

WELCOME TO VENICE CHURCH!

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.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

Venice Church Staff

Pastor: Patrick Keeley.....ptkeeley@gmail.com

Admin. Assist./Treasurer: Shari O'Rourke....office@venice-church.org

Music Director: Erin Connors.....music@venice-church.org

Accompanist: Stefanie Patterson.....office@venice-church.org
(Attn: Accompanist)

2024 Venice Church Officers

Trustees President: Chuck Jamerson.....trustees@venice-church.org

Trustees Vice President: Walt Herbst.....trustees@venice-church.org

Clerk of Session: Lisa Hradil.....office@venice-church.org
(Attn: Clerk of Session)

Deacon Moderator: Linda Tyman.....office@venice-church.org
(Attn: Deacon Moderator)

**What
Is
Christmas
All
About?**



**December 24, 2024
7pm Candlelight Christmas Eve 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
7pm....December 24, 2024

Welcome

*** Call to Worship – Lighting of the Christ Candle JOY**

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.....Wright Family

Leader: However impossible it seems, here we are, the servants of the Lord, both perplexed and joyful—and blessed is the one who trusts that with God all things are possible.

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

***Christmas Carols**words on screen
Hymn.....“Joy to the World”#125
Hymn.....“O Holy Night”.....#148

Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ, as we look forward to celebrating your first coming at Christmas, we are often distracted by the festivities around us. We get busy with the stress and joy of family gatherings. Forgive us for not preparing your way in the world; forgive us for adding to the distraction of others. As we look forward to your second coming, we are surrounded by the duties and expectations of everyday life. Forgive us for being too scared or overwhelmed to prepare the way for you. Help us, in this Advent season, to live in the joy of your first coming and the hope of your second coming so that those around us may see the difference your coming makes. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Choral Anthem “O Come, All You Unfaithful”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2, 6.....Pg. 680
Micah 5:2-4..... Pg. 926
Jeremiah 23:5, 6.....Pg. 773

New Testament

Luke 1 & 2 The Jesus Storybook Bible.....*Pastor Patrick Keeley*

Sermon “*What Christmas IS All About!*”

Christmas Offering

Pastoral Prayer

The Lighting of Our Candles

[Please assist all children with candles. The light will be brought to your row. Please pass the light from person to person. Lighted candles should always be held upright; tip the unlighted candle toward the flame. PLEASE EXTINGUISH ALL FLAMES BEFORE MOVING FROM THE PEWS.]

***Hymn** “*Silent Night! Holy Night!*”#147
(Please lift your candle upward on the last stanza)

***New Testament Responsive Reading** *Revelation 21:1 – 6*

***Charge & Benediction**

***Hymn** “*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*”#133

THE OFFERING THIS EVENING

will support *the Gratitude Gift Fund* which provides financial assistance to EPC retired pastors and missionaries who need help to pay their out-of-pocket medical expenses. Thank you for your thoughtful generosity in contributing tonight.

**If you are able, please stand.*