

# Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

November 2024

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:

**November 3**

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



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

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

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### **STAFF**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Owen Derrick

**Administrative Assistant**  
Gwen Kohlman

**Intermediate Youth Director**  
Beth Ziepfel

**Choir Director**  
Houston Tyrrell

**Music Director**  
Ben Tweedt

**Audio/Visual**  
Owen Ziepfel

**Custodian**  
Larry Hayes

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All items should be submitted by the  
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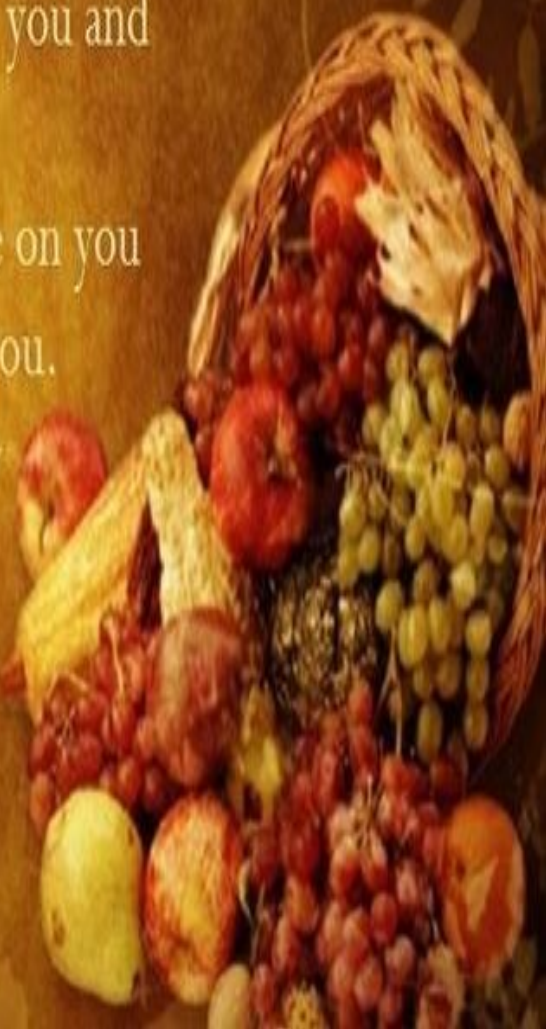
# NOVEMBER BLESSINGS

May the LORD bless you and  
protect you.

May the LORD smile on you  
and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show  
you His favor and  
give you His peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26





## From the Manse

Those of you who know me are aware that my phone is never too far away from my side. As unhealthy as I think that is, I still feel the pull of technology and the false connectedness one gets from a constantly updating Facebook newsfeed. The majority of what I end up reading is positive, uplifting, and helps maintain connections that are important to me.

For me, this is particularly the case with my Scottish heritage. As much as I value my status as an American citizen (I voted yesterday!) I'm still Scottish by birth and I enjoy staying connected in some way with that fact. For example, I've been struck recently by some of the pictures that have been posted from Scotland. There in Scotland, fall (or autumn as they call it) is further on in its progress than it is here. Their more stable, wetter climate has already caused the leaves to change color and the shedding of leaves to begin. I think we're a week or two away from that here. It's started, but isn't as far along in the cycle as it is there. Noticing this difference in seasonal manifestation, got me thinking about how we behave as church.

You see, it is the right thing for the leaves from the Scottish trees to be on the ground. In the cycle of their seasonal year, were the leaves not shed, there would be something wrong. By the same token, our climate here in Ohio is not quite yet ready for bare trees and so some leaves remain on the branches. Were the trees here to discard their foliage prematurely, that too would be a sign that something is wrong.

But what does this arboricultural diatribe have to do with church? Well, I realized that what is often right in one place may not be right in another. What may suit one congregation may be completely inappropriate in another. Just because one congregation worships in one style, doesn't mean that everyone should.

The key point here is that change "out of season" can be unhealthy. Changing because "them over there" have changed can have disastrous consequences, in much the same way as if Ohio trees decided to shed their leaves because they heard that the Scottish trees had already done so. The reality is that change is all around us. There's no escaping the fact that life is never stagnant and there is always the opportunity to adjust and absorb the changes that are happening in our environment. But our reasons for change should not be based on what someone else is doing. They should be based on what is healthy for us in our context, at the place where we are.

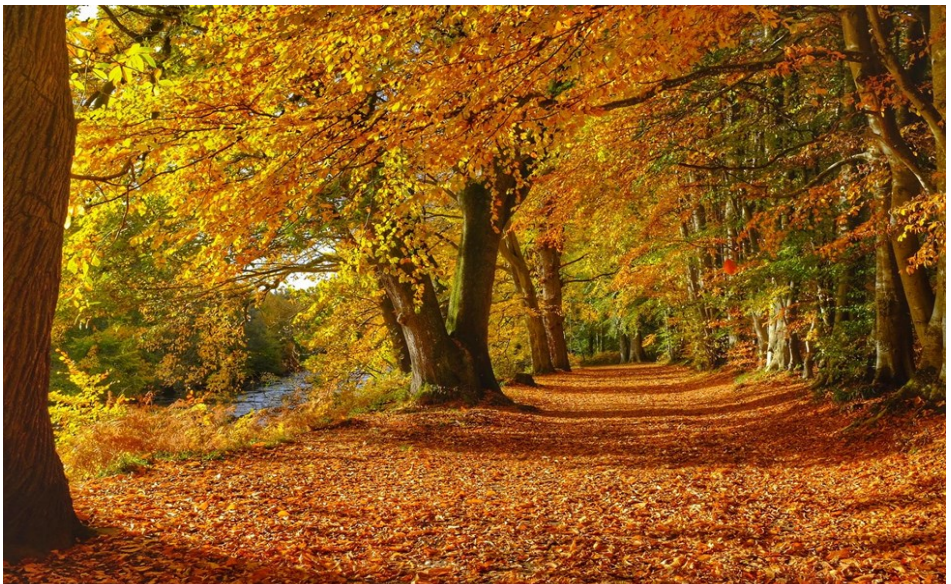
As a pastor, I find myself constantly impressed by other pastors and what they achieve with their congregations. The pressure to compete is real. But it's also deceptive, because there are no guarantees that what works in a colleague's congregation would work here. Instead, I rejoice in the uniqueness of what we have here at Venice Presbyterian, always prayerfully looking out for **healthy** opportunities for us to grow and adjust to the realities of our congregational life.

I say all of this because, after a year as your pastor, there may be a few things that I might want to tweak a little, in terms of our life together as a congregation: nothing major, and nothing that should cause any great concern, but rather changes that will (hopefully) improve our witness to the Gospel in Ross and beyond. Because, there is one area where seasonality doesn't apply. Paul's advice to Timothy remains as true today as it did 2000 years ago. "Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season." (2 Tim. 4:2a) There is never a wrong time to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and ascended.

May we all seek out opportunities for healthy change, recognize the dangers of unhealthy change, and be ever vigilant for opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ – in season and out of season.

Blessings and peace be with you all,

Pastor Owen Derrick



## 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>November</b>		<b>December</b>	
03	Bill Steenken	01	Dave Toler
10	Beth Ziepfel	08	Children's Program
17	Emily Young Eberwine	15	Judy Bohne
24	Richard Bohne	22	Kim Young
		29	Tami Adams

## Communion Preparers

<b>November 3rd</b>	Jan Krier
<b>December 1st</b>	Karlana Boyle
<b>December 24th</b>	Sue Pigg

## Trustee of the Month

<b>November</b>	Ron Mienheartt
<b>December</b>	Nancy Bohne

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## Attendance

<b>August</b>		<b>September</b>	
04.....	70	01.....	58
11.....	81	08.....	67
18.....	84	15.....	79
25.....	76	22.....	60
		29.....	64

*Thankful for You!*



## MISSIONS

When the calendar turns November, it will only be 55 days until we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This year we will again support **Haven House** during the Christmas season. Instead of asking for gift cards to be donated by congregants, we will be asking for monetary donations during November-December, beginning **November 17th**. The donated funds will then be used to purchase the designated gift cards to be given to Haven House. Please remember the **Haven House families** this Christmas!

Many thanks to the congregation for supporting Matthew 25 in their hurricane relief efforts in North Carolina and Florida! Matthew 25 is on the scene. **Your donations during the Silent Offering at church amounted to \$1,271.00!** The money will be put to good use in helping those who have lost so much.

Cool November weather has arrived, and blankets/afghans/throws, sturdy shoes, socks, and sorted, flattened plastic bags to make mats will again be even more important for community outreach. Please place your donations in the boxes under the coat racks in the downstairs lobby. Paper goods and cleaning supplies for Haven House, beverage tabs for Shriners, personal care items for RAMM (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste), and food items for VPC Pantry may be deposited upstairs in the bins under the side table. Don't forget small donations in the little Birthday Blessings church to honor a November birthday!

A huge thank you also to all those who helped make the QPR Training a success! Sherrie Allen from Envision Partnerships presented abundant, helpful information about suicide prevention in a short amount of time. Thank you to Tami Adams who initiated the program idea and arranged for the presenters to come. Thank you to Emily Goodwin who did a great job with communications. Thank you to Gwen Kohlman who took care of registration and emails, and thanks to Bob Young for tech support. Most of all, thank you to everyone in the congregation and the Ross community who participated in this outreach experience! The feedback from participants appeared to be positive, and VPC looks forward to presenting future community outreach programs.





**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)**

The RAMM meeting will be Thursday, **November 7th** at 6:00 pm at VPC 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. **However, the date for November has been changed to Saturday, November 23rd.** 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



The JOY Group had a nice luncheon outing to the Coach House Restaurant at Berkeley Square. The food was very good and I would recommend the restaurant to anyone looking for a nice place to eat lunch or dinner.

Our next JOY Group outing is going to be on Thursday, **November 14, 2024**. We will be moving it up a week due to a conflict that I have on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. and head to lunch to a restaurant to be determined. Watch for the final details in the weekly bulletin. There will be a sign-up sheet so that I can give them a number of people attending. I 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 [gaylayoung@fuse.net](mailto:gaylayoung@fuse.net).



## FROM YOUR COMMUNICATION TEAM

The new logo for our church has been approved by the Session. It now needs to be digitized so that it can be used in multiple formats. A copy of the original drawing submitted by Tad Adams is below.



We can colorize it in any way that we may desire for different occasions such as Christmas and Easter. Of course, we are not limited to just those two, so we can let our creative juices flow. Many thanks to Tad for sticking with us as we made him come up with more than one idea.

We will be updating the web site. It has been suggested that we highlight our special upcoming events on the first page of the site in a dramatic way so that anyone visiting our site will immediately be made aware of them. Also, we will be updating the picture section with current pictures and making them easier to see.

As always, we encourage your input if you have any ideas that you may feel would be helpful.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

November 2024

## 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!**

Youth is meeting weekly and continuing with monthly service and fun! Check out our upcoming November events.

Contact Beth Ziepfel with questions: 513-490-5048 or [givemeaz303@gmail.com](mailto:givemeaz303@gmail.com).

LOFT Living Our Faith  
Together

# NOVEMBER

- Saturday, Nov. 2 Outing to Wolf Creek Habitat & Rescue, 9am - 1pm
- Sunday, Nov. 3 LOFT 9:30-10 - Youth will usher/greet
- Sunday, Nov. 10 LOFT 9:30 -10:15
- Sunday, Nov. 17 LOFT 9:30-10 - Youth will setup/serve/clean up for Coffee Hour today!
- Saturday, Nov. 23 Work RAMM Pantry 9:30 - 11:30am
- Sunday, Nov. 24: LOFT 9:30 - 10:15

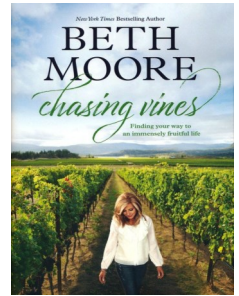
**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
(Sunday mornings @ 9:00 am in the Annex)

Throughout November, Adult Sunday School is working through Season 4 of *The Chosen, Upon This Rock!* Please come and join us at 9:00 on Sunday mornings in the annex. See Kim Young for more information.



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

Coffee Conversations continue meeting Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the annex. The current bible study is Chasing Vines (Beth Moore). There will not be a bible study on Thursday, November 28th due to Thanksgiving. The last bible study will be December 5th before taking a break for the holidays. See Judy Bohne if you have any questions.



**JUNIOR CHURCH**  
(Sunday mornings during worship)

Junior church continues meeting each Sunday during worship. In our *Grow Together Now* curriculum, we are focusing on cooperation. We are also practicing music for the Christmas program which will take place **December 8th.**





## **COUNTRY CHRISTMAS – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Lunch, Crafts, Bake Sale, Granny's Closet, Vendors & Opportunity Baskets

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Donate to:

Bake Sale Table, Craft Table  
Opportunity Baskets (Sweets, Gift Cards,  
and Cincinnati Items)

Sign up to  
bring necessary food items.

### **OTHER WAYS TO HELP:**

Help with set up Fri., Dec. 6th at 6 - 8 p.m.  
Help out during event in kitchen, clear tables, etc.  
Help with take down and clean up.

Any help is much appreciated. Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will be available again to beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas and may be ordered in memory or in honor of loved ones. Order information and envelopes will be coming soon.



\*\*\*\*\*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

The Christmas play this year is “Just a Little Christmas.” If the children have not gotten a CD with the music, please plan to pick one up in the Junior Church room. We will be assigning parts in November and will begin to run through the play at the end of Junior Church each Sunday. Mark your calendars for **December 8<sup>th</sup>** during the worship service. That is when the kids will be sharing their play with the congregation. If you have any questions about the play, please don't hesitate to give Gayla a call (513-836-0020) or email [gaylayoung@fuse.net](mailto:gaylayoung@fuse.net).



**CHURCH ORNAMENTS**  
**GOING, GOING, ALMOST GONE**

**ONLY 9 LEFT!**

Our VPC Circles are selling wooden ornaments of our church. They are wonderful keepsakes of your membership, your child's baptism, confirmation, time at our Preschool, their wedding, or simply your time at our church. If you previously purchased an ornament for your family and your child is now grown and on their own, wouldn't it be nice if they had their own ornament?

If interested, please call Martha Young at 513-738-1966.







## NOVEMBER PRESCHOOL NEWS



### What are we Learning this Month?

We will be talking about what we are thankful for. Our Bible story for November is Jesus Calms the Storm and Jesus Walks on Water.

**Blue Class (Mrs. Baker)** – We will continue to work on letters and letter sounds, focusing on the letters at the beginning of our names. We are still working on learning the letter chant! We will practice rhyming and clapping the syllables in words. We will also continue working on counting and number recognition, focusing on 6-10. We will begin practicing songs for our Christmas program.

**Red Class (Mrs. Fathman)** – We will continue working on letter recognition and letter sounds for D, E, and F, and number recognition with 4, 5, 6. We continue working with our names and begin practicing for our Christmas program.

**Yellow Class (Mrs. Meade)** – For November, our theme will be Thanksgiving. We will work on the colors brown and orange and continue working on name recognition. We will also begin working on Christmas songs for our program in December.



### Registration for 2025-2026

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open to church members in December. Registration opens to current students in January, and to the public in February. Please contact the preschool at 738-0158 or [preschool@thevenicechurch.com](mailto:preschool@thevenicechurch.com) to request the registration form or for more information.

## PUMPKIN GOOEY BUTTER CAKE

From Sharon Thompson

### **CRUST:**

One 18-1/4 oz. yellow cake mix

1 egg

1 stick butter, melted

\*\*Preheat over to 350 degrees. Combine ingredients and mix well. Pat into lightly greased 13 x 9 pan.

### **FILLING:**

One 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened

2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla

1 stick butter, melted

1 can pumpkin 15 oz.

1-1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice

One 16 oz. box powdered sugar

\*\*Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add eggs, vanilla, and pumpkin pie spice. Add pumpkin and melted butter and beat. Add powdered sugar and mix well. Spread over cake mixture. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes. You want the center to still be a little gooey, so do not overbake.



## THE SCOOP ON OUR COUNTRY CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

It seems that every year, I get compliments on the barbecue at Country Christmas. And, every year, I say, "it's not my recipe, it came from Milly Webber." Milly was a long time member and servant of our church. For many years, she worked as the head of the Elda Elementary Cafeteria. Milly once told me she used her Elda recipe for our Country Christmas sandwiches. I asked her to break down the recipe, so I could prepare it for my own family. She did, and what you see here, is that recipe, in Milly's own handwriting! The only change that I have made is that I use Montgomery Inn Barbecue Sauce, not Heinz. In 1988, Milly asked me to Co-Chair the Country Christmas Kitchen with her. And, I did. By Christmas of 1989, Milly had passed away. I have been chairing the Country Christmas Kitchen ever since. For a couple of years, Peggy Gries and Jeanne Mountsier used their own barbecue recipes to make our sandwiches. Other than those few times, I have used Milly's. You may have noticed that our VPC Kitchen door has a plaque on it saying, "Milly Weber Memorial Kitchen." Milly's memorials, along with donations from other church groups, made it possible for me to remodel the church kitchen in 1990. Anyone who knew and loved Milly knew that she was an angel here on earth! So, this year, If you choose the barbecue sandwich at Country Christmas and think it is tasty, think of Milly Weber and thank her for her contribution.

See You at Country Christmas,  
Martha Young

Church Bar-B-Q (Milly)

- 3 1/2 # Hamburgers
- 1 Med. onion (chopped)
- 1 cup Bar-B-Q sauce (I prefer Heinz with onion)
- 1 cup catsup
- 3 TB. Brown sugar
- 1 TB. Vinegar
- 1 cup quick oats (optional)

Makes 24 to 30 Sandwiches.



## PRAYERS



**\*\* Please pray for Beth Ballauer, Brayden Bastin, Wilma Butterfield, Kenley Commins, David Garrett, Katie Gobin, Ruth Guenther, Dale Hanson, Pat Jackson, Rev. Bryan Kile, The Family of David King (brother of Donna Marsh), The Family of Diane McBreen, Kylee Phillips, Nancy Renner, Gail Richardson, Debbie Schwab, J.T. Swartzel, Audrey Vogerl, Rick Weppeler, Dave Wheat, Rosemary Wisecup, Joan Wright, and Jackie Yust.**

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## THANKSGIVINGS FROM MEMBERS



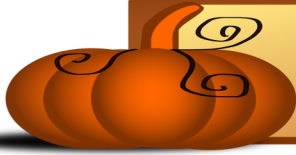
Dearest VPC Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, words of encouragement, hugs, and most of all sharing your love during my surgery! It truly meant so much to me!

*Love you ALL!*  
*Sharon Tragesser*

Thank you to Brown's Family Farm Market for the beautiful Fall arrangement outside the front door of church.

*Venice Presbyterian Church*



## *NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES*



### ***BIRTHDAYS***

- 10 Kevin Spille
- 13 Clarence Bohne
- 14 Bonnie Doherty
- 14 Natasha Ross
- 14 Sharon Tragesser
- 16 Dan Doherty
- 24 Sue Pigg
- 24 Gayla Young
- 25 Sue Toler
- 27 Beth Ziepfel
- 28 Kaylee Grey
- 28 Kyler Grey
- 29 Aubree Spille

Happy  
Birthday

### ***ANNIVERSARIES***

- 19 Greg and Kim Young
- 26 Dave and Sue Toler



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

