



**Venice
United Church of Christ**

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Venice, FL 34293

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Website: veniceucc.org

Office Hours: All Year
Monday-Friday
9am - 12pm & 1pm-4pm

Regular Sunday Schedule:
Worship: 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour: 11:00 am

Library Hours:
During regular office hours
and Sunday morning

MINISTERS

All Members of the Church

INTERIM PASTOR-TEACHER

Rev. Dr. John Fairless

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Barbara Quinn

BELLA HANDBELL CHOIR

DIRECTOR

Pat Hodgkins

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pam Gansch-Boythe

FINANCIAL CLERK

Arlene Smith

PUBLICATIONS CLERK

Vicki Decker

CUSTODIAN

Rich Roehr

Some of you, if you are baseball fans of a certain age, will remember the famous player turned commentator, **Dizzy Dean**. Jay Hanna Dean is the last National League pitcher to have won 30 games in a season (in 1934) and was famous for his (perhaps) intentional mangling of the English language in the broadcast booth.

Rivalled only by Yogi Berra in his commentary, Dean was famous for such phrases as, "He slud into third!", "He shouldn't hadn't oughta swang at that pitch!", and one of my favorites, "**Well, who'd a-thunk it?**"

We could probably take that last saying as our theme for the last few weeks here at VUCC; who'd a-thunk that we would need to separate ourselves and halt our worship services and meetings for this long? COVID-19 has brought challenges and changes all over our nation and the world. The Spring of 2020 will certainly be one for the history books!

As I write this article, it is doubtful that we will be meeting together again during the month of May. Our **Leadership Council** has adopted an outlook based on good medical data and an abundance of caution, and we will only plan to phase our schedule back in when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, like many other churches, we are finding creative ways to worship, pray, and serve our community in the name of Christ. **Listed on the following page is a summary of the information** for participating in our online worship broadcast, a mid-week prayer service that is conducted via Zoom, and a number of mission opportunities that we have even while we are quarantined.

The Leadership Council continues to meet weekly to share information, prayer, and to discuss the health of the church. **Pray for them and for each other.** Oh, and an extra prayer for your pastor is always appreciated, too!

God bless you, VUCC!

Pastor John

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma."—Gracie Allen

"God is Still Speaking...."

No matter who you are; no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Getting Connected for Worship, Service, and Prayer (One-Stop Resource Center)

Worship Service (Sundays 10 am)

Click on this link: <https://shorturl.at/adstE> OR
Go to Youtube.com and search for “John Fairless” click on desired service

If you would like to listen to the service via telephone, call the church office and let Pam know your preferred phone # -- you will be dialed in at approximately 9:45-9:50 am on Sunday.

Prayer and Share Time (Wednesdays 7pm)

Click on this link to join a Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/5959826130>

Mission Opportunities (Any time!)

1. **Help women in Sierra Leone** by donating clean sheets (new or used) of 100% cotton and/or flannel material. These are being sewn into reusable sanitary products. Contact Jenny Steindam (614-598-0777) if you can donate.
2. Read this note from **Cynthia Voortman** with an **urgent need for bottled water**:

Sheltering in place where there is no running water is untenable for the homeless. “Home” is a camp in the woods, or maybe a vehicle if one is fortunate. Drinking water came during library visits, stops at the homeless shelter, restrooms in fast food restaurants...all places that are now unavailable.

It’s pretty hard to ration one or two bottles of water per person when they need it so badly. As you know, the grocery stores are generally allowing only one case to be purchased.

If you have any extra bottles and are able to part with them, I know about 60 folks who would be very appreciative.

We can schedule pickup (or our address is 12535 Sagewood Dr. if you’re looking for a safe outing.) We’ll have a tote out front.

Thank you sincerely!

We will also collect bottled water at the church Monday-Friday between 9-11 am; you can leave your water under the covered entrance to Naar Hall and Rich will be sure it is safely loaded for delivery later!

3. Several of our members are still working with the **South County Food Pantry**, where they are in need of financial contributions to keep the food supply flowing. As a bonus, **all contributions received online are currently being matched** by the Flanzer Charitable Trust – so it’s a free double bonus! To donate visit online at <http://southcountyfoodpantry.com/>
4. If you or someone you know is in need of a cloth facemask to wear while venturing out in public, please let Pam know in the church office. We have some very talented seamstresses that have been making masks and will be happy to share with you. We will send your mask via US Post Office.
5. We have also been making money donations to the **All Faiths Food Bank** during this time while schools are out; this is the organization that allows us to provide our **Backpack Program** for feeding children at Garden Elementary School. All Faiths has promised that all of the children we normally feed will receive food during this time. So, if the backpack program is dear to your heart, you can still give. Just indicate your designation on your check when you send it to the church office. Thanks!



Musical Notes by Barb Quinn



This is a time when I should be writing that the handbell ringers have just finished their season, and that the choir will be singing for the first three weeks in May and then going on their summer break. Little did we know that the handbells would finish at the end of February and that the choir would finish halfway through March! We miss the weekly ringing and singing rehearsals, participation in worship services, and just plain being together with one another.

I hope you are able to follow the weekly YouTube broadcasts of our worship services. Thank you to everyone who is participating. Special thanks to Sue Jack who leads the singing every Sunday. It is not easy to sing along from home when just the organ or piano music is playing. Sue makes it possible for everyone to stay together in song.

Some people have asked whether or not we could include copies of the actual music instead of only the words in the *Connect* link to the worship bulletin. The answer *until now* has been, "No!" Our copyright license allows us to print the song sheets for our regular in-sanctuary services. We are also allowed to record our services for congregation members who are at home - that is what Lowell Wentworth does - as long as we do not use any pre-recorded music; everything has to be "live" at the time.

But wait...there's more! I have *finally* been able to secure a Streaming License for our YouTube services. (The process involved to get the license and to have all of my questions answered could be another whole article!) The answer is now, "**YES!**" We can send you a link of the actual song sheets for our hymns. We cannot show a song sheet onscreen, but that does not matter, because you will have printed one. We still cannot use pre-recorded music from artists unless it is something that I have recorded on the piano and will use myself. That means I will be right there in the background for you every Sunday, and Sue will be leading the hymns.

The license became valid on April 27th, so as of Friday, May 1st, you will be able to print both the Order for Worship and the song sheets. On Sunday, May 3rd, you can make an even bigger joyful noise unto the Lord!

Dee Rogers Key Woman from Venice United Church of Christ 2020

A "Key Woman" from each church in the Venice area is recognized by Church Women United at the CWU May Friendship Luncheon, which was to be held here, at VUCC, on May 1, 2020. During this time, we were to honor our dear Dee Rogers.

Thank you, Dee, for the many things you've done for our church and the many ideas you've suggested. We appreciate your wit, energy and enthusiasm, kindness, common sense...and that warm smile.



May Birthdays

Arlene Smith	May 01
Betty Moore	May 02
David Mansfield	May 05
Victoria Augustine	May 07
Mary Ann Forsberg	May 07
Paul McHenry	May 07
Delia Rogers	May 10
Janet Beardsley	May 13
Dorothy Wilkinson	May 13
Wendy Seeley	May 15
Nick Long	May 20
Garland Reedy	May 20
Wanda Mink	May 21
Susan Holmes	May 25
Richard Railsback	May 25
Linda Mellen	May 30
Betty Childers	May 31

May Anniversaries

Rich & Liz Roehr
May 09, 1981
Celebrating 39 Years

Bob & Liz Sharpe
May 21, 1994
Celebrating 26 Years

Gary & Lyn Woodrum
May 27, 1972
Celebrating 48 Years

Garland & Norma Sue White
May 28, 1971
Celebrating 49 Years

**Deadline for
the June/ July
summer issue
of Tidings:
Friday,
May 15**



If we are miraculously able to meet in person this month, the events calendar and the May worship helpers will be listed in the Connect. A sincere thank you to all who were scheduled to assist but were unable to do so because of the current social distancing restrictions.....things usually slow down at this time of year, but this is a bit too much, isn't it!