

# Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

January 2021

Established 1828



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

## *Venice Presbyterian Church*

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

Adult 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:

**January 3, 2021**

***Inside this issue . . .***

Important Info .....	2
Dear Friends.....	3-4
Boards/Events.....	5-21
Calendar.....	22-23

**Attendance**

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
6.....27	1.....38
11.....39	8.....39
18.....37	15.....40
25.....59	22.....36
	29.....29

Please “Like” our  
Facebook page.  
Venice Presbyterian  
Church!



**Venice Presbyterian Church**  
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**STAFF**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Mary Hayes

**Administrative Assistant**  
Debbie Schwab

**Music Director**  
Ben Tweedt

**Choir Director**  
Sterling Finkbine

**Nursery Attendants**  
Nancy Renner  
Jen Guenther

**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.

## Welcome, Pastor Mary Hayes

We welcome Mary Hayes as our new Pastor! Pastor Mary will give her first sermon on Sunday, January 3rd. We invite you to join us in person or online, Sunday's at 10:30AM. You can reach Mary by email at:

[PastorMary@thevenicechurch.com](mailto:PastorMary@thevenicechurch.com)  
or you may call the church office to reach her. (738-1317). Mary grew up in West Chester and graduated from Lakota East High School. She received her undergraduate degree from Miami University where she majored in Comparative Religion



and minored in both Spanish Linguistics and Ceramics. While at Miami Mary was a Resident Assistant, which gave her experience in dealing with substance abuse, sexual assault, and mental health issues.

She has traveled extensively starting when she was 13 years old. She has visited 40 of the 50 United States; backpacked and vacationed in Canada; spent time in London and Paris as part of the People-to-People Ambassador Program; had brief stops in Germany and the Netherlands; while at Miami, studied abroad in Oman and the United Emirates; studied abroad in Israel and Palestine with the Princeton Theological Seminary; went on a mission trip to Peru; and spent a spring break in San Miguel, Mexico. As you can see, Mary loves to travel.

During high school, she bowled and played soccer for Lakota East and while at Miami University, she was on their bowling team. She still plays soccer in pick up games and bowls for fun.

During her free time, Mary enjoys cooking, reading “for fun” books, playing with her cats Jasper and Carlisle, and loves anything competitive, especially board games.

During our check of her references, we learned that Mary is noted for her outgoing personality, empathy, initiative, and maturity. Several of her references noted that she is mature beyond her years. She enjoys getting to know people of all ages on a personal basis, so don't be surprised if she asks you to join her for coffee or lunch, or to meet with you at the church or your home. (continued on page 4)

Mary enjoys preaching and as you can see, she has a broad background of experiences to draw upon. She is looking forward to extending the outreach of the VPC to the youth and young people of the community.

The above information formed the basis for the PNC recommending that the Venice Presbyterian Church issue a call to Mary. You will find her engaging too.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

All committee reports for the 2020 Annual Report are due in to the office by Friday, January 15, 2021.

If you need a copy of last years report for reference, please contact the church office.

### **Thank you, Pastor Amy Arnold**

Jude Mentz-Gibbons wrote that touching someone's soul is when a person's words, deed and/or actions touches the very core of another person's being. It has moved another deeply and passionately – sometimes to tears of joy and gratitude. Touching a person's soul can also be an epiphany for some that opens their eyes to things they have never experienced before. An experience of inner beauty, goodness, peace and knowledge that can't be seen but only felt by the heart. It can inspire another to be better, do better and strive for better motivating action. To touch someone's soul is to leave a mark on it; etching into their hearts a memory that they will always carry as unforgettable. Amy you have touched the souls of the church family here at Venice Church. You have shown us works of art; you have taken us to a small church in New England; you have introduced us to Sandy Patti's "Was it a Morning Like this?"; you have taught us about the fruit of the spirit; you have helped us to understand and love the book of Hebrews; you have led us through our stewardship campaign. But most importantly you have taught us about ourselves. You have taught us to look at our hearts while making room in our hearts for others. You have taught us to reach upward and take the hand of our Lord and Savior to help us through these crazy Covid days. For all of this, we thank you. You will always have a special place in our hearts and will forever be a part of this church family.



### **Thank you, Pastor John Specht**

— **H. Jackson Brown, Jr.** said “Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.”

Ephesians 4: 11-12 says it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

We at Venice Church have been so blessed to have you, John as a pastor and teacher over the last two and a half years. Through your sermons we have gotten to know you better and we have seen a man who is truly a person of integrity. You have taught us to “Trust in God even through Dry and Dusty Journeys,” you sang us the prison song “It Was the First Easter Morning, but We Didn’t Know it Yet,” you helped us recognize our graduates and told them that “All is good when God’s Spirit is Involved,” and on World Communion Sunday you helped us know that all people are part of God’s church family. You taught us about the Bible, about history, and about ourselves. You preached about love, about fairness, and about doing what is right to others. You prayed with us and for our church as we searched for a new pastor.

Giving to others seems to come so naturally to you, but I know it doesn’t happen by accident... You go the extra mile, take the extra time, give the extra thought...and it really makes a difference. Thank you for being such a wonderful example of God’s love. You will always have a place in the hearts of the Venice Presbyterian Church family. We love you, we thank you, and we wish you only the best as you finally get to enjoy a well-deserved retirement.



The Venice Presbyterian Church pantry has had **201** visits through December. Your donations are serving 15-20 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. Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta



Any questions, please see Dave Wheat or Rick Wepler.

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### **Giving Tree Envelopes**

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Giving Tree fund! We collected \$1,110.00! We were able to provide 22 families with a \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift card!

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### **Deacons**

The Deacons next meeting will be January 6th. They will be communicating through email for this meeting.

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## Women's Association Missions

Thank you, thank you, thank you for making the gift card collection for Haven House such a success. Thanks to the generosity of the Session, Women's Association and members and friends we were able to deliver to Haven House Homeless Shelter gift cards amounting to \$1,390.00! Rev. Bobbie Grove III, Director at Haven House was absolutely thrilled with receiving such a large amount. He is purchasing with part of the cards warm socks, underwear, and basic necessities, plus gifts for the children and handing out some cards for the clients to purchase much needed items.

This could not have been done without the generosity and kindness of all of you. Thanks again.

Sharon Thompson,  
Missions Chair

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Dear VPC Session,

What a blessing to receive your most generous gift to the mission. We are so honored that Kim Young shared SonLight Power and our work with you. It is a privilege to partner with you as we strive to serve vulnerable children, families and communities with God's love through sustainable, reliable solar power. As this pandemic continues, we have received multiple messages sharing that projects installed years ago are helping at risk communities not just survive, but thrive during these times. Your support is what makes these projects and more to come, possible. Thank you for letting your light shine!

*With a grateful heart, Jill*



## Ushers

### January

3rd Youth Group  
10th Deacons  
17th Men's Group  
24th Women's Group  
31st Back Row Ladies

### February

7th Youth Group  
14th Deacons  
21st Men's Group  
28th Women's Group

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Dear VPC Friends,  
Thank you so much for the kindness and support for our family during this difficult time. We appreciate the cards and messages from so many. Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. With sincere gratitude and love,  
*Kyle and Courtney Young*



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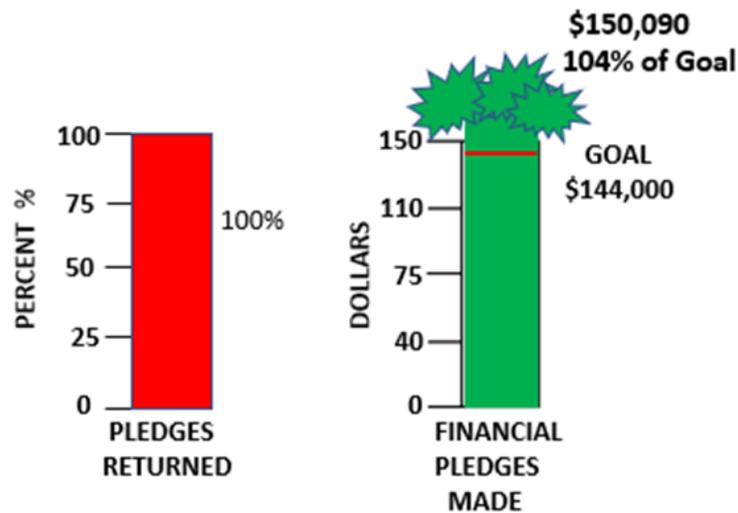
Our VPC Session made a \$100.00 donation to the Ross High School Band of Class in honor of our church. This put us in the Maroon and Gold Supreme of Corporate Band Sponsors. We were the only church that donated to the Band Boosters. This information is printed in their performance programs.

## Stewardship Campaign 2021 Final Results:

The Stewardship Campaign and the church Session want to thank everyone for the support you have been giving the church for 2020. Most churches have not had their normal financial support, but that is not the case for Venice Presbyterian.

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign results are outstanding. The Time and Talent pledges have been tabulated and will be distributed to the appropriate groups. We had 220 pledges for the various activities around the church. Many of you pledged for multiple activities, so thank you for your pledges.

For Financial Pledging, we have accounted for all potential pledging units. Our goal was \$144,000. We exceeded that goal with \$150,090. This is the first time we have exceeded our financial pledging goal in over 10 years. Thank you for your support.



With the Stewardship Campaign wrapped up, we have a positive future as well as some future challenges. A vaccine is now available so things can start to get back to normal. Based on the level of Time & Talent pledges, there is a lot of energy from everyone to get back to work.

The challenges will be that it will take some time for the vaccine to be deployed so things will be slow over the next three to four months. Also, even though our financial pledging was strong, we do face a budget shortage for next year. With Pastor Mary coming in January, our deficit will be over \$50,000.

If you have not pledged, it is never too late to pledge, just contact Joy Minks, our financial secretary.

Thank you for a successful 2021 Stewardship Campaign.

***We thank those who purchased poinsettias,  
in Honor and in Memory of Loved Ones.***

***In Honor of  
Iris Winkler  
In Memory of  
Mason Winkler  
Dan and Gayla Young***

***In Honor of  
Emily Young-Eberwine  
In Memory of  
Charles Young and  
Don Eberwine  
Dan and Gayla Young***

***In Honor of  
Joe, Lauren and Clara Young  
Dan and Gayla Young***

***In Honor of  
Kyle, Courtney and Mason Young  
In Memory of  
Millie Young  
Dan and Gayla Young***

***In Honor of  
Will, Jenny and Margaret Garcia  
Dan and Gayla Young***

***In Honor of  
Emily Young-Eberwine  
In Memory of  
Our Families  
Pete and Becky Berling***

***In Memory of  
Ralph Guenther  
Rick Guenther  
MaryAnn Guenther***

***In Honor of  
Our Grandchildren  
Nate, Will, Julia, Owen, Ella  
and Corwin  
Bob and Martha Young***

***In Honor of  
Emily Young-Eberwine  
Robert Thompson  
In Memory of  
Charles Young  
Don Eberwine  
Janice Thompson  
Greg and Kim Young***

***In Honor of  
Steven, Kasey, Charlie,  
Chris and Stormy  
Greg and Kim Young***

***In Honor of  
Shirley Hogg  
In Memory of  
Joel Hogg  
Al and Hilda Lutterbie  
Jerry and Trish Lutterbie***

***In Honor of  
Bryan and Emily,  
Scott, Jen, Amelia and Rachel  
Jerry and Trish Lutterbie***

***In Honor of  
Our Children and Grandchildren  
In Memory of  
Our Parents and Grandparents***  
Alan and Donna Marsh

***In Memory of  
Parents  
Walter and Alma Schrimper***  
David Schrimper

***In Honor of  
Grandchildren  
Emma, Matthew, Luke and Julie***  
David Schrimper

***In Honor of  
Dan and Gayla Young***  
Their Children and Grandchildren

***In Memory of  
Mason Winkler, Charles Young,  
and Don Eberwine***  
Joe, Kyle, Jenny and their Families

***In Honor of  
Emily Young Eberwine***  
Joe, Kyle, Jenny and their Families

***In Honor and Memory of  
Our Loved Ones***  
Richard and Judy Bohne

***In Memory of  
Charles Young***  
Emily Young-Eberwine

***In Memory of  
Don Eberwine***  
Emily Young-Eberwine

***In Memory of  
Brothers  
John, Alfred, Gerald, and River***  
Jan Krier

***In Memory of  
Parents  
John and Julia Black JR***  
Jan Krier

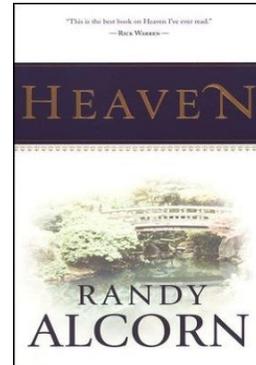
***In Memory of  
Hilda Guenther***  
Brian, Brent & Marcus Guenther  
and Families

***In Honor of  
my mother  
Wilma Butterfield  
In Memory of  
my father  
James Butterfield***  
Joy Minks

## Christian Education

### Thursday Morning Bible Study

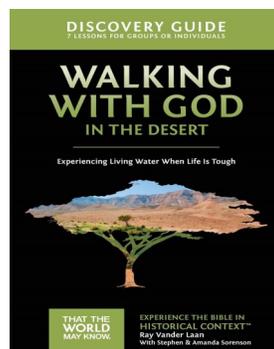
Judy Bohne will finish Randy Alcorn's *Heaven* starting on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM.



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### Adult Sunday School.

We will finish Ray Vander Laan's series *Walking with God in the Desert* when participants feel it's safe. We've done two parts of the series and it is excellent.



## Youth Group

Our youth had a fun Christmas Party with treats, games and a movie!

We are looking forward to being able to volunteer in 2021. If you know of any safe opportunities with Covid please let me know.

We are meeting every Sunday evening from 5:30-7:00 for dinner, a lesson and fun!

We wish you many blessings in 2021!

In God's Love,  
Jen Lee

## Junior Church

Junior church is available for children 3-12 each week.  
We use the *Deep Blue* series.





A huge thank you to the many volunteers from our church that help out with the RAMM open pantry each month! We served 92 families, at our December pantry!

A special thank you to Greg and Kim Young, the heart and leadership behind this organization! They spend many hours shopping, collecting donations, organizing the food pantry and serving our community!

A big thank you to Dale Hanson. He often volunteers at RAMM events and has helped carry in donations many, many times, into the annex. Dale has made client deliveries and picked up special items for clients. We greatly appreciate his willingness to always help.

## **RAMM**

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. We have changed to a “drive-thru” pantry beginning in March, 2020 due to Coronavirus. The monthly fresh market open pantry has had **587** visitors through December 2020. 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. Financial donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

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

Our next RAMM meeting will be on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 9:00AM, at the Venice Presbyterian Church Annex. All are welcome!





## January Preschool News

Happy New Year!



### **What are we Learning this Month?**

Our theme will be animals and our Bible story will be Noah's Ark.

**Blue Class (Mrs. Baker)** – For handwriting, we will work on Jj, Kk and Rr. We will continue to work on counting and identifying those tricky teen numbers. We will continue to practice rhyming, syllables, letters, and letter sounds.

**Red Class (Mrs. Fathman)** – We will learn about the letters K, R and J. We will continue to work on shapes, colors, rhyming and writing our names.

**Yellow Class (Mrs. Bohne)** – We will explore the letters J, K, and R. We will continue working on shapes and numbers 1-10.



News from the VPC Treasury:

This will give you an update on the Income vs Expenses for December and the year. Thank you for your continued financial support of the church.

	EXPECTED FOR DECEMBER	ACTUAL FOR DECEMBER	STATUS FOR THE YEAR vs EXPECTED
<b>INCOME</b>	\$11,500	\$24,401*	+\$18,959
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$10,605	\$14,410**	+\$17,882

\*\$13,650 of 2021 pledges paid in 2020

\*\*Estimated and includes \$3,500 down payment of additional live streaming equipment

Our income in total for the year is more than our expenses by \$8,384.

Major projects that have been done at the church this year which were not included in the budget are:

Sanctuary painting:	\$3,300
Sidewalk replacement:	\$1,500
Live streaming services:	\$6,542
Bat removal deposit:	\$4,002
Parking lot repair and sealing	\$8,947
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,291</b>

PNC expenses to date:

2019: \$200

2020: \$1,473

Anyone who would like to review our full financial report for the month, please contact me.

Dale Hanson, Treasurer of VPC

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep **Ray Miller, Barb Ross and the Miller Family** in your prayers, *Millie Miller* passed away Monday, December 7th. You may send a card to Ray at: PO Box 172, Ross, OH 45061, to Barb at: 2233 Venice Blvd, Fairfield, OH 45014

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Please keep **Nancy Beckman and Family** in your prayers. *Doug Beckman* passed away on Saturday, December 12th. You may send a card to Nancy at 2412 Queen Mary Ln, Hamilton, OH 45013

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Please keep **Patty Wurzelbacher** in your prayers for healing. Patty needs lots of prayers right now. You may send a card to: 60 Robert Drive, Hamilton, OH 45013

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Please keep **Missy Jo Peacock** in your prayers for healing from pneumonia. You may send a card to: 2220 Morgan Ross Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013

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

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Please keep the **Amanda Roberson Family** and the **Nicara Wilson Family** in your prayers.

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1-1 Barb Ross  
1-4 Bernice Roop  
1-5 Tami Adams  
1-6 Rick Schwoeppe  
1-9 Kim Bohne  
1-22 Melanie Hanson  
1-26 Donna Marsh  
1-26 Bob Young  
1-26 Owen Ziepfel  
1-31 Alan Marsh



1-6 Rick and Sally Schwoeppe  
1-14 Keith and Deloris Eby



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