

Connect, Grow & Go

To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life



Creationism vs Evolution

Here's What's Going on at VPC in May 2019



Cedarkirk Day Camp

Our Vision in Action

2019, The Year of Living Generously

Dietrick Bonhoeffer says in his book Life Together, "We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things?" As we continue to live generously at Venice Presbyterian Church let's remember to give thanks for all things!

Worship Service Hours

Sunday, 10am
9am Wednesday Communion

Office Phone

941-488-2258

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10-12pm
Sunday, 8:30-11:30am

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday, 9:00am - 12:00pm

VPC Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Chris Romig
cromig@venicepres.org

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cobrien@venicepres.org

Pastor of Connection & Outreach

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Pastor of Member Care

Rev. Burke Johnson
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Gary Youngberg

Session

Teaching Elder

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Jack Perkins
Carolyn Stephens
Cris Anderson
Dick Edmunds
Tom Hoffman
Bob Painter
Bob Allen
Nick Clemmer
Sheryl Morford

Board of Trustees

Bob Allen, **Chair**
Glenn Breitzig
Ann Woody
Skip Sayers
Richard Gilbert

“Hal, the name Romig sounds familiar, where have we heard it before? Why, that was the name of our intern at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA about 1990. Of course, I remember now, what a coincidence!”

We are Pat and Hal Ladehoff from Woodstock, VA, and this was our conversation in September 2004 when we spent a trial month in Venice to see if we might like a winter place here. After the service we had a glad reunion with Pastor Chris, who gave us a warm welcome. Later on the patio we were talking to a couple who had lived in Washingtonville, NY, Pat’s home town. I asked if they knew my childhood friend, George Wontz. At a nearby booth was Patricia Bullock, who upon hearing the name, Wontz, responded with, “That’s my cousin!” Needless to say, there was the second glad reunion of the morning, and we knew that God had led us to our Venice church home.

So for the past 14 years we have worshipped at VPC, always receiving a blessing from the services of spiritual renewal. We come from a small town church where everyone knows each other. Though VPC has a large congregation, we easily felt welcomed with its friendly radiance to all. Very compelling is the diversity of programs you offer with opportunities to attend and serve as your interest leads you. I have benefitted from the current writing workshop, led by Clarissa Thomasson. Hal and I have appreciated the cognitive impairment lectures by Dr. Robert G. Robinson. Every season there are many such offerings, as well as the very talented musical concerts. VPC’s outreach opportunities are presented with

“ VPC’s outreach opportunities are presented with such enthusiasm that one instantly wants to participate, either personally or through donations.”



such enthusiasm that one instantly wants to participate, either personally or through donations. This is a testimony to their dedicated community service. We always look forward to Pastor Chris’ Wednesday Bible studies, which enhance and prepare us for the forthcoming Sunday message. The initiation of livestreaming the services has been a joy. Back home, I often turn them on as I do the evening dishes. Soon I feel I am part of the service, as I

pray with the pastors and sing along with the choir, led by Jamal Sarikoki, and their inspirational music.

We are seasonal people, sometimes referred to as ‘sun seekers.’ Yes, we are ever seeking the Son, Jesus, God’s Son and His will for our lives. Venice Presbyterian is providing that compass, pointing in varied directions, but always to the Cross. VPC is welcoming, spiritual, Bible based, all inclusive. It is a blessing that is connecting, growing and forever going farther in its outreach to live Jesus’ commandment of going into the world and preaching the Gospel, knowing that He is always with us.

Patricia F. Ladehoff

Worship Ministry



Communion Sunday, May 5

10am Service

Communion will be served in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served so we may partake together. The bread is now gluten-free.

Wednesday Communion

9am Communion service is offered Wednesday morning in the chapel. All are welcome.

Retirement Community Communion Gatherings

with Rev. Chris Romig

Village on the Isle	May 09 @ 11 am	(Second Thursday)
Aston Gardens	May 10 @ 9:45am	(Second Friday)
Jacaranda Trace	May 10 @ 1pm	(Second Friday)

The Acts of the Apostles Sermon Series

Do you know what human author wrote the most words in the New Testament? Most people familiar with the Bible might immediately guess Paul, who penned about half of the New Testament writings. But in terms of total words, Luke is actually the most prolific New Testament writer. Luke's two-part volume - The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles - contributes 27% of the words in the New Testament. Luke (27%) wrote more of the New Testament than Paul (23%), John (20%), or Matthew (13%).

As a follow-up to our church-wide study of The Gospel of Luke, we will spend the month of May looking at Luke's sequel, The Acts of the Apostles. Acts picks up where Luke's Gospel concludes, and tells the story of how the early Christian church grew from a band of Jewish disciples huddled in an upper room to a world-changing movement that transcended ethnic and national boundaries. Every page of the book of Acts features the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, from the opening chapters about the amazing outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to the mighty Spirit-led ministries of

the first apostles, including Peter, John, Stephen, Philip, and – most notably – Paul.

The daily reading schedule will be very simple: We encourage everyone to read one chapter of Acts each day, beginning on May 1st (continuing through May 28). The day of the month will match the number of that day's particular chapter (so, for example, the reading for May 4th will be Acts 4).

Study journals of The Acts of the Apostles are available for a suggested \$5 donation.

Wednesday Bible studies with Pastor Chris begin May 1st, and the Sunday messages during May will be based on passages from that week's readings. If you're traveling or enjoying a May springtime up north, you can tune in to both the Wednesday night studies (6 pm) and Sunday worship services (10 am) via the Livestream on our church website (www.venicepres.org).

So by the end of May, our church family will have studied 27% of the New Testament - the entire opus of Dr. Luke!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris".



Sunday, May 12

Did you know?

The Easter flower arrangement on the Communion Table was donated and held 36 dozen roses! There was a crown of thorns and a stone from the Mount of Olives!



Gratitude, Love & Recognition

Sheryl Morford and **Bob Jelenchick** are responsible for much of the beauty in the sanctuary, glass house and class rooms. They are at the church endless hours volunteering their time to set up, tear down, clean, and decorate. The beauty of the Communion Table each week, the banners around the sanctuary, the carefully placed flowers, the draped cross are all because of Sheryl and Bob. We are thankful for the way these two servants of God live generously! Thank you Bob and Sheryl for making VPC beautiful!



Contact
Jane Clemmer at
grandysj@yahoo.com

Heard about our beautiful Maundy Thursday Service?

Go to www.venicepres.org/vpc happenings to see more of the lovely service.



Youth Ministry & AV

Dear Families,

As both a pastor and a parent, I share the sadness of Conrad's departure as our Director of AV and Youth Ministries. Conrad has been a special gift to all of us, and we will miss him – even as we wish him joy and blessings as he begins an exciting new career opportunity for him and his family.

Conrad came to VPC in 2016. Thanks to God's amazing timing, Conrad stepped in as our Youth Director and continued to build upon a good foundation. We trust – now as then – that



God will provide another special person to step into leadership as a strong, godly mentor to the students we're honored to welcome.

I can assure you that Venice Presbyterian is committed to continuing to build our ministries with students. We deeply value making a safe space where teens can build healthy relationships, explore deep questions of life and faith, and be encouraged in their love for God – as they're reminded of God's steadfast love for them.

Our Executive Director, Chris O'Brien, is already

working with Conrad and other church leaders to find new leadership for the VPC Youth Ministry and to ensure the best possible transition in our Youth Ministry. She will keep you informed of the progress in our search.

For now, just know your students are very important to us. Thank you for trusting them to our care. Together, we thank God for Conrad – and will always appreciate the difference he's made in the lives of our kids.

Sincerely,
Chris Romig
Senior Pastor

Well, this is a bittersweet

moment in my walk as a Christian, a husband, and a professional. I am taking the next step in my career, but I will miss being part of such an active and joyous group of Christian people. I came in at the end of 2016 and I remember feeling so intimidated about stepping into the position of youth leader. But kids and the parents were so warm and receptive to me and my family and I couldn't stop just coming back week after week. I've been so fortunate to call so many of you my friends.

As I reflect back on the last couple of years, a few memories come to mind that I'd like to share. Shortly after starting, the kids and I came up with the idea of carving pumpkins for a fall celebration. Now, I'm a bit of a troublemaker and with my background in construction I thought it would be fun to mix power tools and pumpkin carving. No one was injured, no pumpkin survived, and every year since, we've done a group pumpkin carving called "X-Treme Punkin Carvin".

This last summer we took a trip to Camp Anderson in Old Town Florida and 5 of them even asked me to baptize them. That was an honor beyond almost anything I've ever experienced. It's one thing when your own child wants you to be their mentor, these kids had a choice and they chose me. On the flip side, they also shot me with paintball guns, hit me with water balloons, outshot me at every sharpshooter contest, flipped me off an inflatable in the middle of an alligator infested river, and kept me from getting sleep for 5 days straight. I, however, choose to believe it was all out of love.



When we executed the Grandparents Gone Wired event in March I was genuinely concerned about having enough volunteers to cover all the tables. As teenagers usually do, no one told me whether they would be there until the moment they walked through the door. We had 15 kids total who showed up and participated simply because I asked them to and it meant the world to me. I got to be part of bridging a generational gap at VPC, but they made it happen.

These are just a few of the memories I will take with me when I go and do not include any of the countless Sundays and weekdays that my team made it happen in the AV booth and beyond. I am so thankful for what has been given to me and my family over the last 3 years and I ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as we will all of you. Thank you again for these wonderful years.

God bless,
Conrad S. Knepp

Children's Ministry

**Cedarkirk
Volunteers
Needed!**



- Lunch & Snacks Provided daily
- Team Building Games, Challenges, Crafts

PEACE WORKS

Peace is a prayer for some and a life's work for others. It's a blessing we share with others and a longing within each of our hearts. Scripture is filled with the stories of peace and justice and camp is the perfect place to share them. Peace isn't always easy, but it's always worth the effort, because we know that peace works!

Each daily theme invites campers to think about peace and peace making from a different perspective. Various cultural and ethnic expressions and voices are brought together to make peace more than a clichéd dream. The hospitality of Aloha, the connectivity of Ubuntu, and self-awareness of Heiwa, and the passion of *Sí Se Puede*® remind us that peace pushes us to change, grow, and unite.

With an overall traveling theme, each day we will explore a word and what it means for us in the kingdom of God!



825 the Rialto
Venice, FL



941-488-2258



www.venicepres.org

Two weeks, June 10-14 and July 15-19

Sign up at www.venicepres.org

Space is limited.

To volunteer or for more information for Children's Ministry,
contact Genna Sarikoki at gsarikoki@venicepres.org

Care & Compassion



Do You Know Someone Going through a Difficult Time?

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Our Stephen Ministers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and

support they need to make it through the crisis. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders: Marcia Bickmore 488-9379, Richard Gilbert 941-468-9174 or Laura Saye 269-339-5907

Planning the Party

Pre-planning your Christian funeral or memorial service is one of the best ways to help your family during their difficult time of grief and loss. By leaving them specific information regarding your own personal desires, you will greatly ease your family's burden of making decisions and trying to guess what you would have wanted. We have a booklet available to make your preferences known and preplanning easy for both you and your loved ones.



Memorial Service/Receptions

Memorial Services are a special way to remember those we love. After services, it is common for the family to want to spend time visiting and reminiscing with each other. VPC offers a reception in the Glass House serving cookies and coffee after each memorial service so that families are able to visit with their loved ones.

Volunteers are currently needed to assist in the reception area. Contact May Williams at mwilliams@venicepres.org



Mission & Outreach

May Monthly Mission Partner (MMP) Agape Flights



Through the ministry of aviation, Agape Flights delivers love and hope.

After witnessing the devastating poverty and falling in love with the Haitian people, Agape founders stepped out in faith, mortgaged their home, bought Agape's first plane, and began flying essential supplies to a few missionaries in Haiti. Choosing "Agape," the Greek word for God's unconditional love, to represent the core of this multi-denominational Christian aviation ministry, Agape Flights, literally translated means, "God's Love Flights." Today, nearly 40 years later, Agape Flights serves the weekly mail and cargo needs of over 300 missionary affiliates through 7 regular airport locations in Haiti, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, and delivers humanitarian aid into Cuba as regulations allow.

Equipped with the resources they need and God's amazing love, missionaries can actively share the love of Christ through agriculture, athletics, clean water and community resources,

education, evangelism and discipleship, home and church construction, medical and dental care, micro-enterprise opportunities, orphan care, and vocational training. Our vision is that missionaries will never lack the resources to share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

Imagine...You are living in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. You are less than 800 miles from Venice, Florida, and yet a world away. And then... Agape Flights delivers hundreds of pounds of medical supplies to you just in time for the visiting medical teams you are expecting. As told by missionary affiliate, Gladys Mungo, "The first team came in February and we went to the remote mountains of Grande Anse/Pestel and out to the remote islands. We were slammed. With only two doctors we treated 1,265 people and distributed about 100 pairs of glasses, (we performed) a few minor

To support the Monthly Mission Partners, please add your donation to the yellow envelopes in the pews. Your continued support is a life-line to these families in Christ. We appreciate your support.



**1 day.
1 missionary affiliate.**

Now imagine again...
the difference you make
when you help support
hundreds of missionary
affiliates who depend on
the custom service of
Agape Flights.

surgeries and nebulizer treatments.
The March team met the same needs.
We treated 400 -500 people a day in
the remote villages in Grande Anse.
We went in as far as we could and the
people came down from the higher
mountains on donkeys."

Thank you. Your prayerful and financial
support is literally the wind beneath
our wings.

www.agapeflights.com
100 Airport Ave. E, Venice, FL
941.488.0990



3 Cents A Meal

On Sunday, May 26, please visit Christine Hart at
the table in the narthex and exchange or pick up a
food container. Every penny counts.



Mission & Outreach

Clinica Medica Salvatore Update for 2019



March 5 – 9, Fred & Cindy Gossman and Pastor Carolyn traveled to Guatemala to serve with Dr. Erick & Cynthia Estrada, who operate a full-time medical clinic, Clinica Medica Salvatore in El Cortijo. There is a staff of two medical doctors, a dentist, several nurses and a pharmacy tech/office administrator. Two days each week, Erick & Cynthia take the clinic “on the road” to small villages around Guatemala which do not have access to medical care. Our first day we drove about 2 hours to the village of La Reyna, at the base of the Fuego volcano which erupted last summer. La Reyna was particularly hard-hit, suffering many deaths and weeks of digging out from volcanic ash and debris. The clinic was set

up in the local church, and the two doctors treated 63 patients, many of them mothers and young children. Fred, Cindy & Carolyn were the pharmacy dispensers, locating & counting the proper medications for each prescription from Dr. Erick. We were then privileged to pray for each patient and his/her family. It was a long, hot, very dusty day, but we were blessed to witness so many patients being helped.

One patient in La Reyna

was a grandmother, Julia Gonzalez, caring for five young grandchildren whose parents were killed in the Fuego eruption. In addition to diabetes, she needed two breathing treatments and had been diagnosed with breast cancer the previous month. The cancer is treatable, but Julia will need to stay in Guatemala City with Erick & Cynthia during treatment.

The next day was to be a full day at the Clinica, but at breakfast, we learned plans had changed. Cynthia & Erick felt led by the Holy Spirit to go back to La Reyna to help Julia. We located her home in the tiny village, and brought several boxes of fortified rice, as well as additional medications. Julia lives in two-rooms: one with an open-fire cooking area plus all the family's clothes & goods, and the





other a small bedroom with wall-to-wall mattresses, where Julia, her husband who is blind and deaf, and the five grandchildren sleep. Yet with all these burdens, Julia's attitude is amazing. We shared many smiles, hugs and tears as we visited her and prayed with her. We all felt moved to find a way to build a new house for Julia's family, to include an inside bathroom, kitchen with vented stove, and three bedrooms. Erick's contractor who is building the surgery wing onto the clinic can build it for approximately \$2,000. We began a fundraising campaign for the Julia Gonzalez House. To date, we have raised \$5,990 from many generous people at VPC and Ohio friends of the Gossman's. The VPC Missions Committee approved

the project and that any amount over and above the costs of the house will go towards Julia's cancer treatments. Donations are still being accepted.

UPDATE April 15: Cynthia just informed us that the cost of the house, including stove and water filter, plus the cancer surgery will cost about \$6000. If needed, chemo or radiation will cost an additional amount. Also, over the weekend Julia's home living/cooking area collapsed so construction needs to commence immediately.

If you want to help, please send check to VPC & reference "Gua-temala Julia's house" ASAP. Dios les bendiga!

Read more at
www.venicepres.org,
VPC Happenings

A Day 4 Hope Life-changing Experience **by Skip Sayers**



"My first time as a Day 4 Hope Ambassador was a monumental change for me in accessing other's needs. I had 3 charges for the day: a single mom, her 6 year old daughter and her eight year old son. Their father was in jail for drug-related charges. As our day progressed from station to station, so did our relationship.

The hair cuts were special, the medical and dental exams were administered, the food bags, the back packs, the gift certificates included for shoes and other necessities, and especially the gift of the Bible were so appreciated! We prayed together in the chapel. On our way to their truck at the end of the day, the 8 year old son said, "Mr. Skip, this has been the best day of my life."

**Please consider
volunteering for this
very worthy mission.**
**www.venicepres.org or
email [fredandcindy123@
verizon.net](mailto:fredandcindy123@verizon.net)**

Connect & Grow

Monday

Holy Yoga

ends third week of May

9am - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Jane Salandi, bsal45008@aol.com

Line Dancing

goes through May

10:30am - 11:30am, Fellowship Hall

Knit One, Pray Too

resumes in the fall

12pm - 2pm, Rm 9

Pat Pitha, sunnypatpitha@aol.com

Martha's Circle

ends permanently in May

1pm - 3pm, Rm 6

1st Monday of the month, ends in May

Pat Radcliffe, patwrad@gmail.com

MnM Men's Group

6pm - 7pm, Glass House

Alan Penick, adpenick@comcast.net

Tuesday

Men's Discussion Group, *ends May 7*

8:00am - 9am, Rm 11

Doug Brown, dodobrown252@gmail.com

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

ends May 28

9:15 - 10:15 AM, Glass House. The study will be on the Gospel of Luke.

Dick Edmunds, (941) 488-8949

kcid1961@gmail.com

Rachel's Circle

closed until Nov.

10 am- 12am, Rm 6

1st Tuesday of each month

Shirley Blood, clarkesprinkle@gmail.com

Dorcas Bible Study (Women's)

ends in May

10am - 12pm in Room 6

3rd Tuesday of each month

Beth Tieman, bethtmn@comcast.net

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

7pm - 9pm, Room 6

Kim Jason, kljason@comcast.net

941-806-9894, call for schedule

Wednesday

Classic Creations & Crafting

ends in June

10am-12pm, Room 9

1st Wednesdays

Novelle Franklin, novelle313@comcast.net

Adult Coloring Crew

12pm, Library

Ardith Pinner, apinner@venicepres.org

Book Club

ends in June, resumes Nov.

1pm - 2:30pm, Rm 8

1st Wednesday of the month

Mary Gregory

mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

Pastor Chris' Midweek Bible Study

6pm - 7pm, Sanctuary

Study of Acts

Thursday

MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers*)

ends May 16

8:30am - 12pm, Fellowship Hall

1st & 3rd Thursday

*Moppets (1st & 3rd Thursday)

ends May 16

8:30am - 12pm, Family Life Center

Friday

Holy Yoga

Ends third week of May

9am - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)

closes May 10 through Sept

9:45am to 11:15am, Sanctuary

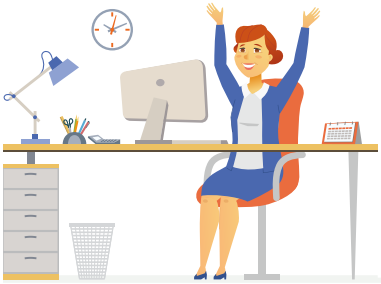
Tracy Patsel, at tracyjae@gmail.com

Pastor Chris' Midweek Bible Study

Wednesday Bible studies with Pastor Chris started May 1st, and will be based on passages from that week's readings of Acts. If you're traveling or enjoying a May springtime up north, you can tune in to both the Wednesday night studies (6 pm) and Sunday worship services (10 am) via the Livestream on our church website (www.venicepres.org).

Thank you for your generous contribution to the food drive. We received over 175 bags that were distributed to area food pantries: Laurel Civic Association, Community Assistance Ministry, South County Food Bank Center for hope. See you in November!

**THANK
YOU!**



**Welcome
Center
Volunteers**

The Greeter provides an important sense of openness and welcoming to all guests by greeting everyone and answering questions about upcoming events, sign ups, and general needs.

Contact May Williams at mwilliams@venicepres.org

Want to promote your group, event or workshop? Simply go online to Connect, Grow and Go, fill out the form (or get one from the office) and submit by the 2nd Tuesday of the previous month.

Book Club

May 1
River of Doubt by
Candice Millard

*The VPC Book
Club announces its
selections of books for
the 2019-2020 year:*

Nov. 6
A Walk in the Woods
Rediscovering America
on the Appalachian Trail
by Bill Bryson

Dec. 4
The Amethyst Heart
by Penelope Stokes

Jan. 8
The Devil in the White City
by Erik Larson

Feb. 5
Becoming
by Michelle Obama

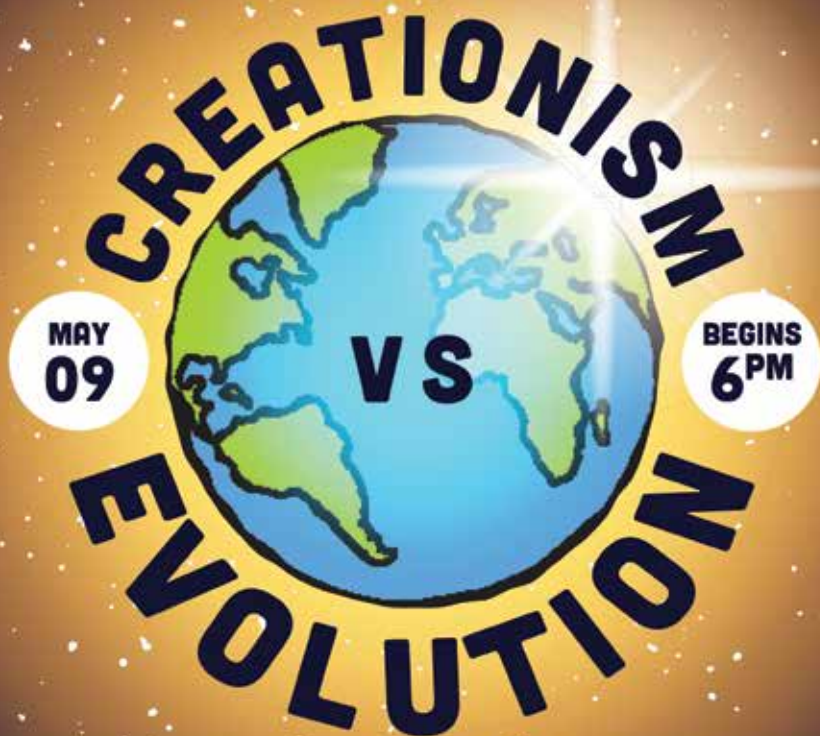
Mar. 4
My Dear Hamilton: A
Novel of Elizabeth Schyler
Hamilton
by Stephanie Dray and
Laura Kamoie

Apr. 1
The Soul of America
by Jon Meacham

May 6
Before We Were Yours
by Lisa Wingate

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

ARE THESE TWO ACCOUNTS
HOPELESSLY IN CONFLICT?



SPEAKER : DR. TREMPER LONGMAN III

(PhD, Yale University) is a Distinguished Scholar and Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Westmont College.

LECTURE: 6:00 TO 7:00, Q&A: 7:00 TO 7:30

825 THE RIALTO, VENICE FL, SANCTUARY

LEARN MORE AT WWW.VENICEPRES.ORG

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO PUBLIC. LOVE OFFERING GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED