

# Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

December 2019

Established 1828



*“Reaching God through:  
Enrichment, Education and Extending Our Hands”*

## Venice Presbyterian Church

4244 Layhigh Road

PO Box 41

Ross, Ohio 45061

Phone: (513) 738-1317

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

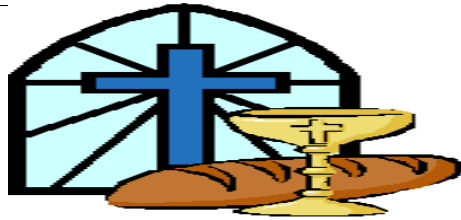
[www.thevenicechurch.com](http://www.thevenicechurch.com)

Sunday School 9:15a

Worship Service - 10:30a

Junior Church - during worship

Youth Group - during worship



*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*  
will be celebrated on:  
**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

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**Attendance**

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
1.....86	6..... 87
8.....68	13.....65
15.....78	20.....63
22.....71	27.....80
29.....69	

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*

*9:00a-1:00p*

*Phone*

(513) 738-1317

*Fax*

(513) 738-0456

*Email*

churchoffice@thevenicechurch.com

*Website*

www.thevenicechurch.com

**STAFF**

**Interim Pastor**

Rev. David Choate

**Administrative Assistant**

Debbie Schwab

**Music Director**

Ben Tweedt

**Choir Director**

Sterling Finkbine

**Nursery Attendants**

Nancy Renner

Josie Dishon

**Interim Youth Leader**

Jennifer Lee

**Custodian**

Mike Schwab

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Have you ever noticed how nearly all nativity scenes look like a picture from “Better Homes and Gardens?” The barn has been swept clean. The animals sit quietly looking like we wish our children would behave during church. The shepherds stopped at Men’s Wearhouse to buy new clothes and at Holiday Inn Express to shower before coming to Bethlehem to see this “great thing that has passed.” The wise men bear costly gifts donned in newly laundered regal attire. Joseph wears a plain working man’s cloak, but no wood shavings cling to his sleeves. How ornately Mary is attired depends largely on which tradition your nativity scene represents. Kneeling before the creche, she hardly appears to have given birth within the last couple of hours. Baby Jesus has been bathed and swaddled. “The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.”

There is a statue of Mary in the narthex of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church in Pickerington, Ohio. Unlike many statues of Mary adorned as the Queen of Heaven, the statue of Mary at Seton Parish is a full-sized wood carving of a plainly clad working-class woman, bare-footed and “very” pregnant. Yes, I took 12<sup>th</sup> grade human anatomy and physiology. I know there is no such condition as “very” pregnant. You are either pregnant or not. By contrast, you get the idea. In this statue, Mary is about ready to give birth.

So many depictions of the Nativity and other religious scenes strive for a look of perfection. Even the crucifixion is often made to seem void of misery. Yet, that’s not how things were or are! The original events were anything but neat and tidy, just as our lives are often anything neat and tidy regardless of the image of perfection we try to project.

The point to all of this is that Christ comes to us even when – no especially when – our lives are in a mess.

So, however life is for you this Christmas, above all remember that Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us!

Pastor David



## COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 7

10:00-2:00

*Please join us at our Community Holiday Event*

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Lunch with homemade food (carryout available), baked goods,

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Granny's Closet, crafts and vendors, music, and  
FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA & SUGAR PLUM SHOP

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### **"COUNTRY CHRISTMAS" Setup Timeline:**

Food signups due: Sun, Dec 1

All Opportunity Basket items due: Sun, Dec 1 (Questions call Nancy Boyne  
896-4964)

All hamburger/chicken/misc. items due: Fri, Dec 6, 6:00 pm

All craft donations due: Sat, Dec 7, 9:00 am

All salads, desserts, baked goods, etc. due: Sat, Dec 7, 9:00 am



*Tuesday, December*

*10*

*7:00 p.m.*

All VPC women are invited to attend the holiday party, which will be held in the Church Annex. You are assured to get in the holiday spirit during this fellowship time.

**RSVP:**

Sign up at church or call Melanie at 314-2633. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and diapers/wipers for Haven House Mission Project.

**"Country Christmas"  
Ways to Support the Women's  
Fundraiser?**

- ✚ Donate items for the Opportunity Baskets  
(Gift Cards, Cincinnati items, Sweet Treat items)
- ✚ Donate food items for the luncheon
- ✚ Donate handmade crafts
- ✚ Donate baked goods
- ✚ Donate items for Granny's Closet
- ✚ Make a financial donation
- ✚ Attend the event...Lunch, Carryout, Shop



*All proceeds from this event benefit the Women's Mission Projects!*



## JOY (Just Older Youth) Group

Our Christmas party will once again be held at Ruth Guenther's house, 2391 Ross Millville Road. This year it will be on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 2:00 pm. Bring a gift (value

around \$10) for the gift exchange and a covered dish to share. Drinks and service ware will be provided. Hope you will plan to join us for food, fun, and fellowship! If you have any questions, call Gayla at 513-836-0020 or email at [gaylayoung@fuse.net](mailto:gaylayoung@fuse.net).



Please mark your calendars for the next Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, January 5, 2020 after church. Please bring a covered dish to share. As always, great food and fellowship that you won't want to miss.

## **Worship Assistant Schedule**

### **December**

1st - Dave Toler  
8th - Gayla Young (Children's Christmas Program)  
15th - Judy Bohne  
22nd - Kim Young  
29th - Alan Marsh

## **Communion Preparers**

December 1 - Dale Hanson

## **Ushers**

### **December**

1st - Youth Group  
8th - Deacons  
15th - Men's Group  
22nd - Women's Group  
29th - Back Row Ladies

### **January**

5th - Youth Group  
12th - Deacons  
19th - Men's Group  
26th - Women's Group



## **December Preschool News**



In December, we will learn about the birth of baby Jesus. We will be learning about the letters Oo, Cc, and Qq and focusing on the teen numbers. Our dramatic play area will be turned into a bakery so that students can pretend to make lots of yummy holiday treats.

We are busily preparing for our Christmas Programs! The 2 day Christmas Program will be on Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 am and the 3 day Christmas Program will be on Friday, December 20 at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend!

We will be on Christmas break from December 23 – January 3.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!  
Nancy, Barb, Morgan and Dana



This is the 41st year for the Preschool!





## **ORNAMENTS FOR SALE**

I am pleased to notify you that The Women's Association of The Venice Church is once again selling wooden ornaments of our Church. The cost is still an affordable \$5.00. Please send in your cash or check in an envelope marked Church Ornament and the number of ornaments being ordered.

Please make checks payable to: Venice Presbyterian Women's Association.

If you have any questions please call Martha Young at 738-1966.

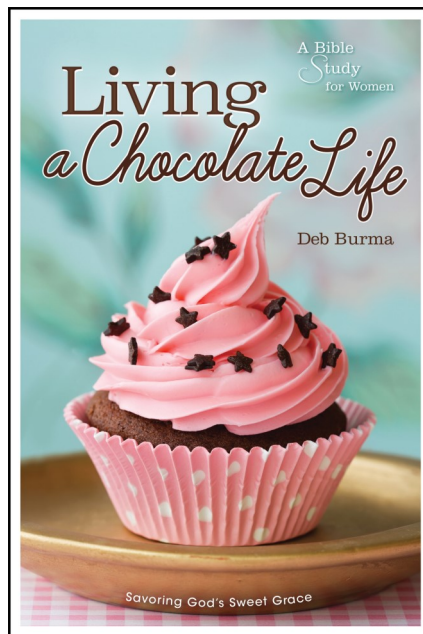


## **Christian Education**

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

Judy Bohne's next study will begin on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and is *Living a Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma. Fun, friendly, and engaging, Burma's study invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. Whether they're sampling everything from bitter nuggets of pain to sweet morsels of joy, this study reminds readers that the Holy Spirit fills them with sweet faith in the Savior and it is only He who can truly satisfy.

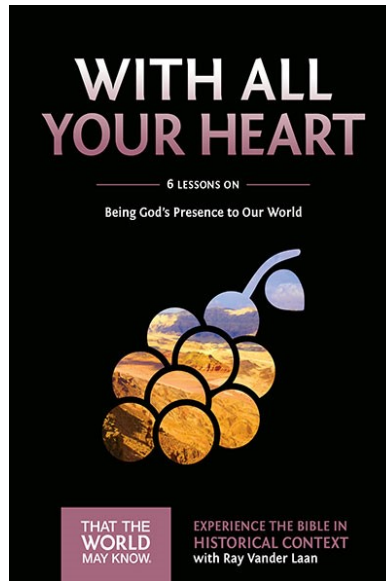
Written with a fun chocolate theme, each session focuses on one aspect of life as a Christian woman, encouraging readers toward introspection and personal reflection. Designed to be 45 to 60 minutes long, each session includes at least one recipe for a chocolate dessert item, a Bible verse to memorize, chocolate trivia, and suggestions for group activities.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### **Adult Sunday school.**

The adult class began Ray Vander Laan's *With All My Heart, Being God's Presence to Our World*. The study should continue until December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will take a couple of weeks break during the holidays until January.



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## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Deep Blue* will continue through the fall for Junior Church. We're averaging 6-8 children.

The children are also practicing for their musical in December called *The Inn Crowd*, directed by Gayla Young.



The Venice Presbyterian Church pantry has had **226** visits this year. Your donations are serving 20-25 families a month at the church. 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. Pork & Beans
6. Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta



Any questions, please see Dave Wheat or Rick Wepler.

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### **RAMM**

RAMM meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at Venice Presbyterian church annex at 9:00am. All are welcome! Please join us!



The RAMM monthly open pantry is held the third Saturday of each month, from 10am to 12pm, at the Ross Schools Administration Building, room 101. The monthly fresh market open pantry has had **317** visitors through November 2019. If you would like to volunteer your time or have donations of perishable or non-perishable food items, or personal care items, please contact Greg Young at 513-212-7950. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Our Hope for the Holidays program is underway! If you can help out with a turkey, other holiday meal items, a financial donation or would like to sponsor an individual or family for Christmas, please contact Greg Young or Debbie Schwab. Thank you!

RAMM now has a website! **[www.rammbutler.org](http://www.rammbutler.org)**

#### Kroger Rewards:

Thanks to everyone who participates in the Kroger Rewards Program on behalf of VPC. This past quarter, we had 37 households participating in the program. VPC received a check for \$151.81 from Kroger.

If you are not participating but would like to and want some help in signing up for the program, please contact Melanie Hanson at 314-2633. Your participation on behalf of VPC does not affect your own benefits received from the Kroger Rewards Program, so please sign if you are not participating.

Dale Hanson  
Treasurer- VPC  
738-1317

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We will be honoring  
Christian Education workers,  
Sunday, December 15th. We  
want to thank those who  
have educated our beautiful  
children, teens and adults!!!



We will be honoring our  
Deacons, Sunday, December 22nd for all they do! The Session thanks  
you!

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The Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 7:00 pm.  
Please plan to join us for this special time of worship which  
will include special music, a Christmas message and a candle  
lighting service.



## Youth Group

As we all prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth I'd like to celebrate our youth kids. In 2019 we consistently had 8 kids in our youth group and sometimes 9-12! Eight kids volunteered a total of 142 hours this year! They helped at our VBS, Matthew 25 Ministries, prepped and worked at our Back to School Carnival. So proud of their dedication to service!

We have our new Grow Curriculum. All of our youth seem to like the way it's structured and continue to be engaged in the various "true to life" questions and lessons that are learned.

Wendal Farms is always a fun time for our youth kids and this year was no different! The best part is that there is a lesson about how "Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin!". We saw Breakthrough and Overcomer this year and our kids loved both movies! With Breakthrough there wasn't a dry eye in our group, including the boys. They weren't sure about the movie at first but they were so glad they went, watching a real life miracle was amazing. In Overcomer the lesson we learned is that

Christians must find their identity in Christ. We are more than sons, daughters, students, football players, band members and FFA members. They taught us how to do that by having us read Ephesians 1-2 and making a list of all of the words that describe "Who I am" based on the Bible verse. What a neat exercise for each of us to really think about who "I am" in God's eyes!

Most importantly, we witnessed our own Miracle when Lisa was in a car crash and lived! Such a scary time for her, her family and our youth family. Lisa was our lesson in Miracles!

Thank you all for supporting our youth with your prayers and noisy offering. You are always welcome to join us on any of our excursions just let us know! Last (but not least) a *Big Thank You to Cindy* who always feeds us yummy food! You are appreciated more than you know (and not just because of the food)!

In Christ's Love, Jen Lee

December			
Sunday	1	10:00am - 11:45am	Youth Ushering
			2020 Volunteer, Fundraising & Activity Planning plus Making Chocolate Covered Pretzels to sell at Country Christmas
Sunday	1	11:45am - 3:00pm	
Saturday	7	10:00am - 2:00pm	Country Christmas – We need volunteers to man our table
Sunday	8	10:00am - 11:45am	Christmas Play
Sunday	8	Noon - 4:00pm	Youth Christmas Party
Saturday	21	10:00am - Noon	RAMM Pantry Volunteering



## SHOE BOX CHRISTMAS!

It's not too soon to start thinking about our 5th annual Shoe Box Christmas to benefit Haven House Homeless Shelter! The results in the past three years were AWESOME! Remember, it's easy.....a shoe box filled with small gifts for a woman, man or boys or girls. The gifts, for example for a woman, can be filled with lotions, hairbrush, warm socks, knitted hat, gloves, candy bar, etc. All can be purchased at a dollar store (Dollar Tree - where everything is \$1). Then Christmas wrap them and put a tag on the outside indicating whether it is for a woman, man, etc. Last year we collected and delivered over 100 boxes.

Let's do it again this year! Start bringing in filled shoe boxes after Thanksgiving and we will be delivering to Haven House during the 3rd week in December. Thanks in advance.

Questions! Call Candy Weppeler at 513-868-6044



### **Deacons**

The Deacons will be meeting on December 4th at 6:30pm.

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### **Trustees**

Trustee of the month for December: Ron Mienheartt

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### **Noisy Offering**

The Noisy Offering is being collected each week as follows:

1st & 4th Sunday - Youth Group

2nd & 5th Sunday - Church food pantry

3rd Sunday - School Lunch Program

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Many thanks to all the VPC Church family for the cards, calls, food and visits. I've had a couple of set backs but hope that I am on the way to my recovery. Bless you all, *Martha Young*



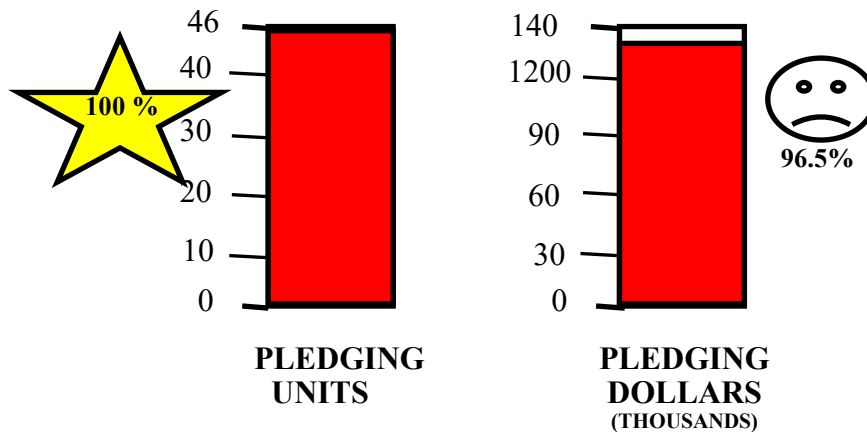
Venice Presbyterian Church  
2020 Stewardship Campaign  
Results



The 2020 Stewardship Campaign has wrapped up. We have 100% of the 46 pledging units reporting. Pledging from these units is 96.5% of our goal, so we are a little short of our goal of \$140,000 in pledges.

Thank you to our pledge book captains for help circulate the pledge books. Also thank you to everyone who pledged Time & Talent as well as financial support for the coming year.

**2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN GOALS  
PROGRESS TO DATE**

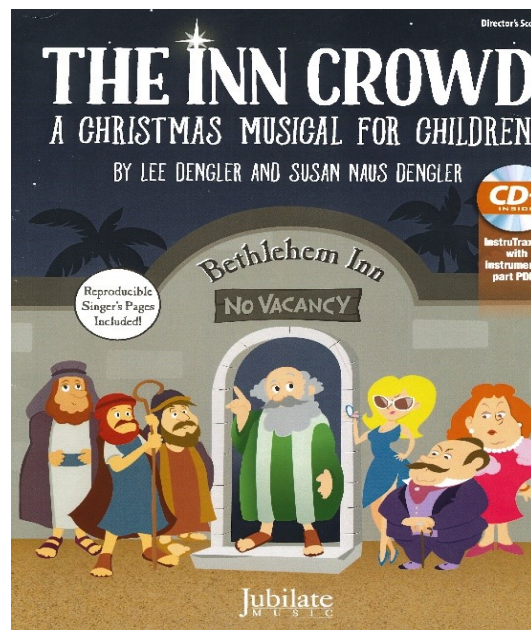


If you have any questions about the Stewardship Campaign, please contact Dale Hanson at 603-0732.

## *Children's Christmas Program*

This year's program The Inn Crowd will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 during the worship service. With a light touch, it helps us remember that we are all part of God's "In Crowd" and that we are all important to Him.

We will have practice during Junior Church on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and our dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the sanctuary. The children always seem to have a good time telling the Christmas story. I hope you and your family will be able to attend the service and share in the good news that Jesus came for each of us! If you have any questions, call me at 513-836-0020 or email me at [gaylayoung@fuse.net](mailto:gaylayoung@fuse.net).



### **Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree envelopes in the bulletins will help the Deacons purchase gift cards for RAMM clients that are not included in our Hope for the Holidays program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated to help us serve those less fortunate in our community. Please see Dave Wheat with any questions.

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### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Red poinsettias will be available to beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas and may be ordered in memory or honor of loved ones. The price is \$8.00 per plant. Order envelopes will be available in the bulletin or please contact the office. The deadline for orders will be Sunday, December 8th. Please remember to take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service.



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### **Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 15th**

Meet at the church at 6:00PM for a lot of fun. Afterwards, we will be going to Jan and John Krier's home. Please bring treats to share at the Krier's.



## **PRAYER LIST**

Please continue prayers for Ray and Millie. You may send a card or note to: **Ray & Millie Miller**: PO Box 172, Ross OH 45061

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Please keep **Patty Wurzelbacher** in your prayers as she continues to recover. You may send a card to: 60 Robert Dr, Hamilton OH 45013

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Please keep **Debbie Siekerman and family** in your prayers. You may send a card to: 4104 Hamilton Scipio Rd, Hamilton OH 45013

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Please continue to keep **Donna Marsh** in your thoughts and prayers for healing. Please send a card to: 3217 Morgan Ross Rd, Hamilton OH 45013

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Please keep **Vern Tragesser** in your thoughts. He has moved to Berkley Square. You may send a card to: 100 Capitol Crescent, Apt 111, Hamilton OH 45013

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Please keep **LaVerne Mehl** in your thoughts. She has moved to Fairfield Pavilion. You may send a card to: 5251 Dixie Hwy, Apt. 1115, Fairfield OH 45014

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Please keep **Missy Jo Peacock** in your thoughts and prayers for healing from spinal surgery. She will be having more surgery after Thanksgiving. You may send a card to: 2220 Morgan Ross Rd, Hamilton OH 45013

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Please keep **Christopher Guenther** in your prayers for healing after being hit by a car on his bike. You may send a card to him at: c/o Ruth Guenther, PO Box 175, Ross OH 45061

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Please keep the **Boyle Family** in your prayers. Karlana's mother, *Shirley Knopf*, passed away, November 16, 2019. You may send a card to: 1800 Tawny Drive, Hamilton OH 45013

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Please keep RHS student **Lyla Brinck and her family** in your prayers as she now recovers at Children's Hospital Medical Center. You can receive updates on the Facebook page "Lou Lou's Army". Please address cards to: #LoveforLyla, 3940 Thinnes Ct, Hamilton OH 45013. Cards may also be dropped off at the high school.

# December

12-1 Lloyd Stander  
12-2 Allen Boyle  
12-3 Carroll Metzger  
12-11 Jerry Rohrer  
12-14 Jay Butterfield  
12-17 Joy Minks  
12-18 Kirsten Homdrom  
12-19 Helen Rohrer  
12-23 Ray Miller  
12-24 Kwi-im Kim  
12-24 Dennis Rauen  
12-27 Dale Hanson  
12-31 Ruth Guenther



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office. Thank you.