

# Connect, Grow & Go

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



*Autumn in Venice, 2020*

# Our Vision in Action

## Church Leadership

### Session

#### Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig  
Carolyn Wilson

#### Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Dick Edmunds

Tom Hoffman

Bob Painter

Bob Allen

Nick Clemmer

Sheryl Morford

Jamal Sarikoki

Jennie Chaplin

Carolyn Stephens

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Board member contact information is available through the Realm app via your phone or signing in to [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org).

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs, 9am - 4pm

Fri, 9am - 12pm

### OFFICE PHONE

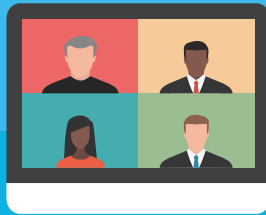
941-488-2258

### WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

Sunday, 10am in-person & online at [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)

### LIBRARY HOURS

Open during church office hours, please see the receptionist for entry or contact [chaplin@gmail.com](mailto:chaplin@gmail.com)



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# Church Update

We are finding ourselves in the midst of a new reality as we wade through the climate of COVID, politics, and the ick of the summer humidity. Although each of these topics carry very different weight, each have their own heaviness!

The church is thankful to offer you HOPE and a fall edition of Connect Grow and Go. We continue to remind you we are living out our vision to glorify God as a disciple-making outpost of kingdom life.

Vision does not change because the world has shifted. We shift to live out our God inspired vision. We are finding new and creative ways to Connect, Grow, and Go with you. Pastor Chris is doing an amazing job of his Wednesday chats to keep you informed and inspired. Worship is engaging and solid in it's Biblical foundation. Teaching on the Sermon on the Mount is refreshing and beautiful! Musical contributions offer reflection, inspiration and hope.

I want you to know the church is doing well financially, spiritually, and foundationally because we continue to practice basic biblical principles of prayer, worship, stewardship, loving each other and our community well. We are making disciples in non-traditional ways using technology as we hold Bible Study, worship, and prayer meetings through Zoom. Whoever would have thought! However, we certainly miss our face-to-face interaction terribly.

The pure joy in opening our church for in person worship August 16 was overwhelming. There were smiles, and tears as people entered our pews. Something we "always do" was taken

away March 15th. The joy of that gift returning is beyond words of explanation.

Temperatures are taken as people walk in the doors with many smiles. Masks are worn as people move about from door to seat. Many remove their masks when they are seated but put them back on as they exit through the sanctuary doors. The Holy Spirit is working even in the moments of uncertainty we are experiencing. Our in-person attendance is approximately 130 including staff and volunteers. Our maximum is 200 in the sanctuary at a time. Those comfortable returning are returning with joy. We are thankful for all who continue to participate online as well. Our online participation is approximately 600 plus each week. We are very thankful for all who receive the word of God through preaching, teaching, music, prayer.

We do ask you to register online ([www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)) each week so we are able to make sure we can accommodate our congregation. However, if you forget please feel free to check-in when you arrive. We are so happy to see you that we will register you on Sunday morning! No worries! Please bring your mask and join us in keeping the main thing the main thing—praise and worship to our God!

Thank you for your continued love and support. We do miss seeing your friendly smiling faces!

Grace and Peace,

*Christine O'Brien*



## Thank You Ardith Pinner

Thank you Ardith for your years of service!

As we say good-bye to Ardith, who retired this year as the VPC church librarian, we thought we'd let you know some fun facts.

Born	Michigan
Career	Taught Kindergarten thru 6 grade in Rochester, Michigan for 30 years
Married	Herb Pinner for 51 years
Moved to Florida	1989 and fell in love with Venice
Librarian @ VPC	1996 - 2020 <i>24 Years!!</i>
Current Passion	Researching and studying women's roles in the Christian church from the beginning with Eve...4 Gospels and Book of Acts, Celtic/Mystics, Middle Ages, desert women, US slave women, etc.
Favorites:	Books & People AND People & Books
Library Suggestion:	Come, Browse, Sit, Relax, RETREAT!
Creativity development	Story Hour Coloring Group Play Area Window Displays Bookstore
Favorite Colors:	Navy, Khaki and Pink





# Care & Compassion

## Caring For People During Covid 19

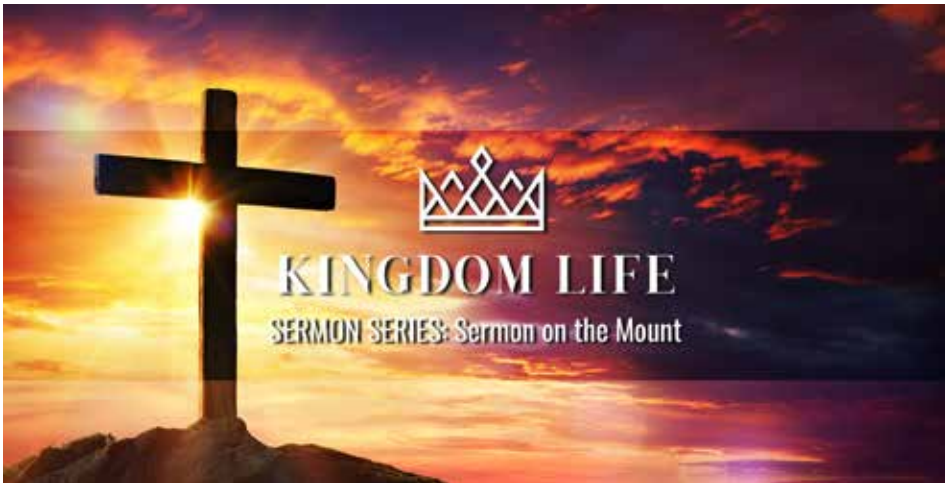
Grieving the loss of a loved one, hospitalization or illness, loneliness and isolation can be difficult in any circumstances. But, during this time of Covid - 19 everything seems and often is harder— certainly more complicated:

- Family members may be isolated from their loved one and may not have had the chance to say their final goodbyes.
- Limitations of gatherings prevent loved ones from physically gathering to grieve and reminisce together at funerals and memorial services.
- Extended family and friends are unable to visit and offer in-person support or condolences.
- Comforting acts like hugging, holding a hand, or sitting with the hurting person just aren't as possible right now.
- In the midst of their grief, people are also dealing with increased stress, anxiety and other losses because of the pandemic. Consequential decisions about children's schooling, family get-togethers, church attendance add to the anxiety.
- Family and friends may not have the emotional energy to reach out and offer care as they would under less stressful times.

If you are feeling a need to unload your feelings, to talk with a caring Christian friend, our Stephen ministers here at Venice Presbyterian church are ready to listen and share your burden, whatever it may be. Please call one of our Stephen Leaders or contact us by email at [sm@venicepres.org](mailto:sm@venicepres.org).



# Worship Ministry



## *Kingdom Life*

### **Living the Sermon on the Mount**

The words of Jesus from Matthew 5-7, known as the Sermon on the Mount, paint a picture of the “Kingdom Life” that Jesus came to bring. These chapters contain some of the Bible’s most familiar words – but how are these teachings reflected in our daily life? Our culture today desperately needs Christians who authentically live the kind of life that Jesus describes. The demands may seem daunting, but we will explore how building our lives on a relationship with Jesus and depending upon His grace actually enables us to reflect a quality of life that can bring hope and blessing to the world!

### **Sermon Series: Kingdom Life Fall Schedule**

- September 6 **Blessed are the Meek** (Matthew 5:5)
- September 13 **Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness** (Matthew 5:6)
- September 20 **Blessed are the Merciful** (Matthew 5:7)
- September 27 **Blessed are the Pure in Heart** (Matthew 5:8)
- October 4 **Blessed are the Peacemakers** (Matthew 5:9)
- October 11 **Blessed are the Persecuted** (Matthew 5:10-12)
- October 18 **Salt and Light** (Matthew 5:13-16)
- October 25 **Jesus and the Law** (Matthew 5:17-20)

**Save the Dates:**

*Reformation Sunday*  
October 25

*All Saints' Day*  
November 1

## ***Instructions for Communion***

As we've resumed in-person worship, we will also be resuming our practice of celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month. As a special provision during the COVID pandemic, those who worship from home are also invited to participate as an extension of our communion at the Lord's table.

Those who would like to celebrate the sacrament of communion at home are invited to prepare in three specific ways:

1. ***Prepare the communion bread:*** Place a cracker or a small piece of bread on a plate or napkin.
2. ***Prepare the communion cup:*** The cup represents the blood of Christ, so grape juice or red wine would be ideal options to pour into a small glass or chalice.
3. ***Prepare your heart:*** This is the most important preparation any of us can make before celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. As the Presbyterian Directory for Worship describes: "Worshippers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and with one another." (W-3.0409)



Please have the communion elements close at-hand before the worship service begins. When it's time for communion during the worship service, we will sing a hymn of preparation and then offer a Prayer of Thanksgiving. Next, pastors and elders (*wearing masks and gloves*) will individually hand a pre-packaged communion set to each worshipper in the sanctuary. Each safely-packaged communion set includes a small communion wafer sitting on top of a sealed cup of grape juice. During the distribution of the elements in the sanctuary, worshippers at home are encouraged to set out their bread and prepare the cup.



After the communion elements have been distributed in the sanctuary, a minister will offer the Words of Institution from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, inviting worshippers (*those in the sanctuary and those in the sanctuaries of their homes*) to partake of the bread, and then the cup. As we traditionally do, we will conclude our communion service with a Prayer of Dedication, the Apostles Creed, and a closing hymn.

***Venice Community Concert Series:*** We continue to research healthy and safe ways to carry out the 2020-21 Concert Series. As soon as we come to a decision, we will publish the schedule and plans. In the meantime, enjoy the diverse music in Sunday morning worship. Mark your calendar for future Music in the Word programs on Friday, October 23 where we will commemorate the Protestant Reformation and Wednesday, November 25 as we celebrate Thanksgiving.



Venice Presbyterian Church  
*presents*

# COMMUNION

*on the lawn*

Wednesday, October 14 at 9am

## Celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Join us outside on the front lawn of the church for a simple communion service.

Bring a lawn chair and a loving heart as we gather together while social distancing. All safety protocols will be in place. Please register online on our website at [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)





## ***Prayer in the Chapel***

During the church closure, we have had many requests to make the church available for prayer. While we are open for worship on Sunday morning, we understand that gathering in large groups may make many feel uncomfortable.

Good News! The chapel will be available for quiet, individual prayer & reflection on Thursdays, 9am -noon.

While the chapel will be cleaned regularly, we ask that you please use the available hand sanitizer and wear a mask if others are present to ensure your safety.

## **4 Ways to Give**

*Thank you for your continued support during the quarantine.*



**Text Giving**  
73256  
venicepres +  
amount



**Online Giving**  
venicepres.org



**Electronic  
Funds Transfer  
(EFT)**



**Cash/Check**  
825 the Rialto  
Venice, FL 34285

# Family Ministry



**Join us on September 23 at our Children's Outreach Drive Through!**

## SHOPPING LIST

### Shoes

Children Sizes 9-13

Youth Sizes 1-6

Walmart Gift Cards

Paper Towels

Water Bottles

*(please note that clothing is not accepted at this time due to Covid-19 concerns)*

## Partnership with Local Elementary Schools

We have distributed many, many pairs of shoes since our last shoe drive! VPC is glad to have been able to bring shoes to all 5 of the Venice/Nokomis elementary schools during the '19-20 school year and have stocked up Venice Elementary for this new year.

**It is time to stock up our closet once more.** Walmart gift cards or shoes bought at Walmart are preferred as they have been flexible with us in exchanging sizes. Please consider bringing a pair of kid's shoes to bless a local elementary student.

As the school year kicks off amid the pandemic our Family Ministry Director, Genna Sarikoki, has been in contact with Venice Elementary and Laurel Nokomis School. We brought children's sized face masks and snacks to both nurses offices. We also brought drawstring bags to the VES second graders who are learning to navigate the hallways



differently this year. Laurel Nokomis School was delivered water bottles and paper towels. As we continue to support these local schools, consider donating to our School Partnership Fund as well as bringing paper towels and water to our upcoming drive through.

Continue praying for our selfless school employees who are working hard to keep the kids safe! Pray for their safety as well as their spirits as they journey into this unprecedented school year. Thank you for continuing to make it possible to impact our local community for Christ!

## Samaritan's Purse Collection Coming Soon!

We have 150 empty shoe boxes ready to be distributed on September 23! You will have lots of time to shop and pray over your box as this year's **Operation Christmas Child Collection Week is November 16-20.**



# BUDDY BREAK 2020 FALL SEMESTER



*Can't wait for our exciting upcoming Buddy Break season!  
WE HAVE MISSED YOU!*

## SEPTEMBER 19

*Back-to-School Parade*  
VIPs are invited to drive thru to see their Buddy's and pick up a goodie bag.

## OCTOBER 17

*Virtual Buddy Break*  
Activity kits to be sent out so VIPs can participate at home.

## DECEMBER 19

*Christmas Drive-Thru*  
Families are invited to celebrate Christ's birth together.

## NOVEMBER 21

*Socially Distant Picnic*  
Families and Buddies are invited to join us on the lawn. Lunch will be provided.

## JANUARY 16

*Drive-in Movie at Dusk*  
Bring a blanket, chairs, or stay in your car as you join us for popcorn and a movie.



Venice Presbyterian Church  
825 The Railto, Venice, FL 34285  
[www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)

For more information contact Genna Sarikoki, [gsarikoki@venicepres.org](mailto:gsarikoki@venicepres.org)

# Monthly Mission Partners

September MMP

## Mision Peniel, Immokalee

**Misión Peniel** began as a pastoral ministry of charity and service, providing food, clothing, fellowship and emergency support to farmworkers in Immokalee, Florida in September of 2006. Beginning in 2013, Misión Peniel became a ministry of Peace River Presbytery while continuing to be a vehicle for people of faith to respond to a call for compassionate service to complement the focus on social justice provided so aptly through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Under the leadership of Pastor Miguel Estrada, Misión Peniel addresses the isolation and injustice among migrant workers in Immokalee and provides support to them through spiritual and material care. They

bring together people of faith and compassion to act with farm workers to achieve fundamental change in their living and working conditions.

- Every Friday, somewhere between 300 and 700 meals are served to migrant farmworkers.
- Every week, pastoral care is provided to farmworkers, including counseling, hospital visitation, and assistance in orienting migrants to a new culture.
- Every month, about 60 volunteers serve at the mission.
- Every year, several tons of clothes and food are provided to farmworkers and their families.





### **Donate Items on the Critical Needs List**

*(please note that clothing is not accepted at this time due to Covid-19 concerns)*

Non-perishable food items including:

- peanut butter
- canned goods

Dry goods such as:

- rice
- beans
- noodles
- cereal & energy bars (both low sugar)
- diapers size 5/6



During normal time, Venice Presbyterian Church hosts day-long mission trips to Misión Peniel several times a year. This is an excellent way to participate in an off campus mission outreach and an opportunity to get to know other VPC members. You should expect a long day, departing late in the morning and spending 4 - 5 hours standing and working. You will serve food to local residents, sort and distribute clothing, wash cooking equipment, and take inventory of food and pantry supplies.

Mission Partner Liaison, Jim Sager, 941-484-5659, [jharosager@gmail.com](mailto:jharosager@gmail.com)



October MMP  
**Pregnancy Solutions**



**Pregnancy Solutions** provides free, confidential, high-quality, and compassionate care to women facing unplanned pregnancies, with the ultimate goal of reducing the number of abortions in the Venice area.

We are committed to empowering women to uphold the sanctity of human life, achieve sexual integrity and wholeness and embrace a biblical view of life, sex, marriage and family. We demonstrate this by providing life-affirming support, education, referrals, and material assistance in times of need.

**Free Pregnancy Testing & Ultrasounds**

For pregnancy verification and determination of gestational age for those who qualify.

**Information about Pregnancy Options**

Non-judgmental, medically accurate information about all options.

**Adoption Referrals for Birth Mothers**

Connecting our clients with adoption agencies and resources.

**Post-Abortion Support Groups**

Caring, confidential small groups that go through a study called "Surrendering the Secret".

**"Earn While You Learn" Program**

To ensure each woman has the education and resources she needs through pregnancy and 1st year of motherhood.

**"Rookie Dads" Mentoring Program**

To prepare young men for their important new role of fatherhood.

**Sexual Risk Avoidance Education**

Helping youth understand healthy relationships and make positive choices.

**Volunteers**

These volunteers are detail-oriented and are available to serve on an as-needed basis in the office or at our special events.

**Client Advocates**

Our trained Client Advocates come into our office once a week to meet with clients. A listening ear and an encouraging smile are great qualities of these amazing volunteers!

*Pregnancy Solutions receives no government funding and relies entirely upon the generosity of our community to continue our work. As a 501(C)3 organization, all gifts are tax-deductible.*

# VPC Mission Partners and Liaisons

For information on how you can help the supported missions of Venice Presbyterian Church, please contact the Mission Partner Liaison or go online at [www.venicepres.org/missions](http://www.venicepres.org/missions).

	Local Missions	Mission Partner Liaison
1	Agape Flights ( <i>International Reach</i> )	Jim Sager
2	Center of Hope	Donna Pirozzi
3	Community Assistance Ministry ( <i>CAM</i> )	Lois Weeks
4	Day 4 Hope	Fred Gossman
5	Family Promise	Kathy Wood
6	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	Larry Vander Wal
7	Habitat for Humanity	Jim Turner
8	Laurel Civic Association	Robin Frost
9	Pregnancy Solutions	Karen Norwood
10	South County Food Pantry	Donna Pirozzi
11	180 House – Youth for Christ	Karen Norwood
12	One Christ, Won City	Robin Frost
13	3 Cents a Meal	Donna Pirozzi
<b>Regional/National Missions</b>		
14	Beth-El Farmworker Ministry ( <i>through PRP</i> )	Kathy Wood
15	Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center ( <i>through PRP</i> )	Kathy Wood
16	Mision Peniel ( <i>directly and through PRP</i> )	Jim Sager
17	PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering ( <i>Assistance for retired pastors and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges</i> )	Kathy Wood
<b>International Missions</b>		
18	Guatemala Clinica Medica/Orphans	Larry Vander Wal
19	Haiti Education Fund ( <i>HEF</i> )	Larry Vander Wal
20	Helps Intl Guatemala Stoves Team	Lois Weeks
21	Jim & Jodi McGill ( <i>Missionaries to South Sudan/Nigeria</i> )	Kathy Wood
22	Musalaha Israel/Palestinian Peacemaking ( <i>centered on youth</i> )	Jim Turner
23	TCM	Fred Gossman
<b>Other Supported Missions</b>		
24	Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing	Karen Norwood
25	Oneblood Bloodmobile	Lois Weeks

## Trick or Treat for 3 Cents-a-Meal

Given we may not see any little ghosts or goblins coming to our door this Halloween, how about taking the money you would spend on candy and decorations and toss it into a trick-or-treat bag (or use any container) to benefit 3 Cents-a-Meal? Save up and when we gather together we anticipate a wide variety of containers and bags busting at the seams with God's bounty. Thank you for keeping 3 Cents-a-Meal in the forefront of your hearts!

Contact Christine Hart, [hart34223@gmail.com](mailto:hart34223@gmail.com)



## Mission Update During 2020 Covid 19 Pandemic

### **SALUD QUE TRANSFORMA REPORT** *(Guatemala)*

January to June 2020

This year despite the COVID 19 pandemic, in which there was a curfew in April and May, and we could only work 2 or 3 hours in the morning, we had 114 more patients (January - June) than in 2019.

**Total patients attended: Male 1547 / Female 2073 = 3620**



#### ***Giving Out Vitamins and Masks***

At the beginning of the coronavirus disease (COVID 19), in the months of April and May, the Guatemalan government restricted the exits from our homes, we could only circulate on the streets from 8 to 12 in the morning, so the Attendance at the clinic was low, group activities were also prohibited, so we could not do medical days. For this reason, we requested permission from the health center in our area, to visit the homes in the area of the Volcan de Fuego and give out masks and vitamins to the people of the small villages. We gave people vitamins according to their age, 100 tablets and a mask each, 461 children and 602 adults. In total 1063 people.



#### ***SOCIAL PROGRAMS***

In search of strengthening rural communities with extreme poverty, Salud Que Transforma has the following Social Programs:



### ***Nutritional Program***

Children in the nutritional program receive lunch 2 days a week. Although now with the COVID 19 situation, since April, we cannot have meetings with them, what we do is give each one a bag of food each month.



### ***Scholarship Program***

In the scholarship program we have eight students, two are in junior school, two are in high school, and four are in college. They live in our home with us, since they come from far away places between 12 or 16 hours away.



### ***Support to Other Organizations***

In this COVID 19 emergency, we have found that organizations, which should have all the necessary equipment, have a shortage of gloves, masks, medicines, and other things, so Salud Que Transforma has been able to donate some of these supplies to the police, firefighters, health centers, and others.



### ***Support for the Elderly***

Among adults, the risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 increases with age, so older adults are at higher risk. For this reason, during the months of April to June, we were carrying out activities to evaluate patients with diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems and we gave them treatment. We also gave them food once a month.



# Connect & Grow

## VPC Book Club : 2020-2021 Book List

All are invited to participate. Initial meetings will be held on Zoom

November 4 **The Dutch House** by Anne Patchett

December 2 **The Library Book** by Susan Orlean

January 6 **The American Story: Conversations with Master Historians** By David Rubenstein

February 3 **The Pioneers** by David McCullough

March 3 **Where the Crawdad's Sing** by Delia Owens

April 7 **A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles

May 5 **The Great Alone** by Kristen Hannah

Contact Mary Gregory at [mgregorysmiles@gmail.com](mailto:mgregorysmiles@gmail.com) for more information



## Thursday Prayer Session with Pastor Chris

Join in this Zoom prayer session during the quarantine. This is a live, interactive session where you can talk with Pastor Chris. Go to [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org) to join.

VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY AT 12PM



## Pastor Chris Recommends...

**The Chosen** is the first-ever-multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, The Chosen allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew him.

**The Chosen:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBXOFnNTULFaAnj24PAeblg>

## How to Sign-up for RightNow Media

1. Email [cloomis@venicepres.org](mailto:cloomis@venicepres.org) to request access.
2. Receive your invitation email.
3. Click the Get Started button in the email.
4. Create your profile...and explore!

### Questions:

#### *I already have a login:*

Go to [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org)

**Forgot my password:** Click the "Forgot Password" link at the bottom of the login page and a link to reset your password will be emailed to you.

**Forgot my username:** Your username is your full email address.



## Pastor Chris Recommends on RightNow Media...

### Sermon on the Mount – Sinclair Ferguson

In the face of scorn and disbelief, Jesus Christ announced His kingdom. In the face of hatred and death, He demonstrated its power. In this twelve-lecture series, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson explains how the Sermon on the Mount equips us to live a kingdom life in a fallen world. Dr. Ferguson highlights Christ's exhortations to live counter culturally, to examine the deeper implications of God's law, and to rest in the knowledge of God as Father for the cure of all our anxieties. Dr. Ferguson is a Scottish theologian and Presbyterian pastor. (12 Sessions – 24 minutes each)

### Sermon on the Mount – Kay Arthur

Faith that does not compromise is promised a reward in the world to come, and also a life free from anxiety in this world. Get a deeper understanding of the fruit and security that come with righteousness in the life of a true believer. You'll never look at the Beatitudes the same way again! This study includes teachings on-location in Israel. (10 Sessions – 27 minutes each)

### Your Kingdom Come – Jim Dalrymple

In this teaching series on the Sermon on the Mount, Jim Dalrymple (New Testament faculty at Ozark Christian College) will unpack Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5-7. This series will share Jesus' opening lines of his ministry and give reminders of how to align yourself with the kingdom of heaven. (8 Sessions – approximately 10-20 minutes each)

*Venice Presbyterian Church*



- Drive to a designated spot in the VPC parking lot
- Turn radio on to channel/station 98.3
- Or watch on Youtube on your phone or iPad
- Listen to the service while practicing social distancing
- A staff member will be available to assist you
- Beginning Sept 13, register online at [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)

\*no visuals offered

**GATHER  
TOGETHER  
in WORSHIP**

**CAR RADIO - 98.3FM  
WAVE HELLO FROM YOUR CAR  
WORSHIP SAFELY**

**BE A PART OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY**

*Every Sunday Morning*

10:00-11:00 am • [www.venicepres.org](http://www.venicepres.org)