

# Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

January 2025

Established 1828



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

## *Venice Presbyterian Church*

4244 Layhigh Road

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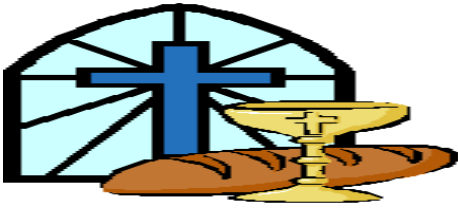
[www.thevenicechurch.com](http://www.thevenicechurch.com)

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:

**January 5th**

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



**Venice Presbyterian Church**  
4244 Layhigh Road  
P.O. Box 41  
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

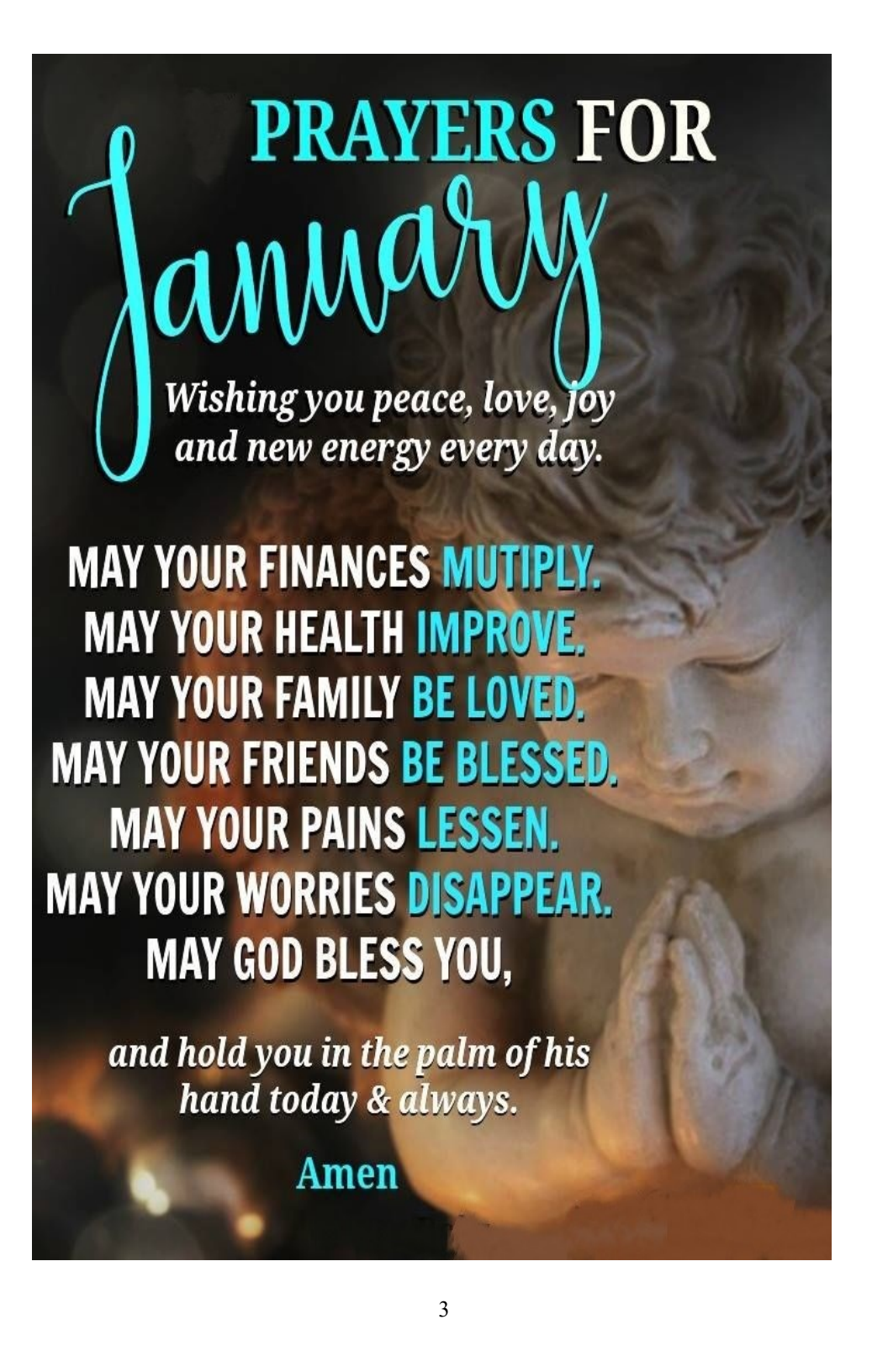
**Choir Director**

**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.



**PRAYERS FOR**  
*January*

*Wishing you peace, love, joy  
and new energy every day.*

**MAY YOUR FINANCES MULTIPLY.**  
**MAY YOUR HEALTH IMPROVE.**  
**MAY YOUR FAMILY BE LOVED.**  
**MAY YOUR FRIENDS BE BLESSED.**  
**MAY YOUR PAINS LESSEN.**  
**MAY YOUR WORRIES DISAPPEAR.**  
**MAY GOD BLESS YOU,**

*and hold you in the palm of his  
hand today & always.*

**Amen**



## From the Manse

### **New Year, New Beginnings**

As we stand at the threshold of a brand-new year, we are reminded of the infinite possibilities that lie ahead. The turning of the calendar invites us to reflect on God's faithfulness in the year gone by and to step forward with renewed hope and purpose.

The apostle Paul's words in Philippians 3:13-14 are a timely reminder: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." This passage speaks to the heart of what the New Year represents: a fresh start in our journey of faith.

### **Reflecting on God's Faithfulness**

Take a moment to pause and consider how God has worked in your life over the past year. Perhaps there were challenges that seemed insurmountable, yet God provided strength and guidance. Maybe there were blessings—both big and small—that filled your heart with gratitude. For the Derrick household, undoubtedly, the milestone event of the year was moving into our new home in Ross, and the role the congregation played in making that happen – including the remarkable prowess of the Gerry-Attic Movers! – gladdens my heart daily as I enjoy life in Ross and my short commute! As a church family, we celebrate these moments together, knowing they are reminders of God's active involvement in our lives.

### **A Season of Renewal**

The New Year is not just about making resolutions; it's about seeking renewal in Christ. Romans 12:2 encourages us: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Let's commit to growing deeper in our faith, serving others with love, and living out the Gospel in our daily lives.

## **Moving Forward Together**

As a church, we are committed to walking this path together, encouraging one another and shining as Christ's light in Ross. 2025 is already shaping up to look different. In the church office, we're saying a tearful farewell to Gwen Kohlman, our administrator, as she enters fully into her new role as a grandma. We wish Gwen well and look forward to hearing all about Lucas as he grows up.

As a result of Gwen's departure, we now welcome on board our new administrator, Carol Gilmore, who I am sure we will all greet and support in true VPC fashion, as she settles into her new role.

And, of course, we are also saying an equally tearful farewell to our Choir Director, Houston Tyrrell. Houston's impact on our musical life as a congregation was on full display at the wonderful Christmas Cantata on December 21. His joy and energy have brought many moving moments in our worship, and we wish Houston and his fiancée Sabreena every blessing in their future together.

*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

<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>
05 Dan Young	02 Tami Adams
12 Greg Young	09 Sue Pigg
19 Jerry Rohrer	16 Gayla Young
26 Dave Toler	23

## Communion Preparers

<b>January 5th</b>	Gayla Young
<b>February 2nd</b>	

## Trustee of the Month

**January**

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## Attendance

<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
06..... 65	03.....80
13..... 69	10.....81
20.....	17.....66
27..... 68	24.....79

*Thankful for You!*

# JANUARY

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

**Congregational Meeting** - Sunday, **January 19th** after church

**Deacon Meeting** - Wednesday, **January 8th** at 6:00 pm - Annex

**Dorcas Circle** - January: **No Meeting**

**Session Meeting** - Tuesday, **January 14th** - Annex

**Togetherness Circle** - January: No meeting

**Trustees Meeting** - Tuesday, **January 7th** at 5:30 pm - Annex

## **Parish Life**

**Potluck Luncheon** - Our next Potluck Luncheon is **January 12th** after church. As always, there will be great food and fellowship that you don't want to miss!

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

## **Deacons**

**Church Coffee Hour** - *Thanks for all your help!*



**Deacons meeting** - Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **January 8th** at 6:00 p.m. in the Annex.



## MISSIONS

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, \$700 worth of gift cards were delivered to Haven House to be used to buy Christmas gifts for the families there. \$675 worth of monetary donations were given by the VPC congregation to buy those gift cards. A \$25 gift card was also donated. What a wonderful expression of the spirit! Many, many thanks to the congregation for spreading some Christmas joy!

Thank you also to those of you who completed the Education Events and Resources surveys. These surveys were an attempt to gauge community interest in a variety of topics in order to provide relevant and useful programming for the surrounding community. There were 10 completed at the October QPR training, 28 were completed at the RAMM Pantry in November, and 11 were later completed by the VPC congregation. The #1 topic of interest in all groups was Loneliness, #2 was Grief, and #3 as Dementia/Alzheimer's. Based on those results, the plan is that appropriate programming can then be organized and implemented.

Brrr!! Now that the REAL winter weather has arrived, community outreach is especially appreciative of gently used blankets, afghans, and throws; gloves, and sturdy shoes and boots. Sorted and flattened plastic bags to make mats are also needed.

As always, don't forget beverage tabs for Shriners, personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant) for RAMM, non-perishable food items for VPC Pantry, paper goods and cleaning supplies for Haven House, and a small donation to honor a loved one's January birthday in the Birthday Blessings church.

**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](http://www.rammbutler.org)**

There will be no RAMM meeting in **January**.

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



What a wonderful Christmas party we had at Ruth Guenther's! A huge thank you to Ruth for being such an amazing hostess. The food was delicious and the company was even better. We had our gift exchange and then Lois thought of

singing Christmas songs! I think there were some potential choir members in the JOY Group. Our next Joy Group outing will be on **January 16, 2025**. We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and go to Gina's Italian Restaurant in Hamilton for lunch. We will keep it close to home in case we have crazy weather! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can give Gina's a reservation estimate. We hope you can join in on the fun, food, and fellowship. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call at 513-836-0020 or email at [gaylayoung@fuse.net](mailto:gaylayoung@fuse.net).



## Personnel News

The church has hired a new Administrative Assistant to replace Gwen Kohlman. The new person is Carol Gilmore. She has years of experience with office practices and software programs after serving as an administrative assistant with several Cincinnati area corporations. The VPC interview team was impressed with her professionalism, high morals, and work ethic.

If you are able, please stop by the church office, welcome Carol to the VPC family and introduce yourself.

As you are now aware, Houston Tyrrell has moved on to a new position. We thank him for the time he spent at VPC sharing his talent and love of music. The Personnel Committee is working to hire a new choir director and hopes to have someone in that position sometime in January.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

January, 2025

## YOUTH GROUP

(Sunday mornings 9:30-10:15 in the LOFT room of the Annex)

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

The Youth Group remains busy sharing the love of Christ with others. We had so much fun shopping and gift wrapping for *Hope for the Holidays!*

We remain busy growing and serving into the new year... We are continuing to meet weekly in the LOFT room of the Annex before church (9:30-10:15), ushering on the first Sunday of each month, and running Coffee Hour once each



month. In addition, we will be serving our community in January by working at the RAMM Pantry. Our January fun event is ICE SKATING! Stay tuned for dates and times which will be shared once they are confirmed.

Looking ahead, we will volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries on **February 8**. Please contact Beth Ziepfel for more information at 513-490-5408 or [givemeaz303@gmail.com](mailto:givemeaz303@gmail.com).



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Sunday mornings @ 9:00 am in the Annex)

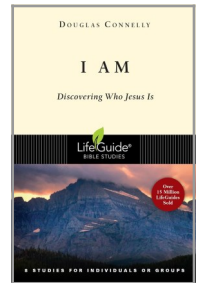
Adult Sunday School will be starting again on **January, 9th** at 9:00 am. in the Annex. Please join us! See Kim Young for more information.



## COFFEE CONVERSATIONS

(Thursday mornings @ 9:30 am in the Annex)

On **January 9th**, Coffee Conversations will begin a new study, *I Am: Discovering Who Jesus Is*. In this study we examine the “I am” declarations of Jesus. We are going to look at the context of His powerful words. We will go beyond simply a study of the ancient words – we will discover how Jesus’ words can transform our lives today. We will wrestle with some amazing claims and prepare to have our lives changed as Jesus’ claims ring true in our experiences. Join us Thursday mornings at 9:30. See Judy Bohne for information.



## JUNIOR CHURCH

(Sunday mornings during worship)

Junior church will be diving into learning about DILIGENCE using the *Character By God's Design Vol. 1* curriculum, a companion text to what we have been using.



# January Preschool News



Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is open to church members. Please contact the preschool at 513-738-0158 or [preschool@thevenicechurch.com](mailto: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 Simeon Sees Jesus.

**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 and begin identifying those tricky teen numbers. We will continue to practice rhyming, syllables, and letter sounds.

**Red Class (Mrs. Fathman)** – We will continue working on the alphabet, letter sounds, numbers, syllables and start working with rhyming words.

**Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade)** – We will be learning about the season winter, letters, numbers and shapes.



## Happy New Year!











## **MANY THANKS!**

The Women's Circles of Venice Presbyterian Church want to thank each and every person who helped, in any way, to make our 2024 Country Christmas a success. It is a great deal of work to actually get this ready to go by the day of the event. VPC has never let us down. Now, with our profit of \$2641, our Circles will be able to support many local missions in our community.

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## **PRAYERS**



**\*\* Please pray for Beth Ballauer, Brayden Bastin, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Katie Gobin, Nick Guenther, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Pat Jackson, Rev. Bryan Kile, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Carolyn Richardson, Gail Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Audrey Vogerl, Rick Wepler, Rosemary Wisecup, Joan Wright, and Jackie Yust.**

# JANUARY

## ***BIRTHDAYS***

- 01 Barb Ross
- 04 Bernice Roop
- 05 Tami Adams
- 06 Rick Schwoeppe
- 09 Kim Bohne
- 09 Houston Tyrrell
- 18 Larry Hayes
- 26 Donna Marsh
- 26 Bob Young
- 26 Owen Ziepfel
- 27 Phil Fathman
- 31 Alan Marsh



## ***ANNIVERSARIES***

- 06 Rick and Sally Schwoeppe
- 14 Keith and Deloris Eby



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please





