

WELCOME CONNECT CARD

We are so glad you could join us today.
Are you new to our church?
Would you like to find out more about us?
If so, complete the **Welcome Card** located on
the table as you enter the Sanctuary.
Drop the completed card into the box provided,
so that we can connect with you!

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am—Sunday School

10:00 am—Morning Worship

Worship Services are streamed live on Facebook
and added to our YouTube channel.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

4pm Candlelight Service

(family friendly early service)

7pm Candlelight Service

(traditional evening service)



What
Is
Christmas
All
About?



**December 15, 2024
10am Worship Service**

Venice Presbyterian Church (EPC)

3694 Millers Run Road, McDonald, PA 15057

office@venice-church.org.....724-745-8362.....www.venice-church.org



Our Purpose Statement

We exist to:
Glorify God.

Grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Go into the community to serve and guide others toward salvation.



Venice Presbyterian Church

Worship to the Glory of God

December 15, 2024

**If you are able, please stand.*

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship—Lighting of the Advent Candle FAITH**

Leader: In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way.

Our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey. We reach out, desperate for comfort, for balance, for the familiar, for hope.

People: In the darkest times, even a faltering light can be just enough: the flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling! For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

Candle is Lit..... Hoffer Family

Leader: However impossible it seems, God’s promise will be fulfilled—and blessed is the one who sees the truth of God’s kingdom in our midst.

People: Come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us, and we will rejoice.

***Christmas Carols**

“Light of the World”..... words on screen

“O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful”#119

Prayer of Confession *Dorothy Bass*

Father, we delude ourselves into believing that if we can just get everything done, if we can only tie up all the loose ends, if we can even once get ahead of the crush, we will prove our worth and establish ourselves in safety. Our problem with time is a spiritual problem, one that runs right to the core of who we are as human beings. Indeed, these distortions drive us to believe that we, not God, are the masters of time. We come to believe that our worth must be proved by the way we spend our hours and that our ultimate safety depends on our own good management. Lord, forgive us and redeem the way we spend our time in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Choral Anthem *“Advent Hymn”*

Following the Choral Anthem, preschool - 6th grade are invited to continue worshipping in the Youth Room with our Kids’ Church Ministry.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Zechariah 8:1 – 8.....Pew Bible Pg. 946

New Testament Luke 1:34 – 45.....Pew Bible Pg. 1017

Sermon *“The Best Exercise Plan for Christmas”*

Installation of Officers.....(^ Signifies new officer)

Elders: ^Robin Allen, Lisa Hradil, Jeff McKean, and ^Deb Robertson

Deacons: Doris Kean, Karen Nicksic, ^Rainey Ostrowski

Trustees: Walt Herbst, ^Dave Hradil

Morning Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Worship of God with Our Tithes and Offerings

***Doxology and Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn** *“The First Noel” (v. 1,2,3,6).....#136*

***Benediction**

***Responsive Benediction**

*“Go in Peace”.....words on screen
(to the tune of “In the Bleak Midwinter”)*

Leading us in this morning’s worship:

Pastor: Patrick Keeley.....Elder: Brian Bark

Music Director: Erin Connors and the Venice Church Choir

Accompanist: Stefanie Patterson

Kids Church: Anna Robertson & Bev Browett

Greeter: Marlene Cole...Nursery: Mercedes Batey