

Connect, Grow & Go

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

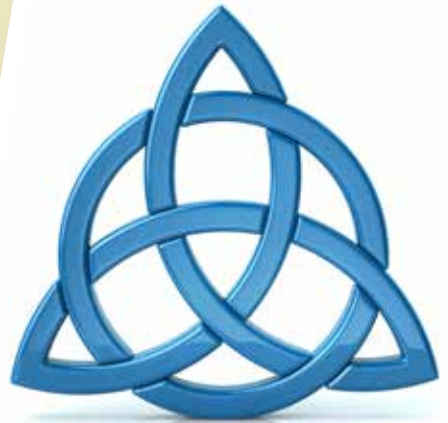
A photograph showing two people sitting on colorful beach chairs on a sandy beach. They are facing away from the camera, looking out at the ocean during a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person on the left is wearing a dark cap and glasses, and the person on the right is wearing a light-colored hat. Their shadows are cast on the sand in front of them.

Lazy Hazy Days of Summer

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

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark, curly hair. She is looking off to the right with a thoughtful expression. She is wearing a blue t-shirt and a colorful lanyard around her neck.

Day 4 Hope



June Sermon Series

Our Vision in Action

To Glorify God As A Disciple-Making Outpost Of Kingdom Life

Worship Service Hours

Sunday, 10am
9am Wednesday Communion

Office Phone

941-488-2258

VPC Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Chris Romig
cromig@venicepres.org

Executive Director

Chris O'Brien
cobrien@venicepres.org

Pastor of Connection & Outreach

Rev. Carolyn Wilson
cwilson@venicepres.org

Pastor of Member Care

Rev. Burke Johnson
bjohnson@venicepres.com

Children's Director

Genna Sarikoki
gsarikoki@venicepres.org

Communication Director

Kelly Wensley
kwensley@venicepres.org

Facility Management

Nick Clemmer
nclammer@venicepres.org

Financial Director

Kim Curran, kcurran@venicepres.org

Bookkeeper

Megan Lechlitner
mlechlitner@venicepres.org

Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Jamal Sarikoki
jsarikoki@venicepres.org

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

Office Manager

May Williams
mwilliams@venicepres.org

Receptionist

Connie Sayers
csayers,@venicepres.org

Facility & A/V

Gary Youngberg
gyoungberg@venicepres.org

Session

Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Cris Anderson
Dick Edmunds
Tom Hoffman
Bob Painter
Bob Allen
Nick Clemmer
Sheryl Morford
Jamal Sarikoki
Jennie Chaplain
Carolyn Stephens
Jim Weeks
Shelly Wharton

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2019, The Year of Living Generously – Nick Clemmer

I was raised in a Christian home and at an early age I was taught the principles of the Word. At the age of 15 I gave my heart to Jesus. Shortly after graduating school I began dating a girl and we married at the age of 20. Getting married turned a switch in me: I turned my face towards being a good provider for my wife and after 3 or 4 years our 2 daughters as well.

¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

musing, in my mind, all my wife's faults and the reasons why our marriage wasn't working. As I was ruminating all the things my wife needed to change about herself, the Holy Spirit pointed a finger at me and said, "Son, you're the one who needs to change". That took me aback! I was forced in my mind to remember the commitment I had made to Christ when I

was 15 years old and the commitment I had made, at the altar, with my wife.

Two things happened that day. The first was that I recommitted myself to Christ, not just to be a Christian, but also a follower of Christ. The second was to affirm my wife: to love, honor and cherish her like I had vowed all those years ago. One night at the dinner table, she smiled and said to me, "something is different about you". I smiled back and thanked her. But something was different with me – I began to attend church every Sunday with my family. I grew stronger in my faith.

I began a pilgrimage of selfish ambition, working every day of the week. I wasn't home a lot, and my family went to church alone. Fast-forward to me at 32 years old and this lifestyle of me working all the time, my wife working full-time, and the kids in school had left me a stranger in my own home.

One day I was washing my car on one of the few Saturdays when I was home and I was



One day, I stumbled across a passage from Malachi (a book in the Old Testament) – although looking back I can say the Holy Spirit led me to this passage. I read **Malachi 3: 6-18** and felt convicted. Previously on the rare occasions when I did attend church, they would be lucky to get a few dollars from me because that's all I had left. Tithing to me was an absurd idea. When I laid out my household income beside my expenses every month, they zeroed out. I thought, "this is crazy, how can God expect me to tithe?". But I made a decision – one that didn't feel right in my gut but felt right in my heart – to put my tithe right on the top. The first check I wrote every month was to the church. I thought, "if God

is as good as His word, I need to trust Him".

I began doing that 43 years ago and God has been good on His word. I was never late on any of my other payments because God found a way to provide for us. God blessed our family in so many ways – too numerous to mention – but I can tell you that making the decision to give the top 10% to God has changed my life.

When my wife fell ill, He gave her the courage to face that battle and gave my daughters and I the strength to support her. He took her home in the early 90's. I began another journey of my own and God was faithful there too. I prayed for my single life and, if I were to remarry,

for the type of woman I would want to be with. He miraculously brought me to a beautiful woman, Sarah Jane. This year we will celebrate 24 years of marriage together.

When I reflect back on the times when I called myself Christian but was not really practicing my faith, I realize that not only was I robbing God but also depriving my family of the many blessings God has for us. I've been living on less than 90% of my income and have been living very well. I give God the glory for all that He has done and continues to do in my life.

Nick Clemmer
Facilities Manager at VPC

Reprinted from The Messenger, 2016





Care & Compassion

Stephen Ministry Annual Retreat

April 4th of this year was a very special and exciting day for the Stephen Ministers of Venice Presbyterian church. Along with Pastors and Stephen Leaders, we gathered in the Glass House for our annual retreat. The focus this year was to explore the topic of Providing Spiritual Care for our care receivers and ourselves. Our teacher this year was none other than our own Pastor Chris and as you might expect, he did a wonderful job. It was a day of learning, fellowship and great food. We wrapped it up with prayer, music and Communion in the chapel. This retreat

along with our continuing education, helps us to offer focused care, support, and encouragement from our Stephen Ministers to our care receivers. I love this quote from a Stephen Minister when asked what do you do? He said "I show up and I listen ". Remember that our program supports not only our congregation but the community as well. If you know of someone whomay need our services, call one of the Stephen Leaders listed below:

Marcia Bickmore 941 488 9379
Laura Saye 269 339 5907
Richard Gilbert 941 468 9174

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 pre-planning 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

Worship Ministry

Communion Sunday, July 7

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 gluten-free.

Wednesday Communion

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



Retirement Community Communion Gatherings

with Rev. Burke Johnson

Village on the Isle
June 13 @ 11am
(Second Thursday)

Aston Gardens
June 14 @ 9:45 am
(Second Friday)

Jacaranda Trace
June 14 @ 1pm
(Second Friday)



JUNE SERMON SERIES *The Triune God*

Many of the songs and prayers we offer in church reference the Christian

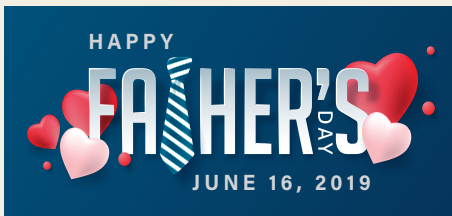
belief in a Triune God: three distinct persons in one God. We baptize in the name of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the church calendar, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday.

Over this month – which includes the Day of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday – we'll be exploring the Triune nature of God. The messages will not be doctrinal lectures, but will be offered to help us get a greater understanding of God and a deeper love for

God. The Triune nature of God is God's self-revelation in the Bible, so gaining a deeper appreciation of the Trinity allows us to more fully know and savour God.

We will begin by getting to know each of the three persons of the Divine Nature, and then wrap-up the series by touching on the mystery of how these three persons are united in one God.

- June 9 (Pentecost) God the Spirit
- June 16 (Trinity Sunday and Father's Day) God the Father
- June 23 God the Son
- June 30 The Mystery and Majesty of Three-in-One
- July 7 (Communion Meditation) What the Triune God Means For Our Life Together



SAVE THE DATE

Christmas in July

July 21, 10am
Reception immediately
following in Fellowship Hall



VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS



GOOD FOOD
WATER SLIDE
PATRIOTIC MUSIC
FUN ACTIVITIES



2ND ANNUAL
**INDEPENDENCE DAY
CHURCH PICNIC**
& Pie Baking Contest

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING
10AM MORNING SERVICE, **JULY 7**
BRING YOUR FAMILIES AND KIDS!

Love to bake? Think your pies are the best?
Enjoy picnics & dessert? Enter to win our
Pie Baking Contest! Winners receive free tickets
to the Venice Community Concert Series.
Details to follow.



WWW.VENICEPRES.ORG

Connect & Grow

Group Gatherings

Monday

MnM Men's Group

6pm - 7pm, Glass House

Alan Penick, adpenick@comcast.net

Tuesday

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

7pm - 9pm, Room 6

Kim Jason, kljason@comcast.net

941-806-9894, call for schedule

Wednesday

Adult Coloring Crew

12pm, Library

Ardith Pinner, apinner@venicepres.org

Night n' Gals

6pm - 8pm, Chapel after Sanctuary

Kathy Wood, 941-492-4851

kwood1221@comcast.net



WORKSHOP UPDATES

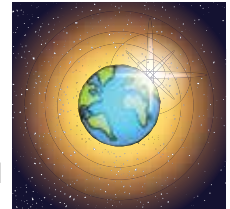
Vision Impairment Update



In April we hosted our first Vision Impairment Workshop for those with low vision or for those who have someone in their life who suffers from low vision. Nicole Mobley, a representative from The Lighthouse, presented tools and resources, and Bob Husa, from VPC, demonstrated how electronics can simplify and enrich the lives of those with low vision. Free instruments that can read prescription bottles and relay information audibly? Apps for iPhones and iPads that help identify colors, faces, bar codes, and read texts? Write emails using your voice? Yes! Amazement and encouragement were the main reactions from those who attended. Watch for more information in future editions of Connect, Grow, Go or call the church office to get your name on the list to be contacted for our next workshop.

Summary of Creation vs. Evolution

Dr. Tremper Longman III (PhD, Yale University), Distinguished Scholar and Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Westmont College, presented a thought-provoking lecture on the controversial topic of Creation vs. Evolution. Dr. Longman asserted that when Genesis is properly read as it was intended by the original author, there is no true contradiction between science and the Bible. He pointed out that the Bible tells us WHO while science tells us HOW and that the genre of Genesis is neither myth nor straightforward history, but theological history. It was a great opportunity to hear from a current biblical scholar who holds the Bible as the authoritative word of God. The lecture was well-attended and we hope to offer similar opportunities in the future.



SAVE THE DATE: NEW MEMBER CLASS

We welcome all who would like to join Venice Presbyterian Church. The next new member class begins Tuesday, October 15 through November 19.



Pastor Chris' Midweek Bible Study

Wednesday Bible studies with Pastor Chris will be based on passages from the book of Acts. You can tune in to Wednesday night studies (6 pm) via the Livestream on our church website (www.venicepres.org).

There will be no Bible study on Wednesday, June 12. Pastor Chris will be out-of-town. It will resume again on June 19, and will continue through the month of July .

2019 VPC Golf Outing Update

The Lord blessed us with a sunny day and 9 teams of 4 golfers with a wide range of golfing skills. The goal was to get out, have fun and meet people, not only on the golf course, but during a delicious lunch enjoyed in VPC's Fellowship Hall following the game.

The golf game was a shotgun scramble. Teams were well matched with final scores, ranging from 72 to 79 on this Par 72 course. Prizes were given to the three teams with the lowest scores:

1st Place

Kim Curran, Dawson
Milne, Bill O'Brien, Sydna
Zeliff

2nd Place

John Carlson, Dick
Edmunds, Flora Hughes,
John Monteith.

3rd Place

Doug Chase, Shelia
Cunningham, Don
Gianquinto, Jim Hale



A big thank you goes out to the Golf Game Organizing Team: Dick Edmunds, Richard Gilbert and Alan Penick. Lunch Team: Stu Bischoff, Richard Gilbert and Ryan Norwood



VPC Library: What You Need to Know

We receive a steady supply of donated books, so there is always something new being added to our shelves. For June, we have a variety of books available for loan. Our collection covers every genre including reference books, theology, devotional books, poetry, Christian life, and fiction. Additionally,

a nice selection of DVD's, children's books and a bookstore in the library that offers study Bibles, devotionals, adult coloring books, and small gifts for a suggested donation and, our popular greeting cards. The library is also a quiet place to read or pray. **Library Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 10-12pm / Sunday, 8:30-11:30am

Children's Ministry

Volunteers needed and appreciated!



- 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 Si 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

Only a few spots available for 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

OUR CHURCH'S BIBLE STUDY LIBRARY

IS NOW DIGITAL... AND GIGANTIC.

OVER 20,000 DISCIPLESHIP VIDEOS FOR KIDS,
YOUTH AND ADULTS.

RightNow Media is an online library of over 15,000 video-based Bible studies from over 250 top Christian publishers and ministries. There are studies for small groups, individuals, families, children, leadership development and much more. It can be accessed 24x7 from anywhere you have access to the internet.



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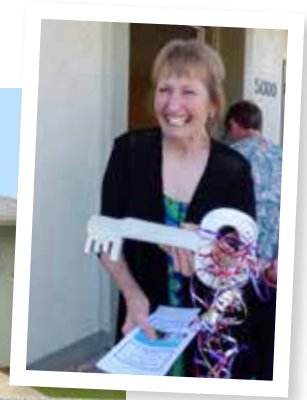
How to Access *RightNow Media*

Email or call May Williams, VPC Office Manager, mwilliams@venicepres.org or 941-488-2258 and ask for *RightNow Media* Access. May will sign you up and you will receive a *RightNow Media* email invitation to create your own personal login.

Mission & Outreach

MAY MONTHLY MISSION PARTNER (MMP)

Habitat for Humanity



Habitat South Sarasota is part of a global, non-profit housing organization operating on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Habitat for Humanity offers the dream of home ownership to those who would otherwise not be able to afford a home of their own. The new homeowners actually help build the house alongside many dedicated volunteers in the community. Habitat sells the house to the homeowner at cost and finances the mortgage at a zero interest rate.

Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Inc. is part of a global, non-profit housing organization operating

on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity builds affordable homes for low-income partners in South Sarasota County. Since 1992 they have rehabilitated and/or built over 100 homes, housing over 325 local residents with over 200 of them being children.

Habitat South Sarasota partner families work side by side with community volunteers for a required 300 "sweat equity" hours to build safe, decent affordable houses. They must attend 8 two-and-a-half hour homeowner classes and 1 eight-hour HUD certified "First Time Homebuyer Workshop". Individuals who become homeowners through our program reduce their dependence on community, social and financial services. These are substantial benefits for those individuals and particularly positive for the next generation.



Every year, Habitat for Humanity Sarasota relies on more than 800 volunteers to support our mission. Volunteers help keep the homes affordable for qualified home-buyers. It is our goal to help you find the volunteer assignment that best suits your skills, interests, and schedule.

Volunteer on the construction of a new home or help with a home renovation. A half-day commitment (7:30 am – 12:00 pm) is required and we build on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday each week. Weekday volunteers are our greatest need. Must be at least 16 years old to volunteer on a build site.

Volunteering is a great way to have fun, meet and make new friends, and get involved in your community and Habitat has many opportunities to help find the right volunteering fit for you.



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.



Family Promise

Remaining in 2019

June

6/2 - 6/9

August

8/18 - 8/25

September

9/8 - 9/15

December

12/8 - 12/15

Upcoming in 2020

March

3/22 - 3/29

May

5/10 - 5/17

November

11/22 - 11/29

Contact Gail Thompson (908) 415-4691, gaylecat@netscape.net to volunteer.

A big Thank You to Bobbie Gilbert and Bonnie Parlette for gathering and sorting shoes then donating them to Garden Elementary and Family Promise "Bonnie and I got them all separated into size and gender", says Bobbie. "There are plenty of shoes so if you ever become aware of a need let one of us know and we will deliver." They are a perfect example of Living Generously.



Day 4 Hope Prayer



Gracious and life-giving God, we thank you for so many blessings. Especially this day, we thank you for the program, Hope for Communities, which enable us to reach out to homeless children and families. Thank you for the vision which created this

work, and for the energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers. We pray for the families who will be sent to us. Bless those parents in their struggle to care for their children. Bless the children and help them know that they are loved by many people. Bring your spirit and Wisdom to our work as we prepare for our event on July 27. Help us spread your love in this hurting world. In Jesus' name. Amen.



3 Cents A Meal

On the last Sunday of the month, June 30, please visit Christine Hart at the table in the narthex and exchange or pick up a food container. All money collected supports the local food banks. Every penny counts.

Clinica Medica Salvatore Update

Clinica Medica Salvatore is in the midst of an exciting update. A surgical wing is being added to the existing clinic and construction is expected to be completed by year end.

Guatemala 2020 (Helps International Stove Team)

Would you like to have fun, make a difference while climbing mountains, working hard and helping the people of Guatemala?

Join us for this transformational trip. Dates for the next Stove Team are March 14 - 23, 2020. Please contact Jim or Lois Weeks for more information.

Jim 941-914-4188
Lois 320-250-3363

SAVE THE DATE

Day 4 Hope Rally Night

Mandatory Training for all ambassadors



Monday,
July 22, 2019,
4pm
Fellowship Hall

Youth Ministry

Fun at Skyzone 2019



Journey to Camp Anderson!

July 8 – 12 Youth will leave for Camp Anderson. This is an experience of a lifetime for these kids. Camp Anderson is a Christian Camp Retreat located in Old Town, Florida. Please pray for:

Saye Falconer,
Eli Jason
Filip Slavovas
Gabrielle Caradona

Alec Ronald
Nicholas Romig
Bobby Dodd
Fiona Coffey

Alexandra James
Savannah James
Jamal Sarikoki
Genna Sarikoki

Please Feed Us :)

Youth meet each week from 6PM – 8PM each Sunday night to learn and grow closer to Christ. Each week a meal is offered before a time of learning and discussion. If you would like to be part of the team who prepares, donates toward, or wants to learn more about the meals, please contact Karen Romig at romig2000@msn.com or sign up at the Glass House.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Saturday July 27, 2019

DAY 4 HOPE

Community Outreach Program



**WE RELY ON OUR
VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE
THIS DAY A SUCCESS!**

Venice Presbyterian Church is partnering with Hope 4 Communities whose mission is to serve the homeless children in Sarasota and Manatee school systems who are living in cars, shelters or on the street. Our outreach is to families in the Venice Elementary area by providing the basic needs to begin the first day of school thus building the self esteem of these students.

Be a part of this amazing outreach program by serving as a Day 4 Hope ambassador.

Ambassadors are a pivotal part of the success of Day 4 Hope as they greet the children and parents, lead them through the process and interact with the families in a warm and friendly manner.

We are currently in need of over 200 adult volunteers. This is a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity for all involved.

Mandatory training with dinner will be provided one on Monday, July 22 at 4PM.



AND MUCH MORE...



DENTAL CHECK-UP



To volunteer, go to www.venicepres.org
Rev. Carolyn Wilson, Director of Connection and Outreach
cwilson@venicepres.org, 941-488-2258, ext 124
Venice Presbyterian Church, 825 The Rialto, Venice FL 34275