



**Welcome to Vanderbilt! We rejoice that you are here to worship God with us.**

Children are important members of our faith community and are welcome in worship. Please ask an usher if assistance is needed. As a courtesy to others, please turn off cell phones during the service. The asterisk (\*) in the bulletin indicates that the congregation is asked to stand as able. We use responsive or unison readings and prayers at different times. The leader will read the words in *italics*, the congregation reads words in **bold print**.

**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.

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

We invite you, members and visitors, to sign our Green Friendship Pads and pass it down your pew and back, to welcome those with whom you are worshipping. If you are visiting, please fill out the blue card and leave it in the green pad.



1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, Florida 34110

Office: 239-597-5410

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 # A-719387



**December 25, 2022  
Christmas Day**

The flowers on the chancel are given in honor of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ  
by Ron Sieling and Joan Elliott.

**Worship Participants**

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

**Susie Hilton, Liturgist**

**James Cochran, Director of Music**, playing the

**Richard & Patricia Fors Organ** given to the glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.

**Julie Carver, Pianist**

**Virginia Cullison, Violinist**

**Susan Norbeck, Flutist**

**Greeters:** Jan Fern & Becky Wheat

**Ushers:** Jerry Warnken (Head Usher), Mari-Bea Warnken, Bill & Joyce Dersch, George Morton, Joan Butler, Pat Rose, Molly Godley

**Audio/Visual Technician:** Victoria Bonavita

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 98

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Prelude:** "Sheep May Safely Graze"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Susan Norbeck, *Flute*

"What Child is This?"

Greensleeves

Virginia Cullison, *Violin*

### Announcements

### Call to Worship

*Before all time and all worlds, there was the Word.*

*That Word came to our time and place as a human being.*

**The Word was the truth of God.**

**That Word has come to us in Jesus Christ.**

*Come, then, to sing new songs of praise.*

*Rejoice that God sends messengers of good news.*

**We bring the melodies of our hearts and voices.**

**Praise God with harp and trumpet and horns!**

*Let us worship God.*

\* **Hymn #29:** "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

**Refrain:**

**Go, tell it on the mountain**

**Over the hills and everywhere;**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,**

**That Jesus Christ is born.**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching**

**O'er silent flocks by night,**

**Behold throughout the heavens**

**There shone a holy light.**

**Refrain**

*Continued*

**Refrain:**

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.  
**Refrain**

2. The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.  
**Refrain**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession**

O God, we almost missed your light. We confess our neglect of worship, our forgetfulness of your gifts. We have failed to see evidences of your love. We have not heard your cries for justice. We have viewed salvation as strange rhetoric rather than healing transformation. We have mouthed tired platitudes while you call for a new song of true joy and peace. Is there forgiveness for us in this season? Is there hope for new life? (*silence*) Amen.

**Affirmation of Forgiveness**

*Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.*  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**\* Gloria Patri**

Henry Greatorex (1816-1858)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.

**Prayer of Illumination**

**The First Reading**

Isaiah 52:7-10

*<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup> Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

John 1:1-14

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "God of the Dark and the Light - Part II"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

## **Offering**

**Offertory Music:** "Gesù Bambino"

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Susan Norbeck, *Flute*

## **\*Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

### **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.**

\* Hymn #25: "Away in a Manger"

GLORIA

1. Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down  
where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

- I love Thee, Lord Jesus,  
look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

\* Commission and Blessing

*We have been blessed in the gift of a child.  
We are upheld by the gift of the Word made flesh.  
We go out to serve with joy and confidence.  
Let all the world join our happy song.  
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: "Deck the Halls"

arr. David Overton

Susan Norbeck, *Flute*

*Please be seated until the end of the Postlude.*



## VPC NEWS



### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

January 1: First Sunday of Christmas

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew @:13-23

Sermon: "Recounting the Gracious Deeds of the Lord"

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC AND WORSHIP

- There is no programming for children and youth on **January 1**. Our staff and volunteers will be enjoying the blessings of family at home. There will be a worship service at 10am. Families are invited to worship together. Bulletins are in the Narthex. Nursery ministry and Sunday school will resume on **January 8**. WNL on **January 11 at 5:30pm**.
- **Sunday, January 8** will be the next Family Led Worship at 10am.
- **Sunday, January 15** we will offer 2 services: 8:30am and 10am.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

- **MIDWEEK SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY:** Will resume on **January 11 at 6pm**.

### BE SURE TO PICK UP THE SEPARATE SHEET WITH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

- **CAFÉ of LIFE:** The VPC Mission Team is hosting a meal on **Friday, December 30 at 9am** at Leitner Park, 26724 Nomad Dr., Bonita Springs 34135. Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed. Email Eliza Nevin [elizanevin@comcast.net](mailto:elizanevin@comcast.net).

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY

- **STEPHEN MINISTRY:** Love Your Neighbor — Jesus taught to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Stephen Ministry is one important, tangible way to carry out this commandment and show God's love to others. Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975, when Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, began it to multiply the caregiving in his congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. We have had Stephen Ministry here at Vanderbilt Presbyterian since 1999. Our Stephen Leaders are Kay Beernink, Karen Chappler, Carolyn Magarro, Jody Nowry, and Jill Peterson. Our Stephen Ministers are Joan Butler, Barbara Green, Judy Jacobs, Sandra Johnson, Jean Lee, Roberta McMaster, Karen Negri, Eliza Nevin, Geri Payne, Pat Peters, and Lee Weeks.
- **MAH JONGG:** Contact Geri Payne at 593-5529 or [paynegnb@comcast.net](mailto:paynegnb@comcast.net).
- **BRIDGE:** Contact Nadine Gaylord at 740-816-1628 or [nanjan69@gmail.com](mailto:nanjan69@gmail.com).

- **FELLOWSHIP HOUR SPONSORS:** We are in need of sponsors for the Fellowship hour. If you would be willing to pick a date, call Barbara in the office. Thank You! **239-597-5410**

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**



Thank you for participating in our **Second Annual Gingerbread Decorating Party!**

We were thrilled to display 23 beautiful houses, made with love by more than 80 children and adults during Wednesday Night Lights activities and enjoyed by a multitude of visitors to Fellowship Hall on Sunday. Sharing Christmas joy is truly intergenerational!

Here are the results:

First Place - Jordyn Green, Taylor Green & Samantha Manring (#6)



Second Place -  
The Aguilar Family (#3)



Third Place -  
The Carver Family (#9)



Fourth Place -  
Evangeline & Jason Mikes (#13)



Fifth Place Tie - Brier Manring & Hattie Mikes (#1)



and The Gersch Family (#4)



### Happy Birthday!

Robert Schmidt	12/26
*Joanne Bowser	12/27
Bobby Crown	12/27
*Doris Martin	12/28
Jerry Grandey	12/28
Bayne Carew	12/29
*Nancy Thompson	12/30
Gracia Schmidt	12/31

### \*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!

### Happy Anniversary!

George & Margaret Mackie	12/26
Phillip & Cherry Jacobus	12/27
Greg & Julie Borden	12/28
Jason & Heather Mikes	12/28
Jerry & Sharon Anderson	12/29
Sterling & Cheryl Desorcy	12/30
James & Patty Shields	12/30
Chuck & Connie Lewis	12/31
Rick & Ruth Bethem	12/31

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our church family and friends facing illness, injury and hardship. If you have any joys or concerns, let us know. 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 note that prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be submitted.

Rich Annunziata	Marlene Everson	Leslie McCollum Mobley and Family
Leo Barrett	Jim & Wealtha Flick	Judy Malone
Ron Bartlett	Jim Folliard	Zachary Mazzola
Charlyn Bonk	Gail & Gary Goran	Marilyn McKee
Adriana Caruso	Joan Haller & Family	Joan Mountford
Ron Davis	Mary Hart	Eric Muir
Lee Dorosenski, Katherine Baron and Family	Sandra Johnson	The Paolini Family
Dawn Marie	Jonathan	Carol Schwiers
Annette & Bill Dietrich	Chester Kauffman	Ginger Sheldon
Eva	Barbara Lang	Al Starr
	Elizabeth Lepore	Barbara & Russ Thomas



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

If you have any additions or corrections to the list below, please email Michele Byrd ([mbyrd@vpcnaples.org](mailto:mbyrd@vpcnaples.org)). Thank you for your continued prayers for these military personnel.

<b>ENSIGN Francis Alvares</b> US Navy, Pensacola, FL (Friend of Jay & Mary Chesslo)	granddaughter's husband)	<b>1st LT Jacob Guzman</b> US Army—South Korea (Cesar Guzman's son)
<b>MSgt Kristopher Chesslo</b> USAF (Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)	<b>CPTN Jennifer Giles</b> USMC, Philippines (Mary Giles' granddaughter)	<b>CPTN Devon Hennessey</b> Korea (Toni Hubbard)
<b>LT Wyatt R. Dawley</b> US Navy Intel/SEAL Team (Debbie Dawley's grandson)	<b>CPTN Jeremy Giles</b> US Army Special Forces, Ft. Bragg, NC (Mary Giles' grand- son)	<b>Nolan Kelly</b> US Army - Private First Class Fort Sill, OK
<b>MAJ Allen Fujinaka</b> US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's	<b>COL Jessica D. Grassetti</b> (Claudia Polzin's niece)	<b>SGT Wesley Kennedy</b> USMC - Okinawa, Japan



### NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Please let the office know if you are in the hospital. If you or a member of your family are hospitalized, please call the church office. **239-597-5410**



[www.vpcnaples.org/live/](http://www.vpcnaples.org/live/)

Check our weekly email:  
 "Week at a Glance!"

### Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church November 30, 2022 YTD

	YTD Actual	December Projections
Income	\$ 1,059,063	\$ 87,500
Expenses	\$ 1,176,504	\$ 115,000
Net	(\$117,441)	