

Connect, Grow & Go

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

A MONTH OF
PRAYER

Here's What's Going on at VPC in February 2022

Our Vision in Action

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

Church Leadership

Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Session

Sheila Cunningham
Susie Gottschalk
Mary Gregory
Tom Hoffman
Judith Holmes
Richard Langlais
Carlene Painter
Diane Sharp
Jim Weeks
Laurie Wright (Clerk)

Board of Trustees

Bob Allen
Fred Francis
Richard Gilbert
Mary Gregory (Chair)
Ryan Norwood

Nominating Committee

Jane Clemmer
Stan Cupery
Susie Gottschalk
Sheryl Morford
Bill Morgan
Donna Wainright
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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INTERIM CHOIR DIRECTOR

Ken Cox
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Church Info

OFFICE HOURS

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 9 & 11 AM

ONLINE WORSHIP

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.

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dear Church Family,

February is famous for Valentine's Day, a happy day for some and a stressful day for others. We see roses in the stores, delivery trucks with flowers and treats, and restaurant reservations book early. What is the root of love? The greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" Mark 12:30 (NIV). The second greatest commandment from God is to "Love your neighbors as yourself" Mark 12:31 (NIV).

With the love of God ruling your heart, loving your neighbors becomes a little easier. Even in difficult times, asking God to go before you into a situation or conversation is a helpful way to show God's love to others. When was the last time you were fully engaged in a conversation, not thinking about what you will say next but actively listening to another speak? When you say "how are you," do you mean it, or is it a type of greeting. In these strange days of isolation and fear, how can we love our neighbors well? Active listening and full engagement in conversation are two ways to care for our neighbors. Thinking about loving our neighbors on a grander scale might mean volunteering in a ministry that is near and dear to your heart or volunteering in a place you would like to learn more about. VPC is always looking for ways to reach and touch our community. Consider volunteering in the new year as a way to serve and love your neighbors.

Another way to **love your neighbor is to pray for them**. I've said before, sometimes the greatest influence you can have on another is to pray for them. The intercessory prayer team is a confidential team that wants to pray for you. A great resource that I would recommend is the book "Too Busy Not To Pray". It helps us to understand we should never be too busy not to commune with God through prayer. Prayer is a two way street. When you set apart your prayer time, remember to listen. Take time to clear your mind and listen.



I hope you enjoy the February edition of Connect Grow and Go. There are many opportunities to get involved and grow in Christ. Consider what that would look like for you.

Christine Bruen



Concluding the season of the Venice Community Concert Series is one of the most talented families in our community. Chris, Karen, William, and Nicholas Romig will delight us with favorites for flute, piano, bass, and percussion. This couple and their two sons have spent many years entertaining audiences with their virtuosity, musicality, and engaging stage presence. We couldn't think of anything more inspiring to end the season than having the Romig's give a little piece of their family heart to us all.

For tickets, go to www.venicecommunityconcertseries.com.

Joined by Special Guest (and also Karen's Niece!) Lauren Asimakoupoulos



Lauren Asimakoupoulos is a professional flutist in the greater Seattle area. Lauren holds both a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Flute Performance from Wheaton College and The University of Tennessee, respectively. Lauren has participated in several festivals and competitions around the world, including Interharmony music festival in Italy, Flute Days Hamburg Festival in Germany, and the Global Summer Institute of Music in Virginia, where she won the international concerto competi-

tion in 2018. Lauren has studied with Sandra Saathoff, Jennie Brown, Aleksandr Haskin, and many more. Currently, she teaches privately on Mercer Island, is a flute clinician for several Washington school districts, and performs with different ensembles in the area including The Seattle Philharmonic and Winds5, a wind quintet for which she was a founding member.

The DePue Brothers Concert is Cancelled



Sadly, Alex DePue was tragically killed in a car accident last Wednesday, therefore, the DePue Brothers concert has been cancelled. Our prayers go out to his new wife, family, and friends.

We are also offering ticket holders the opportunity to donate the ticket price to Alex's Family. If you would like to request a refund, please call the church office. Thank you for understanding.

Get to know our Scholarship Recipient: William Romig



I have been attending Venice Presbyterian Church since I was 3 years old, when my father was accepted as the church's Senior Pastor. Now I am 22 years old, and I am planning on graduating from the University of South Florida in the spring of 2022. Over the past 18 years, I have been so blessed by the congregation here at VPC. The VPC congregation has cared for me as I grew up from a small child to a young man, encouraged me in my musical pursuits, and more recently, has helped pay for all 4 years of my college degree.

Scholarships Now Available

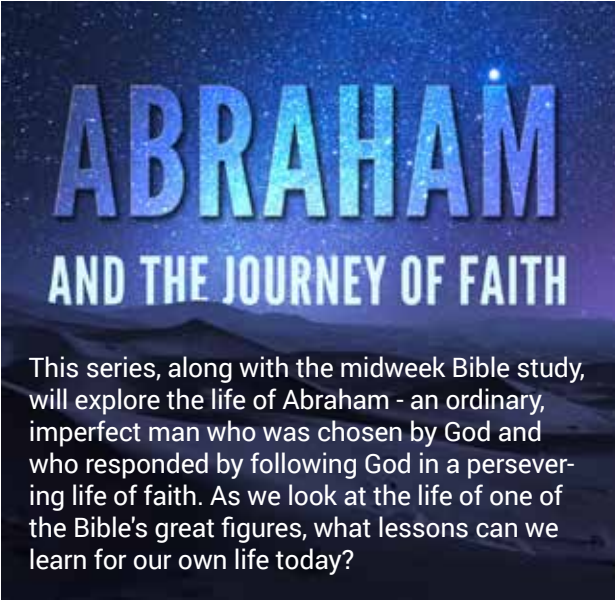
Members of Venice Presbyterian Church and mission partners approved by the Mission Committee are eligible for scholarships to be used for tuition to fully accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Scholarships are granted based on service to:

- church, school, community
- academic standing
- justifiable need
- special circumstances

Scholarship Opportunities are available in now for the 2022/2023 school year. The deadline for submission is March 15.

Worship Ministry



ABRAHAM
AND THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

This series, along with the midweek Bible study, will explore the life of Abraham - an ordinary, imperfect man who was chosen by God and who responded by following God in a persevering life of faith. As we look at the life of one of the Bible's great figures, what lessons can we learn for our own life today?

Did You Know?

The ***Gloria Patri***, also known as the Glory Be to the Father or, colloquially, the Glory Be, is a doxology, a short hymn of praise to God in various Christian liturgies.

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. We invite all to participate in our ***Ash Wednesday Service on March 2 at 6:00 PM***

Communion on the Lawn

February 16, 3:00 pm, all are welcome!
Please bring a lawn chair, sun glasses or wide-brim hat



We're creating a Church Directory We want you to participate!



Stop in the chapel to get your photo and information updated for a new pictorial directory. Sunday's before & between services, Wednesday's 4-6 and after Bible Study and additional times during the week. The weekly schedule will be posted in the narthex or call the church office. If you are not able to attend one of these sessions, please call so we can update your information and make arrangements to receive a photo.

Paper Shortage

Due to supply chain and production issues, we are having trouble finding paper for our bulletins. If possible, please share bulletins with your party or go online at www.venice-pres.org for the online bulletin. We hope to have this remedied soon.

Welcome Back Jamal



Jamal Sarikoki, VPC's former Minister of Music and Worship, will lend his musical talents to our worship service on Sunday, February 13.



Calling all kids and grandkids!

Do you want to have fun while learning about Jesus?

We meet currently every second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Come to Children's church during the 11:00 service in Rm 7

Find out all the great things Jesus has planned for you!

Group Schedule

All are welcome to participate.

MONDAY

Holy Yoga

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 9
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

Knit One, Pray Too

WHEN: Meets weekly, noon - 1
WHERE: Room 9
WHO: All women are welcome
CONTACT: Peg Moffet



TUESDAY

Men's Bible Study

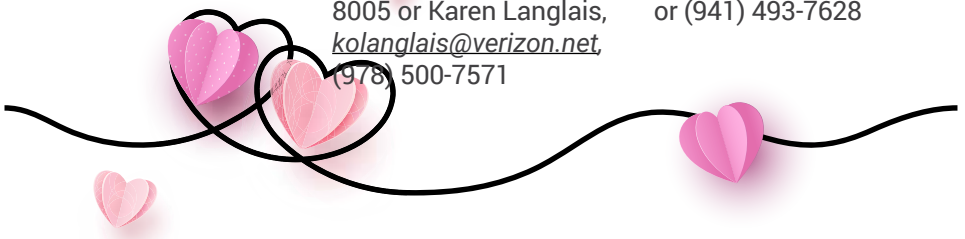
BEGINS: Nov 2 - May 31,
WHEN: Meets weekly, 9-10 am
WHERE: Glass House
WHAT: Study will be Paul's Epistles
WHO: All men welcome
CONTACT: Dick Edmunds, kcid1961@gmail.com or (941) 488-8949

Nomads

BEGINS: Jan 11 - Apr 12,
WHEN: Meets weekly, 9:30-11 am
WHERE: Room 9
WHAT: a book study using Christian Character by Andrea Sterk and Peter Scazzero
WHO: All women
CONTACT: Anna Marie Brummett, amdrbrum@gmail.com, (847) 309-8005 or Karen Langlais, kolanglais@verizon.net, (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: Fellowship Hall
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



Tuesday Bible Study

WHEN: Meets weekly on Tuesday, 1:30-2:45 pm
WHERE: Room 9
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, 11 AM
WHERE: Library
WHAT: Fellowship & Coloring
WHO: Everyone welcome
CONTACT: Susan Lane auntsueywoeey@aol.com, (941) 716-0388

Foundations: Genesis

WHEN: **Resumes Jan12**, 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

Holy Yoga

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

We welcome anyone interested in joining us in an hour of creative coloring and conversation. Bring your favorite coloring book, or use something from our book stash! Bring a snack to nibble while we color, laugh and chat together.

BOOK CLUB FOR 2022-2022

Room 8, 1 pm

FEBRUARY 2
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

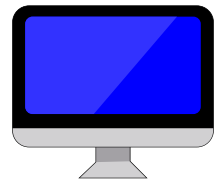
MARCH 2
The Water is Wide by Pat Conroy

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.

Winter 2022 Computer Classes for Adults at VPC



Free computer classes but act fast
as space is limited!

MICROSOFT BASICS	(4 WEEKS – TUESDAYS 3-5:00 PM, FEB. 15-MAR. 8) ROOM 9
DESCRIPTION 	<p>This class will teach you the basic features of Microsoft Word. After completing this course, you will have enough Word skills to write business letters at work or personal letters at home. You will also learn how to save a Word document and then attach and send it to someone using Email. Basic computer keyboard and mouse skills are a pre-requisite to enroll in this class. You will need to bring your own personal laptop computer to each class and Microsoft Word must already be installed on it.</p>
MICROSOFT EXCEL BASICS	4 WEEKS – TUESDAYS 3-5:00 PM, MAR. 15-APR. 5) ROOM 9
DESCRIPTION 	<p>This class will teach you the basic features of Microsoft 2007 Excel. After completing this class, you will have enough Microsoft Excel skills to create basic spreadsheets that will help you with tasks such as balancing your checkbook or keeping statistics for your favorite sports team. Basic computer keyboard and mouse skills are a pre-requisite to enroll in this class. You will need to bring your own personal laptop computer to each class and Microsoft Excel must already be installed on it.</p>
TO REGISTER:	<p>Please call the church office or drop off a note that includes your name, address, daytime telephone number and the name of each class you wish to enroll in. The maximum enrollment for each class is 8 students, so please enroll early to reserve your seat. For more information, contact Fred Ferwerda fred.ferwerda@gmail.com, (616) 822-1604.</p>
INSTRUCTOR	<p>Our instructor, Fred Ferwerda, has several years of professional teaching experience with IBM and has been teaching Microsoft Office Adult Education classes in Western Michigan for the past few years. He is also a retired Adjunct Professor from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he taught Microsoft Office classes from 2001 - 2019.</p>



Disciple Fast Track Study of the New Testament

Studying the Bible can change your life in a wonderful way! We are beginning our 12-week New Testament Study using the Disciple Fast Track study. You don't have to know anything about the Bible to come because this is the place to learn, ask questions, and discuss together what we are learning. Those who have attended the Old Testament study have said that they no longer feel intimidated when they read the Bible!

Participants will read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly group time. But don't worry if you can't get all the reading done – come anyway and learn!

The cost will be \$15.00 for the New Testament participant book.

Two opportunities to participate in this study:

- Monday Night Women: Monday evenings 6:00 – 7:00 beginning February 7th.
- Tuesday Bible Study: Tuesday afternoons 1:30 – 2:45 beginning February 8th.

To register, contact Pastor Carolyn at 941-488-2258 or cwilson@venicepres.org

Stephen Ministry Drop-In Center

Going through a difficult time? You don't have to deal with these feelings alone. If you or someone you know would like more information on speaking with a Stephen Minister, please contact the church at 941-488-2258 ext. 126. You may also email us at SM@venicepres.org or you may visit the Stephen Ministry Drop-in Center in Room 11 on the church campus.

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 Now available at www.venicepres.org

Missions

February Monthly Mission Partner: Agape Flight

Imagine a world where missionaries never lack the resources to share the unconditional love of Christ. Agape Flights mission is to provide excellent aviation service delivering cargo, mail and humanitarian aid to missionary partners serving Christ, carrying hope to the nations of the Caribbean.



Nearly 20 million people live in the areas regularly reached by Agape's flights to Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas. More than 350 missionary families rely on Agape Flights to transport the mail and supplies they need while living and working on the mission field in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. Agape Flights is an important state side connection for missionaries – by serving as their “home” address, by providing dependable mail service and the personalized cargo service the missionaries need.

Agape Flights also delivers humanitarian aid and religious supplies into Cuba via the Cuban Council of Churches and expedites relief supplies during disasters and emergencies.

Agape's affiliated missionary partners meet the plane and serve as the distribution network on the ground to ensure provisions reach their intended destination – orphanages, medical clinics, hospitals, schools and churches. In the hands of missionaries, building supplies become homes, churches and schools. A water pump provides clean water for an entire community. Bibles and teaching materials become resources for discipleship. And medical supplies save lives.

Agape Flights receives and distributes supplies through the missionaries and their ministries: medicine, medical supplies, nutritional





Ways you can help...

- PRAY daily for Agape Flights Affiliated Missionaries
- GIVE financially to keep the planes flying
- SERVE alongside approximately 50 weekly volunteers who provide much of the labor that makes things happen at Agape Flights. For a current list of volunteer opportunities please refer to: www.agapeflights.com/volunteer

supplements, Bibles, school and office supplies, building materials and other needed items. Agape Flights also speeds relief supplies during disasters and emergencies.

Weekly mission flights are fueled through the generosity of our donors. When you support Agape Flights, you're investing in the Kingdom ministry of more than 350 missionary families.

During times of disaster in the Caribbean, the local community comes together to fill and fund relief flights. Through the energy of community volunteers and generous contributions, the Agape plane and pilots are able to deliver thousands of pounds of relief supplies including: generators, buckets, food, water filters, tarps, chain saws, flash lights, batteries, solar lights and more.

CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES... YOU'RE INVITED!

It's a BIRD!
It's a PLANE! It's
SUPER PIE!
PIE in the SKY
Open Hangar

MARCH 5, 2022
11:30AM-2PM
Enjoy pizza pie,
dessert pie,
& learn how
& why
we fly!

AGAPE FLIGHTS
100 Airport Ave E.
Venice, FL 34285 | (941) 488-0990

www.agapeflights.com



Mark your calendars for ***Pregnancy Solutions Walk for Life!*** What an exciting way to rally the entire community and celebrate LIFE! This year's theme is "On Purpose". We are committed to seeking God's purpose for our ministry, for our clients, for our impact, for our partnerships, for the local church and for the community at large. Please join us in praying for the year to come, that hearts will be changed and lives will be saved!

To sign up to walk or to donate visit: www.pswalkforlife.org or call 941-408-7100

Three dates and locations!

- Saturday, February 26th at Bayshore Live Oak Park, Port Charlotte, FL
- Saturday, March 5th at FBC Lakefront, 3100 Executive Drive, Venice FL
- Saturday, March 26th at Morgan Park, 1100 W Hickory St, Arcadia FL
- Check-in begins at 8:00 am, and the Walk will start at 9:00 am.

Ask your friends and family to sponsor you as you walk to support life in our community through the life-giving services provided by Pregnancy Solutions. ***It is our vision to end the demand for abortion by meeting the needs of those we serve.*** Bring the whole family to celebrate and support LIFE, On Purpose!

Feed Local Families with Just Your Change

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.



Presbyterian Women (PW)

New Years Blessings, Ladies!

Bob Slobada from Venice Area Mobile Meals, Inc. (on the board as Public Relations Manager) gave a terrific presentation on Venice Area Mobile Meals, Inc. on Tues., Jan. 18 @ 12:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Many Thanks, Bob!

On Tuesday, February 15, we will have our very own Chris Dowden presenting a new woman of the bible. We're in for a real treat as Chris is truly a professional. The time will be 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Again, ladies, please bring a sack lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. We will have our Birthday Offering. Please RSVP to Niki Steitz

Our final gathering of the season will be Tues., April 19, at 12:30 pm and will feature a recording of Niki Steitz's 4 Grandchildren reading about their great Uncle George, the brother of Niki Steitz (Major George Quamo) who was a highly decorated green beret (army) in special forces who received the Distinguished Service Cross (2nd highest military honor) for orchestrating the extraction of 14 special forces soldiers (trapped in a bunker and being fired upon heavily by the Viet Cong) in the battle of Lang Vei. This was considered a suicide mission

but all 14 soldiers were saved as well as all of Quamos men and then some. Many pages are devoted to Major Quamo in Dave Stockwell's book Route 9 Problem The Battle For Lang Vei. Quamo was considered handsome, brilliant, charismatic, and cool under pressure and in Vietnam was known as the Lawrence of Arabia of Vietnam. Not just the ladies, but all are invited to attend the final PW Gathering of the season on Tues., April 19 at 12:30 pm. Our Honorary Life Member (Woman of The Year) will be awarded at this PW Gathering. There will be a collection of the Least Coin which is one of our mission givings.

At this time, a heartfelt thanks goes out to pastor Carolyn Wilson for her great support as our staff liaison.

God bless and keep well!

Niki Steitz (PW Moderator)
nsteitz33@comcast.net or call (941) 493-7628.

P.S. Please contact Niki Steitz if interested in being a PW Officer or if you feel a certain lady would be a good fit. It would be a two-year commitment. PW's Dorcas and Elizabeth circle bible studies welcome new members.

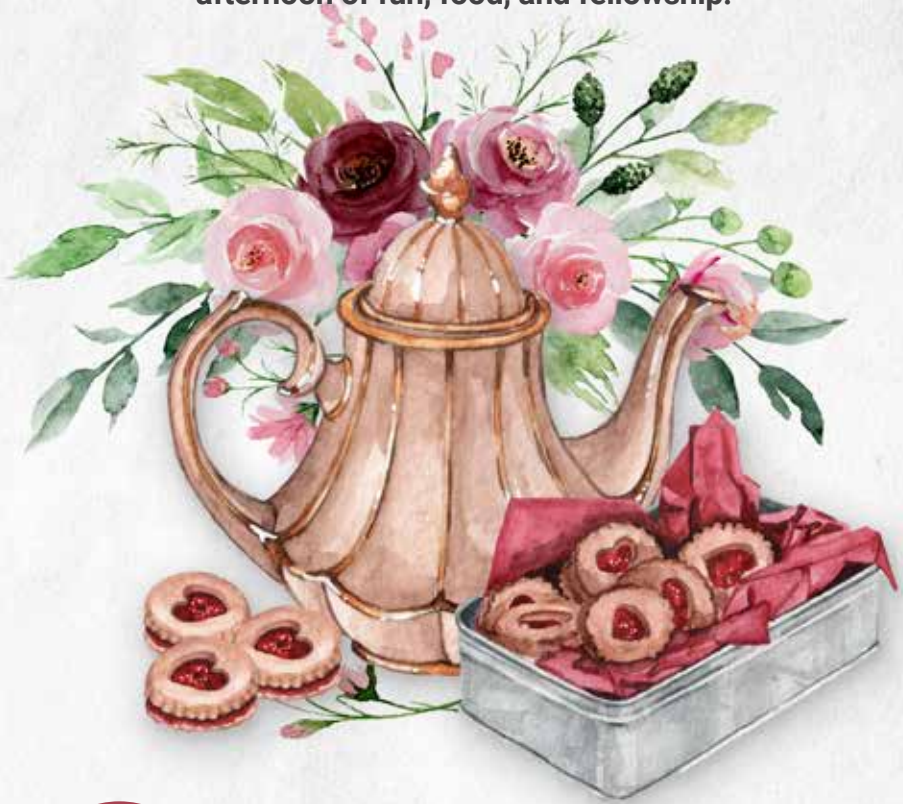
Garage Sale Cancelled



We are sensing that the Holy Spirit is leading us to hold off hosting the Garage Sale for another year. PW's Garage Sale has made valuable contributions to Missions and Women's Ministry and it is so appreciated. We look forward to next year as we have many new and creative changes that will be sure to make the Garage Sale a huge success!

Join us for Presbyterian Women's
GALENTINE'S DAY TEA

Invite your friends and come have a special
afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship!



\$20

FEBRUARY 12, 2022
2PM-4PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

George DeLong at the piano. Door prizes & raffles. This event is a fundraiser for PW mission partners.

Wonderful pastries & finger sandwiches will be served along with your tea to delight your tastebuds!

Tickets on sale February 6th on the church patio.