



Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation.

September 20, 2020  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"THE  
LAST  
WILL BE  
FIRST,  
AND THE  
FIRST  
LAST."

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



### Psalm 105

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
<sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.  
<sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.  
<sup>4</sup> Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.  
<sup>5</sup> Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,  
<sup>6</sup> O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Announcements

#### Prelude: Petite Sonata

Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)

Martha Sobaje has degrees from the University of the Pacific, the Eastman School of Music, and the Graduate Theological Foundation in Donaldson, Indiana. Currently she is minister of music and education at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church in Cranston, Rhode Island.

#### Call to Worship

*Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.*

*Tell of God's wonderful works.*

**Today we open ourselves to God's presence.**

**Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.**

*We are guided by God's laws and statutes.*

*We benefit from God's generosity.*

**Let all the people worship with joy!**

**Let all whom God has chosen sing together!**

#### Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. God of grace and God of glory,<br>On Thy people pour Thy power;<br>Crown Thine ancient church's<br>story;<br>Bring its bud to glorious flower.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us<br>courage,<br>For the facing of this hour,<br>For the facing of this hour. | 3. Cure Thy children's warring<br>madness,<br>Bend our pride to Thy control;<br>Shame our wanton, selfish<br>gladness,<br>Rich in things and poor in soul.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us<br>courage,<br>Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,<br>Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal. | 5. Save us from weak resignation<br>To the evils we deplore;<br>Let the gift of Thy salvation<br>Be our glory evermore.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us<br>courage,<br>Serving Thee whom we adore,<br>Serving Thee whom we adore. |
|--|---|--|

## Prayer of Confession

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit. Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ. We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy benefit from your generosity. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your living Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, we pray. Amen.

## Moment for Children

Heather Mikes

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

## The First Reading:

Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## Solo: "Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace"

Oley Speaks

Michele Byrd, Soprano

(1874-1948)

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on Thee.  
The darkness is no darkness to Thee, But the night is as clear as the day.*

## Prayer for Illumination

## The Gospel Reading:

Matthew 20:1-16

<sup>1</sup> "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call

the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’<sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.<sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.<sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,<sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’<sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**Message**

“Spiritual Makeover—From Envy to Gratitude”

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

**Offering**

**Offertory: “O Day of Peace”**

C. Hubert H. Parry

Michele Byrd, Soprano

(1848-1918)

*O day of peace that dimly shines Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
Guide us to justice, truth, and love, Delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands, Our hearts from envy find release,  
Till by God’s grace our warring world Shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.  
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, Nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
As beasts and cattle calmly graze, A little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love, All creatures find their true accord;  
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled, For all the earth shall know the Lord.*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Commission and Blessing**

*May you know joy and progress in your faith.*

*May this be a week of spiritual growth for you.*

**May Christ dwell in us and among us.**

**May the faith of the gospel empower us.**

*Alleluia.*

**Amen.**

**Benediction Response:**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

(Copyright 1955 by Jan-Lee Music. Renewed 1983. Used by permission.)

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, children all are we; Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me let this be the moment now. With every step I take let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

**Postlude:** A Joyful Celebration

John Barr (b. 1938)

*John Barr holds degrees from Manchester College in Manchester, Indiana, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is professor emeritus of organ and piano at Bridgewater College and organist of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren in Bridgewater, Virginia.*

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor**

**Heather Mikes, Interim Director of Christian Education**

**Molly Godley, Liturgist**

**Dr. James Cochran, Director of Music, playing the *Richard and Patricia Fors Organ* to the Glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.**

**Michele Byrd, Soprano**

**Soundboard Operator:** Victoria Bonavita

**Scripture Passages for the following week:**

**September 27, 2020—17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1-7**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32**



Jesus Teaches in the Temple

### VPC NEWS

*Worship  
with us  
from*  
**HOME**

**UPDATE - EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP:**

During their meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020, the Session re-affirmed their stance on continuing with virtual worship for the immediate future. They will continue to examine this important information over the coming weeks and plan to add in-person worship when they determine it is safe to do so. Call us (597-5410), or contact us by email Barbara Bonavita ([bbonavita@vpcnaples.org](mailto:bbonavita@vpcnaples.org)), Lisa Lloyd ([llloyd@vpcnaples.org](mailto:llloyd@vpcnaples.org)) or Michele Byrd ([mbyrd@vpcnaples.org](mailto:mbyrd@vpcnaples.org)) if you need assistance of any kind.

**REMINDER! - THE CNC MEETING** is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7pm via Zoom. If you are on the committee, you will receive an email with the meeting sign-on information. Thanks!

**zoom**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

**ZOOM IN FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR**—This morning, Sunday, September 20, from 11—11:30am, join the meeting to connect with your fellow church members. The **Meeting ID is: 896 7928 1614** and the **password is 4Wp4kK**. Missing your church family? Zoom in to say HI! We hope to see you there!



### WE MISS YOU! STOP BY TO SAY HELLO AT THE "CONNECTION CARAVAN!"

It's been a long time since we have seen your smiling faces and we miss you! On **Wednesday, September 23 from 10 -10:30am AND from 6-6:30pm** we will have a "Connection Caravan." The staff will be under the porte-cochère to say hello, wave and give air hugs as you stay in your car and drive through. We will have goodie bags for you. Remember, you are loved and we are here for you!

### THE SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL CONCERT IS AVAILABLE!

"September Song" is online at [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org) and is found in the Sermon Library.

"September Song" is a concert featuring Michele Byrd and Brice Gerlach taking you on a tour of Broadway—from the 1930's to present day. The second part of the concert is presented by James Cochran and William Marshall performing some of their Broadway favorites. We hope you enjoy this musical feast!



In the world  
you will have tribulation.  
*But take heart;*  
I have overcome the world.  
John 16:33

### SIGN UP FOR THIS TIMELY STUDY IN CHRISTIAN CARE AND COMFORT:

This five-week class will examine how to relate to those who are suffering based on the book by Kenneth C. Haugk, PH.D. (Founder of Stephen Ministries in St. Louis) entitled, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*. We will discuss and explore how we can relate to those suffering in ways that will ease their pain and show we care. We will also explore words and actions to bring God's loving presence to hurting people when they need it most. As we are all called to care; this book gives us the tools and understanding we need to help and comfort others. This course will be facilitated by Jill Peterson and Sterling Desorcy, both Stephen Leaders at VPC. Join us on Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 pm beginning October 12 and ending November 9, 2020. Participation will be via Zoom with assigned study questions for active group discussion. Book cost is \$15 each. Books will be ordered in advance, so please sign up by September 28 to ensure we have enough for everyone. A Zoom link will be sent to all

course participants prior to the first class. No prep needed for the first class on October 12 at 2:00 pm....just sign up in advance and show up via Zoom. To sign up, please call the office at 239-597-5410 or email Heather Mikes, [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org).

### NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

The Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Library has been gifted a series of theological books and CDs by church member, Ronald Shaffer. Each CD and accompanying book contains lectures taught by well-known and respected theology professors at educational institutions across the country, published by *The Great Courses*. Topics include "The History of Christian Theology", "The Old Testament", "The New Testament", etc. They will be available to borrow for any of our lifelong learners. Please email Heather Mikes if you are interested, [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org). We can arrange pick up at the church office. Thank you, Ron, for sharing these wonderful resources in Christian education.







## OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

### **THE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND:**

We have received another very generous \$10,000 challenge grant to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Please send in your donations to match the new challenge grant! To date, we have received \$50,034 for the fund (including both \$10,000 grants). We have disbursed \$46,440 to local charities to help with housing and hunger. Please indicate "COVID" in the memo area of your check or donate online. Thank you in advance for your gift to help others in need.

### **MISIÓN PENIEL UPDATE AND VIDEO:**

The farm worker ministry of Misión Peniel in Immokalee, a mission of our Peace River Presbytery, continues to serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given a rise of COVID-19 cases in Immokalee, the mission has revised some of its routine operations to focus on providing the critical support needed during these difficult days. This includes a weekly distribution of a variety of food, and financial assistance with rent and utility payments for those affected by the virus and unable to work. The generous financial support provided by our church and many others have made it possible for this assistance to continue without any interruption. Donations can be made by sending a check to the church payable to VPC with the note "Misión Peniel" on the check; or directly on the Misión Peniel website at [www.misionpeniel.org](http://www.misionpeniel.org) by using the "Donate" button and indicating "COVID Relief" in the optional memo section. Thank you for all your support! Any questions please email Pete Rodino at [pvrodino@aol.com](mailto:pvrodino@aol.com). Click on this link to get a short visit to the mission! [https://youtu.be/3BlbNl2lw\\_4](https://youtu.be/3BlbNl2lw_4)



### **THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS WITH PINECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!**

VPC has generously donated more than \$1,500 in back to school supplies and monetary gifts for teachers, staff, students and families at Pinecrest Elementary School in Immokalee. The link to order supplies will remain active for as long as anyone would like to provide them. Please visit the Amazon Wish list at [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ILXQTCIUMP6T?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ILXQTCIUMP6T?ref=wl_share) and select items to purchase. Choose to ship them directly to Pinecrest Elementary School (NOT to VPC).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELP

### **VPC STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE TO HELP:**

Know someone in need? Maybe you? Maybe a family member, friend or neighbor? Needs can be short-term or long-term...we want to help and are still available in these COVID-19 times! Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers that are a phone call or email away to walk beside you, listen and provide ongoing support. We currently have 15 active Stephen Ministers at VPC, some with care receivers and others waiting to help when called. Call for yourself or someone in need. To get started, call our Stephen Leader Referrals Coordinators: Don Sherman at 239-777-0847 ([dsherman249@gmail.com](mailto:dsherman249@gmail.com)) or Kay Beernink at 239-238-1526 ([leskaybee@aol.com](mailto:leskaybee@aol.com)).



### **VETERANS SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU:**

Avow has an upcoming Zoom webinar for Veterans and those who serve Veterans. **Veterans Benefits at a National Cemetery presented by John Rosentrater on September 24, 2020 at 12:00-1:00pm.** For more information, go to [www.\[avowcares.org/?s=veterans\]\(http://www.avowcares.org/?s=veterans\)](http://www.avowcares.org/?s=veterans). You can also click the link on this week's Epistle from Pastor Rob.

—STAYING—  
CONNECTED



—STAYING—  
CONNECTED

## FINANCIAL UPDATE—OPERATING FUND: August 2020:

	August	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$ 50,383	\$984,485	\$854,000
Expenses	\$ 87,071	\$721,892	\$795,800
Deo Mortgage Balance	8/31/2020	\$1,703,980	

**YOUR GIVING MATTERS!**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY

If you have a relative or friend in the military, please let the Church have their name/address.  
We think it is important to keep in contact with those who serve our country. Thank you.

**ENSIGN Francis Alvares**  
US Navy, Pensacola, FL  
(Friend of Jay & Mary Chesslo)

**MSgt Kristopher Chesslo**  
USAF  
(Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)

**CPTN Sterling W. Dawley**  
US Navy, Pacific Fleet  
(Loren & Debbie Dawley's son)

**LTJG Wyatt R. Dawley**  
US Navy Intel  
(Loren & Debbie Dawley's grandson)

**LT Adam Endrelunas**  
US Navy  
(Cherie & Dave Baines' son-in-law)

**CPTN Allen Fujinaka**  
US Army  
(LaVerne Perrollaz's grandson)

**CPTN Jennifer Giles**  
USMC, Philippines  
(Mary Giles' granddaughter)

**CPTN Jeremy Giles**  
US Army Special Forces,  
Ft. Bragg, NC  
(Mary Giles' grandson)

**LT Col. Jessica D. Grassetti**  
(Claudia Polzin's niece)

**MAJ Robert Gruber, USMC**  
**LT CDR Marjorie Gruber, US Navy**  
Camp Pendleton, CA  
(Bob Gruber son & daughter in law)

**E-3 Jacob Guzman**  
US Army—USA  
(Cesar Guzman's son)

**Lt. Devon Hennessey**  
Just returned to Texas from Afganistan  
(Toni Hubbard)

**Christian Kurz**  
US Navy, USS Nitze  
(Joyce Geary's great nephew)

**LCDR Michelle Lea**  
US Navy  
(Cherie & Dave Baines' daughter in law)

**LT Kevin McCormick**  
US Army - USA  
(Friend of Dick & Sharon Learn)

**Austin Schwartz**  
USMC, Camp Pendleton, CA  
(Patricia Schwartz's grandson)

**MAJ Matthew Smith,**  
USMC, Kuwait  
(Son of Linda Smith)

**1st LT Andrew P. Vadyak**  
USMC

Okinawa, Japan

**Hadley Vadyak**  
USNA Class of 2020

**EM Xzavier Whitaker**  
US Navy (John & Roberta McMaster's  
granddaughter's husband)



**PRAY FOR OUR**  
  
**MILITARY**



### **Happy Birthday!**

Sandra Johnson	9/20
*James Reed	9/20
Tammy Wilson	9/20
Steve Acx	9/21
Jack Byrne	9/21
Odamis Houston	9/21
John Millard	9/22
Louise Infanti	9/23
*Nena Beynon	9/24
Lillian Walker	9/24
Ayden Lefebvre	9/25
*Peggy Landon	9/26
*Stan Leonard	9/26
Ann Lienemann	9/26



### **Happy Anniversary!**

Harry & Judith Brown	9/22
Merle & Sharon Wylie	9/22

### **\*Birthday Club Members**

Interested in joining the Club? Birthday Club Members give one dollar for each year of their life to celebrate their special day. The VPC Endowment Team uses the interest income from the Birthday Club exclusively for Youth Activities! Please consider becoming a member of the Birthday Club. Celebrate your Birthday by thanking God for your life!

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our church family and friends facing illness, injury and hardship. If you have any joys and/or concerns, let us know as they are lifted up daily through our intercessory prayer ministry. If you are hospitalized, please let the facility know you are a member or friend of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church so they can let us know! Please notice that prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for a period of 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be resubmitted.

David Barrientos	Inspired Living at
Edna Benton	Bonita Springs
Anna & Brooke	Jack
Borden	Michael Jeskey
Lilia Cagua	Sandra Johnson
Family of Carmen	Bob Kassing
Adriana Caruso	The Randy Kline
Virginia Chandley	Family
Richard Creviston	LaDonna Lass
Vicky Crosby	Judy Malone
Ron Davis	Don Neer
Margaret Degler	Matt Nulph
Dan Dorty	Bonnie Olson
Julie Eilers	Cassidy Otto & Family
David Elliott	Domenico Paglia
Asia Rial Elsbree	Christopher Parent
Jim Fligg	Marcia Piipponen
Tom Freehan	The Power Family
Ali Frimpter	Leah Ray
Janel Geary	Carol Rodkey
Gary Gorran	Twila Rowe
Richard Grunert	Metty Ryan
Jake Hellihan	Robin Ryan

Eleanor & Gary  
Shepherd  
Jim Shields  
Fred Schulz  
Joy Skarka  
Deborah Smith  
Liz Nowry Smith  
The Bette Thielking Family  
The Waskey Family  
Will & Heather & Family  
Connie Wilson



- For people dealing with the effects of Hurricane Sally.
- For the residents on the West Coast dealing with the raging wildfires.
- For all students, teachers and parents navigating the upcoming school year.
- For people in this country and throughout the world suffering and coping with the Coronavirus disease.
- For Doctors, Nurses, and Medical Teams giving their best to provide care for those suffering in hospitals and other medical facilities.
- For leaders in government making tough decisions during this difficult time.
- For our church which provides comfort to all and leads us in new ways of worship and service to each other.
- For peace and unity throughout the world.

## VPC MISSION

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live like Christ in a broken world.  
To Proclaim the Gospel  
To Glorify God in worship and deed  
To Equip our congregation for ministry  
To Serve others in Christ's name.

## VPC VISION

A congregation...

- ...so grounded in scripture and sustained by prayer,
- ...so committed to spiritual growth and faithful discipleship,
- ...so inviting, welcoming and inclusive,
- ...so nurturing and healing,
- ...so mission-minded,
- ...so vibrant, energetic and open to opportunities to share the Gospel that lives are transformed by the love of Christ.



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Learning Center: 239-594-9557 [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org)  
*The church is a member of the Peace River Presbytery, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). OneLicense.net 3 A-719387*

