

Venice View

A monthly newsletter of Venice Presbyterian Church

January 2016



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

Venice Presbyterian Church

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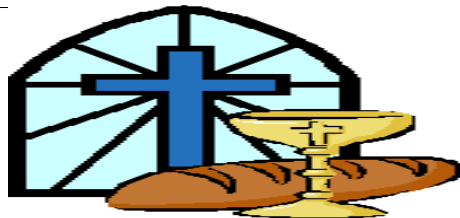
Pastor Janet Dillaman

Sunday School 9:15a

Worship Service - 10:30a

Junior Church - during worship service

Youth Group Sundays: 12-TBD



The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated on:

Sunday, January 3, 2016

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Attendance

October	November
4.....70	1.....72
11.....73	8.....59
18.....61	15.....70
25.....88	22.....71
	29.....79



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Kwi-im Kim

Nursery Attendants

Nancy Renner

Youth & Young Adult Director

James Dillaman

Custodian

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

Dear Friends,

The Annual Congregational Meeting for 2015 will be held on Sunday, January 31st following worship. As we review our ministry, I wanted to share what new members learn about the church:

“So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (Eph 2:19-22)

It is best not to apply the idea of invisibility to the Church...in the Apostles' Creed it is not an invisible structure which is intended but a quite visible coming together, which originates with the twelve apostles. The first congregation was a visible group, which caused a visible public uproar. If the Church has not this visibility, then it is not the Church. When I say congregation, I am thinking primarily of the concrete form of the congregation in a particular place....We believe the existence of the Church—which means that we believe each particular congregation to be a congregation of Christ...*Credo ecclesiam* means that I believe that here, at this place, in this visible assembly, the work of the Holy Spirit takes place (Karl Barth).

“The church, as community in the power of the Spirit, has over the course of its history learned to depend upon the efficacy of certain practices or disciplines in nurturing faith and growth in the life of faith. This tradition itself bears witness to the fact that by participating in certain active forms of life together, an environment is created in which persons may come to faith and grow in life in Christ.

By active participation in practices that are central to the historical life of the community of faith, we place ourselves in the kind of situation in which we know God accomplishes the work of grace.”

(1989 Report on the Life of faith to the 201st General Assembly of PC(USA)).

The six fundamental historic practices are:

1. Telling the Christian story to one another—reading and hearing the Scriptures and also the stories of the church's experience throughout its history.
2. Praying—together and by ourselves—not only in formal services of worship, but in all times and places.

Continued on next page

1. Confessing our sins to one another and forgiving; becoming reconciled with one another.
2. Suffering with and for each other and with all whom Jesus showed us to be our neighbor.
3. Providing hospitality and care, not only to one another but to strangers. Criticizing and resisting all those powers and patterns that destroy human beings, corrode human community, and injure God's creation.

As we begin our time together in a New Year, it is my prayer that we hold on to these six fundamentals. The New Year brings many new opportunities. Let's simply be ready, committed, and obedient to God's call.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Pastor Jan

Words of Thanks:

- ***Prayers for our church family***
 - ***Donations and volunteers for Country Christmas***
 - ***Donations to Haven House shoe box ministry***
 - ***Donations to RAMM food pantry and holiday baskets***
 - ***Decorations in the church and sanctuary***
 - ***Junior Church team for the Children's program***
 - ***Kwi-im for the beautiful seasonal music and the choir for the Christmas Eve cantata***
 - ***Deb Schwab for all the extra work for the holidays***
- Warmth and hospitality shown to all who enter***

Women's Christmas Party

The party was a jolly good time with festive food, decorations, and games.

We also collected many diapers and wipes for the Haven House! Thank you Sharon and Denny Thompson for delivering to the Haven House.



Annual Officer Reports

Elder reports are due by January 10 in order to compile the 2015 Annual Report. Copies of last year's reports are available in the office and all reports should be turned in to our Administrative Assistant, Deb.

Joint Officer Training Saturday, January 9 10a-12p

A Joint Officer Training Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9 as required by the Book of Order. Officer installation and ordination will be on Sunday, January 10 during worship.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS

***January 24
9:15 am
in upstairs classroom***

Youth entering 5th grade through high school

Called Congregational Meeting

***January 31st
Following worship
to receive the Annual Report***

RAMM

The community outreach continues to expand in 2016. We have our highest demand for food and utility help in the winter months, so please keep our pantry filled and consider a financial gift to help with utility bills to keep lights and heat on for our neighbors in need.

The 2015 Hope for the Holiday Party was held at Ross Christian Church on Dec. 13 from 1:00 – 3:00. Pastors and limited volunteers walked our guests through a Choice Market Area, filled with food items, large hams, dozen eggs, bread, and milk. Personal care filled stockings, socks, and the good book pamphlets plus gifts for three boys were provided from the Coffee Conversation Group. The Deacons also gave a generous gift as well as \$200 from the Community Thanksgiving Service. 35 families were served. RAMM thanks the generous loving hearts here at Venice and our community.



Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We invite everyone to join us in the annex at 9:15 sharp!! Everyone is welcome!!!!

GOING DEEPER IN THE STORY

Continues

WEDNESDAYS 6:00pm

beginning January 6th, in the annex.





The Children's Christmas Program, "The Very Best Gift of All"

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this wonderful program.

Grace Asher, Amy Brandenburg, Ellie Boyle, Owen Ziepfel, Mazzy Ozias, Will Lee, Drake Miller, Grace Lee, Ethan Boyle, Jasmine Ross, Dane Wilkinson, Addison Asher, Emma Asher, Grayson Ozias, Mari Courtney, Dyllan Brandenburg, Kyler Grey, Kaylee Grey, Garrett Boyle, Lisa Brandenburg, Ashley Kirk, Mason Asher, Jane Wilkinson, Dan and Gayla Young, Bob Young, and the other junior church leaders.





Preschool News

Venice Preschool News

January

We begin the New Year refreshed from our Christmas break!

We have a pajama day planned to help us stay warm and cozy during the cold winter.

Our learning concepts are the letters M, N, and O; the numbers 11, 12, and 13; the color purple and rhombus.

The bible story this month is: God Created the World.

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. If you'd like information, please contact us in the following ways: 738-0158, vpcpreschool@thevenicechurch.com, www.venicepreschool.com.

Thank you to the members and friends of Venice Church and the Indian Creek Trails Girl Scouts for the generous donations of gift filled shoe boxes for the men, women, and children residing at Haven House. We collected **113** boxes! Thank you Sharon and Denny Thompson, and Bob Young, for delivering these gifts to the Haven House.



The Deacons want to thank you for your generous donations of food, personal care items, and money to our food pantry. We provided 19 Christmas baskets of food and personal care items, and a \$50.00 gift certificate to Wal-Mart.

The food pantry has helped 68 families this year! We could not do this without your kindness and generosity!

Thursday Morning Coffee Conversations:

9:30am in the Annex

New Study Begins Feb. 7

Christianity, Cults & Religion

It is a good time to review the Christian faith beliefs compared to other missionary religions. This six week study includes:

1. Definitions, Discernment, and Defending the Faith
2. Essential Christian Doctrine
3. Jehovah's Witnesses: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
4. Mormonism: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
5. Eastern Spirituality: Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Age Islam

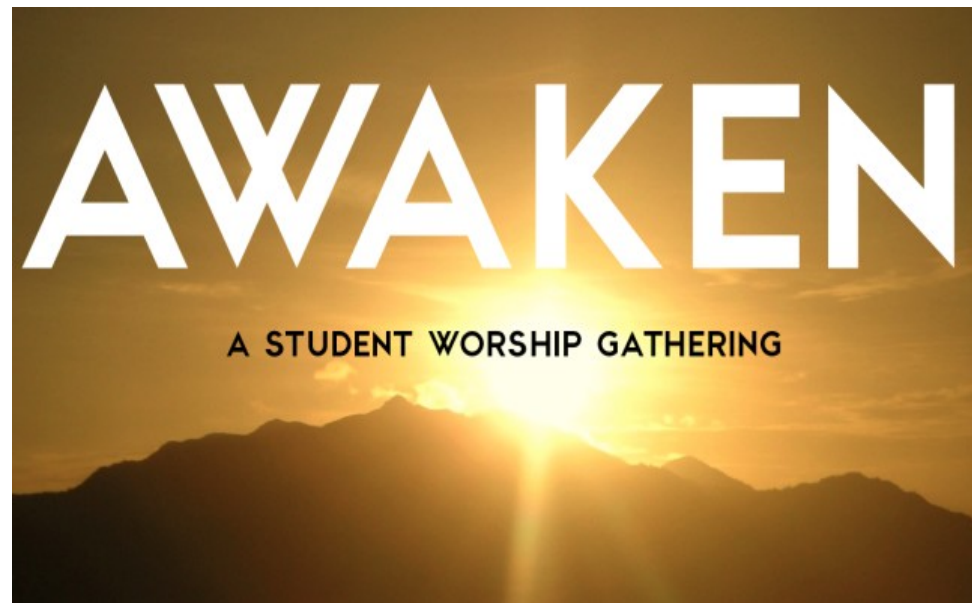


AWAKEN

begins in the Loft January 10

A new worship option using music video songs will begin on January 10. The fifteen minute worship will be held beginning at 10:30 am. This option allows children and youth to move from either worship experience to Junior Church and Loft Youth Group. It is the team's desire to assist our youth and their families with their increasing demands on the Sabbath time we have together.

Once a month we will share worship together along with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. On that Sunday, the youth group will have a longer meeting 12-2pm.



Pecan Pie Cake



Ingredients

- 1 box yellow cake or butter cake mix
- ½ cup melted butter (or margarine, I don't judge)
- 1 + ½ cups light corn syrup
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup dark brown sugar, packed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 + 1/2 cups chopped pecans

Instructions

Mix cake mix, 1 egg, and melted butter until well blended. Reserve ⅔ cup of this batter.
Spray a 9x13 pan with cooking spray. Spread remaining batter into this pan and bake at 325 for 15 minutes, or until just lightly browned.
In a mixing bowl, stir together reserved ⅔ cup batter, syrup, 3 eggs, brown sugar, vanilla and pecans.
Pour filling on top of crust and cook at 325 for 50-60 minutes, until set in the center.
Allow to cool completely before serving.

Enjoy!

Thank you Sharon Thompson for sharing this recipe

Deacons Activity

Sunshine – Shirley Hamilton sent out 12 Thinking of You and Get Well cards to members of our congregation. Flowers were given to four of our church members who are currently convalescing.

Ushers/Greeters –The Deacons serve as ushers/greeters the first Sunday of each month. Deacon members Shirley Hamilton, Eunice Maynard, and Kathy Mienheartt served as ushers/greeters this month. Carole Wheat solicited other church members to fill the slots the rest of the Sundays. Carole and Dave Wheat served as ushers/greeters when other members did not volunteer.

Coffee Hour – Deacon members supplied goodies the first Sunday of the month. Martha Young solicited other church members to bring in snacks the rest of the Sundays.

Community Needs – The Deacons provided 17 Thanksgiving baskets which included food and a \$25 IGA gift card to community members. Thanks to Dave Wheat for putting the baskets together and managing the distribution. Also, thanks to everyone who provided money which enabled us to purchase the gift cards. Elda School held a food drive for RAMM, and we received six boxes of food for the pantry.

New Years Fun Facts

New Year's Eve is one of the favorite celebration days for many people. Parties aside, the impending New Year typically brings hope for a more prosperous and happy 365 days. There are also some fun facts and trivia associated with the celebration. Check them out below, courtesy of the [Examiner](#) and [Patch](#).

The first New Year was celebrated 4,000 years by the ancient Babylonians. It's tradition to ring in New Year's with family and friends because the first people you see will either give you good luck or bad luck. So make sure to keep friends close and foes very far away.

More vehicles are stolen on New Year's Day than any other holiday, [statistics](#) from the National Insurance Crime Bureau revealed.

The top three places to celebrate New Year's Eve are Las Vegas, Disney World and of course, New York City. Internationally, one of the biggest celebrations is in Sydney, Australia. More than 80,000 fireworks are set off from Sydney Harbour Bridge. Time Square New Year's Eve Ball was first dropped in 1907 after there was a fireworks ban. Back then, a 700-pound ball embellished with 25-watt bulbs made of iron and wood was dropped. Now, however, it weighs 11,875 pounds, is 12 feet in diameter and is adorned with 2,668 Waterford crystals. The tradition has continued in Times Square, except for in 1942 and 1943. The ball was not lowered because of wartime restrictions.

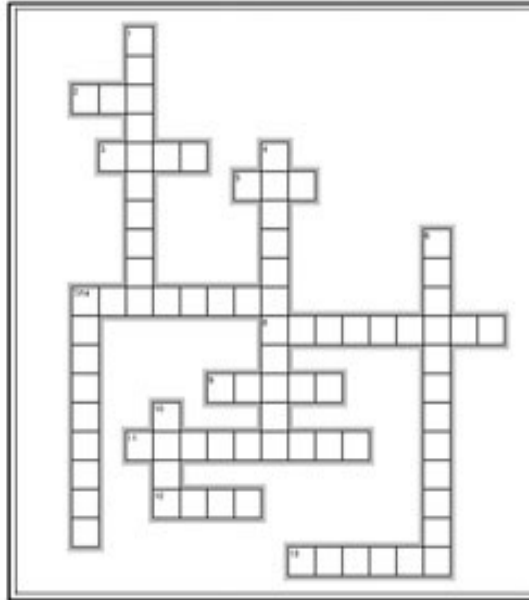
In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year's Day to bring good luck all year long. In Colombia, Cuba and Puerto Rico, some families stuff a large doll, which is called Mr. Old Year, with memories from the past year. They also dress him in clothes from the outgoing year. At midnight, he is set ablaze, thus burning away the bad memories.

It's good luck to eat foods like black eyed peas, ham and cabbage because it is thought they bring prosperity. But if you want to have a happy new year, don't eat lobster or chicken. Lobsters can move backward and chickens can scratch in reverse, so it is thought these foods could bring a reversal of fortune. Chinese New Year is celebrated the second full moon after the winter solstice. Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. Apples and honey are traditionally eaten. In ancient Rome the new year began on March 1. The traditional New Year's song, "Auld Lang Syne," means, "times gone by."

Using a baby to signify the New Year began in ancient Greece around 600 B.C.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE!

THE BOOK OF ACTS CHAPTER 1-14



ACROSS

2. "MEN, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WE TOO ARE ONLY ____ HUMAN LIKE YOU."

3. "THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT THE LORD HAD SAID: '____ BAPTIZED WITH WATER, BUT YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.'"

5. "MAY YOUR MONEY PERISH WITH YOU, BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD BUY THE GIFT OF ____ WITH MONEY!"

7. THE CIRCUMCISED BELIEVERS WHO HAD COME WITH PETER WERE ASTONISHED THAT THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD BEEN POURED OUT EVEN ON THE ____.

8. HE FELL TO THE GROUND AND HEARD A VOICE SAY TO HIM, "SAUL, SAUL, WHY DO YOU ____ ME?"

9. IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE ____ DID NOT GIVE PRAISE TO GOD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STRUCK HIM DOWN, AND HE WAS EATEN BY WORMS AND DIED.

11. "I HAVE MADE YOU A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING ____ TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

12. "THEREFORE LET ALL ISRAEL BE ASSURED OF THIS: GOD HAS MADE THIS JESUS, WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED, BOTH ____ AND CHRIST."

13. "BROTHERS, CHOOSE SEVEN MEN FROM AMONG YOU WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE FULL OF THE ____ AND WISDOM."

DOWN

1. "LOOK," HE SAID, "I SEE HEAVEN OPEN AND THE ____ STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD."

4. BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE ____ COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."

6. IT IS BY THE NAME OF ____ OF NAZARETH, WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED BUT WHOM GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THAT THIS MAN STANDS BEFORE YOU HEALED.

10. THEREFORE, IN THE PRESENT CASE I ADVISE YOU: LEAVE THESE MEN ALONE! LET THEM GO! FOR IF THEIR PURPOSE OR ACTIVITY IS OF HUMAN ORIGIN, IT WILL ____, BUT IF IT IS FROM GOD, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STOP THESE MEN; YOU WILL ONLY FIND YOURSELVES FIGHTING AGAINST GOD."

14. WHEN PETER SAW THIS, HE SAID TO THEM: "MEN OF ISRAEL, WHY DOES THIS SURPRISE YOU? WHY DO YOU STARE AT US AS IF BY OUR OWN POWER OR ____ WE HAD MADE THIS MAN WALK?"



NEED A BIBLE?

If you need a bible, please take one from our “Bible Shelf”. If you would like to donate a bible, please place on the shelf, or bring by the church office. Thank you!



**Venice Presbyterian Church now has a
Facebook page!**

Please “Like” our page.

Bible Wordsearch

More puzzles at:
biblewordgames.com

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

N	I	A	R	P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S	Y	D	H
O	L	E	M	R	A	C	O	W	A	T	E	R	U	E
H	E	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	N	U	H	N	O	V
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	S	A	D	V	L	A
I	P	E	U	B	S	L	M	A	W	R	T	O	C	C
K	E	E	R	T	U	D	E	R	E	H	T	A	G	J
N	D	O	P	N	N	R	K	D	R	E	S	S	E	D
F	O	R	S	A	K	E	N	Y	E	O	U	Z	T	O
K	R	R	M	V	C	N	I	T	T	E	I	I	O	
H	U	M	O	R	O	S	V	S	H	B	S	R	R	L
L	O	R	D	E	L	O	E	L	E	A	R	S	I	B
C	F	N	G	S	L	E	S	L	A	V	J	J	P	A
U	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	C	D	A	O	I	S	H
G	I	N	I	O	B	A	D	I	A	H	B	R	L	A
M	O	C	K	E	D	G	T	R	E	N	C	H	G	E

ABRAHAM	HUNDRED
AHAB	ISAAC
BAAL	ISRAEL
BLOOD	JEZEBEL
BROOK	JOURNEY
BULLOCK	KINGDOM
BURNT	KISHON
CARMEL	KNIVES
CAVE	LEAPED
CHILDREN	LORD
CLOUD	MOCKED
CUT	OBADIAH
DRESSED	PROPHETS
ELIAH	RAIN
ESCAPE	SACRIFICE
FORSAKEN	SERVANT
FOUR	SPIRIT
GATHERED	TRENCH
GROVES	WATER
COMMANDMENTS	
ANSWERETH	

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

----- Psalm 9

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Please keep the following people in your prayers. Let them know we are thinking of them by sending a card, making a phone call, or a visit.

Please keep **Ray and Mildred Miller** in your thoughts and prayers. Millie is continuing to improve. Send a note to: PO Box 172, Ross, OH 45061 or give Ray a call at 738-2248.

Russell "Gene" Oder has been at Doverwood for some time now, let him know we are thinking of him. Doverwood Village, Russell Oder, Room 24 4195 Hamilton Mason Rd, Fairfield Township OH 45011

Please keep **Ray and Audrey Boehringer** in your thoughts and prayers. Ray is home with help from hospice. Send a note or a call: - Ph. 738-1985, 3440 Hamilton New London Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013

Clydene Spangler is recovering from multiple health issues. Let's keep praying for her and send a note or make a call to:
2256 Bella Vista Dr, Fairfield, OH 45014 - Ph. 967-1269

Please keep **Jean Wagonfield** in your prayers. She is currently at Bradford Place in Hamilton. Please send a card to: PO Box 703, Ross OH 45061.

Please keep **Greg and Kim Young** in your thoughts and prayers. Send a note or card to: 3908 Ficus Ct, Hamilton OH 45013

Gary Butterfield, nephew of Wilma Butterfield, and a Ross Schools alumni, could use prayers as he battles multiple health issues. Send a note to: 7452 New York Way, Dayton, OH 45414

Please keep **Viola Powell** in your prayers. Her health has declined, and now requires full time care. Please send a note or card to: 2135 Noble Ave, Hamilton, OH 45015

Please keep **MaryAnn Guenther** in your prayers as she continues her recovery. 2735 Herman Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013

Please keep **Sally Schwoeppe** in your prayers as she recovers from surgery for a broken leg. Send a card to: 3375 Rockyhill Dr, Hamilton OH 45013

January



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

2 - Don and Emily Eberwine
6 - Rick and Sally Schwoeppe
14 - Keith and Deloris Eby