

Connect, Grow & Go

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



come, O come, Em
come, Thou Rod of - man
come, Thou Day-spring, Jes - u
come, Thou Key of Da - se, e
come, De - sire of na - and che
tions, bin

Advent Sermon Series

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

Alternative Gift Market



Christmas Joy



VPC Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Chris Romig
cromig@venicepres.org

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cobrien@venicepres.org

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cwilson@venicepres.org

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Gary Youngberg
gyoungberg@venicepres.org

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

Please note: Church office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, December 26 and January 1.

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

Worship Service Hours*

Sunday, 9am & 11am

Please note: Christmas Eve services at 4pm, 6pm & 8pm and one service at 10am on Sunday, December 29.

Library Hours

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

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



Kelly Wensley,
Director of
Communications

Kelly's Corner

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 2nd Tuesday of the previous month. **Next Deadline is December 17.**



Leaving a Legacy

Have you ever noticed how much time we spend dwelling on our pasts? We dwell on old decisions, or the mistakes we made, or the successes we once had, or the memories we'd love to relive. When you really think about it, our pasts tend to occupy more time and space in our lives than they should. In fact, many people spend so much time thinking about the past that they miss out on the present. And because of that, rarely-if ever-do we think about the future in a proactive manner.

The truth is God has a lot to say about our future and the roles we each play in creating a legacy that makes an impact! And the good news is that no matter who you are, where you are, or where you've come from, we can all forge a positive legacy together!

[Jesus speaking] *"You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."* – John 15:16

When you think about the word "legacy" what comes to mind? Money? An inheritance of some kind? A person's reputation? Or maybe you simply think of something that lasts?

Legacy can mean different things to different people. But when Jesus talked about legacy. He used the phrase "lasting fruit" to depict what He meant. To Jesus, the legacy of a Christ-follower is measured by the fruitfulness of their faith. Jesus' heart for His followers was, and is, that we would lead lives of faith that make an eternal difference!

And here's the great news: the only prerequisite is simply that you're a follower of Jesus!

Jesus didn't say you have to have all the answers, memorize all the verses, and live a perfect life. He simply said if you are His follower, then you've been called and chosen to produce lasting fruit. This is what legacy is about is Jesus' eyes. Nothing more, nothing less. (Everyday Faith Edition 4, No. 11)

And so we challenge you to think about your legacy as the year wraps up. What do you think of when you think of legacy? How do you see your legacy in Jesus, what is your lasting fruit? What are you doing with the dash between birth and eternal life?



TRANSFORMING CENTER

Strengthen The Soul Of Your Leadership

Spiritual Growth Inventory

VPC has been selected to be part of a research project by the Transforming Center (www.transformingcenter.org), which is assessing the spiritual vitality of congregations where the church leader has been impacted by the Transforming Center's ministry of spiritual formation. VPC is one of three congregations chosen for this research project (no cost to VPC). In early December, we will be including in our weekly e-blast (and on our website) a link for individual church members to take a 15-minute survey. The questions will be related to different facets of your personal expression of Christian spirituality. All responses will remain anonymous, and by taking this single, 15-minute survey you won't get on any other mailing lists. Your help in taking this survey will not only be important to the research project, but also will be valuable for our own church - as we hope to learn from the data ways we can effectively focus our ministry efforts to make deeper disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Chris first began attending retreats with the Transforming Center during his sabbatical in



2010. "Finding the Transforming Center has been one of my most life-changing experiences," says Pastor Chris. "Even though I was functioning successfully as a minister, my soul was draining. My life and ministry have dramatically changed as I've come to living into the spiritual practices we learn in the transforming community retreats. And I hope my personal re-vitalization has had an impact on the vitality of the church I serve." Currently, Pastor Chris is participating in another 2-year series of quarterly retreats with the Transforming Center — along with Chris O'Brien, Jamal Sarikoki and Carolyn Wilson. They meet several times a year for a spiritual retreat with a group of 70 ministry leaders from across North America. Between retreats, they engage in readings and spiritual practices related to topics of the spiritual life. We will be offering a mini-taste of the Transforming Center during Lent, as we will be teaching the series "Sacred Rhythms" (*stay tuned for more details*).

Get to know VPC's Ruling Elders Carolyn Stephens

My husband, Jim, and I moved to Venice in 2004 after living in Texas for many years. We moved to Florida to be closer to our son and his family and participate in the life of our only grandchild, Cori Rose, who was still in elementary school at that time. After college and grad school she now lives in Charlotte, NC. Our son Brett and his wife Kim live in Nokomis. Our daughter Stacy and her husband David live in Fishers, Indiana.

We joined VPC in 2008. I became familiar with the church when I attended the Lenten and Advent musical concerts that were being offered. We started attending Sunday worship services and transferred our membership from a Methodist church in Texas.

I have volunteered in our church office for over ten years. I come from a large family and for over fifteen years have published a family newsletter to keep us connected. I also compiled and had printed a family cookbook.

Music is a big part of my life. I play the piano at the Wednesday morning communion services and at other venues and churches when I am asked. I feel blessed to be able to use my musical talent. Those piano lessons and practicing have not been wasted!

Small group Bible Study/Life Groups are very important to me. Besides studying together, bonds are formed within the group and a support system is established. I facilitate a group that has



been together for over ten years and helped start another group that is beginning their third year together.

I am blessed to be an Elder on Session. We worship and pray together, share joys and concerns and provide encouragement to one another when we meet to conduct business on behalf of the church.

Phillipians 4:13 has been my mantra for many years: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* My commitment is to the words from the hymn, "O, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end." With strength from Christ, may my commitment be fulfilled.

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.

Contact May Williams at mwilliams@venicepres.org

Memorial Services

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 serving cookies and coffee after each memorial service so that families are able to visit with their loved ones.

Volunteers are currently need to assist in reception area
Contact May Williams at mwilliams@venicepres.org

Knit One, Pray Too!

Shawls and baby hats are knit by a group of ladies. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the items are sent on their way. The blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of sheltering, mothering God!

Knit One, Pray Too!
12pm-2pm, Room 9
October 21-April 14
Pat Pitha, 605-957-4404
sunnypatpitha@aol.com

Do You Know Someone Going through a Difficult Time?

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Our Stephen Ministers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders.

Stephen Minister Leaders

Marcia Bickmore, 941-488-9379
Richard Gilbert, 941-468-9174
Laura Saye, 269-339-5907



Christmas Joy

Michelle Kuhl &
Jamal Sarikoki

FRIDAY, December 6, 7pm

Meet the Artists
reception to follow.



We welcome back Michelle Kuhl and Jamal Sarikoki. Michelle has toured on keyboard with *The King's Brass*. Kuhl's technical skill and exquisite interpretation will blend with the dynamic qualities of our own Jamal Sarikoki's playing and singing to bring an inspiring blend of musicianship. They will be collaborating in a concert featuring beloved Christmas Carols for piano and organ duet, as well as music for baritone solo. Join us for many well-loved classics to kick-off your holiday season. Tickets at venicepres.org/vccs-concert.

Music Ministry



Exceptional Talent in a Sacred Space: VCCS UPCOMING SCHEDULE

January 18, 7:00pm

Jazz Masters

Dicky Hyman
Peter Baren Bregge
Tom Jesteadt
Mark Neuenschwander
Randy Sandke
Michael Treni
Meet the Artists reception to follow. \$25

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)

American Roots Grassical

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

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



Worship Ministry

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS

Learning To Worship The Newborn King

Many of us have attended church our whole lives and have countless stories and memories of singing our favorite Christmas carols in church throughout advent and on Christmas Eve. How many of us know the stories and the theology behind them? We invite you for a sermon series that takes us deep into the meaning of our favorite Christmas carols such as: O Come O Come Emmanuel, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Joy to the World, and O Holy Night. May this sermon series give you a new perspective on worshipping the Newborn king.

December 1

*O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel*

December 8

Joy to the World

December 15

*Hark the Herald Angels
Sing*

December 22

O Holy Night

Reflections on Heaven

What can we know about heaven? There's a lot of popular ideas and imaginations about the afterlife, but what can we know for sure based on God's Word? Jacaranda Trace will be hosting Pastor Chris Romig for a one-hour conversation about heaven at 2 pm on Sunday, December 15. Radio host and VPC member Dan Vaughn will interview Pastor Chris, offering lots of questions that people often wonder about regarding the subject of the life-to-come. The public is welcome to attend this free event, which will take place in the Main Auditorium at Jacaranda Trace (near the intersection of Jacaranda Blvd. and Tamiami Trail).

On-Line Advent Devotional

Beginning December 1st, fifteen pastors from the Venice Community will be offering 5-minute audio devotionals for the season of Advent. These devotionals will be posted on the website of One Christ, Won City (www.onechristwoncity.org). Each day, a different church and pastor will be featured, with information and links to the church's website and Christmas Eve service information. The devotionals will also be posted through the Facebook page of One Christ, Won City. We are hoping to share the hope of Jesus with thousands of people throughout our community (and beyond). Pastor Chris Romig will be offering the devotionals on December 4 and December 12.

Poinsettia Donation Form

Remember and honor loved ones while adorning the Chancel with festive poinsettias. Please see the donation envelopes in the pews. Deadline is December 15.





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. Carolyn Wilson, cwilson@venicepres.org

Thursday, December 12 – 11am Village on the Isle

Friday, December 13 – 9:45am Aston Gardens

Friday, December 13 – 1pm Jacaranda Trace

3 Unique Christmas Eve Services



Christmas Eve Services Lessons and Carols Service, 4pm

We invite you to join us for a Traditional Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm. This service, through its music, prayers, and scripture readings, reminds us of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus Christ. This service will be interspersed with the singing of Christmas hymns, choral anthems, along with scripture readings from both the prophetic books and the Gospels. Finally, we will join our voices and sing Silent Night by candlelight. Accompanying us will be our chancel choir, and organ. Join us for the festive and awe-inspiring service as we sing, pray, and thank God for sending His Son to save mankind

"The Night Before Christmas" 6pm

Join Us for a traditional service with hymns led by the organ, beautiful music for Flute performed by Karen Romig, reading of the birth narrative, and a presentation of "The Night before Christmas" by our Rev. Christopher Romig.

Jazz Communion Service 8:00pm

We invite you for a relaxed and contemplative communion service. This service will feature Jazz music arranged by VPC'S jazz trombonist, Mike Treni. This service, although simple in order, will allow us to hear a presentation "The Night Before Christmas" from Chris Romig, clap our hands, and maybe even dance, to the joyous Jazz rhythms of our favorite Christmas hymns, and also remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Lord's supper. This service will also feature Silent Night sung by candle-light. If you're looking for a more relaxed atmosphere, please join us for a Jazz Communion service.



Family Ministry



Family Christmas Party

Families with children up to 5th grade are welcome to join us for a Christmas Party on December 13 at 5pm! We look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ and the merriment of the season together! Dinner will be served. ***This is a free event.***

So Grateful!

It was wonderful to see the outpouring of love as shoeboxes rolled in! Over the last several weeks, shoeboxes have arrived at the office, in the Narthex, and at the celebration night. We are happy to report that 170 boxes total are being sent to children around the world. They have all been labeled with a tracking code and we will find out what countries our boxes are headed for when they leave the USA. Each shoebox has been prayed over as it goes out. Thank you for your many donations to this wonderful mission!

Youth Group is for students in 6-12 grade and meets every Sunday night from 6-8pm. Contact Genna Sarikoki.

Thanksgiving Success!

On November 17th, our youth group went on a tour of Venice stopping at 5 homes for portions of their meal. A wonderful time was had by all! We had 10 students and 5 adults traveling along the route. The students had an opportunity to build relationships with church leaders, new members, and each other as they enjoyed their meal. Thank you to the Gossmans, Sheryl Morford and Bob Jelenchick, the Parlettes, the McNairs, and the Allens for opening their homes to our group!



BUDDY BREAK

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE?

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Buddy Break Christmas Pageant
 December 21, 12pm
 All welcome, Reception in the glass house



Bring the Kids!

We would love to welcome children to attend any of our Christmas Eve services. There will be bags with seat work for children ages 5 and up. There will also be nursery available during each service.



Suzanne Ferguson has been a pillar of the youth ministry at VPC for years. She is a consistent face welcoming the youth to The Hub each Sunday. Suzanne has helped our students grow spiritually as well as building lifelong memories of good times together. We are thankful for Suzanne's love for the Lord as she has served Him faithfully here!

Birthday: June 28
 Birthplace: Washington, PA
 Favorite food: Escargot
 Favorite color: Red
 Favorite movie: Ghost
 Favorite holiday: Halloween
 Favorite sport: football
 Favorite hobbies: gardening, renovating, and volunteering at VPC

SUPER things that have happened this past year: Her daughter graduated from nursing school.
SUPER thing that is happening in this coming year: Her son is opening 3 restaurants.
 Favorite Super Power: Bible verse: Psalm 23:3 - *He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.*

New Member Class of Fall 2019

WELCOME

TO VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Ken Altreuter
Kelly Clingerman
William Ernst
Gina Fevola
Glenys Frazer and Tom Frazer
Randy Frost
Diane Gagliardi and Ron Gagliardi
Pam Hubbell
Dave Kennedy and Nancy Kennedy
Alice Linville and David Linville

Grace Mattes and Jim Mattes
Belva McNair and Tony McNair
Laura Ouellet
Diana Spears and Jerry Spears
Russ Struble and Susan Struble
Jerry Templer and Joan Templer
Larry Vander Wal
Doris Welch
Sandra Yamarik

Connect & Grow

**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

The Library

It is multigenerational, multicultural, and diverse. It is serene, bright, restful, and inviting as well as spiritual. It is a place to find God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is a place where love, joy, peace, kindness, faith and gentleness abound. Prayer, understanding, guidance and knowledge can be found here. It houses fiction, nonfiction, magazines, DVDs and CDs, and a Book Store. It is a dream come true for a few, to serve a multitude. It is the result of the creative gifts of many, the loving efforts of volunteers galore and the financial generosity of hundreds. It is our Venice Presbyterian Church Library. I love it and am grateful that we can serve this church family in such a beautiful and meaningful way, through the printed and visual word. I pray that you will find it all of the above and make it a special place for you.

Ardith Pinner, Volunteer Librarian
Library Hours (with volunteers present):

Sunday: 8:30 – 12:30

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 – 12:00

To access the Library during other church office hours, come to the church office.



Reminder: PW Christmas Tea

Special Performance by Michele Pruyn

Saturday, December 7, 2pm-4pm

All proceeds from the PW Christmas Tea will go to Immokalee Fair Housing.



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 Tuesday, Room 7

Beth Tieman, 941-564-6304

bethtmn@comcast.net

Connie Householder, 941-882-3469

householder1282@gmail.com

Women's Tuesday Fellowship

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

December 4

"Amethyst Heart" by Penelope Stokes

Mary Gregory, 716-984-3613

Mgregorysmiles@gmail.com

THURSDAY

MOPS (*Mother's of Preschoolers*)

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

Fellowship Hall

Pastor' Chris' Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday night, January 8, at 6 pm (In the sanctuary), Pastor Chris will lead a Bible study of Paul's letter to the Phillipians. This in-depth, verse-by-verse study will be part of our church-wide engagement with Phillipians during January and February. All are welcome, and participants are encouraged to bring their Bibles.

FRIDAY

Holy Yoga

9am-9:45am, Fellowship Hall

November 1-May 15

David Hill, davehill@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

Place: Fellowship Hall

Please note: Dec. 8th & 15th we will meet in Room 9 as the AGM will be in Fellowship Hall

No class on Sunday, December 29th

Pastor Carolyn

cwilson@venicepres.org



Blue Christmas Communion Service

Sunday, December 22 at 5:30pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church Chapel

4365 FL-776, Venice, FL 34293

The carols in the stores proclaim Christmas is "the most wonderful time of the year." But if you are carrying grief or loneliness, if you have lost what is important to you, it can feel like a dark time. And when you find yourself in the dark, it's the right time to find a new, gentle way to turn to the Christ who is the Light of the World.

Come to the Blue Christmas Service. Gathered together in the small chapel, we will express our feelings through readings and songs. We will read scriptures of hope and pray for the Holy Spirit's help. We will each be invited to light a candle for what we carry in our hearts. In communion, we will share the bread and the cup. Over and over, in our worship service, we will turn to the Prince of Peace. And in this deep and complicated season, we will seek God's comfort, knowing we are not alone.



Mission & Outreach



Thank you all so much for your generous contribution to the food banks! We were able to donate approximately 90 bags of food to each of the four: Center of Hope, South County Food Bank, Laurel Civic Association and CAM (Community Assistance Ministry).



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.

3 Cents A Meal

On the last Sunday of the month, December 29, 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.

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 SHAWROCK DR., VENICE, FL. 34293

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

It is once again time to Ring Bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Nov 30 - Dec 24th - Bell Ringing at Publix

Now - Dec 15th - Sign-ups on Sundays on the Patio



December Monthly Mission Partner Family Promise



Family Promise provides comprehensive services with great compassion for families with children who find themselves homeless for a variety of reasons. Families are provided with "Bridge Housing" for up to three months. Our church, along with other churches, provide shelter and meals approximately four times a year. Families save money to go towards their next rental home. FP assists in locating affordable housing with partnering landlords.

When families enter the program they are educated on finances and management along with other skills that help them maintain stability. Some 90% of the families remain stably housed after 2 years and beyond. Family Promise partners

with the families for two years to accomplish these amazing statistics of self-sufficiency. They help 80-100 families each year!

Our donations help to maintain a Day Center where families do laundry, children's homework, and hang out before returning to the church in the evening. FP maintains a van to transport families without their own car, along with many more expenses related to HELPING these families.

Many hands make light work. You could volunteer to help take care of the families while they are on our campus. We have teams that set up beds, etc., make dinners, keep them company during the evening, sleepover nights

on campus. Our families are on campus for 7 days. Two person teams accomplish these tasks each night. Hosting (2), Meals (2), and overnight sleepers (2). 3 jobs X 7 days = 21 X 2 people = 42 volunteers PLUS set up team members PLUS volunteers who do the laundry at the end of the week.

Please open your hearts and help with this worthwhile mission with your donations of money and time.

Family Promise Host Week

December 8 - 15
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.

Mision Peniel in Immokalee
You can make a difference!



Please consider joining our team of volunteers who will be carpooling to Mision Peniel in Immokalee, Florida on January 31. Our mission? To distribute clothing, serve food, and show the "face of God" to migrant farm workers. This is a one day mission trip that begins at VPC at 11:00 a.m and ends back at VPC at 8:00 p.m. If you cannot join this team please consider supporting Mision Peniel through prayer and donations. Sign up in the Glass House or contact Laura Saye, sayet392@aol.com, 269-339-5907. A current donation needs list will be posted next to the sign-up sheet.

Thank-You! We are pleased to share with you that the recent OneBlood blood drive resulted in 10 units of blood. Each donation can save up to three lives, so that means 30 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors from your organization. Our next blood drive will be January 19th.



Special Christmas Eve offering will go 60% to Center of Hope and 40% to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for VPC emergency aid. Thank you for your generous support during the Christmas Season!

2019 Alternative Gift Market & Festival **Journey to Bethlehem**



Sunday
December 8 & 15 in
Fellowship Hall after
all services.

All are welcome to learn more about our mission partners, enjoy coffee & treats, live music and fellowship.

The Alternative Gift Market & Festival is a fun-filled celebration of abundance and generosity! December 8 & 15, following both the 9am and 11am worship services, we celebrate VPC's Mission Partners with live music, refreshments, education and an opportunity to share our abundance with those who have little while honoring our loved ones for the holidays.

Give hope to local, national and international missions. Purchase a "gift"—no wrapping required— to honor or

in-memoriam of a loved one, which will benefit those in need. Receive a beautiful Christmas card reflecting your contribution along with information about your chosen mission just in time for the holidays. Show your love and appreciation for the special people in your life while giving to those organizations that help better the lives of God's children.

Donate online at
venicepres.org



BIBLE STUDY

Jennifer
Speer Joy in
Surrender

Material Fee
\$10

Circumstances, people, anxiety, and even religion will attempt to steal our joy. Joy, however, is found in Christ and cannot be taken from us. The secret to living in that joy is surrender. Join Jennifer Mathewson Speer in an 8-week study of Philippians as we explore God's design for a life of joy.

January 8 – February 26, Wednesdays from 10am – 12pm, Fellowship Hall
Space is limited. Sign-up begins online December 5 at www.venicepres.org