

Connect, Grow & Go

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



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



Dear Church Family,

Welcome to 2022. Many of us begin a new year with resolutions that “this year will be different”. We will lose the weight, exercise 5 days a week, drink gallons of water, be more intentional in my time with God. Within a week we are right back to our habits of dessert every night while sitting on the couch drinking soda.

Thinking about the why behind the what can be helpful as we begin the new year. Deciding on what is important to you as you find ways to balance your life spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. Why do you want to lose the weight? Why do you want to be more physically active? Why do you want to renew your heart with God? Why do you care about emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental health?

Sometimes we get so caught up in what the world tells us we should look like and feel like that we forget to understand ourselves enough to figure out why we want to be a better version of ourselves. Romans 12:2 challenges us to “not conform to the patten of this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING of your mind”. God calls us to challenge our thinking and stay grounded in Him.

A great way to get started in 2022 might be some time of reflection on our habits, starting slow with attainable goals, and being accountable to our decisions. For example, why do you want to achieve spiritual, physically, mental, and emotional balance?

A place to explore might be what is your foundation? What are your spiritual roots? Why do you believe what you believe? Is it because you were raised that way or did you explore your spiritual feelings, emotions, beliefs, actions for yourself. At times, we focus so much on our outward appearance that we forget what is reflected on the outside begins on the inside. We race through our lives working to get to the next level but have we stopped to consider what we really want or where we really want to go? Even in retirement years, there is value in knowing your path. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to “guard out hearts for everything you do flows from it”. Perhaps take some time to examine your heart as we begin a new year and see what is flowing from it.

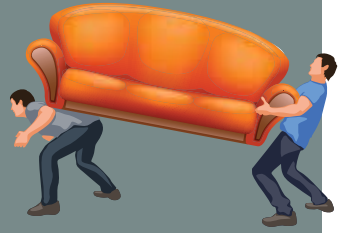
Exploring your roots is one method to get started in a positive way for the new year. Even if your roots are painful. Quiet times of silence and solitude with Christ reveal in us our true direction if we let it.

Quieting the mind for reflection is difficult in our busy lives but the end result is worth the effort. Start by asking God to join you in your quiet time. Set a timer for 3 minutes. Get in a comfortable position and reflect on what your deep true desires might be. Increase the time every few days as you renew your soul with God. Then make those commitments to change the habits you desire to change and create balance. You may start out by reaching out to someone God is revealing to you.

God is with us as we look to the new year. I am excited about the ways God will move in our midst as we explore 2022 with Him.



Donation Policy for non-monetary goods and items



We are so blessed to have a congregation of generous and selfless people. And to that matter, we appreciate all the donations that help make our campus comfortable and beautiful. However, since Family Promise now occupies the Family Life Center, we have very little room to accept pieces that may still have some attachment to the owners or are not in line with the aesthetic vision of the church. In an effort to not overwhelm the campus, we have adopted a new donation policy. This policy has been reviewed and passed by session. Again, thank you for all you have done to create such a warm and inviting campus.

All donations (regardless of size and value) must be approved before being brought to the church property.

Once donations of items have been given to and accepted by the church:

- *All donations will be under complete control of the church and may be used at the church's discretion. The church will make all decisions on use, placement, disposal, etc. of the donated item(s).*
- *Items cannot be reclaimed by the giver – once given to the church, they are property of the church.*
- *Items cannot be given to the church for the purpose of holding/storing until a time they want to reclaim them.*
- *Donated items may not be removed from Church property without permission of administration.*

Exceptions may be made according to a need or desire of a ministry area. Approval must be obtained before donation is made.

Careful considerations before donating (if these apply, please consider NOT donating)

- *If an item holds a high sentimental value*
- *If an item is of monetary value that you wish to make decisions regarding*
- *If there is an item you would like to regulate usage of or control the placement*

Certain ministry areas have specific and different donation guidelines that will need to be followed:

*Immokalee
Church Library
PW Garage Sale*

*Thank you for
understanding!*

Care & Compassion Ministry

The Heart of Stephen Ministry

On Dec 2, Pastor Chris led a 2 hour continuing education class for Stephen Ministers reviewing what it means to be a Stephen Minister along with how important it is to stay connected to Jesus and be led by God's Spirit. As an assignment for the class each Stephen Minister was asked to select a Bible verse that they could use as their own picture of what Stephen Ministry means. Here are some of the verses that were selected.

Matt. 28:20

I am with you always

1 Cor 16:14

Let all that you do be done in LOVE

The Matthew passage reminds me that I am never alone in this ministry or in all parts of my life.

The 1 Corinthians passage rules how I should approach my relationships...do not judge by outward appearances and Love all.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

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 ourselves have received from God.

The comfort I receive from God equips me to comfort others. God is the source of comfort and promises to always

be with us. Comfort is always present if we are ready to receive it.

John 21 : 16

Says It All. A Command From Jesus.

Matthew 25:40

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me.

My reason was thinking of all the folks at CAM. They truly are the least of these.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

I used this verse because the two care receivers I've had were elderly and in last stages of life. It was very difficult to have conversation because of various handicaps. I wasn't sure what my role as a SM was other than being faithful and praying for them.

Luke 10:25-37

The reason for choosing is that it explicitly

describes "going the extra mile".

2 Corinthians. 1: 3-4

Having been the recipient of God's compassion during my own trials has enabled me to proclaim to others His compassion and from His example, freely give compassion to others in need.

Verses of others jotted down were:

Proverbs 3:28

1 Corinthians 13

Hebrew 3:16

John 21:16

Isaiah 2:7

Psalm 46

Zephaniah 3:17

Proverbs 3, 5, 6

There are trained Stephen Ministers ready to talk with you if you need private, confidential time with someone who can listen, respond, care. Let us show you the heart of Stephen Ministry, 941-488-2258 or come to our Drop-in Center in Room 11, weekdays 10-1:00, Fridays 10-12:00.

Music Ministry

This month the VCCS welcomes Ken Medema. People have been truly blessed by his performances but don't take our word for it...

"I was first introduced to and blessed by your music in July of 1975. I went on a youth trip to Glorieta Baptist Assembly in Glorieta, New Mexico. I became a Christian in the prayer garden while there at Glorieta....Even though it has been more years than either of us wants to admit, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you after all these years for the effect your music had on my life that week at Glorieta."

Melanie Hall,
Cleveland, MI, 2001

"Thank you for letting God use your blindness in such a manner as to humble those of us who have sight. You taught us much last Sunday about what it means to be a true servant of God."

Pam and Robin Knoll,
Elmbrook Church,
Brookfield, WN, 2001

"I was pleasantly surprised when I first heard you playing. It was fun music! This is how church music is supposed to be."

Stephanie Krenz

KEN MEDEMA
January 22, 7 pm

*"Though blind from birth,
Ken sees and hears with
heart & mind."*

*Upcoming
Concerts-*

DEPUÉ BROTHERS
February 18, 7 pm

ROMIG FAMILY
March 5, 7 pm

Tickets - only \$25

available online at www.VeniceCommunityConcertSeries.com
or Venice Presbyterian Church's office, Monday - Thursday, 10AM - 3PM

A ministry of Venice Presbyterian Church

"Calling Ken Medema a blind pianist is like calling Michelangelo an interior decorator."

"...The only thing more amazing than Ken's music is the fact that so few people have heard of him or experienced one of these concerts."

"He encourages his audience to shake hands, to rub shoulders, to hug. He sings about unity in a world of fighting. He sings of justice and freedom where oppression rests on the shoulders of the listener. He leads into places of discomfort."

"Medema Concert Well Received,"
Omnibus, February 20, 1992

"He made us cry. He made us think and laugh and just feel good."

Mary Erickson,
Urban Ministry of Bel Air Presbyterian Church

Worship Ministry

Two Services Begin Sunday, January 9

During this transitional time in our music ministry, we will be offering two complementing styles of worship services – both traditional in many ways, but with some stylistic differences. Both services will feature the same message and the same basic outline.

9 AM. Reflective, contemplative worship

This service will be a simple and sacred time of worship, inviting worshippers to a spirit of quiet reflection in our candle-lit sanctuary. We will sing traditional hymns (*generally accompanied by piano*), and meditative music will be offered by instrumentalists.

11 AM. Classic traditional worship

This service will generally include more music, led by choir and the majestic pipe organ. The pastors will typically wear robes, and worship will include more liturgy.

Communion on the Lawn January 19, 3:00 pm



NOTE: Children's Church will begin again on Jan 9. Open to children between kindergarden and 5th grade.



Malachi 3:3 - Refiner of Silver

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at the next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot and then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

Author Unknown



The Church Library is getting closer to a wonderful relaunch. We are working on installing and learning new software, finalizing the organization of the books, stocking bibles and study material, and setting library hours. If you would be interested in volunteering during library hours, please contact Cherie Loomis. Watch the announcement loop, emails, and February CGG for opening date.

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

NOTE: The church is closed on January 3rd in observance of the New Year holiday so groups will not be meeting.

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: Library
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

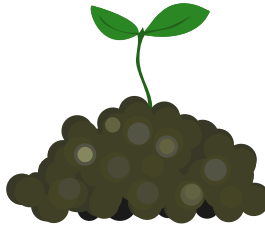
BEGINS: Oct 19- May17
WHEN: Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 10 am- 12 pm
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
WHAT: Study will be Pastor Chris' book on The Beatitudes.
WHO: All women are welcome
CONTACT: Beth Tieman, bethtmn@comcast.net or (941) 564-6304 or Connie Householder, connie1282@cs.com or (941) 882-3469

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, 10:15-11:30
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

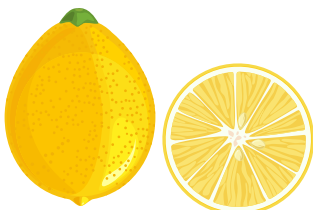
Foundations: Genesis

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.



FRIDAY

BOOK CLUB FOR 2022-2022

Room 8, 1 pm

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.

Missions

MMP: Haiti Educational Foundation

The mission of the Haiti Education Foundation is to provide educational opportunities to children in the mountains of southern Haiti.

In 1977, Dr. Gardner and Mrs. Frances Landers of El Dorado, Arkansas heard about the desperate medical needs of the Haitian people. They volunteered to help and eventually developed a routine of making two trips a year to the impoverished island. Together with their surgical team, they provided sight-renewing surgery and eyeglasses to thousands of people.

On a trip in 1981, Frances overheard Father Jean-Wilfrid Albert reluctantly tell a heartbroken child that there was no room for her in the mission school. That incident inspired Mrs. Landers to do something to ensure that the priest could say yes to children asking for a chance to learn.

Armed with photos of several hopeful children, the Landers returned to El Dorado and raised enough money through her church, her family, and her friends to build and operate an 8-room school at Mercery village and to set up 3 small schools in nearby mountain communities.

Haiti Education Foundation has grown in to 34 elementary and 6 high schools educating over 7,000 students

From one woman's effort and one small school in 1981, the Haiti Education Foundation has grown in to 34 elementary and 6 high schools educating over 7,000 students. Through the



schools, these children will be able to learn to read, write, and learn a trade which will help them and their families out of the poverty that runs rampant across the island.

The primary goal is to fund the students' scholarships, but also been working to rebuild or repair two-thirds of the schools impacted by the 2010 earthquake. The replacement schools and all future structures are being built to earthquake and hurricane-resistant standards. They are also raising donations to provide school supplies, pay teachers' salaries, and furnish schools with desks and chairs. 100% of donations go directly to Haiti, with nothing deducted for administrative fees. The team of volunteers works diligently to ensure that every dollar is accounted for and goes towards its intended purchase.

Get to know our Scholarship Recipient: Anna Pauc Vasquez



I will begin by thanking VPC for the scholarship that you gave me. God has plans for my life and your scholarship is helping me do God's work.

I will never stop thanking God for everything he has done in my life. There are things that I never imagined having. When I was 8 years old, my father passed away and from that moment I began to see the hand of God in my life. He never left me or my family. In the most difficult moments, he was there with us. Sometime later, my mother was detected with cancer and God never left us. There were people that God put in our lives to help us. They helped my mother with everything, but God had other plans for my brothers and me. My mother passed away when I was 12 years old. We had nothing to survive. We were children and did not know what we were going to face. But there was God giving us his peace, in those dark times. And out of nowhere a family appeared. We did not know them or anything about them, but they accepted us into their home. I remember that first day we came. They bathed us and gave us clothes and food. Everything was new. It was as if we were born again, but this time we had a new dad and a new mom. (A curious fact is that my current mother has many characteristics of my blood mother. And I don't remember much about my father). They have helped me a lot from the moment I arrived.

Now I am 25 years old, and I have many plans for my future, but first I want to graduate as an optometry technician. I am very close to it. I want to get my degree so that I can start my clinic and help the people who need it most. I want to feel the satisfaction of me being able help someone and also helping in my father's clinic. I feel that it is the only way I can repay for all that they have given me.

I ask for prayers so that in this semester I will understand everything I have to study. Right now, I am in the 4th cycle and I would only need the 5th cycle. Also, I ask for a closer relationship with God that it is more and intimate.

***Thank you for making
Christmas at Venice
Presbyterian Church a
Blessed time!***





Presbyterian Women

The next Presbyterian Women (PW) gathering will be on Tues., Jan. 18, 2022 at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Please note the earlier time change of our gatherings; also, please bring a sack lunch and your bottled water. Our program will be Bob Sloboda from Meals on Wheels who is office manager on Fridays and is also on the board as Public Relations Manager. Chris Dowden will give the devotion.

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022 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 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Again ladies, please bring a sack lunch-beverage and dessert will be provided. We will also have our birthday offering.

Our final gathering of the season will be Tuesday, April 19, 2022 in Fellowship Hall at

12:30pm. Our honorary Life Member (Woman of the Year) will be awarded at this gathering. There will be a collection of the least coin which is one of our mission givings.

Dorcas Circle's Bible Study meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:00am. Connie Householder & Beth Tieman are co-moderators. Elizabeth's Circle Bible Study meets the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00am on the church patio.

Niki Steitz is moderator. both circles are studying Pastor Chris Romig's book on the Beatitudes (contributing writer Pastor Carolyn Wilson). Books are \$10.00 and

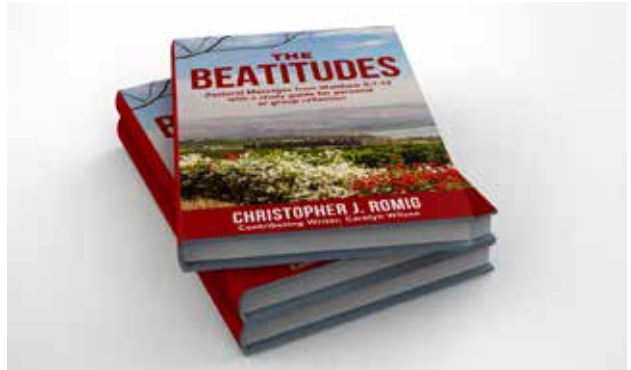
can be purchased at church during the week or on Sundays in the narthex. Anyone interested in joining a PW Bible Study, please contact Niki Steitz at nsteits33@comcast.net or call (941) 493-7628.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to Pastor Carolyn Wilson (our staff liaison) who is a strong support to our PW.

God bless and keep well!

Niki Steitz

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.



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.



Update on the Garage Sale

We will be selling **all your donations** for the "Annual Garage Sale" on Friday & Saturday March 4 & 5th 2022. **Physically large pieces, such as furniture and exercise equipment, will be sold online.** You may contact Kathy Wood to schedule an appointment for your item to be photographed & posted on Facebook's Marketplace. You're not limited to waiting till March. If you don't wish to deal with the public coming to your home to purchase the furniture piece etc, Kathy will be happy to meet the buyer on your behalf.

We have rented the Family Life Building to the Family Promise of South Sarasota County. Therefore we have lost that space to display & sell your donations for the "Annual Garage Sale". So we are getting creative!

We will display clothing, jewelry & home decor pieces in the Fellowship Hall & spilling over into Room 9, if needed. **All your other donations will be sold out of your trunk/table by you.** All proceeds will still be donated to our church missions! You may reserve a parking spot on our paved parking areas all around the church building



to join the fun & comradery. The "Sale" will be from 9 am to 1 pm Friday & Saturday. It will be advertised that Friday shoppers will pay a \$5 1st day shopping fee. All Saturday shoppers will be free entry. There will be specific logistics worked out so all can participate.

The Church has so many great opportunities for Bible Study & other activities, we don't want to have the whole church shut down for a complete week.

Questions: Kathy Wood at 941-539-4604 or kathywood1221@gmail.com

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

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
Sheila Cunningham
Susie Gottschalk
Tom Hoffman
Judith Holmes
Richard Langlais
Carlene Painter
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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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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 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.