

Connect, Grow & Go

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

ASH
WEDNESDAY

Here's What's Going on at VPC in March 2019



**Prayers
for Our
Missionaries**

Our Vision in Action

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

Worship Service Hours

Sunday, 9am & 11am
9am Wednesday Communion

Office Phone

941-488-2258

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10-12pm
Sunday, 8:30-11:30am

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday, 9:00am - 12:00pm

.....

Annual Meeting, March 24, 4pm (Church Sanctuary)

The Annual Meeting of the VPC Congregation is more than a business meeting; it's a joy-filled time of celebrating how God is at work in our church! (Just ask anyone who came to last year's Annual Meeting, where we proclaimed the light of Christ even in the midst of an unexpected power outage!) At this year's Annual Meeting, you will have an opportunity to meet the nominees for Session, the Board of Trustees, and the Congregational Nominating Committee. Pastor Chris will offer a visionary look forward, and we will include interactive time for questions. We will also celebrate Cris Anderson and her 23 years of ministry at VPC with a reception in the Glass House after the meeting. An annual report will be available on March 17 (both in print and on the church website), which will include budget information and the full list of nominees for church office. Full members are eligible to vote, but everyone is invited to be part of the meeting.



Annual Reports will be available on March 17.

Celebrate Cris Anderson and her 23 years of ministry at VPC with a reception in the Glass House after the 4:00pm Annual Meeting, March 24.

Spring Forward!
DON'T FORGET!
Day Light Savings Time
March 10

2019, The Year of Living Generously

In Luke, Chapter 16, Jesus talks about a rich man who refuses to help a poor, sick man who lies outside the door of his house begging for food. Then, the rich man wakes up in hell for misusing the wealth God had given him.

Commenting on that parable, John Killinger says, "His mistake, you see, was in not making his money work for him. A lot of it was laying around without doing any good, when it could have been taking care of the poor beggar at the gate."

"The Gospel draws a vivid contrast between this foolish man and one wise woman, who appears in Chapter 21. Jesus is at the Temple and sees a poor woman, her gnarled hands clutching two tiny copper coins, come and drop

both of them into the treasury. 'Truly I tell you,' Jesus said, 'this poor widow has put in more than anybody, for it was all she had' (Luke 21:1-4)

Talk about making your money work for you! Only two copper coins and they earned her a place in history. Here she was with her pittance, and she made it work for her as if it were millions of dollars.

"It isn't how much you have in life, it's what you do with it that counts. Everything we have is a trust from God. And the important thing is to learn to use it wisely by sharing it and taking care of God's world. When we do this, we are making an investment in our own souls." (The Abingdon Preaching Annual 1995, John Killinger)

Financial Update

January of 2019 has proven to be a month of break-even gifts. Income for the month of January was \$119,755 and expenses for the month of January was \$119,884 while the average attendance for January was 1,020. This is a good start to the 2019 year. We are thankful for your generosity to Venice Presbyterian Church.

The Stewardship Campaign remains strong. To date, including prepaid pledges, you have pledged \$1,128,350 toward our 2019 budget. Your generosity will help Venice Presbyterian Church to continue to Connect, Grow, and Go and live into our vision of Glorifying God as a Disciple Making Outpost of Kingdom Life. Some of the ways we are already using these funds is sending a team of missionaries to Guatemala in March. We just finished a week with Family Promise caring for women and children. Jennifer Speer is wrapping up her bible study on February 28th blessing over 150 women with God's word and this is only scratching the surfaces of how Venice Presbyterian Church is connecting people to Christ near and far.

Thank you for your monthly contributions and your pledge for 2019.

"Living a life of gratitude for each day and the gifts God gives us is the path to joyful living." – Bradford L. Hewitt.



Worship Ministry



Ash Wednesday March 6 at 6:00pm

Please join us for a time of scripture, prayer, music, meditation, and Communion as we begin the Lenten season. May this be one of many impactful moments as you contemplate the ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Service will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 9am & 6pm.

Communion Sunday, March 3

9am & 11am Service

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

Retirement Community Communion Gatherings

this month with Rev. Burke Johnson

Village on the Isle – March 14 @ 11am
Aston Gardens – March 15 @ 9:45am
Jacaranda Trace – March 15 @ 1pm

Wednesday Communion, 9am

Communion service is offered Wednesday morning in the chapel. All are welcome.



March Guest Worship Leaders



Dr. Winfred Neely, March 10

March 3

We will celebrate the ministry of **Rev. Graham Hart**, who is retiring from an 18-year ministry as the General Presbyterian of Peace River Presbytery. Graham will bring us the message this morning and assist our pastors in the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

March 10

We welcome back **Dr. Winfred Neely**, preaching professor at Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Neely gave a dynamic message last summer at VPC's Festival of Worship, and he will be preaching as part of our series "Jesus the Storyteller."

Save the Dates! Holy Week Worship Hours



April 14th Palm Sunday
9:00am & 11:00am

April 18th Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm
Experience Leonardo Di Vinci's iconic painting of *The Last Supper* come to life as members of The Venice Presbyterian Church Drama Team reenact the institution of communion.

April 19th Good Friday
6:15pm, We will have an extended prelude featuring music for 2 flutes, piano and organ.
7:00pm, Scripture reading's Choral Anthems and organ music centered around the Seven Last Words of Christ.

April 21st Easter Sunday
8:00am, This service will feature a sermon from Luke, communion, and music by Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass.

9:30am & 11:15 am
A traditional service with a message from Luke, music from our Chancel Choir, Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass, and a opportunity for all to stand and sing the Hallelujah Chorus.



Lily Donations to Honor Loved Ones

Remember and honor loved ones while adorning the chancel with lovely Easter Lilies. Please use the Lily Donation Envelope available in the pews.

All Things Beautiful: Sparkle Day

Thursday, March 26, 9am to 12pm (Sanctuary)

Volunteers needed to clean and refresh our campus in preparation for the Easter Season. Refreshments will be provided. Sign up in the Glass House or sign-up with Sheryl Morford 412-612-0515



Music Ministry

WORLD FAMOUS BRASS QUINTET

CANADIAN

BRASS

SATURDAY
MARCH 30, 3 & 7PM
TICKETS \$25
Online or at the door



"These are the men who put brass music on the map with their unbeatable blend of virtuosity, spontaneity and humor."

-Washington Post

**THESE SHOWS ARE EXPECTED TO SELL
OUT SO GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!**

825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FL 34285 | 941-488-2258
www.venicecommunityconcertseries.com

Choir Practice

Wednesday, 7:00-8:30pm

Handbells' Rehearsal

Tuesday, 3:30-5pm

Care & Compassion

Planning the Party

Pre-planning your Christian funeral or memorial service is one of the best ways to help your family during their difficult time of grief and loss. By leaving them specific information regarding your own personal desires, you will greatly ease your family's burden of making decisions and trying to guess what you would have wanted. We have a booklet available to make your preferences known and preplanning easy for both you and your loved ones.



A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend

Do you know someone who is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of VPC who have received special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with a cancer

diagnosis, going through a divorce or separation, battling a chronic illness—or encountering any of countless other life challenges. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and is a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders; Marcia Bickmore 488-9379, Richard Gilbert 941-468-9174 or Laura Saye 269-339-5907.

Memorial Service/Receptions

Memorial Services are a special way to remember those we love. After services, it is common for the family to want to spend time visiting and reminiscing with each other. VPC offers a reception in the Glass House serving cookies and coffee after each memorial service so that families are able to visit with their loved ones. Volunteers are currently needed to assist in the reception area.

Contact Connie Sayers at csayers@venicepres.org for more information or to sign up

Children's Ministry

'Hostess with the Mostest' Needed

This summer, we are pleased to be offering 2 weeks of day camp for children. The dates of summer camp are June 10th-14th and July 15th-19th. Counselors and staff from Cedarkirk Camp come to our campus to host the event. This year, **we are in need of housing for the counselors who will be in town.** If you are a snowbird who would be willing to allow the staff to use your condo or house for the weeks they are here, please see or email Genna Sarikoki. We need room for about 5 staff members.

We are also in need of adults and teens who can assist the counselors during the day. If you are interested in helping to supervise, please see Genna Sarikoki at gsarikoki@venicepres.org



Buddy Break Appreciation Dinner

Recognizing those who give their time and talents.



Celebrating our VIP Buddy Break team members with fellowship, dinner, and entertainment. Spouses, friends, and significant others are welcome to join in the fun. Tuesday, April 2, Dinner is at 5:30. Set up and clean up is 3-9.

Shoe Drive Update



We are so thankful for the outpouring of love from our congregation! Around 300 shoes tags were taken as a pledge to bring in shoes. Venice Elementary School will be able to use these shoes throughout the rest of the school year and into next year. Our outreach to the school continues in providing them with snacks for the Diabetic kiddos, socks and underwear for young friends who have accidents in the school day, and small gifts for teachers a few times a year. Thank you for being a part of this important ministry to our community!

the parable **ADVENTURE**

STORIES OF JESUS BROUGHT TO LIFE

All ages welcome.

Parents or guardians
stay for the duration
of the evening.

**MARCH
FAMILY
NIGHT**

**MARCH 22, 2019
DINNER AT 6PM
FREE EVENT**

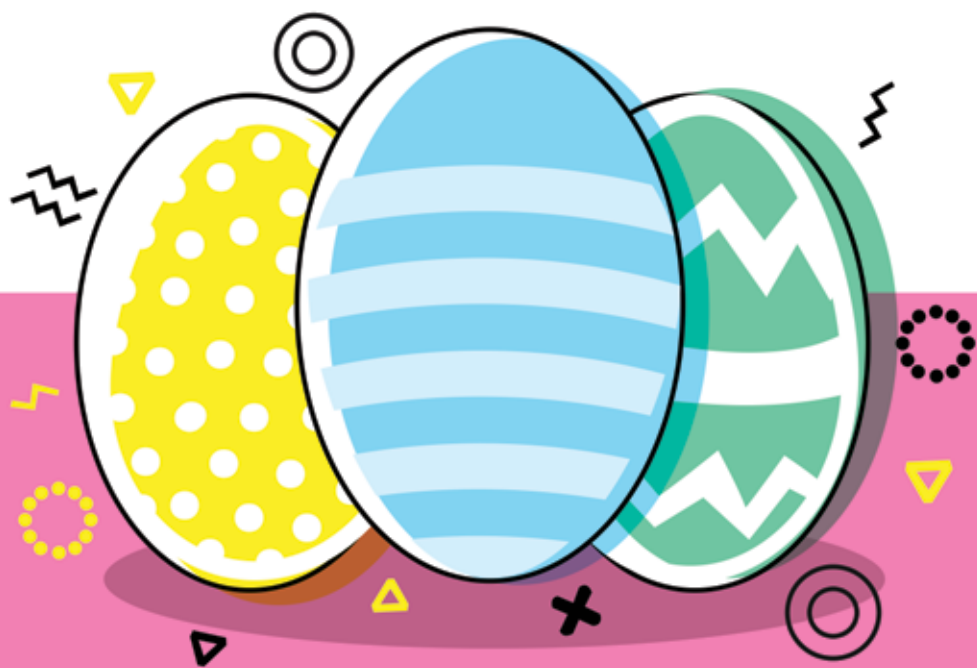


VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FL 34275

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

Easter

EGG HUNT



**BASKET RAFFLE ▪ GAMES
MUSIC ▪ PRIZES**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019
ALL WELCOME ▪ FREE
825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FL 34275**

the Hub! Youth Ministry

Grandparents Gone Wired is a 3 hour free event that will take place in Fellowship Hall from 12:00-3:00 on **March 3rd**. We will offer 3 levels of smart phone training as well as a basic navigation and setup course on Facebook. Sign ups in the Narthex, February 3 after worship and following in the Glass House.



Youth Day at the Beach

Join the Hub for a Beach afternoon at North Jetty on March 17, 2-5 pm. Concession is open to purchase food.

Contact Conrad Knepp at cknepp@venicepres.org for more information or to sign up

Mission & Outreach



OneBlood at VPC

You have the power to save lives! OneBlood bloodmobile will be on campus March 31st, 2019 from 9 AM to 1 PM. All donors will receive a free hat and wellness screening including temperature, blood pressure, pulse, iron count and cholesterol screening. You may sign up at www.oneblooddonor.org and use code #36150, or just show up at the door.

3 Cents A Meal

On Sunday, March 31, please visit Christine Hart at the table in the Narthex and exchange or pick up a food container. Every penny counts.



Looking for a Short-Term International Mission Trip?

We are seeking six people to go to TCM International Institute's Haus Edelweiss in beautiful Vienna, Austria, September 8-20 this year, to provide hospitality to international seminary students. Check it out at tcmi.org. Contact Fred & Cindy Gossman for more information (513-836-6839).



Mission & Outreach



H.E.L.P.S International Stove Team, March 11-20

VPC is sponsoring a team to assist rural Guatemalan families by installing life-saving stoves and water filters. Please keep this team in your prayers as they begin their journey.

GUATEMALA 2019 TEAM

Bob Allen
Doug Chase
Bob Craver
Deborah Howarth
Marilyn Meub
Kathy Nine
Elizabeth Rochette
Holly Vincent
Ron Waldron
Eli Weatherly
Jim Weeks
Lois Weeks
Nathan Weeks
Viggo Weeks
Rev. Carolyn Wilson

Additional prayers for Carolyn Wilson and Fred Grossman as they travel early to Clinic Medica from March 5 - 8.

Walk for Life, Pregnancy Solutions



Pregnancy Solutions

offers the following FREE services:

- Pregnancy Testing
- Limited Ultrasound
- Your Pregnancy Options
- Abortion Information
- Adoption Referrals
- Material Support
- Parenting Classes

Walk for Life

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Maxine Barritt Park

8:00 check-in

9:00 walk

Sign up online at

www.pswalkforlife.org

Contact Karen Norwood:

karenp630@gmail.com /

320-492-0612

Or visit our table on the patio after services on March 3.

.....
**Mision Peniel
(Immokalee)
Update, Volunteer
Opportunity &
Donations Requests**

Men's Clothing Needed!



On January 18, fourteen volunteers from VPC joined in car-pools for the 1.5 hour drive to Immokalee Florida to distribute food, clothing, and to prepare a meal for farm workers at Mision Peniel. **It was men's day and half way through our distribution time, we ran out of shoes and clothing for the men.** They were disappointed after a hard day of work, but yet grateful for the food they had received. **Most men wear size medium shirts, pants no larger than 36 waist and tennis shoes/work boots no larger than size 10.** If you have items to donate to Mision Peniel, please drop them off at the church office. Better yet, sign up for our next trip on April 26 and bring them with you! Contact Laura Saye at sayet392@aol.com or sign up in the Glass House in April.

March Monthly Mission Partner (MMP)

Day 4 Hope, Saturday, July 27, 2019

To support the Monthly Mission Partners, please add your donation to the yellow envelopes in the pews. Your continued support is a life-line to these families in Christ. We appreciate your support.

Day 4 Hope is a community outreach project in Sarasota and Manatee Counties aimed at uniting the resources of churches, civic groups, fire, police and many other community partners, to serve the children in our school system who are homeless or in economic need so they can begin the first day of school on an even playing field with other children.

It is our hope that this outreach is an opportunity for participant volunteers to share God's love, for parents and children to leave with an improved sense of self-worth and self-image that will help them feel good about the first day of school. It will hopefully create a positive attitude toward school, attendance and grades.



On Day 4 Hope, the children will receive:

- Medical Exam
- Eye exam
- Dental check-up, cleaning instruction; fluoride treatment
- Haircut
- School and family portraits
- Gift cards for clothes and shoes totaling \$75
- New backpack with school supplies
- Bag of personal care items
- Books and a Bible
- Groceries
- Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks
- Praying for the day's success

Prior to the start of school, homeless children (as recommended by the school district) register to attend Day 4 Hope and receive all the necessary checkup and supplies to start school in the fall.

Professionals are needed to volunteer to participate in Day4Hope. Doctors, Dentists, RNS, Photographers, Medical Assistants, Hair Stylists, Eye Associates, Hygienists, Barbers donate their time, materials and skills to prepare under privileged children for the beginning of school.

Volunteers are also needed to guide families, man stations, alert the city services and general administrative services.

For more information or to find out how you can help, contact:

Fred Gossman,
513.836.6839
fredandcindy123@verizon.net



Connect & Grow



Monday

Holy Yoga

9am - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Line Dancing

10:30am - 11:30am, Fellowship Hall

Knit One, Pray Too

12pm - 2pm, Rm 9

Pat Pitha, sunnypatpitha@aol.com

Martha's Circle

1pm - 3pm, Rm 6

1st Monday of the month

Pat Radcliffe, patwrad@gmail.com

MnM Men's Group

6pm - 7pm, Glass House

Alan Penick, adpenick@comcast.net

Tuesday

Men's Discussion Group

8:00am - 9am, Rm 11

Doug Brown, dodobrown252@gmail.com

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

9:15 – 10:15 AM, Glass House. The study will be on the Gospel of Luke. Dick Edmunds, (941) 488-8949

kcid1961@gmail.com

Nomads Bible Study

9:30am - 11 am in Room 11

Carolyn Wilson, cwilson@venicepres.org

Rachel's Circle

10 am- 12am, Rm 6

1st Tuesday of each month

Shirley Blood, clarkespinkle@gmail.com

Dorcas Bible Study (Women's)

10am - 12pm in Room 6

3rd Tuesday of each month

Beth Tieman, bethtmn@comcast.net

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

7pm - 9pm, Room 6

Kim Jason, kljason@comcast.net

Wednesday

Classic Creations & Crafting

10am-12pm, Room 9

Starts March 6, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Novelle Franklin, nouvelle313@comcast.net

Adult Coloring Crew

12pm, Library

Ardith Pinner, apinner@venicepres.org

Book Club

1pm - 2:30pm, Rm 8

1st Wednesday of the month

Mary Gregory

mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

Pastor Chris' Midweek Bible Study

6pm - 7pm, Sanctuary

There will be no Bible Study March 6

Guest Speaker, Tom Parlett on March 13

Bible Study teaching resumes March 20 through April 17

Thursday

MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers*)

8:30am - 12pm, Fellowship Hall

1st & 3rd Thursday

*Moppets (1st & 3rd Thursday)

8:30am - 12pm, Family Life Center

Friday

Holy Yoga

9am - 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)

9:45am to 11:15am, Sanctuary

Tracy Patsel, at tracyjae@gmail.com

Telling the Story Writing Workshop

10am to 12pm, Archives in Library

Lissie Thomasson, saltmarp@atlantic.net



Classic Creations & Crafting

Begins March 6

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 10am in Room 9

Come join our Classic Creations and Crafting group. Bring your craft projects and talent and we'll work on our crafts together as we share in fellowship and conversation. Contact Novelle Franklin, novelle313@comcast.net

Book Club

1st Wednesday of the month, 1 - 2:30pm, Rm 8

April 3 When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

May 1 River of Doubt by
Candice Millard

Presbyterian Women

Apr 16 Moravian Lady by Diane Penick, Potluck Lunch



Contact

Jean Peters
941-484-6333 or
sign up in the Glass
House

Lunch Bunch

March 16 at 1pm

Sunday Supper

March 31, 5pm

Special Presentation "The Word Made Flesh: Finding the Footsteps of Jesus" March 13 (6pm – Sanctuary)

Tom Parlette will take us on a special audio-visual journey to many of the places where Jesus ministered. Tom and his wife, Bonnie, participated in an educational pilgrimage to the Holy Land so this presentation is sure to bring new perspective and understanding to the places mentioned in the Gospel story.

Save the Dates

Member Golf Outing & Lunch

May 6, 2019

Signups on Sunday, March 3, 2019 (and each Sunday thereafter through April 29, 2019, as long as there are still openings) between services in the Glass House, and at the church office during the week.

Please contact:

Dick Edmunds

kcid1961@gmail.com

Richard Gilbert

richbobbiegil@comcast.net

Alan Penick

adpenick@comcast.net

Evolution vs Creation

May 9th

With Tremper Longman III
(PhD, Yale University)

New Member Class of Winter 2019

WELCOME

TO VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



PAM ANGER
RALPH ANGER
SANDY AUSRA
KERMIT BLANEY
THEODORA BLANEY
GEORGE BLINKINSOP
BARB DICKEY
JOHN DICKEY
JOAN FELDMEIER
JOE GALASSO

LORI GALASSO
BRENDA GALBO
JIM GALBO
CAROL GRESS
PAUL GRESS
DIANE HULLER
ED HULLER
HARRIS LUSCOMB
SUSAN LUSCOMB
ANN SPUTH

FRED SPUTH
NANCY SULLIVAN
BARBARA SWAN
CYNTHIA TOTH
RETA VANDERMOLLEN
GWEN WHITE
AMY WIENAND
JAMES WILL★
TESSA WILL★

★NOT PICTURED