



Venice Free Methodist Church / April 2024 / *"The Venice Review"*

What a glorious day our Easter celebration was! With inclement weather pending, we had to be flexible just in case of rain or, as some weather reports suggested, lightning. Yet we prayed that the Lord would hold back the rain, and He sure delivered! I vividly recall after service looking in the sky at the dark clouds surrounding us in every direction, but none over our heads - blue skies with white clouds. Glory to God!

This answer to prayer reminded me of how easy it is to limit an unstoppable, powerful God. As the Easter story revealed, Jesus overcame sin, Satan, and the grave. Nothing could hold Him back— It's a lesson in faith and a reminder that what may seem impossible to us is easy for our God.

Our Easter celebration was a testament to the diverse and united community we are. People from all walks of life, with different stories and experiences, came together to worship and hear about the Easter Story - the greatest story ever told. Whether they were accepting Christ for the first time, seeking a deeper commitment to God, or receiving baptism, it was a time of shared joy. This is the goodness God is manifesting in our lives and church. He is risen indeed!

Yet the celebration isn't over. We are having a special sharing service this Sunday. From what I've heard, God has been doing so much since

the beginning of this year. It is an opportunity for you to share what God is doing in your life. You never know who may need to hear exactly what you are going through so they can receive the breakthrough they need. We will conclude our sharing time after 2nd service with a luncheon from Rutts. This is church leadership's way of saying 'thank you' to those who have served for our Easter service and the sacrifice you made. We couldn't have done it without you!

Additionally, I ask for your prayers as we have a remarkable opportunity before us. The house across from the church alley wants to sell to the church. Wow! While they are working out details and pricing, we are hopeful they will come to a proposal before our Society Meeting on Sunday, April 14th, after second service. We will discuss the vision behind a potential purchase - for this is more than acquiring a house; this is beneficially expanding our property to become more effective in ministry as a future church campus. Please join me in prayer as we will vote on the decision and, if accepted, what the next steps will be. May the Holy Spirit guide our decisions in all that we do.

Blessings,

Pastor Nathan D. Cherney

NEWS BRIEFS

More pictures below



Venice Church has an **Info Meeting on 3/3** for our first **Baja Missions Summer Trip!**

We had a **Blood Drive on Good Friday**, where each giver was able to save up to 3 lives! And immediately followed by our **Good Friday Service on 3/29**



35+ Volunteers showed up for **Church Work Day on 3/9** to clean and beautify our church! Thank you, Church Family!



Youth **PULSE** had an "Ask Me Anything" evening with a panel of church members on 3/30. Thank you to our panelists!



Pastor Jim led a **Pastors Workshop on 3/16**.

Welcome, to those publicly received into membership on 3/24: Alex Quino, Young Roe, Guillermo Trias III, Emily Trias, Dan & Minnie Phai, Eliza Tseng, Greg Cheng, Kevin Sakamoto, and Emily Rubke.



Easter Service on 3/31 celebrated our risen Savior with worship, food, and fun activities for the kids! Praise God for the great weather He provided despite a forecast full of rain!



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Chris and Yuko Wilkins are Free Methodist missionaries with a vision to encourage discipleship in Japan and elsewhere using the *Train & Multiply* discipleship movement. In addition, they teach at the Tokyo Biblical Seminary, serve in the community, and do street ministry. They have two children: Caleb, Corey



Seder Dinner on 3/26 journeyed through the Passover scriptures to find Jesus as the fulfilling prophesy of the sacrificial lamb.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out www.VeniceChurch.org for more info!

ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT w/PASTOR CLIFF – Sundays, Apr 7 thru May 19 @ 8:45a

Our Lord Jesus announced the kingdom of God during his life on earth. His resurrection opened the kingdom to all who believe. The Holy Spirit has been extending the kingdom around the world since then. The adult discipleship class will be looking at the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Join us to explore what the Holy Spirit is doing in the world.

CREATE TO BLESS (C2B) CROCHET CLUB 2nd Sats & 3rd Thurs thru June – The Well House

Crochet small blessings for hospitals and non-profit organizations! Bring supplies if you have them. We have some on hand if you don't. Bethany Mounts will be available to teach any newbies! Email any questions to themounts5@gmail.com.

SPECIAL SOCIETY MEETING Sun, Apr 14 after 2nd service. Lunch & Childcare provided. Official Members vote. This is in regards to (1) the possible purchase of the 12421 Allin Street property, and (2) updates on staffing and ministry initiatives for the balance of this year. With respect to the potential property purchase, the church is currently in negotiations with the sellers and the parties have come to an oral understanding of the basic deal terms. That oral agreement needs to be put into writing before it is final, and is subject to Society approval, among other conditions. In advance of the Society meeting, church members will be provided details regarding the transaction. A discussion regarding the property, the deal terms, & our vision for the property is on the agenda.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECT GROUP Apr 17 thru Jun 5 – 6-7:25p - Sanctuary

Welcome back to Wednesday night gatherings for the "Been There" sermon series. Childcare available for PreK-5th. Dinner provided on **BOLD** dates (Potluck every other week. See flyer). Sign up! <https://bit.ly/3PGCB6B>

YOUTH PULSE RECHARGE CONFERENCE Sat, Apr 20 – 12-10p at Venice Church

COUPLES WORKSHOP – Fri, Apr 26 7-9p
"Emotionally Healthy Relationship: Conflict," led by Suzanne Miyabe. For couples seriously dating or married. Email Amber to sign up: arosehollyfield@yahoo.com

BLOOM WOMENS FELLOWSHIP EVENT Sat, Apr 27 – 5:30-8p - MPR

Ladies, ever wonder what God says about a woman's beauty? Ever wonder what colors look best on you and why? Join us for BLOOM, a woman's God-given beauty, inside and out. Certified color consultant Amy Ellzey will lead in a devotional and give a presentation on what colors look best on you! Dinner will be served. Please sign up in the lobby or [click here](#) no later than April 19th.

VBS – Mon, Jul 8 thru Fri, Jul 12 – 6:30-8:30p
For kids ages 3 (and potty-trained) thru 6th grade. Volunteers needed! **Register here!**
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/venice2024>

FAMILY CAMP – Fri, Nov 8 thru Mon, Nov 11
Forest Home Forest Center – Forest Falls, CA

CHURCH BULLETINS

SEEKING PRAYER AT VFMC IN 2024?

There are many opportunities to receive prayer!
IN PERSON: Wednesdays, starting 4/24, from 7:30-8:30pm, in the sanctuary. The second, fourth, and fifth Saturday of each month, 9:00-10:30am, in the sanctuary. After 2nd service on the first, third, & fifth Sunday of each month in Rm 1 (across from sanctuary). **OVER EMAIL:** Request prayer through our prayer chain of volunteers! **FROM 4/5-4/20, please email** DavidShioji@gmail.com.

IN SYMPATHY

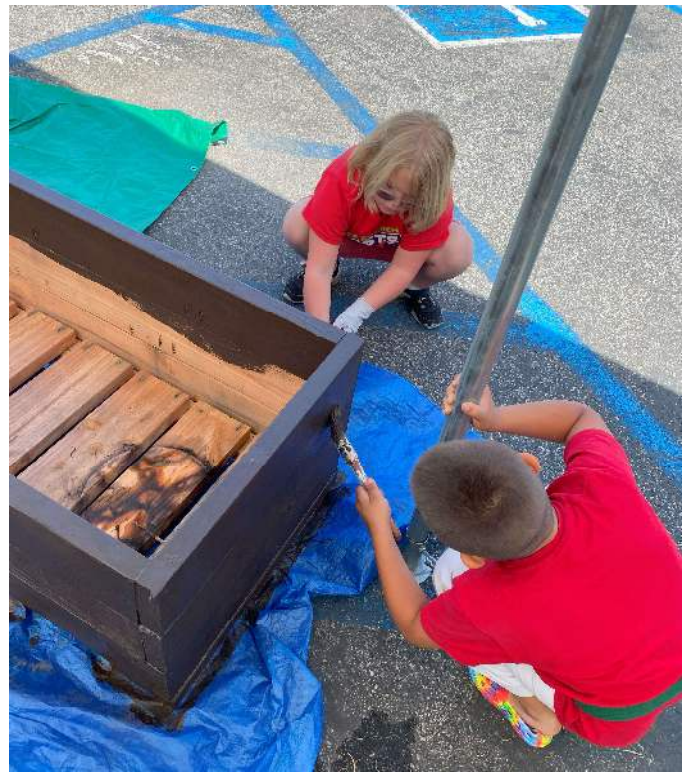
Our condolences to the family of Sophie Namba on her passing on 3/7. Praying the Lord's comfort and strength over them during this time.

CHURCH WORK DAY







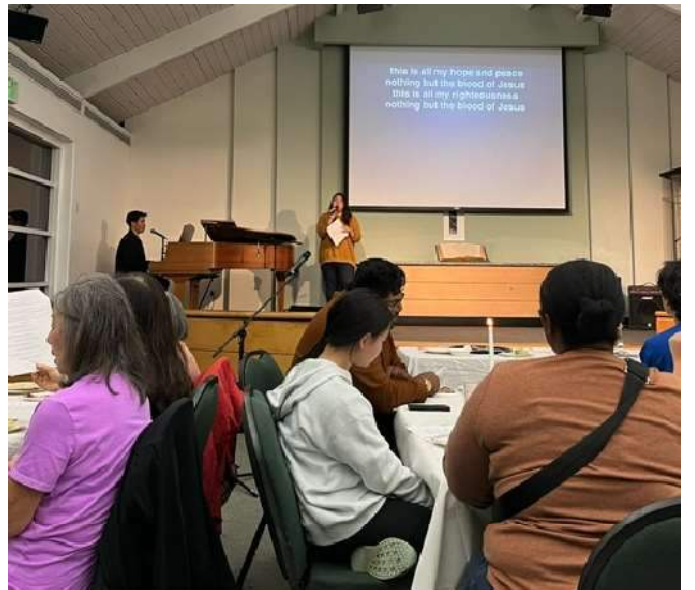


NEW MEMBERS



SEDER DINNER





RED CROSS GOOD FRIDAY BLOOD DRIVE







EASTER SERVICE



























