

Connect, Grow & Go

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

Midweek Prayer and Bible Study with Pastor Chris Romig



Here's What's Going on at VPC in January 2018



**Craig Williams' Concert
directed by Jamal Sarikoki**



**Welcome
Jennifer Speer**

Our Vision in Action

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

In an effort to honor our time together for the worship service, we at Venice Presbyterian Church, decided to highlight the sanctity of the worship experience by removing the events portion of the bulletin.

It is our goal to connect each member and guest with Jesus Christ. By minimizing distractions, we hope that you are able to more easily get into a prayerful and grateful state of mind.

A Heartfelt Thank you!

- Our thanks go out to all of you for your support in 2017. Your offerings are so important in the life and ministry of our congregation. We cannot do all that we have committed to do without your generous and faithful gifts.
- Offerings received by Sunday, December 31, have been applied toward your 2017 contributions.
- 2018 Offering Envelopes will be available in the Narthex.

Room Request or Event Promotion

VPC offers over 10 meeting spaces for a wide range of group types. To reserve one of our rooms for your next event, group meeting or gathering, please contact your staff liaison or go online at www.venicepres.org/host-your-event-here/ then select the **Event and Promotion Request Form**.

To promote your event within the church, contact your staff liaison or go online at www.venicepres.org/host-your-event-here/ then select the **Event and Promotion Request Form**. Events may be promoted on the announcement loop before service, email blast, website, window boxes on campus, this monthly event bulletin or social media. Outside advertising is subject to approval. Deadline for the event bulletin, **Connect Grow and Go** is the third Tuesday of each month.

Event and Promotion Request Form



If you have a Christ-Centered Event that you believe follows Our Vision and Beliefs and would like it to be included in this bulletin, please submit your request on the website at www.venicepres.org/host-your-event-here and select the button, Event and Promotion Request Form. You may also visit the office for a Bulletin Submission Form. Deadline for submissions is the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

VPC Facility News



VPC Library & Book Store

VPC is blessed to have our own on-site Library and Book store but one could even say it is also a museum, gift store and children's center. Along with both fictional and non-fictional books, the VPC library is home to a collection of memorabilia ranging from commemorative coins to old Bibles and an impressive collection of pictures dating back to the early 1950s recognizing the start of our church as a drive-in worship center.

Headed by our beloved Ardith Pinner, the library has become a sanctuary for many who want to enjoy some quiet time reading, coloring and researching. The adult coloring class has now become a close knit group that share their struggles and triumphs and has forged strong friendships that continue to welcome new

comers. The facility is clean and well-maintained and Ardith serves hot coffee and tea to visitors.

Books are available for purchase but can also be ordered in quantity to support bible studies, school programs, circles and life groups. Many books are authored by local authors and spiritual leaders. There are also a large array of custom gifts and greeting cards made by our own talented members and staff.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this little gem on campus. Our are due to change but currently it is open Monday through Friday, 10am-12pm. For questions, please call 941-488-2258, ext. 136

Updated Rooms

We are in the process of updating some of our meeting rooms with more contemporary decor. We can now offer another intimate meeting space for small groups in room 5. Please consider that room when booking online.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Beginning the Journey

Beginning the Journey is for anyone who is new to our church community.

There will be five informative and interactive sessions—led by Pastor Chris Romig—that describe the vision of Venice Presbyterian Church and invite participants to continue the spiritual journey as part of the VPC family.

Participants are encouraged to attend all five of the sessions (January 23 and 30, February 6, 13, and 20). Sessions begin at 5 pm with a catered dinner in the Fellowship Hall, offering participants an evening without cooking and an opportunity to get to know other people who are beginning their journey at VPC. Dinner will be followed by a time of teaching and conversation.

At the end of the five sessions, participants have the opportunity to become members or affiliate members of Venice Presbyterian Church. (Affiliate member is a designation for those who hold membership in another church where they primarily reside; being an affiliate member is a way for snowbirds to formally connect with VPC.)

We have a large group already registered, and would encourage others to be part of what promises to be an exciting group of new friends of VPC! There are four ways to register for Beginning the Journey, 1) go to www.venicepres.org, 2) email Cris Anderson (canderson@venicepres.org), 3) sign up in the Church Office or 4) sign up on Sunday mornings at the Glass House Information Center.

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Beginning the
JOURNEY
5 WEEK NEW MEMBER CLASS
WINTER SESSION
January 23 February 13
January 30 February 20
February 6
one-time cost
— . **\$10** . —
for the entire five week series including dinner
DINNER AT 5:30PM
CLASS FROM 5:45-7:00PM
• FELLOWSHIP HALL •
REGISTER ONLINE, IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THE GLASS HOUSE INFORMATION CENTER
825 THE RIALTO | VENICE, FLORIDA 34275 | WWW.VENICEPRES.ORG



Additional Communion Service, every Wednesday at 9am in the Chapel

Communion Sunday, January 7

9am Service

Please come forward as directed by the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available at the stations between the center and outer aisles. If unable to come forward, please raise your hand and a server will bring communion to you.

11am Service

Communion will be served in the pews. Please hold the bread until all have been served so all may partake together. If you prefer gluten-free bread, please raise your hand and a server will bring gluten-free bread to you.

We'd Like to Say Hello

To make it easier for our greeters and members to greet you, get a magnetic name badge (*no holes in your clothes*). Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex before or after worship on Sundays or call the church office to order your name badge. We would love to recognize you! Badges are only \$5.50 each. You do not have to be a member to have one.



Be a Part of Worship

There are many ways to be a part of the worship service. Use your skills, passion for Christ and desire to serve to enhance the experience for you and others. We are in need of **acolytes** (Judy Edmunds at 941-488-8949), greeters (Bob Jelenchick, robert.jelenchick@gmail.com) and ushers (Jane Clemmer, grandysj@yahoo.com).

Children's Ministry

Have a desire to Connect Kids to Christ? Join our team! We meet monthly for planning and brainstorming ways to meet the needs of the families in the community.

Glass House
Wednesday, Jan 3 at 10:15am

Kid Connect Team would like to invite children, grades Pre-k to 5th, for an Advent-themed kid's church through the month of December. Play games, do crafts, and learn about the journey and birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Family Life Center
Sundays at 11am

Parents' Night Out

Upcoming Schedule

JANUARY 5th, Family Life Center,
Pancakes & PJs

FEBRUARY 2nd, Family Life Center,
Be My Valentine

Whether it's "date night" or just "getting away from the kids for a few hours" — call it whatever you'd like! — sometimes you just need an evening to yourselves.

For a stress-free date and a fun time for the kids, try Parents' Night Out on the First Fridays of each month, where they'll be highly entertained, fed and worn right out while you sneak off to a restaurant that doesn't stock high chairs. And you might even save a few bucks.

Cost: Only \$5 per family. Recommended ages: 4 - 11

Registration is required and space is limited. Register at www.VenicePres.org or call Paige Pierce at 941-488-2258 ext.

A Monthly Family Event

Jan 5 **6-8pm**

Parents' Night Out
Pancakes & PJs

Registration Required
\$5 per family

SAFE, FUN EVENING FOR KIDS FROM PRE-K TO 5TH

Games, Movies,
Story Telling, Dinner, Snacks, Ect!

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FAMILY LIFE CENTER

825 The Rialto, Venice, Florida

www.venicepres.org/children 941-488-2258

Love Kids?

Join the Kid Connect Team. Contact Paige Pierce, Director of Children's Ministry at ppierce@venicepres.org

Youth Ministry

----- PRAISE BAND



The Praise Band is a group of kids who are interested in using music to pray and worship. Whether it's through singing or playing an instrument, The Praise Band meets before youth group to practice and perform contemporary spiritual music to express their faith. The Praise Band also performs at various functions throughout the city.

Sundays, 5:30-6pm, Youth Room

VPC has a vibrant and active youth ministry called The Hub. The Hub encourages young people from grades 6-12 to actively live their faith. The Hub is an outreach program that educates, inspires and motivates teens.

Each week the kids, led by the Youth Director, play games designed to develop leadership skills, relationship management and reinforce compassion and understanding. Dinner is then provided by one of the many volunteers at VPC. Scripture reading and application discussion follows.



Our youth program is growing rapidly and ranges in age from 6th to 12th grades.

*Sundays, 6 - 8pm
Youth Room & Room 9*

GREAT COOKS NEEDED!

Show off your cooking skills to a group that will appreciate it! Provide dinner (for about 20 people) on Sunday nights for our growing youth program (The Hub). Contact Karen Romig via email at romig2000@msn.com for information.

Sundays, 5:30-6pm, Room 6



Change Lives!

To volunteer your skills and experience to the youth program, contact Conrad Knepp, Director of Youth Ministry at cknepp@venicepres.org

Music and Arts Ministry

A Must See Performance!

Sat, Jan 27 @ 3:00

In Celebration of our 10th year, we present "Masterworks for Organ and Orchestra".

Our featured organist is Craig Williams, Organist and Choirmaster of the famed West Point Cadet Chapel USMA.

Conducting this concert is Williams' former student, Jamal Sarikoki. Jamal Sarikoki is Director of Music here, at Venice Presbyterian. This will be the first concert of its kind in the Venice Community Concert series, and will feature Brass and Organ

works by Strauss and Dupré, Poulenc concerto for organ and strings and ending with the Guilman Symphony No.1 for organ and full orchestra.



Venice Presbyterian Church's own Director of Ministry, Jamal Sarikoki, directs his mentor

2017-18 VENICE COMMUNITY CONCERT

Karen & Chris Romig

Venice's own romantic duo, Chris & Karen Romig, a highlight of our concert series, have delighted audiences across the country with their elegant and eclectic blend of classical, jazz, and sacred music. We are delighted to have them grace our stage once again as we celebrate our ten-year anniversary.

Friday, February 16 @ 7:00

Hector Olivera

Concluding our 10th Anniversary Season, we welcome once again, a great friend to the series, Hector Olivera. Maestro Olivera has become one of the most sought after and revered international concert organists of the present time. The most sophisticated and demanding organ aficionados claim that Olivera is "one of the greatest organists in the world today."

Friday, March 16 @ 7:00

3 Easy Ways to Purchase Tickets

Box Office

Narthex Welcome
Center

Web

Visit website
venicecommunityconcerts.com

Phone

941-488-5525

Fred Moyer Jazz Trio

Moyer's enthusiasm, artistry, and adventurous programming have made him a favorite among audiences of all ages. In recital, his delightful commentary from the stage takes the audience into the heart of the musical experience.

Stephen Lynerd Group

Stephen worked in the music ministry of a large church and founded The Jazz Package, a versatile collection of musicians.

He settled in Chicago, where he continues to work as a church music director, and freelance musician.

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

JAZZ WEEKEND

FRED MOYER JAZZ TRIO



FRED MOYER PIANO LOWELL RINGLE BASS BOB SAVINE DRUMS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 @ 7PM | OPEN SEATING | TICKETS \$10

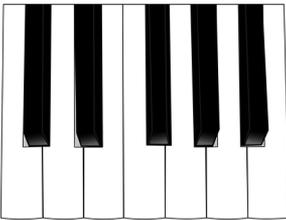
STEPHEN LYNERD GROUP

PERFORMS WITH THE VPC CHOIR

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE, JANUARY 21 @ 9AM & 11AM

VENICE PRESBYTERIAN SANCTUARY
941-488-2258 | WWW.VENICEPRES.ORG
825 THE RIALTO, VENICE, FLORIDA 34265

Organ Donation Fund Update



We have some exciting news to share regarding the development of our Music Ministry. Through the generous donations of our members and friends and the grace of our Lord, we have been able to acquire a new Steinway piano in addition to the new organ. This has been a surprising but joyous occasion for all of us as we continue to move and inspire people towards developing a deeper relationship with Christ.

Join Us for Song & Worship Handbells Practice **Tues, 3:30-5pm**
Chancel Choir Rehearsals **Wed, 6:30-7:30pm**

*Join in the
Music*

Our active and vibrant music ministry is always looking for volunteers to sing or contribute one's gifts. If interested, contact, Jamal Sarikoki, Director of Music Ministry at jsarikoki@venicepres.org

Missions

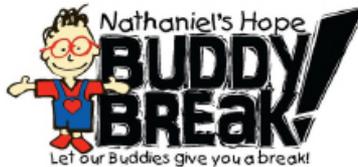
January Moment for Mission, January 14

COCINA Haiti Institute Univers School



Operating from the Christian perspective of faith, hope and love, COCINA partners with Institution of Unvers Chrétien in Ouanaminthe, Haiti to provide academic & vocational education for children & adults, provide healthcare for people in the northeast region of Haiti & jump-start economic development projects.

Buddy Break provide a safe place for VIPs (kids with physical, cognitive, medical, hidden disability, chronic or life-threatening illness, or those who are medically fragile) and their siblings to have fun and establish meaningful friendships with other kids and adults while their caregivers get a much-needed FREE break from their overwhelming caregiving responsibilities. Buddies are friends to VIP kids. Volunteer buddies complete a Buddy Training 101 program and are background checked. How can you help this ministry?



PRAY strength for the families who sometimes struggle to find peace in their daily lives. Pray favor over the words and actions off the volunteers who are Buddies to some Very

Important People each month.

SERVE If you would like to visit for the day and see if Buddy Break would be a good fit for you, contact Paige Pierce at the office for

details.

January 20
Third Saturday of Every Month
Fellowship Hall

Help the Needy!

Give of your time to those who need it the most, contact Paige Pierce, Director of Missions Ministry at ppierce@venicepres.org

3 Cents A Day

On the last Sunday of every month, your spare change is collected and distributed evenly to our four local food pantries. Through your donations Center of Hope, Community Assistance Ministries, South County Food Pantry, and All Faith's Food Bank have received over 17,000 pounds of food to local families in need. On Sunday, January 28th, please visit Christine Hart at the table in the Narthex and exchange or pick up a food container. Every penny counts.



thank you!

The Mission Team thanks our very generous congregation for having such a loving and helpful heart.

The October Monthly Mission Partner was Pregnancy Solutions, VPC donated \$2,490.

The November Monthly Mission Partner was Family Promise. Your contributions amounted to \$3,050.

3 Cents A Meal has been a huge success this year. In total, VPC will have donated \$13,000 to these local food pantries in addition to our two very successful food drives.

The Alternative Gift Market this year raised \$20,000 for distribution to 14 of our mission partners.

IMPACT Team Meeting (Intentional Ministries Promoting Action for Christ Together)

The IMPACT Team is a group of missional disciples who serve the community and bring the love of Christ in a monthly outreach. All are welcome to attend an informational meeting to learn how you can make an IMPACT on the Venice Community!

January 9th at 3pm in Room 8

Current Opportunities to Serve

Habitat for Humanity is a home building project for a local family in need. There is work available in all areas and every ability. Wear comfortable clothing and closed toe shoes. Ages 16+ with adult supervision. Gloves and tools are provided. 12-15 people needed.

Saturday, January 13th from 7am to 12pm
Sign up online or in the Glass House

Hot Dogs and Haircuts for the Homeless

Serve food, offer prayer, and supply information on resources to the homeless in our community. 10-15 people needed. Family-friendly project.

February 10th, 12pm-4pm

Pregnancy Solution's Walk for Life

Hand out water, assist with setup/tear-down, or man the refreshments. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. All ages welcome to walk for the cause of pro-life. 10-12 volunteers needed.

February 24th

Challenger Baseball

Play Ball with athletes with special needs. Anyone can play. Game-time is 5pm-7pm and a dinner is provided after everyone wins the game! Ages 10+ suggested. 10-12 volunteers needed.

March 17th, 4 - 8pm

Missions



Looking for a short term international mission trip? We are seeking several people to go to **TCM International Institute's** Haus Edelweiss campus in beautiful Vienna, Austria, April 8-20 this year, to provide hospitality to international seminary students. Comfortable accommodations and 3 meals a day are covered at no expense – workers pay only travel and incidental expenses off campus. TCM will host a tour of Vienna the day before students arrive. No experience is necessary except a desire to love and support the students, as you assist in hospitality, meals,

housekeeping and general maintenance during their 10 day course time. We will share in worship on Sunday and visit the gardens of Baden. On site orientation will take place before students arrive. Check it out at tcmi.org.

Please contact Fred Gossman for more information about the trip (513-836-6839).

A meeting will take place on January 25 at 4:00 PM at 822 Crossfield Place, in Plantation (Gossman's home). Beverages and appetizers will be provided.



Mision Peniel is a pastoral ministry of charity and service, providing food, clothing, fellowship, and emergency support to farm workers in Immokalee, Florida.

Sign up to serve alongside our mission team on January 19, April 20, and October 19. Space is limited, so register early. Contact Paige Pierce at ppierce@venicepres.org to serve on this important mission.

Care & Compassion Ministry

Transitions Class

Coping with the loss of someone or something you love is one of life's biggest challenges. Often, the pain of loss can feel overwhelming. The pain of grief can also disrupt your physical health, making it difficult to sleep, eat, or even think straight. These are normal reactions to significant loss. But while there is no right or wrong way to

grieve, there are healthy ways to cope with the pain that, in time, can ease your sadness and help you come to terms with your loss, find new meaning, and move on with your life.

If you are experiencing a significant loss, join us for this 6 week support group.

To register, contact Donna at 941-800-4196 or 832-723-0527
Class starts Mon, Jan 15 through Mon, Feb, 19, 9:30am to 11:30am
Classes available every six months

Stephen Ministers

If you are sad or struggling, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are prepared to provide confidential one-to-one care, encouragement and support to help you through a difficult time.

Lois Armstrong 496-9414
Marcia Bickmore 488-9379
Dick Warde 497-7750



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

Prayer Groups

Please submit any special prayer requests to our prayer groups. We have active groups that meet on a regular basis and hold your needs in their hearts and minds during prayer.



Adult Ministry



Midweek Prayer and Bible Study with Pastor Chris Romig

Pastor Chris will lead a midweek gathering for Prayer and Bible Study on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm in the Sanctuary, beginning January 17. In addition to in-depth, life application teaching from the Bible, these Wednesday evening gatherings will also be a time to pray together as the people of God.

We will be exploring the New Testament letter of 1 Peter, written to encourage people going through difficult times. It's a book of the Bible that generally gets less attention than other

New Testament writings, but 1 Peter provides powerful hope and guidance for us in today's world.

Begins Wednesday, January 17 at 6 pm
All are welcome
no sign-up necessary.

*(Note: We will **not** be serving Wednesday evening dinners at VPC this winter; you're encouraged to dine with other church friends in local restaurants either before or after Prayer and Bible Study, as a way of deepening friendships and blessing the local economy.)*

Jennifer Speer, Women's 7 Week Bible Study

The Book of James – Jennifer Mathewson Speer is a gifted and compelling teacher of the Word.

Beginning Jan 10 through Feb 7, 10 - 11:30am, Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10 for materials. Please register online at www.venicepres.org or sign-up in the Glass House.

Space is very limited.



Welcome

We welcome all who desire to Connect, Grow and Go with our adult ministry. If interested, contact, Chris O'Brien, Director of Women's Ministries at cobrien@venicepres.org or Nick Clemmer for Men's Ministries at nclemmer@venicepres.org

Mens' Corner



Men's (MnM) Bible Study (all men welcome) Monday, 6pm - 7pm, Glass House

Men's Discussion Group

Discussion of recent church activities and current events. All men attending VPC and their guests are welcome. Walt Stewart, 480-1629

Tues, 8am - 9am, Room 11

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

The Tuesday morning men's Bible study is open to all men, including members, friends and visitors. The men will read and discuss the Gospel of Matthew.

Dick Edmunds, kcid1961@gmail.com

Starts Jan 9 - April 24, 9am - 10:30am, Glass House

Women's Life Group

Join us for lively discussion and fellowship! All women are welcome as we discuss "What's Brewing, filtering your plans, priorities and perspectives".

**Starting January 15
Mon, 6:30 - 7pm, Room 6**

Life Groups & Bible Studies

Martha's Circle Tues, 10am - 12pm, Room 6

Rachel's Circle Tues, 10am - 12pm, Room 8

Kingdom Living Fellowship

(Formerly Kairos Connections)

Discussion of the sermon, a short video and then discussion on the video content. All are welcome and encouraged to join. Join this welcoming and vibrant Kingdom Life Group to grow together in Christ!

Sunday at 10:15AM, Room 9

Nomads Bible Study

Explore together the Bible and its message, learn how we can incorporate the message into our lives in order to strengthen our faith.

Anna Marie Brummett 847-309-8005

Gail Falaloro 847-309-8005

Tues, 9:30 - 11am, Room 11

VPC Book Club (VPC Book List for 2017-2018)

Jan 3 HOME FRONT by Kristin Hannah

Feb 7 AMERICA'S FIRST DAUGHTER
by Stephanie Dray & Aura Kamole

Mar 7 A MAN CALLED OVE
by Frederick Backman

April 4 THE STORIED LIFE OF A.J. FICKRY
by Gabrielle Zevin

May 2 LUNCHEON OF THE BOATING PARTY
by Susan Vreeland

**First Wednesday of the month
1 - 2pm in Room 8
Everyone is welcome.**

Adult Ministry

Health & Wellbeing

(All in Fellowship Hall)

Holy Yoga

Mon & Fri, 9 - 9:30am

Line Dancing

Mon, 10:30 - 11:30am

MOPS

(Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)

1st & 3rd Thursday,

9:30am - 12pm

*Childcare provided in
Family Life Center*



PW Church Women United Annual Meeting

Speaker Captain Nichole Bell, Salvation Army, will talk about their afterschool program funded by the Church Women United.

This is a PotLuck Luncheon and we ask that you bring canned food for CAM.

January 5, Friday, 12 - 2pm

**Venice Nokomis United Methodist Church
208 Palm Avenue, Nokomis, FL**

Presbyterian Women of VPC host Church Women United's Annual Spring Tea

Annually, the women of VPC host Church Women United for a tea party/fellowship gathering. Four other congregations in Venice open their churches bi-monthly to host Church Women United for food, fellowship and worship.

April 6

Fellowship Hall

Blood Drive Onsite at VPC

Safe blood saves lives and improves health. Blood transfusion is needed for:

- Women with complications of pregnancy, such as ectopic pregnancies and haemorrhage before, during or after childbirth;
- Children with severe anaemia often resulting from malaria or malnutrition;
- People with severe trauma following man-made and natural disasters; and
- Many complex medical and surgical procedures and cancer patients.

It is also needed for regular transfusions for people with conditions such as thalassaemia and sickle cell disease and is used to make products such as clotting factors for people with haemophilia.

There is a constant need for regular blood supply because blood can be stored for only a limited time before use. Regular blood donations by a sufficient number of healthy people are needed to ensure that safe blood will be available whenever and wherever it is needed.

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person – the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life, or even several if your blood is separated into its components – red cells, platelets and plasma – which can be used individually for patients with specific conditions.

**Sunday, January 21
8:30 - 12:30pm**

