will be supporting Matthew 25 Ministries in their disaster relief efforts in the Central and Midwestern United States. On March 10, a powerful storm system produced tornadoes, hail, and destructive weather across multiple states. Some of the worst impacts were in the Midwest, especially Northern Illinois, and Indiana, where extensive structural damage, fatalities, and injuries occurred. Matthew 25 quickly deployed their disaster response teams and vehicles loaded with supplies.

Now Matthew 25 is asking for assistance. Here are some ways you can help!

*Pray: For the safety, comfort, and recovery of those affected by the disasters and for the workers who are helping them.

* Monetary donations: Donate online (<https://m25m.org/disaster/cmwseverewx26/?form=donateonline>) or mail checks to Matthew 25 Ministries 11060 Kenwood Rd., Blue Ash, OH 45242

*Product donations: These items will be collected at VPC. Please put them on the table under the stairs in the downstairs lobby (where the puzzles were):

1. Cases of bottled water—12 or 24 count.
2. Personal care products—antibacterial soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, lotion, etc.
3. Cleaning supplies—laundry detergents, general cleaner, sponges, bleach (powdered preferred), mops, scrub brushes, buckets, rubber gloves, etc.
4. Paper products—toilet paper, paper towels, etc.
5. Baby/infant supplies—diapers, wipes, diaper rash ointment, baby wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion, etc.
6. First aid items—bandages, gauze, pads, first aid tape, antiseptic creams, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, instant cold packs, etc.
7. Candles and flashlights—Please include appropriate batteries for any flashlight donations.
8. Clean-up supplies—Protective eyewear, work gloves, garbage bags, etc.

If you or a special someone has an April Birthday, a small donation to the Birthday Blessings Church is a nice way to honor that birthday. In case you have forgotten where the Birthday Blessings Church is, or how it works, here is a little review: **The Birthday Blessings Church presently resides on the other end of the credenza where the bulletins are distributed. It has a slot on the roof to deposit coins or bills, whichever you choose, to honor someone on their birthday. It doesn't have to be a lot, but those little contributions mount up over time and add to our mission funds. P.S. It is OK to forget and then make it up at a later time!**

Community Outreach continues to need gently used blankets, shoes, socks; and sorted and flattened plastic bags to make mats. VPC Pantry needs non-perishable food items, and RAMM needs personal care items, as well as cereal, oatmeal, canned meats, spaghetti meals, etc., paper goods and cleaning supplies are still needed for Haven House, as are beverage tabs for Shriners.

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 will be on **Monday, April 6th**, at 6pm. The RAMM meeting will be held in the church.

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.

APRIL

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult Sunday School ● 9:30am LOFT ● 10:30am Worship ● 11am Junior Church 		<p>No Boy Scouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1:57am Invoice updated with recent ● 1:30pm Togetherness Mtg-Annex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Choir Practice ● 6:30pm Comm M ● 7pm Handbell Pr
<p>5</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10:30am Worship ● 11am Junior Church 	<p>6</p> <p>Easter Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Deacons (Annex) ● 6pm RAMM-(Church) 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Trustees Meeting (Annex) ● 7pm Boy Scouts ● 7pm Session Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Choir Practice ● 6pm Girl Scouts ● 7pm Handbell Practice
<p>12</p> <p>No Adult Bible Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am LOFT ● 10:30am Worship ● 11am Junior Church 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<p>15</p> <p>Tax Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Choir Practice ● 7pm Handbell Practice
<p>19</p> <p>No Adult Bible Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am LOFT ● 10:30am Worship ● 11am Junior Church 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7am Bob Evans Fundraiser 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am Dorcas-Chris Mastin (Annex) ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Choir Practice ● 6pm Girl Scouts ● 7pm Handbell Practice
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Adult Sunday School ● 9:30am LOFT ● 10:30am Worship ● 11am Junior Church 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1:30pm Togetherness Mtg-Annex ● 7pm Boy Scouts 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30pm Choir Practice ● 7pm Handbell Practice

REMINDER: Anytime there are changes or cancellations to our church calendar, please make to the office hard copy and the website calendar. Thanks so much!

Office No
Email: church@

ED or 1 actice meeting actice	THU 2 ● 6pm Potluck Luncheon ● 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	FRI 3 ● 7pm Good Friday Service	SAT 4
8 actice actice	9 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversations	10	11
5 actice actice	16 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversations	17	18 RAMM Food Pantry
2 actice actice	23 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversations	24	25
9 actice actice	30 ● 9:30am Coffee Conversations	May 1	2

se remember to call or email the church office so that the changes can be

number: 513-738-1317
 office@thevenicechurch.com



EASTER LILLIES - Please remember to take your Easter Lily home after the Easter Service on April 5th.

Bob Evans®
— FARMHOUSE KITCHEN —

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

Save the date for Vacation Bible School

Beth Ziepfel will be taking charge of Vacation Bible School 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*.

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES

It's graduation time, and we are happy to be honoring and recognizing the accomplishments of our **2026** graduates on **Sunday, May 17**. If you, or someone in your family, are graduating either from high school or college, please let us know. Please send us their name, the name of their school, and a little note of accomplishments or any items of interest. If known, include any future plans they might have in store. You can email the information to the church office (churchoffice@thevenciechurch.com) or to Helen Rohrer at HLWR0707@yahoo.com. We would appreciate having this information by May 1. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Rohrer or Candy Wepler. Thank you.



YOUTH GROUP

L.O.F.T. = Living Our Faith Together through service, study, prayer & fun! Below are the youth events for April and May (pending approval by Session).

April

Sun 5	N0 LOFT - Spend Easter morning with your families! 😊
	Youth will Usher/Greet this week
Sun 12	LOFT (9:30 - 10:00)
	Youth will setup/serve/clean up Coffee Hour this week
	Service: Stay after church for lunch and a work day on our spring flower cans
Sun 19	LOFT – We'll hand out our flower cans for Earth Day on 4/22
	Fun: Putt putt golf at Puzzle and Putt in Oxford (Meet at church at 2, we'll drive up and play a round and be back by 4 ish. Maybe an ice cream stop, weather permitting)
Sun 26	LOFT

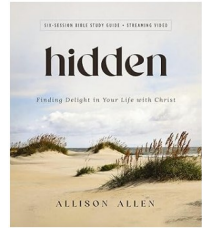
May

Sun 3	LOFT
	Youth will Usher/Greet this week
Sun 10	LOFT 9:30: Gather in the VPC kitchen!
	Service: Youth will setup/serve/clean up Mother's Day brunch!
Sun 17	LOFT
Sun 24	Last LOFT: Sundae Sunday! 🍌
	Fun: Picnic lunch (pack your own) and hiking at Miami Whitewater Forest

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

The Adult Sunday School class meets at **9:00am** in the Annex on Sundays. We will study the Series “*Hidden: Finding Delight in Your Life with Christ.*” by Allison Allen.



Dates we will not have Adult Sunday School are **April 5th (Easter Sunday)** , **April 12th**, **April 19th**. We will resume on **April 26** so we have one date in April. We will finish the last three sessions in May.

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

The Coffee Conversation Group will continue with the study, “*The God of the How and When*” by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel. 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.



April Preschool News

It is hard to believe that we only have 2 months left for this school year! This year has gone very quickly. Our Spring Break is the week of March 30th-April 3rd. We are looking forward to receiving our caterpillars after Spring Break so our students can observe them as they grow and change into butterflies. Our students have been working hard on their paper maché piñatas, and they are excited to open them during our Easter parties. Towards the end of April, we will be making the handprint t-shirts for our graduations at the end of May. We still have some spots available for the 2026-2027 school year.

What are we Learning this Month?

Blue Class (Mrs. Baker) – We will continue to practice letters and letter sounds. We will review patterns, rhyming and syllables. We will continue to work on counting and identifying those tricky ten numbers.

Red Class (Mrs. Fathman) – We will learn about all things spring and continue to work on the alphabet.

Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade) – We will learn about spring things and continue to work on letters and numbers.



JOY (Just Older Youth) Group



We had a great turnout for our outing to the Stone Tavern at our March JOY Group activity.

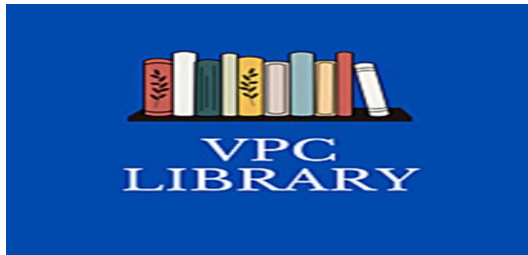
Thanks to the Stone Tavern for good food and for getting the Ohio State game on the TV for us. Unfortunately, the outcome of the game was not as good as the food. I also failed to get a picture of the tavern and our group! Due to April conflicts, we will not have an outing in April. We

are planning an activity for May 21st. Details will follow at a later date, but mark your calendar. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Gayla.

Many Thanks!

Many thanks go out to Lois Beddard for stepping up and saying she will be the Country Christmas Chairperson for this year. Watch for more information about this event starting later this fall.





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, Marcia Collinsworth, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Ruth Guenther, Pat Jackson, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Elizabeth Vereker, Rick Weppner, 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.



BIRTHDAYS

- 05 Mary Ann Guenther
- 09 John Pigg
- 10 Angie Tweedt
- 11 Tracey Spille
- 12 Richard Bohne
- 13 Joe Young
- 22 Leon Collinsworth
- 24 Pete Berling
- 26 Aly Bailey



ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Ron and Kathy Mienheartt
- 23 Carroll and Lois Metzger
- 26 Jerry and Trish Lutterbie



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

RECIPE



Onion Dip

- 1- 8 oz Cream Cheese
- 1- cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup - Mayo
- 3/4 cup. Parmesan cheese

Mix with mixer

Pour into small ovenproof Corning
Dish & Bake at 425° F for 15 minutes

Serve with crackers

Jean Wilhelm

Thank you so much
for all the prayers,
cards, visits, flowers
and food. I love
having such a caring
church family.

Sincerely

Marcia
Collinsworth

