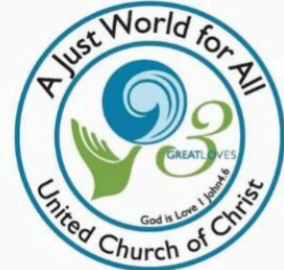


FEBRUARY



**VUCC
Connect**
...binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.



Our VUCC Vision

**United in Christ's love,
a just world for all**



*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here!*



**Annual Giving Statements
will be available in
Naar Hall after worship on January 25.
(It helps us save on postage expenses!)**

**If you are not able to
get your statement then,
it will be mailed to you.**

**Please let the church office know if you
do not receive one by February 5th.**



Valentine Gift Bags for the Unhoused, Seniors, and Those in Need

Bags will be available in the Narthex and in Naar Hall after worship on January 25 and February 1. You may also pick up bags from the church office from 9 am to 1 pm Monday to Thursday.



Included in the bag will be a list of suggested items. You do not need to buy everything on the list! All items can be found at any Dollar store. Please purchase travel-size items, and return the bags by February 8 to Naar Hall or to the office.

These beautiful bags will be distributed during Valentine week at the following locations:

- The "Community Dinner"...offered every Tuesday at the Indian Mound in Englewood
- The Bible Church...offers dinner and food pantry items every Thursday.
- Christ Venice Church on Center Rd...offers lunch every Friday at Train Station. They now handle the Coffee Talk program.

Any extra bags will be donated to On the Spot's Recuperative Care Program.



**Rummage Sale
February 14, 2026**

**Beginning on Sunday, February 8th,
rummage sale items may be delivered to the church
according to the schedule and parameters below.**

Please try to separate items into the following categories:

- Tools, electrical, garden (please...no TV's or computers)
- Kitchen items (pots, pans, small electrical appliances in good working condition, dishes, cups, glassware)
- Jewelry (please give to Debra Mosely)
- Christmas (Please...no Christmas trees)
- Knick knacks, home décor, stationery, toys, puzzles, picture frames
- All linens (sheets, towels, rugs, pillows, etc.)
- Clothing
- Shoes
- All book donations should go to the church library at any time

Large items will go on the stage. Our plan is to have people outside under the carport to accept your items.

Sorting will be Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-12 Noon, for the entire week of February 8, 2026. Mark your calendars!

Whatever time you can give will be greatly appreciated.
Thank you from the Women's Fellowship.

Library News (NEW)

Rummage Sale

As you go through your closets and shelves for items to donate to the February 14th Rummage Sale, books, puzzles, and audio items (CDs, DVDs, cassettes) should be dropped off at the library Sundays, Wednesday mornings, or in the crate outside the door. We will go through the donations to see if any should be retained in the library or sorted for the sale.



New Arrivals

The Library Committee processed a number of donated books for you to borrow. Look for them in the New Arrivals section of the library or on the rolling cart. Thank you to our many donors who keep our shelves current. Here are a few of the titles:

Presumption of Guilt by Archer Mayor -- NYTBS

Hour of the Witch by Chris Bohjalian -- NYTBS

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd -- NYTBS

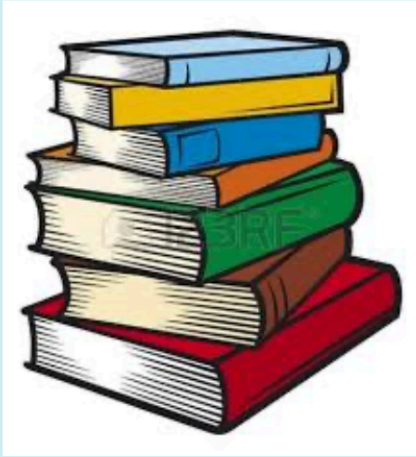
The Black Wolf by Louise Penny -- NYTBS

Granite Harbor by Peter Nichols

Alex Cross Must Die by James Patterson -- NYTBS

NYTBS – New York Times Bestseller

The Library is open Wednesday mornings and Sundays before and after church. See Barb in the office for access at other times.



Book Discussion

Imagine, one day, opening your door and finding a small wooden box that will tell you the exact number of years you have left to live. Imagine, everyone in the world receives a box for them as well on that very same day. Where did these come from? Would you open the box? What are the implications to not only you, but to society as a whole?

This is the theme of the book *The Measure*, written by Nikki Erlick. It is a book listed in this year's Reading for Renewal selection.

After reading it, I wanted to discuss it with others. Please join me on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM in the Parlor at VUCC. The church library has a copy of the book, and it is in some of the Sarasota County library branches.

Also, if you found another book on the Reading for Renewal list that you found to be outstanding and one that could lead to a good discussion, bring it along and share it with us.

Any questions or thoughts about this? I can be reached at 414-708-3058 or

mkdickson55@gmail.com

Marianne Dickson

SUNDAY ...
22ND
FEBRUARY

**BELL
FEST**





Combined hand bell choirs from ...

**Venice UCC and
First Presbyterian Church
of Winter Haven**

Music & Worship Service

10:00 AM

Venice United Church of Christ
620 Shamrock Blvd, Venice

For More Information:
www.veniceucc.org

A Bell Fest Is Coming!

On Sunday, February 22nd, the Handbell Choir from First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven will join our Bella Handbell choir for the morning worship service. The two choirs, when combined, represent 20 ringers. The groups will join together for two pieces, *United*, composed by Jason Krug and conducted by Jeremy Rath, Director of Music of Winter Haven, and *Fanfare and Aria*, composed by R. Hobby and conducted by Dr. Lynda Weston, Director of the Venice UCC handbell choir and joined by Jeremy Rath on the organ. Each bell choir will also share an individual piece. The joint choirs, with organ, will accompany the Doxology.

The Winter Haven group will come to Venice the Saturday before and rehearse in the Sanctuary with lunch and dinner provided by the church. Members of the congregation will house the Winter Haven ringers for the night. Our UCC congregation is invited to warmly greet our guest musicians during the social hour following the service in Naar Hall. Please circle this special event on your calendar, look for sign-ups for ways you can individually help, and invite your friends!

**Venice CROP
Hunger Walk
February 22, 2026
3:00 PM
Grace Methodist Church**



If you signed up for the VUCC CROP Walk Team, now is the time to seek donations and sponsors.

If you want to raise funds and join the team, or just donate, go to the CROP website to register/donate for the VUCC Team.

CROP funds programs that create support for food around the world!

website:

<http://www.crophungerwalk.org/venicefl>.

For questions contact Ross Ament: rament1@aol.com.



VENICE AAUW
CHAMPAGNE TEA WITH
B.A. SHAPIRO

NY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE LOST MASTERPIECE

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 26TH

12:00PM- 3:00PM

PLANTATION GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
500 ROCKLEY BLVD, VENICE, FL



JOIN AUTHOR FOR A DISCUSSION AND BOOK SIGNING,
LUNCHEON TEA, AND SILENT AUCTION.



\$50 PER TICKET
RESERVE A TABLE (8-10 PEOPLE)

PURCHASE TICKETS THROUGH **QR CODE**
OR WWW.VENICE-FLAAUW.NET.
PROCEEDS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR WOMEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL
AND STEM CAMPS FOR GIRLS.



501(c)(3) registered with the IRS (FID 38-867484) and the State of Florida (#85-8016052898C-6),
and does not engage in professional solicitation

Do you have your "DUCKS" in a row?



"AGING in FLORIDA" Are you Prepared?

Venice United Church of Christ

620 Shamrock Blvd. Venice, FL 34293

FEBRUARY 28, 2026 in NAAR HALL (Fellowship Center)

9:00AM to 2:30PM

includes Lunch

(Donations accepted to offset the cost of lunch)

Registration required by February 22nd.

Click the link to sign up [here](#).

You're invited to an event that may help you get your ducks in a row. Presentations are planned to provide information on fall prevention, emergency contact information, and final plans for the end of life.

(sponsored by Venice United Church of Christ Christian Education Committee)