

Connect, Grow & Go

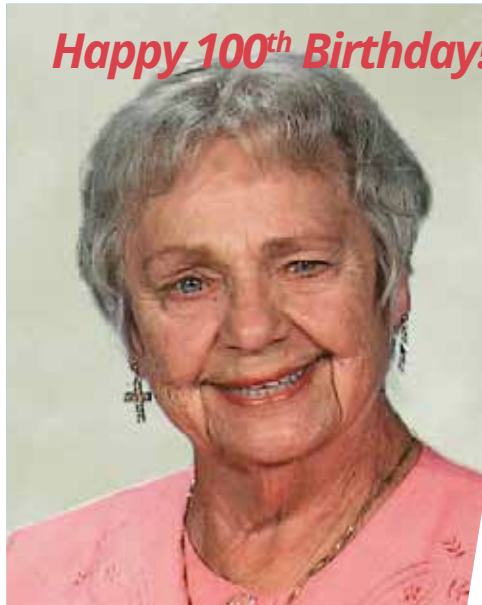
To Glorify God as a Disciple-Making Outpost of Kingdom Life



Christmas in July

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

Happy 100th Birthday!



*Kitchen
Clean Up*



A Letter from REALM Regarding Your Account Security



Church Leadership Session

Teaching Elders

Christopher Romig
Carolyn Wilson

Clerk of Session

Laurie Wright

Bob Allen

Jennie Chaplin

Nick Clemmer

Susie Gottschalk

Tom Hoffman

Judith Holmes

Sheryl Morford

Carlene Painter

Jamal Sarikoki

Carolyn Stephens

Jim Weeks

Board of Trustees

Bob Allen (*Chair*)

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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

We are very much aware of the presence of unethical individuals who seek to exploit our clients' data for fraudulent gain.

I can absolutely assure you that the integrity of our internal systems has not been breached and that these systems remain secure. However, any chain of security is only as strong as its weakest link. Where these criminals have been successful is not through "hacking" into any secure system, but rather by actions which amount to walking in the front door.

I have confirmed that your Realm site is currently configured with a closed invitation model, meaning that only those individuals to whom a Realm Invite is sent (by a User with Responsibilities) will be able to establish a login account. Many churches who have experienced trouble of this kind were utilizing an open invitation model, which allows anyone with their Realm site URL to register for their own account and gain access to the Directory, where they can view any addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses made visible to everyone.

Another common entry point is by using the compromised password of a legitimate user. Often times, users will utilize the same login credentials for many different websites (and rarely change them), so even if there hasn't been an actual breach of Realm's systems, a scammer may be able to gain access to Realm simply by trying out credentials which were leaked from some other system. Another method by which legitimate users' passwords become compromised is through phishing, where users are tricked into entering their valid credentials into an invalid system.

We at ACST absolutely take data security and integrity very seriously. We make every effort to ensure that our clients' information is safe, but as mentioned above, security requires everybody

Our Vision in Action

OFFICE HOURS

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

SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, 10 am

VPC Staff

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Chris Romig
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PASTOR OF CONNECTION & OUTREACH

Rev. Carolyn Wilson
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DIRECTOR OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT & A/V MANAGER

Genna Sarikoki
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MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

Jamal Sarikoki
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ONLINE SERVICES

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY OFFICE

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

DIRECTOR OF

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BOOKKEEPER

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FACILITY & A/V

Gary Youngberg
gyoungberg@venicepres.org

7 Easy Ways to Give

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

7. QR Code

- Point your camera at the QR code
- Tap the pop-up notification to be taken to the Giving Page.



to do their part. Please visit this website for more information about our policies and for some helpful tips on how you and your users can be more secure.

If you have any further questions or if we can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know. We will be happy to help in any way that we can. Have a great day and thank you for choosing ACS Technologies!

Desk of Executive Director

Summer is here! What an exciting adventure we are on. The church is open, people are returning as their comfort level allows, bulletins are printed, and we see smiling faces. The joy on Sunday morning is unexplainable. Each week we greet you with a renewed energy.

Staff are busy preparing to relaunch ministry as we reopen areas of the church one piece at a time. July 7th we will have a workday to clean the Glass House Café and Fellowship Hall.

In Fellowship Hall we replaced the duct work, ceiling tiles, painted the kitchen, steamed the floors, cleaned out the closets and now need to clean the rest of the area to prepare it for ministry use.

We will also clean the Glass House Café July 7th to prepare to welcome you back to coffee hour. We want to start our fellowship time after church soon but need to do some major cleaning for that to happen. You can sign up online to help us on our workday. The last workday we had was a ton of fun and great fellowship. All work will be inside so you will stay cool in the sizzling summer weather.

The second date we would like for you to be aware of is July 18th. We will celebrate Christmas in July. This is our first church gathering since our reopening and we are excited! We will have a Christmas Cookie Contest along with fellowship and fun.

We are extremely excited to relaunch ministry at VPC. It will not look the same as it did in the past. We are planning to help you learn more about

how God created you. Where do you fit in at VPC to be the hands and feet of Christ and help us live into our vision of glorifying God as a disciple

making outpost of kingdom life. What does it mean, to you, to give your time, talent, and treasures to Christ?

“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” Romans 12: 6-8 (NLT) We will live into this scripture by teaching you more about spiritual gifts and what yours might be.

We are structured so each ministry area has a team leader and a staff person responsible. The team leader works with the staff person responsible to be resourced. Ministries are not out there alone.

We plan to have a team leader training, so leaders know about changes we have made. We are excited about how we will serve God and serve the community. 825 The Rialto is not our address by mistake. God placed VPC



here for a reason and we intend to do our part as God's church. We need you to be part of God's body with us. We have a place for you if you want to serve as a leader, a participant.

Please begin praying now about how God might want to use you and then listen for what He is telling you. My prayer for you is God will show up and show off in your life. It is a privilege to serve God. Connect, Grow and Go with us!

Christine Bruen



Book Recommendation from Chris

What impossibly big dream is God calling you to draw a prayer circle around? Sharing inspiring stories from his own experience as a circle maker, Mark Batterson will help you uncover your hearts' deepest desires and God-given dreams and unleash them through the kind of audacious prayer that God delights to answer.

This expanded edition of *The Circle Maker* also includes Batterson's newest insights on how God answers prayer, along with stories that add convincing proof of the reality that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine.

Dont Forget there is still a match on your contribution!

We are still collecting for **3 Cents-a-Meal**. Simply drop off your donation at the church using any container you choose any-time 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.



As we return to normal events around campus, please note:

There are centerpieces, table clothes, or other decor available on campus. Please reach out to Sheryl Morford (sherylmorford@aol.com) or her team (Kathy Wood, NoVelle Weiss, and Joan High) for help assembling and borrowing items from the Fellowship Hall.

Worship Ministry



*Become a
Welcome Bug!*



Welcome Boldly
Welcome Unconditionally
Welcome Generously

In what ways has Christ welcomed us, and how does this enable us to “welcome one another”? Whether you’re leading a small group, hosting friends and family, pastoring your flock, or getting to know your neighbors, consider a few ways to welcome, based on how Jesus has welcomed you:

1. Jesus has welcomed you into the family of God. *Welcome boldly.*

Every Christian is part of Christ’s body, the church, his hands and feet of mercy and grace in the world.

What does this mean for our ability to welcome other believers? First, it means that we are more unified with others than we are different from them because we are all members of God’s family. We can form relationships with people whom we might never have invested in previously because we are their brother or sister in Christ. Are you nervous about that new person coming to small group? Are you hesitant to talk to the person next to you at church? But we don’t need to be! If they’ve trusted Christ, they’re our family. We can welcome them boldly.

2. Jesus has welcomed you into his mercy and grace. *Welcome unconditionally.*

None of us have any ground for acting high and mighty, especially those in leadership roles. We are commanded to be merciful and full of grace toward sinners, which is all of us, making forgiveness and unity priority. We go out of our way to seek reconciliation; to offer the comfort of the gospel; to grieve our own sin and openly confess to other believers; and to joyfully worship Jesus together in grateful thanksgiving for what he has offered us freely. We can welcome others unconditionally.

3. Jesus has welcomed you into his eternal inheritance. *Welcome generously.*

Because we have all we need in Jesus, we are free to be open-handed and generous with our time, energy, gifts, resources, and finances. Because this world is not our final home, trusting that God will use this welcoming to make disciples and add to the number of those being saved. Even when we feel depleted, weak, and ill-equipped, we can trust that the Spirit will bear fruit in us for the work God gives us to do. We can welcome others generously.

Through Christ, God has called every Christian to welcome others, whether through the doors of the church, in the pew, or while “doing life” during the week. When we welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us, we bless the church, show Christ to the world, and in doing so, we bring glory to God.

This week, welcome as Christ has welcomed you.
(Adapted from kristenwetherell.com)

Kingdom Life Podcast is a Success!

VPC's Kingdom Life Podcast was launched in April 2021 and we are proud to announce that it has over 850 unique downloads.



For perspective, in the early stages of launching a podcast:

- more than 26 downloads, you're in the top 50% of podcasts.
- more than 72 downloads, you're in the top 25% of podcasts.
- more than 231 downloads, you're in the top 10% of podcasts.
- more than 539 downloads, you're in the top 5% of podcasts.

Thank you to everyone who has shown interest in downloading the podcast. We are blessed to be able to share the Christ-centered sermons to a broader audience.

Spend the Summer in the Psalms

The book of Psalms is essentially a prayer-book within the Bible. The Psalms are prayers, expressing a wide range of feelings, longings, hopes, and praises. Each week, our preaching team will offer an in-depth study of a particular Psalm and then lead us in praying the Psalm – by walking through the Psalm's verses, allowing the Biblical phrases to shape and guide our personal prayers. As we move through the summer and into the fall, we look forward to building a reservoir of Psalms that can enrich our spiritual life.

Welcome Pastor Burke and Eleanor's Daughter and Son-in-Law

Guest Speakers: Beth and Jim Luebe, July 25 at 10 AM

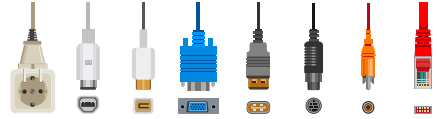
Beth and Jim Luebe live and minister in New York City where Jim serves as the City Director and Beth leads the ministry to First Responders, focusing on serving the NYPD. A significant part of their ministry is leading, shepherding and training the staff team who serve in a variety of ministry contexts in New York City and the greater metro area (*Public School Bible Clubs, College campuses, Workplace, 20's, Churches, I-58 Inner-city, Military and First Responders*).

They have served with The Navigators since 1998 and believe that God can use simple, ordinary people to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) around the world. They disciple men and women to "Know Christ, make Him known and to help others do the same."

www.navigators.org



Get plugged into the A/V Booth!



Probably the most familiar piece of equipment in the A/V booth is the soundboard. This piece of equipment takes all of the microphones and manages the volume levels for the room. The sound tech is listening and turning microphones up and down to make the perfect balance in the room. When you look around the sanctuary, you'll see the large box amplifiers hanging over the chancel. Most of the room hears from these speakers. On the pillars, there are smaller white Bose speakers. These are delivering sound to the wings and supporting what you hear in the back of the room. The person sitting in the booth has to listen closely to decide if there needs to be more or less amplification at any given time.

Sounds simple enough, however we have more than 25 channels to manage on our board! The sound tech has to turn on and off the right channels at the right time. Some events are easy - only 2 or 3 microphone channels to manage. Other events require managing all of the microphone channels in one service. The sound tech follows the cues from the same sheet as the lighting, visuals, and camera techs. Just like the other positions in the booth, the sound tech has to pay close attention to what is happening on the chancel. This may come as a surprise to you, but sometimes things happen in the service that aren't on the cue sheet! It's important that whatever is happening is being supported with the correct microphones.



Our sound volunteers are only responsible for managing the sound during the service. All of the set up, entry of instruments and microphones, etc. is taken care of before the service. During the sound check, any adjustments to the sound quality and balance are adjusted. Because so much of the setup is taken care of ahead of time, the volunteer sound techs come 20 minutes or so before the service starts and are free to go after the service ends.

Have you run a soundboard before? It is an enjoyable experience as you get to see and hear everything going on in the service. Our sound volunteers are a huge blessing! Without them no event would be the same.

Genna Sarikoki is always looking for more good sound techs! If you've run a soundboard before or are willing to learn, reach out to gsarikoki@venice-pres.org or pop by the soundbooth on a Sunday!



YEARS OF



CELEBRATE 50 YEARS WITH US!

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

Join us for a weekend honoring a half-century of unique and vital ministry at this "place apart."

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2021
GOOD FOOD & GREAT PEOPLE
CLASSIC CAMP ACTIVITIES
SPECIAL 50TH EVENTS

Retreat details and information about the special events happening during the weekend can be found on the following page.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Decades Line Dance
- Twilight Tunes Live Music on Friday night
- Grazing Table catered reception on Saturday night
- Worship Leadership by special guests you'll recognize from days past
- AND... more surprises you'll have to attend to be a part of!

— CEDARKIRK IS 50! — COME FOR THE WEEKEND, OR JUST THE DAY!

This year's annual Family Retreat weekend will be packed with all sorts of special activities as we celebrate 50 years of transforming ministry. We hope you find time to join us and reconnect with old friends and camp staff!

Things kick off with dinner on Friday night and conclude after lunch on Sunday. Saturday-only guests should plan to arrive by 9:00 am for registration.

To register, fill out the form below, indicate your preferences, and send it to back to us. Or follow the registration link at the top of this page.

FULL WEEKEND (7 nights, 6 meals)

A/C Lodging
Adult (15+) | \$146
Youth (5-12) | \$130
Family Max | \$438

SATURDAY ONLY (Lunch, dinner, and all activities!)

Adult (15+) | \$30
Youth (5-12) | \$24
Family Max | \$90

Rustic Lodging
Adult (15+) | \$93
Youth (5-12) | \$83

You're Invited!



**Happy
100th
Birthday
Irene
Pearcy!**



Happy Centennial Birthday greetings go out on August 5 for VPC's long-term unofficial "Hugger," whose career was sadly cut short last year when Covid-19 put an untimely end to not only hugging, but church gatherings as well! We all sorely miss the happy greetings and warm hugs we were accustomed to receiving whenever we met Irene Percy at church.

Irene began her life in Chicago in 1921, and lived there until she married and moved to Crystal Lake, Illinois. Her early career was as an executive secretary at a local machine company. Raising her beloved son, George, however, was her primary interest—until tragedy

hit when he was killed in an automobile accident as a teenager. Suffering through this tragedy would have tested anyone's Faith, and Irene admits that it did test hers for a time. She says her loss made her question everything she had formerly believed—until God spoke to her and called her back into his flock.

Irene moved with her husband, Wilfred Joseph—called "Bud"—



to Venice in 1970. Bud designed and built two homes in Venice Acres—one in which Irene, her step-son, Joe, and his daughter-in-law, Babs Percy now live.

The couple first joined Venice United Church of Christ, but Irene later transferred to Venice Presbyterian—where she joined Presbyterian Women and assisted in preparing and serving at the many memorial gatherings the ladies provided. Vacation Bible School could always count on Irene in the kitchen preparing snacks, and she was indispensable at the Presbyterian Women's yard sale each year—folding and displaying linens for the week.

As the moderator of Elizabeth Circle for many years, Irene received the National Presbyterian Women's "Honorary Life Membership," which is a yearly award to one woman to honor faithful service to both the women's organization and the church. Irene also regularly attended Peace River events at various member churches, their annual retreat at Day Spring Conference Center in Parrish, Presbyterian



The first word that comes to mind when I think of Irene is LOVE. She exudes love more than anyone I know. She loves everyone and everyone loves her. John, Eli, and I have felt part of her family as soon as we met her. We were part of her "flock" and were invited to spend an afternoon with her. From that moment, we were family. She even kept photos of Eli on her refrigerator. Her smile, hugs, and sweet voice make me happy. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Happy Birthday, Irene!

~ Kim Jason

For me, Miss Irene has been a source comfort, always there with a hug and a smile. When life was difficult, she would hold my hand, let me cry if needed, and prayed with me. Since the day they were born, she's made my boys feel special. Each week they got hugs and questions about what they were up to at school and scouts. She volunteered for activities for the kids, and EVERY year she had Christmas presents. We love her very much!

~ Heather, Alec and Erik Ronald



*Irene and Maddy
Circa 2018*



Women's Tampa Bay programs and their annual conferences in Orlando, and Venice's Church Women United luncheons—where she received the Key Woman Award for her service to Venice Presbyterian.

Irene was a Buddy in Buddy Break from its very inception at VPC! She trained with the very first group that launched Buddy Break on May 3rd, 2008. She worked with the same child for the entire time she ministered there. Irene and her VIP, Maddy, were staples

of the BB program from 2008 until they both retired from the program in 2019. Their picture can be found hanging in the Narthex even now. Irene showed the love of Jesus through Buddy Break and is an awesome example of the deep relationships formed there.

For years, Irene has been offering prayers for all of Venice Presbyterian members—through her term as Deacon, as P.W.'s Elizabeth Circle moderator, and her role as creator of the

Catherine Morton Prayer Group—along with Evelyne Blount—in 2016. If there were any health problems or deaths in the church, Irene was first and foremost to send cards for birthdays, anniversaries, and bereavement and offer her prayers. I'm sure few of us will ever know the extent to which we and our loved ones have been touched and healed by the loving prayers sent to our Lord from Irene Percy's lips. We have been truly blessed by her presence for so many years!

Card Shower!

*Show Irene how loved she is by sending her a birthday card!
Irene Percy, 2538 Northway Dr, Venice, FL 34292-1644*



*Let's gather again on
the Church Campus!*

KITCHEN CLEAN UP DAY



*Venice Presbyterian Church's
Fellowship Hall & Glass House
Need Your Help!*

We are so looking forward to working for Christ through our various ministries again. But we need your help!

After a year and a half of sitting dormant, our hospitality areas are in need of a little TLC.

Please consider helping us to clean, refresh, organize and prepare our kitchen areas to once again be a place of fellowship and celebration.

July 7 at 9AM
Sign up online at
www.venicepres.org





The mission of the Community Assistance Ministry (C.A.M.) is to meet the urgent needs of the residents of Venice and Nokomis, FL and the homeless, with dignity and respect. Many of those served find themselves in the situation of having to decide between paying rent or putting food on the table for their family. Through food donations from the community, church members, and various “food partners” from whom we purchase food at a discount, we do what we can to make their choice a little easier.

C.A.M. also believes that the spiritual and

emotional needs of their guests must be met, as well as the physical. To help meet these needs they have Stephen Ministers on site to offer prayer, support, and counselling.

C.A.M. provides the indigent in our area with a place they can come to that is safe and offers fellowship and a sense of community. They are treated with dignity and respect, are given a hot lunch, food to take home and an opportunity to interact in a meaningful way with Stephen Ministers.

C.A.M. provides a hot lunch Monday, Tuesday

and Thursday, as well as food to take home (enough to prepare 3 meals a day for 9 days). As well as limited financial assistance when available.

C.A.M. is manned by numerous dedicated and compassionate individuals who give freely of their time each week. With only one part time paid staff member it is essential to have committed volunteers. There are volunteer positions for everyone who wants to serve.

Lois Weeks
loismweeks@gmail.com
320-250-3363

Missions

Mision Peniel in Immokalee is back...with some minor changes

Mision Peniel is resuming scheduling of volunteers from churches such as ours beginning in July. Our first trip is planned for Friday, October 15, and at present only 6 people at a time are needed to help with distribution of food and other items. Everything is being done on a "walk-by" basis, so mission coordinator Ruth DeYoe has asked that any donations of clothing collected must be presorted and bagged according to size. Each bag should contain

- 3 tops
- 3 bottoms

Bags need to be labeled, for example: "women's small", (with a total of 6 such items inside) Right now there's no room at the mission for storing items in bulk, so everything must be "ready-to-go" as it arrives.

They need to arrive here at the church ready to go in the order described above. The sorting and bagging must be done by the person donating. We are NOT able to do that here at the church. If they have any questions, please direct them to Pastor Carolyn (cwilson@venicepres.org) or Jim Sager (jharosager@gmail.com).



Day 4 Hope is July 31!

Day 4 Hope will have another exciting day on Saturday, July 31st where we will serve an even larger number of homeless and underprivileged children. Each year the number grows and this year we plan to serve 200 children from 100 families; in 2020 we served 164 kids. This year's event will cost over \$24,500. This would not be possible without the wonderful financial support of VPC, with assistance from our partner churches Grace United Methodist Church and New Life Church. Thank you for your giving hearts and your prayer support! Over 65 volunteers will pack backpacks, personal care bags, groceries and fruit and vegetable bags during the week, and hand them out to the families during our drive-through event on Saturday. In addition to all those supplies each child will receive, VPC will provide gift cards (\$100 per child) to buy clothes and shoes, so the children can start school on an equal basis with their peers.

Next year we hope be able to have a normal event with medical, dental and eye check-ups, haircuts and photos added to the other items we are providing this year.

We want to thank our great leadership team. We could not hold this event without all our leaders.

To God be the glory that we can help these children and families!

Fred & Cindy Gossman

What a year this has been!

I think back to March 8th, when our chancel choir, brass, Michelle Kuhl, and Craig Williams gave an unbelievable performance of “The Faith We Sing”. This was a Hymn Festival centered on God’s word and some of the best of the best of choral music and hymnody. After such an amazing concert our choir was beginning to prepare for some exciting Holy Week services. Well, the world shut down! Church doors closed, restaurants closed, and the worst of all—you couldn’t find any toilet paper! I assumed that it would be a few weeks and we’d be back up and running. Who knew that over a year later we would still be dealing with Covid-19.

My verse for the year has been James 1:2 “Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials”. In a year that has really tested our faith, a year that has silenced church choirs, orchestras, and almost every music organization, what joy is there? Beloved, the truth is this: when we encounter



situations that seem out of our control, we can remain joyful and strong in our faith that the hand of God is upon us. We can take joy in the sovereignty of our Lord that will guide us through every difficult situation. The beauty of Covid has been the spiritual reset, but also the ways in which the Lord is growing and molding the music ministry of VPC. The trial facing us was if the choir would ever get going, was this the end of the chancel choir’s life, and how will we find creative ways to bring music to people’s life. Well, through the fear of those trials the Lord provided the solution. During Covid we were met with a smaller choir, working week to week on sightreading skills, blending in a smaller ensemble, and leading our congregation in fantastic expressions of worship. The Lord

opened up a way for us to bring back the concert series in a hybrid way. Most excitingly, the Lord brought new choir members to Venice Presbyterian Church. We are looking forward to when all of the choir is able to sing together again, but are thrilled to welcome: Jennifer and Phil Hamlin, Doreen Ineson, Doreen Curp, and Barbara O’Brien. Perhaps you have been contemplating joining the choir but have just not done so. While the choir is on a break, we invite you to check us out or join in this great community of singers when we start back in September.

Beloved, count it all joy! There will never be a moment in which the Lord is not working good for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

Jamal Sarikoki
Minister of Music & Worship
Jsarikoki@venicepres.org

Saxophone Recording Artist

EIRINN ABU



Venice

Presbyterian Church

“Free Concert”

Friday July 16th 7:00 pm

“Win a set of CD’s & new book”

825 The Rialto Venice Florida 941-488-2258

Family Ministry

Buddy Huddle

Fall Prep Day, August 21 at 11:30 - 1:00pm

As we draw closer to kicking off our fall season of Buddy Break, we will gather for a day of training and preparing. Please pray about joining our ministry this fall!

- New Buddy Training
- Training Refresher for Continuing Buddies
- Room Rearrangement and Prep
- Prayer Time

Available volunteer positions include:

- Buddy (Spending time one-on-one with a child on campus during Buddy Break)
- Room Monitor (Being in the Library or Glass House during Buddy Break for additional safety)
- Set-up/Tear-down (Coming before and after Buddy Break to take care of toys and equipment)
- Craft Room Lead (Planning crafts for Buddy Break, setting them up, and helping children complete them)



Buddy Break meets every 3rd Saturday from 10am-1pm. Please contact Flora Hughes at hugjf@yahoo.com if you're interested in joining our team!

Vision Casting Lunch (August 13, at 11:30am)

Have you considered getting involved with the Children's ministry at VPC?

Were you involved before COVID and wonder what will Kid's Corner and Children's ministry will look like this fall? Join us for a Vision Casting Lunch!

We will spend some time catching up with and getting to know the Children's Ministry team as well as looking at what we want to do as far as reviving our different ministry areas. Please RSVP to Genna Sarikoki as lunch will be provided.



Grandparents Corner

Create Great Relationships With the Parents

Parents are the doorkeepers of the relationships with the grandkids, as they should be. But that relationship door sometimes slams in the face of grandparents. Divorce slams it. Political differences slam it. So do different spiritual paths. It's slammed by wrong decisions, unkind words said in anger, or overreactions—sometimes by the parent, sometimes by the grandpare

It's a given: grandparents who enjoy a great relationship with the parents do have access to the grandchildren; grandparents who have a broken one usually don't. It follows, then, that successful grandparents work hard to build and maintain a great relationship with the parents of their grandchildren.

When You Can't Talk About Jesus

At a seminar, one Christian grandmother told me that she wasn't allowed to talk to her grandkids about Jesus, because all three of her adult children had converted to Buddhism. She wanted advice from me, and I'm fearful that what I told her wasn't all that helpful. A few months later, I related that story to a veteran Christian counselor. He said, "Do you want to know what I would have told her?" I was all ears—I wanted to give better advice the next time. "Yes," I responded.

"I would have told her to start learning about Buddha."

I was immediately impressed with his wisdom: he wasn't saying "Grandma, you need to convert to Buddhism", instead, he was saying, "Grandma, you need to try to understand."



Trying to understand. Listening. Seeing the relationship through their eyes. Showing an interest in their interest. Being the first to ask for forgiveness—or offer it. Loving unconditionally. Those are all important strategies for a great relationship between grandparents and parents!

If you are a grandparent with a closed door, have hope—that door can open back up. It may take some time, a lot of effort, and plenty of prayer, but God can open it for you. It may not be until the grandchild becomes a young adult and out from under their parents' authority. But it may happen quickly if you implement a new strategy of listening, trying to understand, or initiating an honest conversation.

Make a great relationship with your adult children and their spouses a priority. Develop a strategy to improve it. When you are successful in that, the door to your grandchildren will open wide.

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

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