

Connect, Grow & Go

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



Family Promise News

Here's What's Going on at VPC in April 2021

Youth Ministry



Two April Concerts



Church Leadership

Session

Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright
Bob Allen
Jennie Chaplin
Nick Clemmer
Susie Gottschalk
Tom Hoffman
Judith Holmes
Sheryl Morford
Carlene Painter
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Our Vision in Action

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



SPRING
is here

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs, 9 am - 4 pm
Friday, 9 am - 12 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

Sunday, 9 am and 11 am
in-person & online at
www.venicepres.org

COMMUNION ON THE LAWN

Third Wednesday of the
month at 9 am

VPC Staff

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FACILITY & A/V

Gary Youngberg
gyoungberg@venicepres.org



7 Easy Ways to Give

1. **Give Online:** Click the "Give Now" option on the top right corner of our website.
2. **Give from the App:** download the REALMCONNECT App from your phone's App store and give easily on your phone.
3. **Text Giving:**
 - Text to: **73256**
 - Use Code: **Venicepres**
 - Add the giving amount: **50** (Example: **Venicepres50**)
4. **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):** Automatically withdraw your gift from your checking account each month. Contact church office.
5. **Giving Boxes** are mounted on the wall by exit doors in the church to receive your gifts.
6. **Cash and Check:** We gratefully accept cash and checks in the mail or dropped off at the office.
7. **QR Code**
 - Point your camera at the QR code
 - Tap the pop-up notification to be taken to the Giving Page.



What is RightNow Media?

RightNow Media is an extensive video library with access on demand from your TV, computer, tablet, or phone. It is similar to Netflix, but with a distinctive difference. RightNow is faith-based and covers issues from leadership, teams, and dealing with change, to topics such as marriage, parenting, finances, and even recovery. This free resource gives you access to over 5,000 videos from leaders such as Patrick Lencioni, Marcus Buckingham, Zig Ziglar, John Maxwell, Dave Ramsey, and Francis Chan. There is even a family section with thousands of shows and cartoons for kids to enjoy.



You have Free Access to **Right-Now Media**. To get access follow the steps below or call the office for instruction.

1. Email 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!

I already have a login:

Go to 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.

Desk of Executive Director

God is at work in many beautiful ways, as we remain a prayerful, Christ-centered, Bible-teaching church. It continues to be an honor to serve Venice Presbyterian Church.

We are enhancing our buildings and grounds through the generous match many of you joined at the end of 2020.

Recently the parking lot facelift was completed. It is very easy to see where to park, even in the grassy areas! There are new arrows painted on the ground and the handicapped parking spaces are well marked. The next step will be to improve all signage on campus. Currently we do not have our buildings marked well. That will change shortly when we add signs.

Fellowship Hall is getting a bit of a facelift. Early in January we found some black mold in the ductwork. We immediately blocked off the room and had the air tested for quality. Thankfully there were no harmful particles found in the air but we needed to clean up the mold and the mess. You will notice new ceiling tiles in the room but under the ceiling tile there is also new insulation, new ductwork, and a much cleaner area. The Building Enhancement match paid for this.

Also, **for those watching online** we've created a survey to help us better understand your experience. It will be available in the YouTube chat box, the weekly email and on our website. I would encourage you to send us your thoughts and in return, receive an in-home worship gift.



We will hold a **work day April 14th** to clean, move, re-organize, paint and make the space fresh to welcome Family Promise to our campus. All safety protocols will be in place including masks and social distancing. **We really need people in the areas of moving bins, cleaning, painting, and sprucing up the area.** While we are at it, we thought it would be nice to work

in some other areas of the church. Please sign up at www.venicepres.org.

I would like to end with a quote from Beth Moore: *"Your fruit will outlast your life. You can't always see the effects, because they are eternal, but one day you will. One day you will see that you couldn't have been more significant if you'd tried"*. In my devotions this week I read that quote and it made me pause. At times we do not realize we are producing fruit or the effects of that fruit on others. Sometimes it is beautiful, ripe, helpful fruit and sometimes not so much. Venice Presbyterian Church produces beautiful fruit because of the disciples being made here.



Thank you for your faithfulness to God, to Venice Presbyterian Church, and to the vision God has given to us: *To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life*.

Grace and Peace,

Christine Bruin Executive Director, VPC

We love to stay in touch!



Please be sure we have your most up-to-date information such as address, email, phone etc. You can check your info by signing into Realm and reviewing your profile.

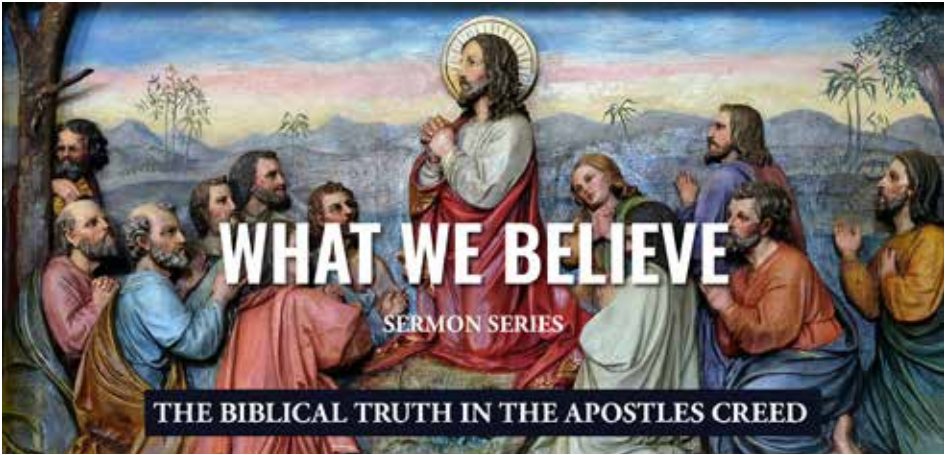
To make changes or to be added to our records, you may:

1. sign up at onrealm.org
2. call the office: 941-488-2258
3. email us: Volunteer1@venicepres.org
4. mail us a note: 825 the Rialto, Venice, FL 34285

Let's get to know each other!

Nametags are available for \$6. Email Cherie at cloomis@venicepres.org to order and make arrangements for payment. Pick up at the Welcome Center in the sanctuary on Sundays.

Worship Ministry



Sermon Series Continued

Why We Believe: The Biblical Truth in the Apostles Creed

Our Sunday messages will unpack the core beliefs of the Christian faith, looking in-depth at each phrase from the Apostles Creed – the oldest and most succinct summary of Christian beliefs. The goal of this preaching series is to help us better appreciate the essentials of our Christian faith, and to understand why it's so important to affirm these truths that have been shared by Christians across the centuries.

April 11 *He Ascended Into Heaven and Sits at the Right Hand of the Father*

April 18 *Coming Again to Judge the Living and the Dead*

April 25 *The Holy Ghost*

May 2 *The Holy Catholic Church*

May 9 *The Communion of Saints*

May 16 *The Forgiveness of Sins*

May 23 *The Resurrection of the Body*

May 30 *The Life Everlasting*

For expedited entry to our worship services, please print your registration confirmation and drop it off in the basket as you enter on Sunday.

Coming Soon!
The Kingdom Life Podcast

We are awaiting the approval of our podcast and once its granted, you will be able to access past and present sermons on-the-go by Pastor Chris and VPCs worship team. **Look for the upcoming announcement.**

What's Happening in the A/V Booth?

It seems the A/V booth has been undergoing constant changes over the last 12 months! We have been blessed with new equipment, furniture, and, most importantly, volunteers. We are so thankful for the many dedicated servants who make it possible for you to experience worship each Sunday. We are blessed with top of the line equipment, but without people it would not run. Make sure you say 'Thank you' to these folks when you see them on Sundays.

It takes between 4-6 volunteers at each service in order to run the camera, lights, audio, live streaming, screens, and more. That makes up to 12 positions to fill each Sunday! Each month there is a master schedule that is sent out to all of the volunteers asking them to accept dates and positions for the following month.

While there are positions that take more training and experience, there

are also several positions that can be easily learned in less than an hour. Even though the jobs vary in difficulty, it's important to have someone focused on each task during a service to ensure that cues are followed correctly and on time.

At each service there is a 'producer' whose job is to oversee all of the tasks. The producer is making small adjustments in all of the areas. If we run into any problems, the producer is an extra hand to run a mic to the front, restart a computer, or complete any troubleshooting that needs to happen at any given moment. If a volunteer is unsure of their cues or has technical problems never fear! The producer is there to guide us through the day.

If you are interested in joining our team, reach out to Genna Sarikoki (gsarikoki@venicepres.org) for more details.



***New Time!* Communion on the Lawn**

Join us outside on the front lawn of the church, **Wednesday, April 21 at 9 AM** to receive communion in this simple, intimate outdoor service.

Bring a lawn chair and sunglasses as we gather together while social distancing. All safety protocols will be in place.

Care & Compassion

Stephen Ministry Cares

Maybe you are feeling COVID Fatigue: You are tired of being isolated from your family and friends; you are lonely and sometimes feel helpless; things seem so much harder to accomplish than before the pandemic. Maybe you have suffered a recent loss or setback during this difficult year. The usual support of friends and family are not as readily available as they were.

Stephen Ministers are ready to help shoulder the burden you carry. We continue to “meet with” those who need time devoted just to them and their needs. We meet over the phone, via Zoom, Facetime and other video phone applications, and we meet in socially-distanced mutually agreeable settings.

Give us a call. Let’s talk.

Marcia Bickmore - 941-488-9379
Laura Saye - 269-339-5907

Richard Gilbert - 941-485-1494
Email us at sm@venicepres.org



GriefShare Welcomes All Who Are Grieving

GriefShare will be held via Zoom so if you are a seasonal resident and will not be in Venice for some or all of the sessions, you can still participate.

Women’s Group

Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30 am
March 2 – May 25

Contact

Mary Gregory, (716) 984-3613
Mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

Donna Wainright, (941) 800-4196
ravenblackVet2000@yahoo.com

Men’s Group

Thursdays 10 AM - 12 PM
March 11 - June 3

Contact

Nick Clemmer,
(941) 488-2258
nclemmer@venicepres.org

This is a free service available to the community at large.



Music Ministry

VENICE COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

A Shelter In The Time Of Storm

In an effort to continue to bring great music to those in person as well as at home, we have added two new concerts to this season. Tickets for both concerts are on sale now on our website, www.venicepres.org.



Hymns of the Living Church

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7:00 PM
\$25 IN-PERSON, \$15 VIRTUAL ACCESS
Masks Recommended

The church is a living organism that carries out the mission and work of Jesus Christ. Part of the tradition of the church is singing. Through Hymns we learn scripture, we deepen our theology, and we create community by lifting our voices together. We are excited to welcome back the dynamic duo of Michelle Kuhl and Jamal Sarikoki. Performing duets for organ and piano, they will present a concert of treasured hymns, gospel music, and spirituals. This 70-minute concert will be a night of worship, punctuated with the singing of hymns.

Let Everything That Has Breath

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 AT 7:00 PM, VIRTUAL ACCESS ONLY, \$15

Venice Presbyterian Church has garnered a wonderful relationship with Key Chorale over the last four years. We have seen much of the choir world go dormant over the last year. However, Key Chorale has found many ways to virtually bring world class choral music to the community. As their season comes to a close, the Venice Community Concert Series is excited to present a concert called "Let Everything That Has Breath." This virtual concert celebrates the best and brightest of gospel music and spirituals. Not only will you be clapping your hands and tapping your toes to the lively sounds of the choir, Hammond B-3, and gospel band, but you might even shed a tear as the rich and dark tones of the chorale and soloist Amy Connours brings spirituals of pain, grief, and triumph.



Missions

Family Promise Moves to the Family Life Center!



God is at work in a very big way at Venice Presbyterian Church! The Trustees and Session would like to announce a long term Building Use Agreement we have recently entered into with one of our Mission Partners, **Family Promise of Sarasota County**. Family Promise will move its administrative offices and Open Door Program to the Family Life building beginning May 1. The Bridge Housing (shelter) will remain at the Shamrock Road location. This means Family Promise will house its administrative offices, board meetings, counseling, and educational services at the Family Life building on our campus. As Gail Thompson said at our Session meeting, "This is a God thing." Gail met with Session in March, as a guest, to affirm the partnership. Family Promise had been looking for space for a couple of years and "all the pieces just fell together," said Gail. Gail is the ministry coordinator for Venice Presbyterian Church and Family Promise. We are all very excited to welcome Family Promise to our campus!



Your change can make a difference!

We are still collecting for 3 Cents-a-Meal. Simply drop off your donation at the church using any container you choose anytime during office hours. Or you can also give online using the GIVE NOW Button on the website or send a check to the church office. Thank you for continuing to feed the needy in our area during the pandemic.



South County Food Pantry Matching Donation Program

The Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust has announced that their Matching Donation Program will be extended through 2021!

During 2020, this Matching Program has distributed \$3.145 million to agencies in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties.

Contributions between \$5 and \$500 will be matched at 100%.

The goal of South County Food Pantry is to provide temporary food support to individuals and families by gathering, organizing and distributing food. This is accomplished by 120 VOLUNTEERS and during 2020 with COVID-19 they were able to stay open under strict guidelines. During this time they processed approximately \$200,000 in food donations and

provided food assistance to approximately 800 adults and children MONTHLY.

Due to your generosity and that of others in the community, The Pantry has been able to increase the types and quality of food provided to clients. In November, 300 turkeys were distributed. Publix gift cards and Christmas stockings were given out in December. While schools were closed last Spring, donations to the Giving Challenge allowed them to provide a \$25 Publix gift card to each child and provide bags of special "kid-friendly" food to each family.

You may donate online:

www.SouthCounty-FoodPantry.com

Or by mail:

The Flanzer Trust
1843 Floyd Street,
Sarasota, FL 34239

Day 4 Hope Update

The Day 4 Hope leadership team has met and decided to again have a **drive-through event** this year. There are still too many variables to contemplate and safety is our prime responsibility for the children, families and volunteers. The drive-through will be on **Saturday, July 31**. We will need approximately 65 volunteers, so if interested please contact Cindy Gossman at fredandcindy89@gmail.com

Let's Celebrate!

**Pregnancy
Solutions 2021
Walk for Life
raised \$134,393!
Thank you for
your support!**



Family Ministry

Welcome Back Buddy Break Saturdays!

We are excited to share the themes of the Buddy Break Saturdays this spring! We continue to host the VIP's (children with special needs) and their families without truly being able to provide our traditional 3 hours of respite for the parents. The activities currently planned will take place with parents supervising their own children and volunteers engaging by helping them with outdoor games and activities. We pray that we are able to return to our typical format this fall.



The Buddy Break ministry would not be possible without many volunteers who come to hang out with the children the 3rd Saturday of each month. Usually, when we get together, each child is assigned an adult who is their 'Buddy' for the 3 hours that they are on campus. There are many rooms open with crafts, musical instruments, books, and activities for the children to engage in. If you are interested in becoming a Buddy or helping with our Saturday activities, we would love to have you! Background checks and training are provided to all who serve in our family ministries. Contact Genna Sarikoki at gsarikoki@venicepres.org to get involved.

April Showers

Enjoy a water day with games, water balloons, a sprinkler and more.
April 17, 10-11:30am

Spring Fling

Come join us as we enjoy planting flowers, a sack race, learn to jump rope.
May 15, 10-11:30am

Wheels Go Round

For our final Saturday before our Summer break we will get out the bikes and tricycles as well as hosting some fun trucks on campus!
June 19, 10-11:30

Youth Nights (6th grade - high school)



Wed. evenings, 5:45-7pm
Family Life Center

- Please bring a water bottle
- Masks highly recommended
- In case of inclement weather, we will gather in the Glass House

Contact Genna Sarikoki,
gsarikoki@venicepres.org



Buddy Break Garden

One of the beautiful improvements you might notice as you arrive back on campus is our Buddy Break Garden. A huge thank you goes out to Ann and Ted Stark for their tireless work keeping this space in great shape! While this space has been recognized as the 'Buddy Break Garden' for some time, it has recently been upgraded with fresh flowers and a peace pole. A peace pole is a wooden monument that says 'peace' as well as bearing other trademarks of Buddy Break. It reminds us to continue praying for peace and for the children in our ministry when we see it.

Ted Stark engineered our peace pole to rotate because there are intricate handcrafted designs on all 4 sides. This piece was designed and painted by Wilda Kelly. Thank you for this gorgeous addition to our space, Wilda!

Buddy Break Easter

It was so great to see all of 'our' kids running around the playground area celebrating an early Easter at March's Buddy Break Saturday! Before the hunt, Genna Sarikoki read to the kids about Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry. The kids heard about how Jesus used a donkey to ride into Jerusalem. Did you know that if you look at a Nubian donkey you will find that they have a 2 dark stripes that look like a cross? Legend tells that this was the type of donkey Jesus rode that iconic day. Next time you see a donkey be sure to look!

The Buddy Break VIP's (children) were welcomed to take pictures with the Easter Bunny, pick out a special toy, decorate an Easter craft and play games outside. Eight families joined us and a great time was had by all.





A Day of Kayaking with the Youth Group

By the time you are reading this, the youth will have gone on their first weekend activity of the year! We are making sure our students and staff are safe and comfortable by working to find outdoor adventures this Spring. Our first adventure on March 27th is a kayaking tour around Lido Key. This ultimate tour is set to take us through the Mangrove Tunnels as

well as stopping by a private hidden beach that is reachable only by boat. When you see the youth in church, ask them how it was!

We are thankful for a generous donation to our Youth Fund that completely covered this trip and more at no cost to our families. We appreciate you!

Grandparents Corner

Passing on faith to our grandkids is our duty before God. He commands us as grandparents to teach two generations, not just one. One of the greatest examples of a grandparent's influence is found in 2 Timothy 1:5 where Paul observes that Timothy's sincere faith was passed down from his grandmother, Lois.



Grandparents can make a difference in the lives of their grandchildren, but intentional Christian grandparents can make an incredible difference. If you desire to impact the lives of your grandkids, there are many ways we can impact the lives of our children and grandchildren. These principles are finding a home in the hearts of Christian grandparents who desire to leave a deep spiritual imprint in their families. If you are not already, become intentional—and let them find a home in yours.

Understand Your Impact Potential

Grandpa or grandma, you are second only to parents in your potential to influence your grandkids spiritually.

If you haven't thought about your impact potential before, you're not alone. Many Christian grandparents are missing important

opportunities because they haven't seen the possibility—nor the responsibility—that grandchildren bring. We rightly see parents as first both in responsibility and potential to impact the spiritual growth of children. Then, we see children's workers in church as second. But even for church-going families, children's workers are not second. Neither are youth pastors, or Christian school teachers. You, grandparents, are second in impact potential.

The influence of these others can be significant, but it is generally short-lived; yours is for as long as God gives you breath. These others say they love children, but not like you love your grandkids. They have some spiritual wisdom to impart; you have a lifetime to share. They “do church” together



with children and youth. You “do life” together with them. Do you see, grandparents? You are ideally positioned for great influence and spiritual impact.

Some Christian grandparents, though, are not the number two spiritual influencer; in reality, they are number one. When grandparents have custody or are the primary caregivers, they’re number one. When parents are cool toward

spiritual things or worse, the grandparents are often the only ones in a child’s life committed to faith impact.

Grandparent, you can leave a deep impression on the souls of your grandkids. You are in a unique role—a God-given role, that He wants you to fulfill. The potential is there: God can use you and He will use you if you make yourself available.

Adapted from 7 Essentials for Grandparenting Your Grandkids by Larry Fowler - Focus on the Family

Jesus' Passion Week for Children

Over the Easter season, each of our regularly attending children received a copy of **The Donkey Who Carried a King**. This book vividly brings home the biblical teaching that Jesus was the Suffering Servant who carried the sins of His people when He went to the cross. This book was authored by the late Dr. R.C Sproul, respected theologian, author, and educator.

Davey was a young donkey who was bored and unhappy because he was never given anything to do. Then one day, some strangers came to the gate - and Davey's master picked him for a very special task. Davey carried the King, Jesus, into Jerusalem. A few days later, Davey saw some angry people making the King carry a heavy beam of wood. Davey could not understand it - until another donkey helped him see that the King was being a Servant on behalf of His people. **The Donkey Who Carried a King** offers a unique perspective on the events of Jesus' Passion Week and calls all believers, both young and old, to follow in the footsteps of the Suffering Servant for the glory of God. Jesus was willing to leave the glories of heaven to suffer and die in this world on our behalf, so we should serve Him with all our hearts.

A great feature of this book are the questions and answers to help families understand and apply the truths taught in its pages. This book is highly recommended for your kids and grandkids!



VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

Women's Bible Study
**THE TRIALS
WE FACE**



8
APRIL



10 AM
Sanctuary

WITH
CANDY BLACKWOOD

GUEST PRESENTER

The trials we face in life are meant to prepare us for glory!
Spend an hour in the first chapter of James to see God's imprint
on our every trial and learn how trials will transform your life!

THIS IS A NO-COST EVENT - REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON
ATTENDANCE AT www.venicepres.org

THIS EVENT WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE
VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FL 34285
941-488-2258

Nomads Bible Study

Nomads Bible Study will meet weekly on Tuesdays through April and is **open to all women in our church** and beyond. This year we will be using a study guide called "Colossians and Philemon" by Christopher A Beetham.

Contact group co-leaders

Karen Langlais at kolanglais@verizon.net

Anna Marie Brummett
amdbrum@gmail.com
847-309-8005

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Room 9, 9 AM Tuesday,
Contact Dick Edmunds
for details at 941-488-8949,
kcid1961@gmail.com

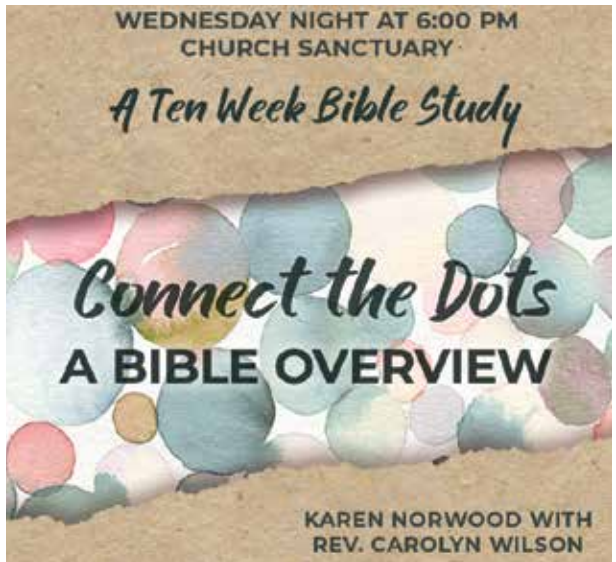
VPC Book Club

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

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

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

Contact: Mary Gregory,
mgregorysmiles@gmail.com



Do you ever feel like the people, stories, timelines, and places in the Bible are a puzzle? Or are you new to the Bible and not sure where to begin?

Join Pastor Carolyn and Karen Norwood as they connect those dots in "A Bible Overview." This is a 10 week study from March 24 – May 25. **It's never too late to start!**

To sign-up, get notes and watch replays, go to www.venicepres.org. This Bible Study will also be live-streamed.

Presbyterian Women (PW) Gathering

April 20, 2 PM - 4 PM



The PW final gathering of the season will be on the church lawn. Appraiser, Carrie Miles, will be on hand to appraise your cherished items.

Please bring one to two items. Also, our Honorary Life Member recipient (Woman of The Year) will be announced.

Don't forget to bring a lawn chair, bottled water, and a mask, as it is mandatory. Social distancing will be observed.

RSVP to Niki Steitz at nsteitz33@comcast.net or (941) 493-7628

PW Gatherings will resume in Oct. 20, 2021 at 2:00 pm with a surprise Chick Flick.

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLEAN, MOVE, RE-ORGANIZE & PAINT

WORK DAY

April 14, 2021

Welcome Family Promise!

Help us freshen up the campus as we welcome Family Promise. We need people to help with organizing, cleaning, painting, and sprucing up family Life Center and the church campus.

All safety protocols will be in place including masks and social distancing.

Sign up online at www.venicepres.org

THE FUN BEGINS AT 9 AM

825 THE RIALTO, VENICE FL 34285