

Connect, Grow & Go

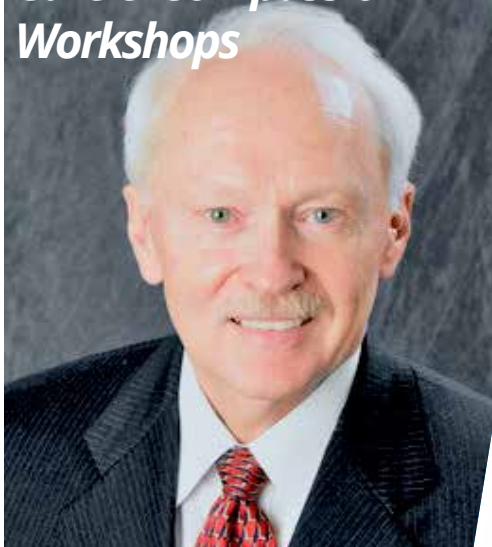
To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life



New Year Sermon Series

Here's What's Going on at VPC in January 2020

*Care & Compassion
Workshops*



Jazz Masters Concert



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Our Vision in Action

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

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9am - 4pm
Friday, 9am - 12pm

Office Phone

941-488-2258

Worship Service Hours*

Sunday, 9am & 11am

Library Hours

Monday - Thurs, 10-12pm
Sunday, 8:30-12:30am
apinner@venicepres.org
jchaplin@gmail.com

Session

Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Dick Edmunds

Tom Hoffman

Bob Painter

Bob Allen

Nick Clemmer

Sheryl Morford

Jamal Sarikoki

Jennie Chaplin

Carolyn Stephens

Jim Weeks

Shelly Wharton

Board of Trustees

Bob Allen (*Chair*)

Skip Sayers

Richard Gilbert

Ann Stark

Mary Gregory

Fred Francis

Human Resources

Dick Edmunds (*Chair*)

Carlene Painter

David Schoenthaler

Anna Marie Brummett

Bob Jelenchick

Sydna Zeliff

Nick Clemmer

Diane Sharp

Carol Dickinson

Put your event or meeting in Connect, Grow & Go!

Want to promote your group, event or workshop? Simply go to venicepres.org to Connect, Grow and Go, fill out the form (or get one from the office) and submit by the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **Next Deadline is January 21.**

Tuesday Morning Volunteers Needed!

Do you love greeting folks? Excel at light office work? Desire to serve?

Please contact Chris O'Brien at cobrien@venicepres.org

Welcome to 2020!



A year of new starts, new commitments, new resolutions! I like to go into each year with a word. I call it my one word. The concept comes from the book, "My One Word" by Mike Ashcroft and Rachel Olsen. It is a word chosen through examining ones heart, prayer, and listening to God's nudges. This word sticks with you through the year. God uses this word to deepen his relationship with you through experiences and teachings. It's actually pretty fascinating that God can use One Word to deepen your faith and relationship!

In years past my words have been surrender, commitment, endurance. I am still in prayer about my word for 2020 but as I discern the word TRUST comes to mind. Trust is the root of relationship, commitment, surrender, endurance. Trust is biblical. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 The Year of Living Generously 2019 has ended. Each month in the Connect Grow and Go, we highlighted ways you could participate in living a generous life for Christ. This year we will walk through a year of Trust. How can we TRUST God with our stuff? I don't mean our physical stuff but our emotional stuff, financial stuff, spiritual stuff. We say we trust but do we walk the walk of trust? How can we grow in truly trusting God with all he has given us? Look for testimony and input on ways you can deepen your trust relationship with God. A great way to start is trusting Him with prayer! Thank you for choosing VPC as your place of worship.

Grace and Peace,

Christine Bruin

May Says Goodbye

I am not sure if all of you are aware, but in December I said goodbye as the Office Manager / Worship Coordinator here at VPC.

I am enrolled in school, and for the upcoming year I will be dedicating my time to finishing my degree. I have loved meeting, helping, and working with so many of you. Your smiling faces, and definitely your prayers have been a blessing to me.

I will still be around because Anthony will continue to attend HUB/Youth Group with Genna, and he will serve as an acolyte from time to time. So this is NOT goodbye, but simply a change in the schedule that we will see one another.

I am so thankful to have met all of you. When my family and I come to mind, please say a prayer for us.



Love you, and may God bless you, *May*



Get to know VPC's Ruling Elders

Bob Allen

I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I attended Wyoming Seminary, a college preparatory school in Kingston, PA and graduated from Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa.

My late wife's (Sue), mother and dad (Nancy and David Mertz) lived in Venice and we visited them numerous times. When we decided to try Florida, Venice was our choice.

I have two married sons and four grandchildren. Rob and Patricia live in Coopersburg, PA and have two sons: Robert III and Joshua. David and Julia live in Denver, CO and have a daughter and a son: Berit and Anders.

Having relatives who belong to VPC made it an easy choice for

Sue and me, however we did visit a few other churches before making our decision.

Being on the Session has brought me: spiritual growth and understanding of the effort that is put into operating a well-run church and all the programs associated with the church. Also, hearing the opinions of others on topics that come before Session has widened my perspective.

My 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.

I enjoyed a career as an executive and the best way to accomplish the tasks was always

to get a team on board and push - even to the uncomfortable level - so all would grow and develop their own skills. Now it's my turn to push myself to new levels of faith!

Many of the members, affiliate members and winter parishioners of VPC know that Marilyn Meub and I married in VPC's Chapel on March 2, 2019. We spend most of the summer months on a lake and farm in PA. We enjoy sailing, water skiing and farming. I receive great joy on the farm tractors and gators!

What you may not know is Marilyn and I met in November 2016 while serving communion at VPC. It is amazing what can start in God's house!

Music Ministry

VENICE COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

VCCS

Exceptional Talent in a Sacred Space

JAZZ MASTERS



GET TICKETS ONLINE
TICKETS
\$25

The Jazz Masters is a six-member jazz ensemble made up of some of South Florida's top jazz artists. The Jazz Masters will perform a program of classic jazz standards, music from the Great American Songbook, as well as original music written by members of the group. **This is one concert you don't want to miss!**



SATURDAY
JANUARY 18, 7PM

825 THE RIALTO
941-488-5525

VCCS UPCOMING SCHEDULE

February 8, 3:00pm

Masterworks: Two Flutes & Orchestra

Karen Romig and Luis Diaz, flutists
Meet the Artists reception to follow. \$25

February 21, 7:00pm

Duo Beaux Arts: A Two Piano Performance

Steinway artist, Toa Lin & Catherine Lan
Meet the Artists reception to follow. \$25

March 8th 4:00pm

The Faith We Sing: Hymn Festival featuring Craig Williams

The Venice Presbyterian Church Choir will present a hymn festival centered on telling the biblical history of the Christian faith.

Reception to follow. *\$30 ticket entry (All proceeds benefit VPC Youth Ministry)

*Tickets at Venicepres.org

Save the Dates

January 10: Retreat and rehearsal for Chancel Choir

February 21: Chancel Choir Retreat

April 12: Breakfast for Chancel Choir and Orchestra Easter Sunday morning

American Roots Grassical

This 7-member band has coined & pioneered the term "grassical," a vivid blend of bluegrass, gypsy, and jazz.

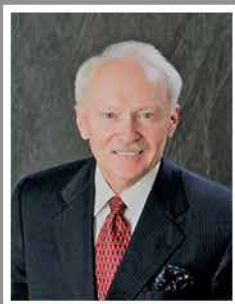
Sunday, Jan 12, 2020, Venice Presbyterian Church, 4:00 PM. Price: \$30 - \$40, www.keychorale.org



DEPRESSION

IN LATER LIFE

A Four Week Lecture Series



Dr. Robert G. Robinson, Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Univ. Iowa Hospital, author/editor of 10 books and 360 research publications, will be giving a series of four, one-hour lectures during the month of February on "Depression in Late Life". The lectures will be at the Venice Presbyterian Church in the sanctuary beginning February 4 at 2 PM.

There is no charge and the public is invited.

February 4: Feeling blue? Is it normal or a disorder?

February 11: Bipolar disorder. How it differs from depression. The types and causes of treatment and its association with creativity.

February 18: Association of late life depression with physical illness and environment and effects on physical illness.

February 25: Treatment on late life depression. Types of treatments from social and behavioral therapies to medications. Newest types of magnetic or electrical brain stimulation. Latest developments in deep brain stimulation.

Venice Presbyterian Church, 825 The Rialto Venice FL 34285, www.venicepres.org

Care & Compassion

Healing from Estrangement

Class is six weeks on Sunday nights

Begins January 19, 5pm - 6pm



This class is for those who are estranged from their family members: parents who are estranged from their children as well as family members estranged from each other. This six week class will help participants understand possible reasons for estrangement and help develop coping strategies for those experiencing this dilemma.

Contact Jane Morris, missjane165@comcast.net/941-244-2278

GRIEF SUPPORT RECOVERY TRANSITIONS

Begins Mondays, Starting January 13, 9:30 to 11:30

Venice Presbyterian Church, 825 The Rialto

Transitions is a compassionate support group for people coping with the death of a loved one. Participation in a Transitions group is a special journey available to anyone who has lost a loved one. During the six week course, one travels through grief to a richer understanding, renewed personal purpose, deeper spirituality and total rebirth of self. Many in our community have found new life and new friends while their loved one remains always in their heart.

Call Pat O’Gorman at 941-491-0317

In order to facilitate a small, supportive environment, classes are designed to be small & intimate, therefore, registration is required.

A black and white photograph of a person standing on a large, dark rock in the middle of a turbulent sea. The person is silhouetted against the lighter sky. The water is dark and choppy, with white foam from the waves crashing against the base of the rock. The overall mood is one of resilience and standing firm in the face of adversity.

JOY IN THE MIDST OF LIFE'S CHALLENGES

Sermon Series (January Schedule)

Circumstances, people, anxiety, and even religion can threaten to steal our joy. We all face tough times that are bound to get us down. The apostle Paul experienced some of life's harshest challenges, and even wrote his joy-filled letter to Philippi from prison. Paul's letter to the Philippians offers some wonderful and real-life advice about finding real joy in the midst of life's challenges.

Jan 12 How Does the Bible Speak to Me?

(Philippians 1:1-2)

Sometimes, the idea of reading the Bible seems daunting. Some verses may even appear difficult to apply to everyday life. In this message based on two verses, Pastor Chris will offer ways of seeing how all parts of God's Word can directly speak to us today. We will also re-visit the SOAP method of reading the Bible (Scripture, Observe, Apply, Pray) as we look at the first two verses of Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Jan 19 An Expression of Gratitude

(Philippians 1:3-11)

Today's message will be in the form of an original dramatic play, written and performed by Harley Allen and Chris Romig – with assistance from the Chancel Choir. A songwriting team has been commissioned to write a choral anthem, based on Philippians 1:3-11. In the process of developing the song, the composers truly find inspiration, as they discover rich meaning to the ancient words.

Jan 26 The Most Difficult Instrument to Play

(Philippians 2:1-11)

Leonard Bernstein (the great orchestra conductor) was once asked, "What is the most difficult instrument to play?" His response: "Second fiddle." Playing second fiddle, in a biblical sense, means looking to the interests of others more than our own. How can we model an *others-oriented* attitude without giving into resentment or losing our own true selves in the process? Can an attitude of humility be a key to unlocking genuine joy?

Worship Ministry



Communion: First Sunday of the Month

9am & 11am Service

Communion is served in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served so we may partake together. The bread is gluten-free.

Wednesday Morning Prayer & Communion

Join us on Wednesdays for a 30-minute worship service of prayer and the Lord's Supper at 9am for this midweek time of quiet worship and communion with God.

Retirement Community Communion

Rev. Chris Romig

Thursday, January 9 – 11am

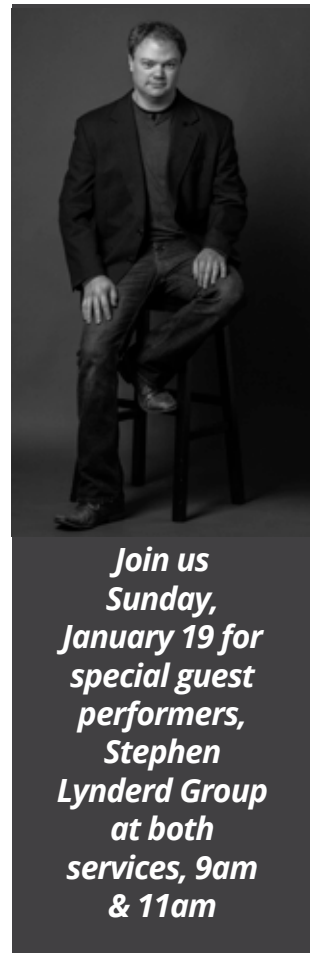
Friday, January 10 – 9:45am

Friday, January 10 – 1pm

Village on the Isle

Aston Gardens

Jacaranda Trace



**Join us
Sunday,
January 19 for
special guest
performers,
Stephen
Lynderd Group
at both
services, 9am
& 11am**

Have you taken the Spiritual Growth Inventory?

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Spiritual Growth survey we sent in early December. With the busyness of the holiday season, some of you may have missed this invitation to take an anonymous 10-15 online survey. Your participation helps us evaluate how we are helping people grow as disciples of Jesus, and it benefits our partner organization (The Transforming Center) in assessing how its ministry to pastors and church leaders is impacting members of their congregations. If you already participated – thank you. For those of you who haven't yet taken the survey, thank you for giving a few minutes to help with this project. Please look for the email early this week.

Family Ministry

After School Care Update

In October, we began opening our doors every Wednesday after school. There have been about 6 students who join us each week. We have enjoyed many wacky games and projects. Students have painted pumpkins, created rice krispie balls, and made countless bracelets. They have also been challenged to identify Thanksgiving dinner - in baby food form - while blindfolded.

Most importantly, each week we read the Bible, talk about how it applies to life, and pray together. It has been an enjoyable first 3 months of getting to know each other and learning what life looks like for each of the students.

Pray for this ministry as it continues! Pray that we increase in numbers of students and volunteers. Pray that God uses this time on Wednesdays to change lives into His image.



January Buddy Break will feature a Frozen-themed bouncehouse! We are excited to have the theme of 'Let It Snow'. We will be sharing with the VIP's that God created each snowflake unique and special - just as He created people. If you are interested in volunteering at Buddy Break, contact Flora Hughes, hugjf@yahoo.com

On December 22nd, 2019, we held our annual Buddy Break Christmas Pageant. On the program, we had Mary, Joseph, 5 shepherds, 3 wise men, 6 angels, 4 stars, 3 animals, and 6 VIP musicians. We were blessed to have several young men from our church play carols throughout the scene. The Christmas story was read as each child took their place around the manger. What a beautiful sight!

After the pageant, the actors, their buddies, and parents retired to the Glass House where they found refreshments and saw that Santa had gifts for them! Special thanks to Sheryl Morford for organizing the event.

SAVE THE DATE: Buddy Break Appreciation Dinner, February 13 at 4pm

GRANDPARENTS GONE WIRED!

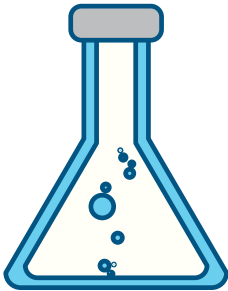
Do you have a question about your phone you've been waiting to ask your grandkid? Have you given up on checking your email or sending a picture to your friend because the button stopped working? Join us for Grandparents Gone Wired this January and February! We will have our most tech savvy teenagers at your service to walk you through your phone and tablet needs. If you have a particular question, please let us know at registration and we will do our best to cover all your conundrums.

January 26: Apple products (iphones and ipads). We plan to cover email, facebook, and realm.

February 23: Android products (google, microsoft, and samsung phones and tablets). We plan to cover email, facebook, and realm.

Each session is limited to 120 members, so don't delay signing up! There will be a registration table in the narthex between services on January 5th, January 12th, and January 19th.

The suggested donation for these events is \$8/person. All proceeds will go to supporting the Youth Mission Trip to NYC.



On Sunday, December 8th, our youth had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Molitor speak during the Hub. Dr. Molitor is a former chemistry teacher and well-studied creationist. He

Chemistry Lessons

spoke with the youth about a God who is powerful enough to create the world from His own materials. The students had time to ask questions and were challenged to consider science from a Christian world view.

After some time in lecture, Dr. Molitor showed a number of chemistry demonstrations. The students

watched liquids change color, smoke, steam, and erupt as they reacted. They were also able to try their hand at a few of the experiments themselves.

Under the scientist's watchful eye, the students had a chance to light things on fire and create a few reactions themselves.

The Hub meets Sunday evenings from 6-8pm. To get the email updates about upcoming youth events, email Genna Sarikoki to be added to the list!

Connect & Grow

Group Gatherings

MONDAY

MnM Men's Group

6pm–7pm, Glass House

Year Round

Alan Penick, adpenick@comcast.net

Holy Yoga

9am–9:45am, Fellowship Hall

November 1–May 15

David Hill, davelhill@hotmail.com

Instructor: Lou

Line Dancing

10:30am–11:30am, Fellowship Hall

October 7–May 1

Jackie Wheeler, 941-493-2776

wheelerjacqueline@yahoo.com

Knit One, Pray Too!

12pm–2pm, Room 9

October 21–April 14

Pat Pitha, 605-957-4404

sunnypatpitha@aol.com

TUESDAY

Men's Discussion Group

8:00 am – 9:00 am, Weekly

Oct. 2 – May 5, Room 11

Doug Brown, 941-486-5367,

village4252@gmail.com

Men's Bible Study

9:15am–10:15am, weekly

October 22–May 26

Glass House

Dick Edmunds, 941-488-8949

kcid1961@gmail.com

Nomads Women's Bible Study

9:30am – 11am, Room 6

Weekly, starts Jan 14 – Apr 14

Karen Langlais, kolanglais@verizon.net

Anna Marie Brummett

amdrbrum@gmail.com

Rachel Bible Study

10am–12pm

Monthly, 1st Tuesday

October–May 5

Shirley Blood, 941-493-4992

clarkesprinkle@gmail.com

Elizabeth Bible Study

9:30am–11:30am, 1st Tuesday

Member homes–brunch included

Irene Percy, Niki Steitz, Hope Gordon,

941-480-9393

hopecarroll12@yahoo.com

Dorcas Bible Study

10am–12pm, 3rd Monday, Room 6

Beth Tieman, 941-564-6304

bethtmn@comcast.net

Connie Householder, 941-882-3469

householder1282@gmail.com

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

Great Group for working women

7pm–9pm, Weekly, Room 6

Kim Jason, 941-806-9894

kljason@comcast.net

WEDNESDAY

Adult Coloring Crew

12pm, Library

Ardith Pinner, apinner@venicepres.org

Book Club

1pm-2pm in Room 8

1st Wednesday of the month

January 8, "Before We Were Yours"

by Lisa Wingate

Mary Gregory, 716-984-3613

Mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

THURSDAY

MOPS (Mother's of Preschoolers)

1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30am-12pm

Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY

Holy Yoga

9am-9:45am, Fellowship Hall

November 1-May 15

David Hill, davelhill@hotmail.com

Instructor: Lou

Bible Study Fellowship

9:30am. entire campus

Karen Coleman

kcoleman37@comcast.net

SUNDAY

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Current Events

Through the Eyes of Faith

Sundays, 10:30-11:30 am

Room 9

Pastor Carolyn

cwilson@venicepres.org



Venice Lakes Country Club

Luncheon to follow in Fellowship Hall

Coordinators:

Dick Edmunds

kcid1961@gmail.com

Richard Gilbert

richbobbiegil@comcast.net

Alan Penick

adpenick@comcast.net

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MIDWEEK PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

WITH PASTOR CHRIS ROMIG

All are welcome, no sign-up necessary

825 THE RIALTO, VPC SANCTUARY

Begins ~~January 8~~ 6:00pm - 7:00pm

January 22

January Suggested Bible Study Readings:

Mon	Jan 13	Philippians 1:1-2
Tue	Jan 14	Philippians 1:3-6
Wed	Jan 15	Philippians 1:7-8
Thu	Jan 16	Philippians 1:9-11
Fri	Jan 17	Philippians 1:12-14
Sat	Jan 18	Philippians 1:15-19
Sun	Jan 19	Philippians 1 (full chapter)
Mon	Jan 20	Philippians 1:20
Tue	Jan 21	Philippians 1:21-24
Wed	Jan 22	Philippians 1:25-26
Thu	Jan 23	Philippians 1:27-28
Fri	Jan 24	Philippians 1:18b-26
Sat	Jan 25	Philippians 1:29-30
Sun	Jan 26	Philippians 2 (full chapter)
Mon	Jan 27	Philippians 2:1-4
Tue	Jan 28	Philippians 2:5-11
Wed	Jan 29	Philippians 2:12-13
Thu	Jan 30	Philippians 2:14-18
Fri	Jan 31	Philippians 2:19-24

Venice Presbyterian Church

Beginning the Journey



2020 Winter Session 5:30 - 7pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Jan 28: Campus Tour

Tuesday, Feb 4: Our Mission and Vision

Tuesday, Feb 11: Connect

Tuesday, Feb 18: Grow

Tuesday, Feb 25: Go

Tuesday, Mar 3: Covenant Ceremony

Sunday, Mar 8: New Member Recognition

Register online at www.venicepres.org or

Email Carolyn Wilson at cwilson@venicepres.org or

Call the church office at 941-488-2258

One Time
\$10

for the entire
five-week series
including dinner

**6 WEEK NEW
MEMBER CLASS
STARTS JAN 28**

Get to know Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women(PW) nurture one's faith through Bible study, supporting the mission of the church worldwide, working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive caring community of women that strengthens the church and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Locally we have an annual Christmas Tea. In 2019 the proceeds from the tea went to support the Immokalee Farmworkers Fair Housing Project.

PW meets once a month for programs and fellowship at a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. We open luncheons with devotions and collect the Least Coin for Church Women United.

Our Member Concerns Coordinator, Pat Radcliff, sends cards to church members for special occasions.

In the past we have donated thousands of dollars to the following:

- Agape Flights
- Center of Hope
- Church Women United
- Cocina
- Duvall Home
- Immokalee
- Mission Haven
- Pregnancy Solutions
- Samaritan Counseling
- South County Food Pantry
- Community Assistance Ministry
- World Wide Missions and Scholarships
- Columbia Friendship Circle (supporting seminary students)
- Buddy Break
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Selah Freedom
- MOPS
- Family Promise
- Thank Offering
- Birthday Offering
- In Stride Riding Academy
- Repairs around our church

PW is a vital, important giving group and we are proud to have them in our church! **All women are invited and welcomed.**

Upcoming Potluck Luncheons (12pm in Fellowship Hall)

- Jan. 21 *"Doughnut Girls of World War 1" with Jim Lenaire and Teddy Bears on Parade (bring a teddy bear for Venice Police to have in their cars for kids)*
- Feb. 18 *"Woman of the Bible: Mary Magdalene" with Chris Dowden*
- March 7 *Campus Wide Annual PW Garage Sale*
- April 23 *"Antiques Show and Tell" with Brian King (bring two antiques to show) and installation of officers*

SAVE THE DATE

VPC Annual Garage Sale, March 7

Start putting aside all your gently used items. Proceeds benefit VPC Missions.

Garage Sale Donations can be dropped off Sunday March 1st through Wednesday March 4th.



Breaking Bread Together

Two ways to connect with others and get to know people at VPC! Food, fun and fellowship with old friends and new over lunch and/or dinner.

Lunch Bunch, Saturday, January 18, 1:00 PM

Sunday Supper, Sunday, January 26, 5:00 PM

Host a meal for 6 people and provide the main food item, or attend a meal and bring an assigned food item. Sign up for one or both in the Glass House, call VPC (941-488-2258) or Jean Peters (941-484-6333)

Academic Scholarships Available

Members of Venice Presbyterian Church, their immediate family members 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 on the basis of service to church, school & community; academic standing; justifiable financial need; extenuating circumstances. Go to venicepres.org/scholarships to apply. Deadline is March 15, 2020.



Are you a "HAPPY WEEDER"? VPC's campus needs to be beautified!

LOTS OF WORK! LOTS OF WEEDS! LOTS OF FUN!

Any day, any time — your choice — come by yourself — OR — join Jane Clemmer on campus Thursday mornings @ 8:15am. Please contact Jane Clemmer @ 267-218-5714 for more information.

Join Us for the Next Meet & Greet



VPC wants to welcome all new guests, frequent visitors and friends

Meet our pastors, Sunday, January 19 at 10am in Fellowship Hall



Blood Drive

OneBlood Bloodmobile will be at VPC January 16 from 9:30 AM - 1 PM. Please consider donating blood. Please sign up at www.oneblood.com or walk in.

Mision Peniel in Immokalee needs your donations!

Please consider donating items for the mission trip to Mision Peniel on January 31. Our team of volunteers will be carpooling to Mision Peniel in Immokalee, Florida to distribute clothing, serve food, and show the "face of God" to migrant farm workers. A current donation needs list will be posted in the Glass House.

Next mission trip is April 17. Please consider joining us. Contact Laura Saye at sayet392@aol.com or call 269-339-5907

CENTER OF HOPE PRESENTS

WINTER

Festival & Fundraiser

FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES
CRAFTS & VENDORS
and lots of family fun!

Saturday, January 18
11:00-4:00 PM

2395 SHAMROCK DR., VENICE, FL. 34293

Family Promise Host Week

March 22-29

May 5-10 / 5-17

November 22 - 29

Volunteers needed to take care of our young families while they are on our campus.

- Sunday afternoon set-up & tear down.
- Daily evening meal providers.
- Daily evening hosts w/ dinner.
- Overnight hosts
- Laundry

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

3 Cents A Meal

On the last Sunday of the month, January 26, please visit Christine Hart at the table in the narthex and exchange or pick up a food container. All money collected supports the local food banks. Every penny counts.



Mission & Outreach

January Monthly Mission Partner: TCM (Training Christians for Ministry)

TCM International Institute began in Toronto, Canada in the late 1950's as Toronto

Christian Mission, taking Bibles, Christian books and medical supplies to Christians in Iron Curtain countries under Communist rule. These Christians were struggling to stay faithful to Christ and spread the Gospel in places where they were forbidden to own Bibles or openly practice their faith. Many were persecuted, denied jobs, separated from their families and sent to Siberian work camps.

Haus Edelweiss in Austria was purchased in the early 1970's so TCM would have a base of operations in a neutral country close to Eastern Europe. The property was in terrible shape after having been taken over by the Nazis and then the Soviets during and after in WWII. Many volunteers

gave much of their time, muscle and sweat to clean it up and make it habitable. When the Wall fell and the Soviet empire dissolved, TCM asked these faithful Christians what they most needed. The overwhelming reply was, "Christian education." Most of these ministers had been struggling to teach the Gospel with no Christian education and with maybe only one hidden copy of the Bible for a whole community. So TCM became Taking Christ to Millions, by Training Christians for Ministry. TCM equips disciple-makers to be more effective as they share the good news of Jesus, by providing education for over 1,500 Christian leaders in more than 44 countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa – third-world countries, where a pastor may have to work two secular jobs to make ends meet, while

pastoring a church. Expenses for education are out of their reach, so TCM provides scholarships through donations. These men and women are pastors and lay leaders, ministering not only in churches, but also in prison ministries, orphanages, substance abuse treatment/prevention programs, marriage; family counseling, ministries to the homeless, and many other ways. TCM students pursue their studies while living and continuing their ministries in their home countries. Many students must travel up to three days by train or car to attend one class at Haus Edelweiss. Volunteer Short-Term Workers serve the students while they are at the Haus so they can concentrate full-time on their classwork. The Short-Term Workers prepare meals, clean, and do maintenance tasks while students are in class. Jane Freitag, Pam

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY





Jakob Rimmel, pastor, his wife, Maali and infant daughter, Sophia

Maranzano and Mary Zvara from VPC served as short-term workers this past September.

VPC is supporting a TCM student in his studies. Jakob Rimmel is a pastor and church-planter who lives in Tartu, Estonia with his wife, Maali and infant daughter, Sophia. Jakob planted a church in Tallin, Estonia about 4 years ago which now has four locations. They are reaching many young people and families for Christ.

Over 100 TCM students are serving in Muslim countries, and many of these are former Muslims themselves. At least two are former imams. As in the time of Soviet domination, these are dangerous places where Christians are being persecuted for their faith. Some have been imprisoned, their families threatened, denied jobs, yet these dedicated men and women are faithfully spreading the message and love of Jesus. And the Holy Spirit is at work in a powerful way!

An example: in a Muslim city in Central Asia, two sisters were riding on a bus. On the seat across from them, someone had left a Bible printed in Russian. They were curious – they had never seen a Bible before – but afraid, because if they were caught with one, they might be questioned or worse. Even so, one sister slipped the Bible into her shopping bag. After reading it for six weeks, they both came to the conclusion that the God of the Bible is the one true God. They asked each other what they should do. One said, “let’s pray,” so they prayed that God would introduce them to a Christian. The next morning, one sister said to the other, “Jesus has come to me in a dream!” Incredibly, the other sister had the exact same dream! Jesus had led them to a certain apartment where a circle of people were worshipping him. That morning the sisters found the apartment door and knocked. A young man answered, “yes?” “Are there Christians

here?” they asked. The man replied warily, “why do you ask?” The sisters shared their dream experience. He then smiled and invited them in. They saw the circle of people they had seen in their dream. The young man said, “We are glad you have come. You are welcome here. We are especially glad you’ve come today, because this is the first time we have met here and it will be the last. We never meet in the same place twice.”

Two weeks later, the sisters were baptized into Christ. And the young man at the door? He is a pastor of an underground church and a student at TCM. Thank you for supporting disciple-makers like these, through your prayers and through your giving. Your donations are changing lives and Taking Christ to Millions all over the world.



BIBLE VERSES FOR

2020

- ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
- ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
- ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
- ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7
(NIV 1984)

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH