

November - December 2022



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www.vpcnaples.org

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a mission-minded congregation with opportunities for everyone to participate. For many Presbyterians today, living out their call to mission means a firsthand experience on an event, expecting to produce a profound change in the lives of those they go to serve. Instead, they find Christ, and are ministered to by those they thought they were serving. Many people feel transformed as they experience God's grace in cultural diversity and the unity that comes through shared faith in Jesus Christ. Presbyterians believe mission is not so much an obligation, but an opportunity — to see how God can work in marvelous new ways, helping us grow in our own faith and commitment to Christ's mission. It will mean continuing to risk, question, grow and seek, through prayer and interactions with others, what it is that we are called by the Holy Spirit to do as faithful servants of Christ. The following is a list of agencies that we actively support along with chances for you to help with your time, talent or treasure.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with affected presbyteries to assess the aftermath of Hurricane Ian and offer resources and support. Emergency grants have been disbursed and National



Response Team members are deployed. www.pda.pcusa.org. In the wake of Hurricane Ian and its devastating impact on our area, **Collier Community Foundation** has reactivated the **Collier Comes Together Hurricane Fund** to benefit SWFL nonprofit relief efforts to get funds where they are needed most — quickly and efficiently at no administrative cost. www.colliercf.org. **Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church** is collecting monetary donations for hurricane relief. Funds will be split between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Collier Comes Together Hurricane Fund. To donate, via check or online, put **Hurricane Ian Relief** in the memo. www.vpcnaples.org.



Weekend Power Pack relies on volunteers to pack about 300 bags of food for children living at or below the poverty level that attend Sabal Palm Elementary School in Collier County. **Thursday, November 10** is our next packing event in Fellowship Hall at **10:30am**. The packing should take about an hour. The children have told their guidance counselor that they are so excited to take their backpacks home for the weekend, since they contain their "power pack" bags. If you can volunteer at this worthwhile event, please contact Becky Wheat at sportbroad@comcast.net. Financial donations are needed! **Weekend Power Pack** in memo www.vpcnaples.org.

Helps Outreach promotes the Gospel of Jesus among all people. We show the love of God in our community by providing goods and services to anyone in need, without charge. www.helpsoutreach.org. VPC is collecting dry goods (mac & cheese, canned tuna or chicken, and other non-perishable foods) for Hunger and Homelessness Sunday. Bring your donations to pack the truck on **Sunday, November 13**.



Collier Harvest Foundation is dedicated to providing healthy and nutritious food to our hungry neighbors across Collier County. www.collierharvest.org. Volunteers help monthly at packing events. The next event is **Monday, November 14 at 5pm** at 4451 Mercantile Ave. Volunteers help pack bags of groceries for students in need. Email Pete Rodino at pyrodino@aol.com. **December date: 12/12/22**.



Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God's immense love for the child. www.samaritanaspurse.org. The VPC children and youth groups are collecting donations through **November 16**. They will be filling the shoeboxes at Wednesday Night Lights as part of the Gratitude Potluck Dinner. For more information, email Amber Grider at amber@griderfamily.net.

The Café of Life is an organization believing in the teaching of all great religions that one must love and assist one's neighbor in time of need. Our mission is to provide basic human needs to the very poor people of the Bonita Springs area in a manner that preserves the dignity of the client in a respectful environment and to enrich and empower people to be all that they can be. www.cafeoflife.org. The VPC Mission Team is hosting a meal on **Friday, November 25 at 9am** at Leitner Park, 26724 Nomad Dr., Bonita Springs 34135. **December date: 12/30/22**. Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed. Email Eliza Nevin at elizanevin@comcast.net.



Christmas TOY Drive! Every Christmas, VPC delights in our Toy Drive, bringing joy to deserving children in need. This year the toys will go to the Salvation Army www.salvationarmyflorida.org & Misión Peniel www.misionpeniel.com. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the office or to church on Sunday morning and we will distribute them to the two organizations. All donations must be at VPC by **Wednesday, November 30**. December Misión Peniel workday: **12/9/22 at 1pm**. To volunteer email Karen Chappler at kchappler@aol.com.



Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities we serve. Our programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. It begins with a seed investment, followed by mentorship, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, we're investing in a new kind of success. www.heifer.org. Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church will host a Heifer Fair on **Sunday, December 4**. Email Leslie Loughran at leslie.loughran@gmail.com.

By giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy. VPC will be accepting donations through **December 18**. To donate, send a check or go online and put **Christmas Joy** in the memo. www.vpcnaples.org.



The mission of the **Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance** is to eliminate substandard and overcrowded rental housing for farmworker families and other low-income residents of Immokalee. All residents of Immokalee should have access to secure, affordable, hurricane-resistant rental housing that strengthens the community by fostering health, education, dignity and financial stability. www.immokaleefairhousing.org. Pastor Robert J. Marrow and church member, Richard Grunert, serve on the board of this organization. For information, email Pastor Rob at rmarrow@vpcnaples.org.

For more information about our Mission Team email Becky Wheat (sportbroad@comcast.net) or Toni Keefer (tonimkeefer@hotmail.com).