

Connect, Grow & Go

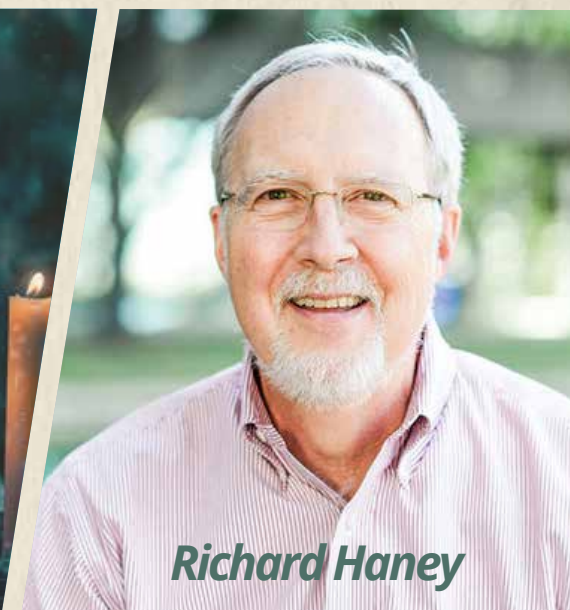
To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life



Alternative Gift Market

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

All Saints Sunday



Richard Haney

Our Vision in Action

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

Church Leadership Session

Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Bob Allen
Nick Clemmer
Susie Gottschalk
Tom Hoffman
Judith Holmes
Sheryl Morford
Carlene Painter
Jamal Sarikoki
Carolyn Stephens
Jim Weeks

Board of Trustees

Bob Allen (Chair)
Fred Francis
Jim Fullerton
Richard Gilbert
Mary Gregory

Nominating Committee

Stan Cupery
Susie Gottschalk
Bill Morgan
Lois Schmoie
Donna Wainright
Kathy Wood

Bob Allen (Session Rep)
Tom Hoffman (Session Rep)

Board member contact information is available through the Realm app via your phone or signing in to www.onrealm.org

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FACILITY & A/V

Gary Youngberg
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A/V MANAGER

Alec Ronald
aronald@venicepres.org

Church Info

OFFICE HOURS

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 10 am

ONLINE SERVICES

www.venicepres.org
[Facebook](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Podcast](#)

STEPHEN MINISTRY DROP-IN CENTER

Mon through Thurs
10 am - 1 pm, Room 11
Friday, 10 am - 12 pm

Easy Ways to Give

GIVE ONLINE: Click the "Give Now" option on the top right corner of our website.

GIVE FROM THE APP:

download the REALMCONNECT App from your phone's App store and give easily on your phone.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT):

Automatically withdraw your gift from your checking account each month. Contact church office.

GIVING BOXES are mounted on the wall by exit doors in the church to receive your gifts.

CASH AND CHECK: We gratefully accept cash and checks in the mail or dropped off at the office.

Desk of Executive Director



Dear Church Family,

We want to welcome our Snow Birds back to VPC! Fall is a fun time of year as we begin to see faces we have not seen for a while. We are hoping our Canadian friends get to join us this year as well!

Some of you are asking when we will go to two worship services. Session has decided to stay at one service at 10 AM until further notice. They will evaluate the decision each month, and we will adjust as needed.

Session has set our Christmas Eve services. I am so excited to tell you we will do Communion on the Lawn on December 23rd as the beginning of our Christmas worship. We did this last year and it was a worship service to remember. There is something about being in God's creation, taking communion, and hearing His promises. This is the only service that will offer Communion. We will then have a 4 PM Traditional and 6 PM Jazz worship on December 24th. Mark your calendars and prepare your hearts as we begin to celebrate the Birth of Jesus!

There is activity on campus daily again which feels wonderful. It is joyful to see parking lots filled with cars and smiling faces coming and going. Thank you for your continued support and understanding during the pandemic. Embracing our circumstances is part of getting through them. God has put us here for such a time as this. We can do this!

Soon, you will see new landscaping and signage in critical areas of the church. The Trustees approved this project at the October meeting. We want you to feel welcome when you drive onto the church property.

The song "Help Me Find It" by Sidewalk Profits is echoing through my mind as I think of our Intercessory Prayer Team. "I don't know where to go from here, it all used to be so clear. I'm finding I can't do this on my own. I don't know where to go from here. As long as I know that you are near, I'm done fighting. I'm finally letting go I will trust in you." So many times we are praying for people who "don't know where to go from here". This team dedicates time to praying for you, your needs, the community, nation, and world. Prayer is a way to communicate with God personally, allowing the Holy Spirit to be alive within us. Our goal is that every person in our church has a prayer life and will be praying for each other's needs. It has been said that the best way to influence another is to pray for them. We take this seriously at VPC and would love for you to join us. If you want to know more about our prayer team, please reach out to either myself or Lori Galasso. Intercessory prayer is a confidential team who believes in the power of prayer.

Please take a look at some of the new Bible Study offerings later in this issue and take the step to join one. There is nothing better than growing in relationship with God and others. Don't forget to invite others to come to church with you if you know they are not worshipping. Part of God's invitation to us is to invite others.

Thank you for your continued support.

Grace and Peace,

Chris

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine O'Brien".

VPC Leadership Nominees

Organizations, churches, homes, and countries rise and fall on leadership. VPC is blessed to have a Nominating Committee that works hard to uphold the value of Christ-centered strong leadership. I would encourage you to review the following bios. This will help you get to know who will be our leaders in the next years. Each person nominated has been carefully selected, prayed over, and asked if they would accept the nomination. God has blessed us with strong leaders!

SESSION NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

Mary Gregory

I began attending Venice Presbyterian in 2006 following retirement and joined the church officially in 2013. Having grown up in the Catholic faith, I found a personal relationship with Christ during a difficult period in my married life and soon after joined the Presbyterian Church. I have found that personal relationship with God has sustained me through the last 45 years of my adult life and has greatly influenced my worship, my work life and my family life. Finding VPC as snowbirds gave my husband (now deceased) and I a church community where we could serve and love. I am the mother of two wonderful married sons and their wives and a toddler grand daughter, all of whom live outside of Buffalo, New York where I grew up and spent most of my life until moving to Venice full-time six years ago. In my professional career I enjoyed work as a School Administrator where I could focus on families and learning. After retirement I was dedicated to serving for nine years at an international not-

for-profit organization that had greatly impacted my life serving on its Board of Trustees, its Executive Committee and eventually fulfilling a stint as that organization's Executive Director. So much for retirement! As part of Venice Pres, I have enjoyed and participated in the Immokalee Ministry, Buddy Break, Trunk or Treat and on the Day4Hope Leadership Team. Some years back, I assisted with the church communications department doing publicity for church events. I am currently a member of the VPC Board of Trustees, chair of the Book Club, co-chair of Grief Share and a smiling Sunday morning Greeter. Reading, golfing and painting are favorite pastimes – as is enjoying food! Mary loves Pastor Chris' sermons and the incredible music ministry found at VPC. Serving the church, its local and worldwide community is gratifying and provides connection with young and old in the Venice community. She finds that VPC is a place to give, grow and follow a spirit-filled life.

Diane Sharp

My husband and I moved to Venice in 2001 after spending most of my adult life in Atlanta. We had short business stints living in the Cleveland area and in Dallas. I have worked most of my life, other than when having my three chil-

dren, and have spent time both in the fields of education and in the business world. When we first came to Venice, we spent a couple of years in other churches. (My husband was a "dyed-in-the-wool" Methodist!) When friends

brought us to Venice Pres, we knew we had found our church home! Chris's wonderful inspirational messages, and the beautiful music were all so special and Christ-centered! Since being at VPC, I have been on the Guatemala HELPS stove team mission trip. I have recently served six years on the Board of Trustees, and six years on Human Resources. I work with the Children's Ministry and teach Sunday School. I have been an ambassador each year (until Covid) with Day for Hope, and have been a Mentor Mom with MOPS

Richard Langlais

I was a lifelong resident in Massachusetts before retiring and becoming a resident of Florida approximately five years ago. My wife, Karen and I are kind of snowbirds, spending seven months in our home in Venice and the remaining time at our cottage in MA. I am a graduate of Gordon College Theological Seminary, receiving my master's degree in religious education. Over the years at our local church, I served in multiple roles including leading a Divorce Recovery Workshop; Marriage Ministry with my wife; two pastoral search committees, Sunday school and ministry to the youth. We came to VPC as part of our initial search for a vibrant Christ-filled ministry near our home and a recommendation by a

Sheila Cunningham

Shelia was born in Binghamton, NY, and at the age of 6 was baptized into an American Baptist Church. She and her family moved to Illinois and then to Grosse Pointe, Michigan where she spent the rest of her youth. After finishing High School and College, Shelia and her husband, Gary, were married

since it started. I am a communion server, and have attended Chris' bible studies. I was ordained as an Elder at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia in the mid 1970s. When asked to serve as an elder here at VPC, I felt very humbled. I prayed long and hard about it, and then felt this was where God wanted me to serve. Hopefully, I can be of service to God on our VPC Session, as I feel my own spiritual life will be greatly enriched by this commitment.

friend. Of course, once in the pew we became excited over the outstanding preaching of Pastor Chris and the multiple ministries VPC was involved in. I became involved in the Monday evening and Tuesday morning Bible studies. Both my wife and I volunteer with the Immokalee outreach, Family Promise, Laurel Civic Center and the new members programs, Karen as a table leader while I serve in the kitchen. I was drawn to the opportunity to become an Elder at VPC because I consider its importance as a spiritual leader and its challenge to continually study and deepen ones own personal faith. I look forward to growing and going in this position.

in a Presbyterian Church near Grosse Pointe, MI. They resided in Grosse Pointe 37 years where they raised their two daughters and were members of the Grosse Pointe Congregational American Baptist Church. They retired to Florida in 2007.

After visiting Venice Presbyterian

Church a few times, Shelia realized that this church felt like home. The Pastors messages were delivered with understanding, Spiritual wisdom and love. With God's encouragement, she decided to join the church in November, 2013. Shelia started volunteering in the Church office right away, since she had enjoyed being a secretary in an elementary school for 12 years. She also participated in Ushering, Greeting, the All Things Beautiful group, Beginning the Journey leader, Family Promise, started a small Women's

Bible Study group in 2016 and recently became a Shepherd. VPC offers so many opportunities to be of service that it is difficult to decide which ones to participate in. Shelia also enjoys being grandmother to Gracie, her one and only grandchild!

When the opportunity arose to become an Elder at VPC, the Spirit moved her to accept, in that this would be an opportunity to grow in her faith and also to glorify the Lord as one of His Disciples.

TRUSTEE NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

Ryan Norwood

When we moved to the Venice area, Karen and I were very interested in finding an Evangelical Church. Our good friends, Jim & Lois Weeks already had invited us to VPC, and we enjoyed the teaching of Pastor Chris and the wonderful music. Since joining the church in 2012, I have become involved with the small group Bible Studies, and just last year I decided to join the

chancel choir. Having been involved with the Guatemala Missions work several years ago, both Karen and I are planning to join the stove team at the next offering. I feel very blessed and privileged to be asked to join the Trustee Board of VPC, and praying that God will use my gifts to serve at Venice Presbyterian.

Richard Gilbert

Richard Gilbert is a native Floridian and along with his wife Bobbie have been members of VPC for over 10 years. They have lived in the Venice area for over 40 years and are blessed to have their daughter, son in law and 4 grandchildren live within 10 miles. Richard

has served in several areas within the church to include Elder, Human Resources and Mission Committee. He is currently involved in Stephen Ministry, Family Promise, Day 4 Hope and Men's Bible Study.

Bob Allen

Bob Allen is finishing his three-year term on VPC Session. He has served as a member of the HR committee for three years. Bob is a member of the Turbo Men's Study Group and Monday Night Men's Bible study. Bob is currently the Chair of Trustees. Bob's

passion is to quietly support and help in areas that just seem to develop. It may be a project or an individual situation that needs attention. "Most of the summer months we spend on a lake and farm in Pennsylvania. We enjoy sailing, water skiing and farming.

I receive great joy on the farm tractors and gators doing projects." Bob is married to Marilyn Meub Allen. "Many of the members, affiliate members and winter parishioners of VPC know that Marilyn Meub and I married in the

Mary Gregory (Please refer to previous biography on page 4)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

Jane Clemmer

As a teenager, born and raised in Montreal, I was a British royal family fan. I remember every weekend seeing photos of the royals attending church in beautiful, huge churches with lots of tradition. My family didn't attend church and the lovely photos of the royal family members and their tradition moved me to join the Anglican (Episcopalian) church and become a faithful attender where I learned about God. I lived in various provinces across Canada, then in England, back to the US and then Canada in 1988. My work experience was always meeting/greeting folks, either in an international diplomatic office or as a bank teller or where I was Hospitality Mgr on a large "Youth With A Mission" training center in the UK. This time with YWAM was when I learned about Jesus Christ and His love for me and everyone - and how to share this love with the world. I have

Sheryl Morford

Sheryl has a servant's heart for children and those with special needs. Volunteering for the Loveland Center's theater production at the Venice Theater and serving as a co-leader for "Buddy Break" at Venice Presbyterian Church have been a blessing to Sheryl. As a caregiver, she appreciates being a Stephen Minister and the support

VPC Chapel March 2, 2019. What you may not know is Marilyn and I met in November 2016, serving Communion at VPC. It is amazing what can start in God's house."

been on 5 mission trips to Africa and what a blessing each one of them was to me!

My son and his family live in Vancouver, Canada (2 grandsons, 4 great-grand kids). Hope to see them soon! My daughter and her husband live in PA. Nick and I married in 1995 and lived in PA until we moved to Venice in 2011.

When we were house hunting in Venice we drove by VPC a number of times and every time there were cars in the parking lot - every day! We realized that this was a "live" church like the one we attended in PA (busy with groups and doors open). Our first Sunday in Venice we attended VPC and realized this was our new home!!

I feel honored to be nominated to the Nominating Committee and pray that I will fulfill my position. Thank you Lord for this opportunity.

she receives. Sheryl currently is on the board of Venice Choral and works at Venice Living as an Interior Designer. She also heads up the "All Things Beautiful" team which allows her to give her gift of interior design to the church campus. She is humbled to have the opportunity to serve.

Worship Ministry

Guest Preacher, November 14

Richard Haney

Rev. Richard Haney is the Executive Director of Frontier Fellowship, an international ministry that invites Christians to engage people groups where the Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom is not yet known. Frontier Fellowship was founded 40 years ago by Presbyterian missionaries, and continues to give intentional focus to supporting believers in the world's least-Christian areas and mobilizing churches to embrace greater focus on missions.



Richard served as a Presbyterian pastor for over 35 years before joining the staff of Frontier Fellowship in 2014. He has a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a PhD from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies and Middlesex University (London). He currently also serves as adjunct faculty at Gordon-Conwell Seminary. He has led short-term mission trips to 14 countries. He and his wife, Pam, live in Richmond, Virginia, and have three grown daughters and nine grandchildren. Richard is the nephew of VPC member Roz Haney and her late husband, Chuck.

In addition to preaching God's Word in worship on November 14, Richard will also offer a short, interactive presentation in the Chapel immediately following the worship service – sharing some of the exciting news of God's work around the world.

Notable Events

- **Reformation Sunday, October 31**
- **Food Drive Bag Distribution, October 31**
Food Drive Bag Pick-up, November 7
- **Annual Meeting, November 7** *after Worship*
We will be making a very exciting announcement at the meeting. We will also vote on some very important information.
- **All Saints Day Celebration & Communion, November 7**
- **Communion on the Lawn, November 17**



Christmas Poinsettias donations

in memory or honor of loved ones begins November 21 - December 12. Look for envelopes in the pews. This is a great way to adorn the chapel while keeping the memory of loved ones alive during the Christmas season.



Christmas Services

Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24 - 4 pm

Our 4pm service will feature a Christmas message, traditional Christmas carols, and musical offerings by the Chancel Choir and organist Ann Stephenson Moe. The service will conclude with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight, followed by the rousing proclamation of "Joy to the World!"

Jazz Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24 – 6 pm

Our 6pm service will feature a Christmas message and Christmas carols accompanied by the VPC Jazz Ensemble, arranged and directed by Mike Treni. This service will also conclude with singing Silent Night by candlelight, followed by a jubilant jazz rendition of "Joy to the World!"

Both services will be live-streamed and posted on YouTube.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE ALSO OFFERING

The afternoon before Christmas Eve

Outdoor Christmas Service with Communion

December 23 – 4 pm

If other plans don't allow you to attend worship on Christmas Eve, or if you prefer gathering in open-air space, we welcome you to attend the December 23 Outdoor Christmas Service. We began offering this service last year, and it was a deeply meaningful time of celebrating the hope of Christmas in the beauty of God's creation. This informal service will feature a Christmas message, Christmas carols led by an acapella chorus, and the sacrament of communion. We will conclude by lighting candles and singing Silent Night as the evening shadows begin to fall. Worshippers are invited to bring their own lawn chairs, and we will gather around the church patio.

The day after Christmas

Sunday Worship

December 26 – 10 am

We will gather again on the Lord's Day for worship on the day after Christmas – with one service at 10 am. Pastor Chris will offer a Christmas-themed message, and we will continue singing the carols of the season in our beautifully decorated sanctuary.

We encourage you to save this page for easy reference.



Genesis Sermon Series and Complimentary Bible Study

Genesis is not just the first book of the Bible; Genesis is a foundational book for the rest of the Bible – as it lays the foundations for everything that follows.

Go to www.venicepres.org for more info.

GENESIS ... for further reading

Pastor Chris suggests several books for those who may want to go deeper on some of the subjects from Genesis 1-2:

The G3N3SIS Debate: Three Views on the Days of Creation

This book – edited by David Hagopian – presents three different views on the days of creation, all offered by evangelical scientists/theologians: (1) The 24-Hour View; (2) The Day-Age View; and (3) The Framework View. (All of these views were discussed in the October 6 Bible Study.) After each view is presented, those representing the other views offer responses – providing a lively conversation.

The Return of the God Hypothesis (Stephen Meyer)

There are a number of excellent (and deep) books presenting scientific evidence for a Creator and challenging many assumptions of evolutionary theory. Stephen Meyer is a scientific philosopher. His website (www.discovery.org) includes thought-provoking articles and videos. These teachings and books are intellectually rigorous. But if you'd really like to understand the integration of faith and science, Stephen Meyer is one of the foremost scholars arguing for the idea of an Intelligent Designer.

The Meaning of Marriage (Tim and Kathy Keller)

Tim and Kathy Keller offer a thoughtful reflection on the nature and practice of marriage. This book brings many of our culture's popular ideas about marriage and romance into conversation with a Biblical perspective. I'd especially recommend this book for couples to read together – and I take a lot away from this book to strengthen my own marriage!

The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul By Restoring Sabbath (Mark Buchanan)

There are many wonderful books about the Sabbath and Sabbath-keeping – including Wayne Muller's Sabbath; Marva Dawn's Keeping the Sabbath Wholly; and Tiffany Schlain's recent best-seller 24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day a Week. My personal favorite is Mark Buchanan's The Rest of God. Buchanan is a Canadian pastor, and each chapter in his book offers specific suggestions about how to practice Sabbath-keeping in our everyday lives.

Care & Compassion Ministry

Stephen Ministry News

On Sunday October 24 ten Stephen Ministers were commissioned to provide emotional and spiritual care to our congregation and community. Commissioning is the culmination of 50 hours of in class training along with extensive outside reading. The training includes modules on identifying feelings, active listening without judgment, assertiveness, and providing distinctively Christian care as well as modules on how to minister to people experiencing grief and depression. The importance of confidentiality is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry training and continues to be emphasized at monthly meetings and biannual continuing education events. Our Stephen Ministers have hearts to



serve and are ready to provide quality, confidential care to you or to someone you know. You can meet with a Stephen Minister any day of the week by dropping in to our Stephen Ministry drop in center in room 11, Monday – Thursday 10:00-1:00 and Friday 10:00-12:00. We'll put the coffee on.

Grief Support Group*

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts and we want to help. Contact us today.



Women's GriefShare

Tuesdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am
October 13 - January 4
VPC Room 8

Contact Mary Gregory, 716-984-3613

*Men may contact Nick Clemmer
267-218-5609

Will you consider becoming a GriefShare leader?

The Lord has a desire to take our difficult experiences, turn them and use them for His glory. This is seen in the experience of the Apostle Paul: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we have received from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Please contact Pastor Carolyn, cwilson@venicepres.org, if you are interested in learning more.

Family Ministry

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that allows children across the world to receive a Christmas Gift. There are many stories of salvation through this ministry. Valerie Fullerton is involved in Operation Christmas Child and can tell some of those stories. Valerie and June Gunn have taken the lead on this ministry, and we could not be more excited.



Last year we packed 95 boxes to be distributed through Operation Christmas Child. This year we hope to exceed that number.

Things you should know:

- Operation Christmas Child Boxes and information are available on the Patio.
- Pick your child and fill the box with gifts. Please include variety.
- Please do not pack toothpaste, chocolate, anything liquid, or that can melt.
- Please do not pack candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans.
- Include a check written to Venice Presbyterian Church for \$9.00 to cover shipping. You may also include cash but know we do not have change. Please include the exact amount.
- The last date for collection will be **November 15**. After this date, you will need to deliver your filled box yourself to the collection organization.
- Pray over your box and who might receive it. God's grace extends very far, and you can be part of it!

If you have questions, please reach out to Valerie Fullerton: valbf18@gmail.com or June Gunn junegunn050@gmail.com.

Buddy Break

Schedule, 2021-22
(from 10am-1pm)

Nov. 20	Mar. 19
Dec. 18	Apr. 16
Jan. 15	May 21
Feb. 19	June 18

Families with children with special needs contact Bobbie Gilbert at richbobbiegil@comcast.net.

Volunteers contact Flora Hughes at hugjf@yahoo.com



2021
2022

VCCS EVERYTHING IS NEW AGAIN

VENICE COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES*

JAMAL & FRIENDS

November 19, 7 pm

Farewell Concert!



TIM ZIMMERMAN & THE KING'S BRASS

December 4, 3 pm & 7 pm



Full season discount available for a limited time!

THE DEPUÉ BROTHERS

February 18, 7 pm



KEN MEDEMA

January 22
7 pm



ROMIG FAMILY

March 5
7 pm



Tickets on sale now!

\$25

available online at

www.VeniceCommunityConcertSeries.com

or Venice Presbyterian Church's office

during regular business hours.

*A ministry of Venice Presbyterian Church

825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FLORIDA 34285 941-488-2258 WWW.VENICECOMMUNITYCONCERTSERIES.COM

You asked for it, you got it!

For the first time, we are offering a discount on **Season Tickets** to the Venice Community Concert Series. Purchase 5 concerts for the price of four. That's a savings of 20% off the published price. (This is a limited-time offer. This special price is only available until November 18.)

Remember, all proceeds from the concert go to help our ministries. Your purchase goes back into the community to help the homeless, hungry, and less fortunate. VPC serves to Glorify God in all our community efforts.

Jamal & Friends

Friday, November 19, 2021

7:00 PM 8:30 PM

Farewell Concert!

As we bid farewell to our Minister of Music and Worship, join us for a night of celebration and great music. Not only will Jamal sing solos, but will perform, with friends, some of his favorites from gospel music to piano and organ duets, music for brass and

organ, and even a southern gospel hymn sing to end the night. While we might be sad to see him go, we are excited to have this night of celebration and music to send him and Genna off as they prepare for new ministry in Colorado Springs.



Group Schedule

MONDAY

Holy Yoga

BEGINS Nov 1, 2021 – Apr 25, 2022

WHEN: Meets weekly, 9:00-9:45 am

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

WHAT: participants exercise their bodies, minds and souls to better serve God's will.

WHO: Everyone is welcome

CONTACT: Led by David Hill, davelhill@hotmail.com or (309) 825-6650

Monday Night Men's Bible Study

WHEN: Meets weekly, 6-7:00 pm

WHERE: Glass House

WHAT: Discussions on the current sermon series

WHO: All men are welcome

CONTACT: Alan Penick, adpenick@comcast.net or (941) 480-9053

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

WHEN: Meets weekly, 6-7:15 pm

WHERE: Room 8

WHAT: Currently using the Disciple Fast Track series, an in-depth study of the Old and New Testaments.

WHO: Open to all women
CONTACT: Pastor Carolyn Wilson, cwilson@venicepres.org (941) 488-2258

TUESDAY

Men's Bible Study

BEGINS: Nov 2 - May 31,

WHEN: Meets weekly, 9-10 am

WHERE: Glass House

WHAT: Study will be Paul's Epistles

WHO: All men are welcome

CONTACT: Dick Edmunds, kcid1961@gmail.com or (941) 488-8949

Nomads

BEGINS: Jan 11 - Apr 12,

WHEN: Meets weekly, 9:30-11 am

WHERE: TBD

WHAT: a book study using Christian Character by Andrea Sterk and Peter Scazzero..

WHO: All women are welcome

CONTACT: Anna Marie Brummett, amdrbrum@gmail.com or (847) 309-8005 or Karen Langlais, kolanglais@verizon.net or (978) 500-7571

Elizabeth Circle Bible Study

BEGINS: Oct 5 - May 3

WHEN: Monthly, 1st Tuesday, 11 am-12:30 pm

WHERE: VPC Patio

WHAT: Study will be Pastor Chris' book on The Beatitudes.

WHO: All women welcome

CONTACT: Niki Steitz, nsteitz33@comcast.net or (941) 493-7628

Dorcas Bible Study

BEGINS: Oct 19- May17
WHEN: Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 10 am- 12 pm
WHERE: Room 9
WHAT: Study will be Pastor Chris' book on The Beatitudes.
WHO: All women are welcome
CONTACT: Beth Tieman, bethtmn@comcast.net or (941) 564-6304 or Connie Householder, connie1282@cs.com or (941) 882-3469

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

WHEN: Meets weekly, 7-9:30 pm
WHERE: Room 6
WHO: All women are welcome
CONTACT: Kim Jason, kljason@comcast.net or (941) 806-9804



Disciple Fast Track Bible Study

BEGINS: Oct 26 - April 12
WHEN: Meets weekly on Tuesday, 10:15-11:30
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
WHAT: The Disciple Fast Track series is an in-depth study of the Old and New Testaments.
WHO: Everyone is welcome
CONTACT: Led by Pastor Carolyn Wilson, cwilson@venicepres.org, (941) 488-2258

WEDNESDAY

Coloring Crew

WHEN: Meets weekly, 2-3:30 pm
WHERE: Zoom
WHAT: Fellowship & Coloring
WHO: Everyone welcome
CONTACT: Jennie Chaplin, jchaplin9@gmail.com or (941) 716-0388

Foundations: A Study in Genesis

WHEN: Meets weekly, 6:00 PM
WHERE: Sanctuary
WHAT: Bible Study, in tandem with Sunday's sermon series
WHO: Everyone welcome, no reservations required.
PRESENTER: Pastor Chris

FRIDAY

Holy Yoga

BEGINS Nov 5, 2021
WHEN: Meets weekly, 9:00-9:45 am
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
WHO: Everyone is welcome
CONTACT: Led by David Hill, davelhill@hotmail.com or (309) 825-6650

Book Club for 2021-2022

Room 8, 1 pm

NOVEMBER 3

The Woman Who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone

DECEMBER 1

The News of the World by Paulette Jiles

JANUARY 5

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

FEBRUARY 2

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

MARCH 2

The Water is Wide by Pat Conroy

APRIL 6

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

MAY 4

The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan

CONTACT Mary Gregory, mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

We encourage you to save this page for easy reference.

12 Benefits We Receive from Praising Our God

Remember that **God never asks anything of us that is not for our highest good**. There are a multitude of ways we benefit as we praise our God on a consistent basis. Twelve of them are listed below. Maybe you can think of some new ones!



1. Praising God **draws us into God's presence**. Scripture tells us to enter His courts with thanksgiving & praise. As we sincerely praise our Father in Heaven, we enter upon holy ground. We have a greater sense of His presence with us and it stirs in us a beautiful feeling of reverence.
2. Praising God **centers our hearts on Him and draws us out of our self-centeredness**. The self-help industry advocates using positive self-affirmations to make us feel better about ourselves and help us achieve our goals. There is nothing wrong with that to a degree, but in excess can foster self-centeredness. We get much greater benefit in centering our thoughts on our Great God who is sovereign over all things and who has the whole world in His hands.
3. Praising God **helps us abide in Christ**. Jesus told us to abide in Him because without Him, we can do nothing. Turning our eyes upon Jesus, looking full in His wonderful face through the act of praise is a powerful way to abide in Him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden," He says. "Let not your heart be troubled," he tells us. Abide in him and remember that he is preparing a place for you so that you can abide with him in Paradise forever!
4. Praising God **reminds us of eternity and that we are creatures meant to live forever** in the place that Jesus is preparing for us. This world is not our home and the troubles here are only momentary compared to forever. It is so easy to forget that and to collapse into a puddle of worry when we are focused only on the here and now. Praise redirects our attention to eternal things and reminds us of how swiftly this life passes and that our glorious, forever lives with Jesus are waiting for us just around the corner.

5. Praising God **strengthens our faith**. As we praise Him, we are expressing our faith in God and are reminded of how wonderful He is, how trustworthy He is. From Genesis to Revelation, Scriptures tell us that what God wants most from us is faith – to believe Him and trust Him so much that we build our lives on the foundation of His Word. Ruth Myers, author of *31 Days of Praise*, says, “Faith brings victory that changes our circumstances – or victory in the midst of circumstances that don’t change.” As we praise God, the things He has already done for us come back into our mind to assure us that, as He has helped us in the past, so He will do now and forevermore. That assurance helps us to take the next step of faith and thus our confidence in Him builds as we experience his trustworthiness.

6. Praising God **lifts our spirits**. We all get the blues now and then, we all have times of stress, grieving and sorrow. In difficult times that seem never-ending, we can get discouraged or depressed. The Word of God tells us that He will give us beauty for ashes and the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Turning our attention away from self and toward our all-powerful and loving God through praise is a sure way to remember these promises, to open the doors of our hearts and let in the fresh air of hope. Helen Keller said, “Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows.” Rest in the sunshine of God’s love through praising Him.

7. Praising God **satisfies our souls**. There is a fullness of heart and soul that carries with it a deep satisfaction and contentedness when we know we are right with God. Praise is a way to glorify Him and enjoy Him at the same time, thus fulfilling the purpose of our beings. C.S. Lewis said, “God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other.” Praising God fills up our spiritual tanks and satisfies our souls.

8. Praising God **can activate God’s power in our circumstances**. Psalm 121:1-2 ESV: “I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Ruth Myer says, “Any form of sincere, believing prayer directs God’s power into our lives and situations, but this is especially true of praise.” She recounts the story of King Jehoshaphat who is surrounded by enemies and gathers his people to pray. He offers praise for past victories and lays his urgent problem before God. God’s reply to him is, “Do not fear or be dismayed...the battle is not yours but God’s.” Jehoshaphat’s response was worship and more praise. The next day the army went out to face the enemy, believing and praising God. “And when they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the enemy forces and they were totally destroyed.” Praise-filled prayer can move the mighty hand of God.

9. Praising God **can help us profit more from our trials**. The Word tells us to thank God in all circumstances. Not FOR all circumstances, but IN all

circumstances. Praising God in the midst of a hard situation can help us remember that God works all things for our good. That He will make the very thing with which we are struggling turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Although God may not have planned this problem, He most certainly allowed it. Remembering this and praising God will help us face our situation with faith and fortitude and to look for the lesson and the blessing that are sure to come when we trust Him.

10. Praising God **helps us see ourselves as God sees us**. God so loves you, God so loves me, that He gave His only begotten Son as an atonement for our sins so that we could have forgiveness and new life in Him. Praise reminds us that we are so valuable to God that He allowed His Son to suffer and die on the cross so that we could be with Him in heaven. Being assured of that love is better than all the SELF-esteem in the world, for His love is better than life.

11. Praising God **is an important strategy in our spiritual warfare and gives us victory**. Satan is like a roaring lion, roaming about, seeking to destroy us. Sin is crouching at the door and its desire is for us. Scripture says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you," (James 4:7). Praising God focuses our attention on our all-powerful God and all that is right and good and true. And it reminds us that Jesus has already obtained the victory over sin and death and the devil. Satan hates it when we praise God.

12. Praising God **can aid us in being a light to the world**. The secular world around us lives only for this life and the pleasures and rewards in it. If we are not intentional to do otherwise, it is natural to absorb the views of the people around us. We succumb to the lie that truth is relative and I can do anything I want as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. Praising God can help us to focus on the objective truth of God and conform our lives to His sacred Word, allowing Him to transform us to be more like Jesus day by day.

Save the Date

Jennifer Speer Bible Study

Living in Light of His Coming:

7 messages of encouragement from 1 Thessalonians

When: January 12 – February 23, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Where: Sanctuary and Livestreamed

"It seems the world is groaning for the return of Christ, and yet while we anticipate His coming we must also be about His work. Like the church at Thessalonica, we need encouragement while we work, worship and wait--especially when circumstances are difficult. Join us for seven weeks of encouragement as we anticipate the Lord's return and also serve Him until He comes."

Registration will be available mid-November

Missions

November MMP: HELPS Stove Team

VPC partners with Helps International and the people of Guatemala to foster hope and health through the placement of water filters and and safe, efficient stoves in homes and schools.

For centuries, people in third world countries have cooked using open fires on the floors of their small homes. This is the cause of medical and environmental problems:

- burns
- severe respiratory problems
- air pollution
- rapid deforestation

The Onil stove was developed in recognition of these problems. Being raised off the floor and vented, it drastically reduces the risk for burns and smoke inhalation. Ecologically, it is 70% more efficient than an open fire thereby decreasing deforestation and greenhouse gases, plus saving money or time spent in gathering firewood.

If you would like to join the stove team, dates for 2022 are March 12th - 21st. It is possible that Covid will again interfere with our going. We just cannot know but we are becoming fully prepared including fulfilling the requirement for each team member to be fully vaccinated.

In addition to the joy of installing stoves and water filters in homes, we will deliver small gifts to the children at the Helps school supported by members of our congregation, knitted goods from Knit One Pray Too for newborns and infants, and medical supplies to the neighboring clinic.



For information about the stove project, contact Jim or Lois Weeks.

jimloisweeks@yahoo.com

Jim, 941 914 4188

Lois, 320 250 3363

For information about sponsoring a student contact Cheryl Weeks-Rosten, cwrosten@gmail.com



Upcoming Oberammergau Trip

- Brochures can be picked up at the Welcome Center
- The trip applications will be accepted at the Welcome Center starting October 10th.
- We will accept applications on a first-come first-served basis until the 42-seat coach is filled. We will accept a few standby applications.
- Because of high demand for this trip only full applications will be received and no holding of seats in a group.
- Pastor Carolyn Wilson and Elder Tom Parlette will be the Spiritual Leaders
- The US Government requires all international travelers to be fully COVID vaccinated and tested at time of travel, no exceptions.
- The \$500 per person deposit check will need to be written in early December. We will collect and hold all applications until mid-December when the applications and deposit checks must be submitted to Treasured Escapes and Travel and Ed-Ventures.
- We strongly recommend that each traveler purchase trip insurance.

Contact Fred & Cindy Gossman,
fredandcindy89@gmail.com



It's that time of year again...

SALVATION ARMY'S ANNUAL RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN is just around the corner, and we need you! Last year, VPC volunteers raised \$28,758.46 to be used by the Salvation Army in South Sarasota County! Again this year, an anonymous donor will match each \$20 bill placed in the kettle, so the excitement is building.

This year we will ring from Saturday, November 27 through, noon on Christmas Eve.

To sign up for a time(s) to ring, go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA5AA22AAFCE9-sabellringers>

If you have any questions, call Karen Norwood at 320.492.0612



2021 Alternative Gift Market

O Come All Ye Faithful

**December 5 and 12 in Fellowship Hall
immediately following worship**

Enjoy cookies and refreshments after Sunday Service while you "Shop" for Christmas Gifts.

The purpose of the AGM is to raise mission awareness and knowledge about VPC's mission partners while at the same time offering alternative and meaningful gifts for people to give to family and friends. Our hope is to also increase volunteering with our local mission partners as well as heartfelt prayer for all VPC's mission partners.

The AGM offers the opportunity for our congregation to make donations for specific needs of our mission partners identified in the catalog. Donations will be acknowledged with a gift card to be used as an alternative or in addition to the material gifts traditionally given at Christmas.



Put On Your Walking Shoes!

Family Promise SSC Dream Walk.

Saturday, November 6

Join us at 9am in Fellowship Hall (rm 9) to kick off the walk. Your support will stabilize over 100 families this year in South Sarasota County.

Register and Walk at: www.familypromisessc.org/dream-walk. Walk alone or create a team and together help raise money to keep families housed in our community.

The Dream Walk enables supporters of Family Promise of South Sarasota County to raise funds in support of our mission. FPSSC's comprehensive case management, shelter, prevention and diversion services provide local housing to insecure families with the means to maintain or achieve a permanent address and lasting financial independence. Over 90% of each dollar raised goes directly to support local at-risk children and their families. Become a Dream Walker today!



We Are All So Excited !

Our Immokalee Fair Housing Neighborhood infrastructure construction has started with the clearing of the land.

By the time you get this, the retention pond, water pipes, sewers and electrical conduit may already be in place. Thank you for your support.

You are part of a committed group of individuals, foundations and organizations that are passionate about the need for safe, decent, affordable housing in Immokalee.

Please join us as we celebrate this groundbreaking on November 10th at 10:00 am at our site on the NW corner of Lake Trafford Road and 19th Street. Off street parking is available on the adjoining vacant lot.



Get to know our Scholarship Recipients

Juan Diego Puac Vásquez

My name is Juan Diego Puac Vásquez.

I want to thank every person at VPC for my scholarship which allows me to be blessed to go to school and study medicine.

I am 19 years old and currently in my second year of medical school at the Universidad Da Vinci. I am also studying at the Presbyterian World Vision Theological Seminary on Saturdays.

I was born in Totonicapán which is a department/state in the country of Guatemala.

My mom passed away when I was 6 yrs. old. My father also passed away when I was just 3 yrs. old. I remember good times with my sisters growing up in Totonicapán. Suddenly doctor Erick Estrada started visiting us in our village. He brought us to Guatemala City when I was 7. I remember that day. He took us to a restaurant, (we had never gone out of our village) to eat, but I was too scared to eat. We hardly ate anything. When we got to his home they gave us clothes, a bed, and food. I also remember one time

that they took us out for pizza. We hardly ate anything because we did not like it since we did not know pizza. Now I cannot live without pizza.

I accepted Christ as my savior when I was 10 years old. It was a very happy day.

In 2018, God allowed me to study auxiliary nursing and the following year, I finished high school. I majored in computer. That same year on Saturdays I also studied instrumental nursing for the surgical room. I did my practice in a private clinic which I liked very much.

Everything I had studied helped me in my first year in medical school. My first year we went to classes but now because of Covid-19, we receive classes online.

At church, I help with computers and videos and transmitting the church service online.

I like playing football and sharing with my family my different activities and experiences during the day.

I ask for prayers with my Spiritual, mental, and physical health, God's protection during this pandemic, my studies, God's wisdom to make the right decisions, God help for me to stay on his path, to put in practice the Word of God, and that God gives me the strength to wake up every morning with new joy.



Only 3 Cents a Meal

Help feed our local families. 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.



Pregnancy Solutions 2021 Banquet and Luncheon Seen. Known. Loved...Bridging the Gap

Please plan to attend "Seen. Known. Loved. Bridging the Gap" with Pregnancy Solutions. We can't wait to celebrate LIFE with you and share some of the amazing stories that have unfolded at Pregnancy Solutions this year. This year, we will be hosting our 19th Annual Fundraising Banquet, and—for the first time ever—we will be holding a dinner banquet at Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda on Tuesday, November 2nd, as well as a luncheon and dinner banquet on Tuesday, November 9th, at Plantation Golf and Country Club. This will allow for a more intimate gathering and will make it possible for more of our Charlotte County community to attend.

The meal is complimentary; an opportunity to make a financial gift will be extended. If you are unable to attend and would like to make a financial gift, please go to www.venicepres.org and click "GIVE NOW" then select "Pregnacy Solutions".

Thank you for your support! For more information or to volunteer, contact Karen Norwood, karenp630@gmail.com

Dinner Banquet

Tuesday, November 2

Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda

1780 West Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Dinner

7:00–9:00pm

(Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Luncheon and Dinner Banquet

Tuesday, November 9

Plantation Golf & Country Club

500 Rockley Boulevard
Venice, FL 34293

Lunch

11:00am–1:00pm

(Doors open at 10:30 am)

Dinner

7:00–9:00pm

(Doors open at 6:30 pm)



For Reservations:

<https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=22053>

Presbyterian Women (PW)

We have some bad news. It is with much regret that **The Christmas Tea has been canceled this year**. The Christmas Tea has been a tradition for VPC's Presbyterian Women. We look forward to returning to that tradition next year. Our schedule overlapped with the King's Brass Community Concert. Therefore, we didn't want you to have to choose between two great events. You can jump start your Christmas season with their wonderful music!

The good news is we are going to have a

GALentine's Day Tea

This Tea will be a fundraiser for the Presbyterian Women's Mission Donations. This elegant event will invite you to enjoy "loving" companionship with your favorite GALS over a cup of tea and treats. (Entertainment to be determined)



February 12, 2022 @ 2 - 4pm in the Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be sold on the patio after church on January 30th and February 6th. Please sign up to bake some of your yummy treat or homemade fingersandwiches.

The Garage Sale is going to be different this year! We will be photographing your high end items & selling them on Marketplace. A team of volunteers will coordinate the "Garage Sale" online. Details will be provided soon.

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021 @ 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall, the 29 ladies saw our surprise Chick Flick, **While You Were Sleeping**, starring Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman. The movie took place in Chicago around Christmas time. There were smiles and awes during the viewing and applause at the end of the movie. The few who had already seen the movie enjoyed seeing it again. It was a hit romantic comedy.

Barb Middelthon (our Historian) did registration. Joanne Francks (our secretary) did the Opening Prayer. Niki Steitz did the Devotion (on the pandemic and clever). Joan High was instrumental working with Gail Haynes (our treasurer), Joanne Francks and Barb Middelthon on the Fund Raiser as the ladies arrived (a Bring One and Buy One).

Our next PW Gathering will be Tues., Jan. 18, 2022 in FH featuring Bob Sloboda from Meals On Wheels (MOW). Bob is Office Manager on Fridays and on board as Public Relations Officer. My husband Steve has a route with MOW on Fridays and has been doing this for 11 years now. I accompany him on Fridays.

If you have not received emails from our PW Gatherings which Niki Steitz sends out, and would like to receive emails, Please email Niki at nsteitz33@comcast.net or call Niki at (941) 493-7628.

Blessings to All and Be Well! Niki Steitz (PW Moderator)

The Story Behind the Narthex's Shell Cross

by Mary Jo Perkins as told to Jane Clemmer, Oct 2021

I was approached in 2012, during the remodel of our church, with a request to think about what would be a marvelous decor for a large space in the Narthex or Chapel. I immediately thought of a Cross! But something different ... something which speaks of the beauty of this area in which we live and are surrounded by each day! I just happen to have spent many years on the beach each morning helping Mote Marine with the sea-turtle patrol on Casey Key (I have been a permitted volunteer for 21 years!). I find it a wonderful way to begin a day and I praise God for the miracles I see each day and, to be reminded no two shells are exactly alike, which brought me to the idea of "a cross of shells" Why not?

We put a short note in the bulletin and folks started bringing their collections of shells. Bags and bags of shells from collections all over the world were donated and many have names of loved ones written inside. I was overwhelmed by the numbers! So then, I had to find a storage place to sort out all the thousands of shells! It just happened that our house was the perfect storage space. Thanks to my husband Jack's willingness to "clutter up the place!"

The cross is approximately 8' tall - and I am 5'3ish. The shells were glued to a wooden frame, covered with styrofoam, which was made by Dave



Fouchet, the Construction Manager, of our new Narthex and Chapel. Styrofoam was used so that the very large shells could be sunken into the cross.

I used a ladder because the cross was always in a standing position and I had to work on the top of the cross so the shells would not fall off before the glue had hardened. Each day I would pray to God for guidance because I had never done anything like this before! As I completed each position, Dave would bring a friend and move the cross to another 1/4 turn so I could always work on the top!

When the cross was ready to be moved to the church, Dave and friends came with a trailer to transport it safely. I had never seen the finished cross in a vertical position the whole time I worked on it and I had all kinds of worries that when they would hang it on the wall in the Narthex ... all the shells would come flying off! The shark's tooth was

found in the Venice area and donated by Dottie Kimmerlin. It did fall off but it was easily reattached. No other shells have fallen off since.

The whole project took approximately 8 months.

It was a joy!

Our Lord has different ideas for everyone - and at different times - hopefully to make folks happy!

That is why I'm hoping that maybe people who've never tried anything will try something new. Just break boundaries and find something you love.

With Covid lockdown - find something productive to do. Everyone has talents: musical, artistic, things that they have never really opened up.

Now that we have a little more free time on our hands, we can have fun!

What other art styles did you work with?

I studied Chinese painting when living in Hong Kong. In Maine I illustrated a bird guide for Acadia National Park. At that time, the publisher couldn't reduce the size, so I had to paint each bird small enough to fit into a pocket guide. I also sold my

bird drawings, done in colored pencil and ink, to a gallery in Bar Harbor, Maine.

I was born in Canton, Ohio. Married Jack in 1958. We have two sons and an adopted daughter - all living in the USA. With Jack working as a Foreign Correspondent for NBC, we moved frequently - from Ohio to New York City to Washington, D.C. to Hong Kong to Los Angeles, Maine and finally to Florida in 1997.

I have been a Christian my entire life and have always had a strong faith. We had attended many churches around



our country over the years and when we moved to Florida and found Venice Presbyterian Church we fell in love and have never left.



All Saints Sunday

November 7, 2021

On the first Sunday in November, we will remember the members, affiliate members, and friends of VPC family who have died since November 1, 2020.

Doris Anstey	Robert Miller
Sandy Ausra	Joyce Novak
Okla Beaudry	Pat O'Gorman
Marilyn Brodhead	Mary Oswald
Doug Brown	Mildred Paddock
Mary Carr	Bonnie Parlette
Nancy Chatfield	Janet Peters
Carl Chorba	Geraldine Piper
Helen DeVries	Charles Pulsford
Robert Eaton	John Rooney
Geraldine Ellsworth	Ernie Simmons
Mary Gaston	Norman Sinclair
Randy Hagerman	Peter Sinoyiannis
Joyce Harvie	Walter Smith
Clare Holcombe	Jerry Spears
Knute Johansson	Sandra Titus
Joanna Joseph	Addison Turkovics
Caroline Kulpa	Marjorie Walmsley
Milt Liming	Allie White
Trig Lucken	Ed Yohn
Earl Middelthon	Bill Zeliff

In life and in death, we belong to God. (Romans 14:8)

