



**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. Nursery ministry is also available. 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 — [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org)  
Office: 239-597-5410 — Learning Center: 239-594-9557  
*The church is a member of the Peace River Presbytery, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) — OneLicense.net # A-719387*



**May 14, 2023 10:00 am — The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

The flowers on the chancel are given in honor of all mothers and in loving memory of Ethel Burlingham Lea and Charlene Muir, our mothers, by Sally and Jim Muir.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored by Gloria Hagopian.

**Worship Participants**

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor**  
**James Cochran, Director of Music**, playing the **Richard & Patricia Fors Organ** given to the glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.  
**Heather Mikes, Director of Christian Education**  
**Jim Muir, Liturgist**  
**Julie Carver, Pianist**

**The Chancel Choir**  
**Enrique Miranda, Audio/Visual Technician**  
**Youth Acolyte:** Wyatt Gersch  
**Youth Ushers:** Alyssa & Wyatt Gersch  
**Greeters:** Jan Fern & Joan Butler  
**Ushers:** Pete DeBaun (Head Usher), Doug Dunn, Carol & Price Lindsay, Pat & Tim Peters

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 66:8-20

- <sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup> who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup> you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.  
<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,  
<sup>14</sup> those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.  
<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.  
<sup>17</sup> I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.  
<sup>19</sup> But truly God has listened; he has heard the words of my prayer.  
<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

**Prelude:** "Prelude in F Major"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### Announcements

#### \* Call to Worship:

*The God of heaven and earth calls us together.*

*We come to explore matters of the Spirit.*

**We want to worship the One who gives us breath.**

**We reach for the Reality beyond our knowing.**

*In God we live and move and have our being.*

*All that we have and are comes from God.*

**God is not limited to shrines made by us.**

**God is everywhere present in the whole universe.**

*Let us worship God.*

#### \* Hymn #376: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Love divine, all loves excelling,<br/>Joy of heaven to earth come down,<br/>Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,<br/>All Thy faithful mercies crown!<br/>Jesus, Thou art all compassion,<br/>Pure, unbounded love Thou art;<br/>Visit us with Thy salvation,<br/>Enter every trembling heart.</b> | <b>2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit<br/>Into every troubled breast!<br/>Let us all in Thee inherit,<br/>Let us find the promised rest;<br/>Take away the love of sinning;<br/>Alpha and Omega be;<br/>End of faith, as its beginning,<br/>Set our hearts at liberty.</b> |
|---|---|

*Continued*

3. **Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.**

4. **Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession**

**O God, we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you. The Spirit of truth does not abide in us, for our actions belie the words of praise we utter in worship. We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters and brothers who need to know of your love. We have not witnessed to our faith in ways powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer. O God, it is hard to follow Jesus! Forgive us, teach us, help us! *(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.**

#### **A Moment for Children**

Heather Mikes

We invite children to gather up front for a special children's message. After we sing "Jesus Loves Me," children and youth ages PreK-3 through High School may go to Sunday school or families may choose to worship together in the Sanctuary.

**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.**

#### **Prayer of Illumination**

## The First Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

*<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

*<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Are You Ready?"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

## Offering

**Offertory:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful "

John Rutter (b. 1945)

The Chancel Choir

All things bright and beautiful. All creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful. The Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens. Each little bird that sings. He made their glowing colors. He made their tiny wings. The purple-headed mountain. The river running by. The sunset and the morning. That brightens up the sky; The cold wind in the winter. The pleasant summer sun. The ripe fruits in the garden – He made them every one. He gave us eyes to see them. And lips that we might tell. How great is God Almighty. Who has made all things well.

**\* 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**

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

from The Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Amen.**

**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 #359: "More Love to Thee, O Christ"**

MORE LOVE TO THEE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1. More love to Thee, O Christ,<br/>More love to Thee!<br/>Hear Thou the prayer I make<br/>On bended knee;<br/>This is my earnest plea:<br/>More love, O Christ, to Thee,<br/>More love to Thee, More love to Thee!</b></p> <p><b>2. Once earthly joy I craved,<br/>Sought peace and rest;<br/>Now Thee alone I seek, Give what is best;<br/>This all my prayer shall be:<br/>More love, O Christ, to Thee,<br/>More love to Thee, More love to Thee!</b></p> | <p><b>3. Then shall my latest breath<br/>Whisper Thy praise;<br/>This be the parting cry<br/>My heart shall raise;<br/>This still its prayer shall be:<br/>More love, O Christ, to Thee,<br/>More love to Thee, More love to Thee!</b></p> |
|---|--|

**\* Commission and Blessing**

*God has listened to our prayers and abides with us.*

*God's blessing rests on us as we scatter to serve.*

**Together we will seek to know God more fully.**

**We will remember one another in prayer.**

*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: "Prelude in D Minor"**

Bach

*Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.*

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

**May 21, 2023 — Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Guest Preacher:** Lisa Lefkow

**First Reading:** Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

**Gospel:** John 17:1-11

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRIENDSHIP  
AND COMMUNITY**

**MAH JONGG:**

Contact Geri Payne at 249-5327  
or [paynegnb@comcast.net](mailto:paynegnb@comcast.net).

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND  
COMMUNITY**

**STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Mother's Day can be hard for those who have lost their mother. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen to those grieving such a loss.

"The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

Psalms 34:18



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE - For May 14, 2023**

The Session, at its April 23 meeting approved a request of the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) to hold a Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 14, immediately following the 10am worship service for the purpose of electing an Elder to fill an unexpired term beginning June 1, 2023.

Richard A. Hilton, Clerk of Session



**Rebecca Wheat** is a resident of Stonebridge and lives in Braeburn. Becky grew up in Cincinnati. Rebecca has two sons and is the grandmother of six. Her grandchildren range in age from 7 - 20 years old and live in Indianapolis and Atlanta. At VPC, Becky was ordained a Deacon in 2019 and since then, she has been on the Mission, Membership & Involvement and Buildings and Grounds Teams. She also works with Power Packers, is an usher, and volunteers at the Reception Desk.



*"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take."*





Join us for our final  
Wednesday Night Lights  
for this school year  
on May 17, 2023 at 5:30pm  
in Fellowship Hall.

WNL breaks for the summer.  
Keep your eyes open  
for summer fun!



July 17-21, 2023  
9:00am - 12:00 pm



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION**  
**VBS Needs Y-O-U!**  
**July 17-21**  
**9am - 12pm**  
Share God's love with children this summer! Vacation Bible School is loads of fun and full of lasting impact for everyone involved. There are lots of opportunities for every level of giftedness. So many ways to serve. Email Heather - [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org).



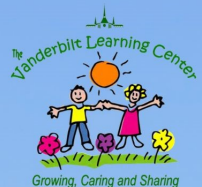
**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!**

**CHECK OUT THE NEW FLYER FOR SUMMER!**

- **PLEASE HELP US HELP OUR CUBAN FRIENDS:** We are collecting monetary donations to help the Presbyterian Church in Perico and Matanzas Presbytery. Pastor Rob is going to Cuba in May. Give online, by check or cash - mark "Cuba" on your gift. Thank you.
- **COLLIER HARVEST FOUNDATION:** Our next packing event is **Monday, May 22nd at 5pm** at 4451 Mercantile Ave. Email Pete Rodino at [pvrodino@aol.com](mailto:pvrodino@aol.com) for more information.
- **CAFÉ OF LIFE:** The VPC Mission Team is hosting a meal on **Friday, May 26th at 9am**. Join us at Leitner Park, 26724 Nomad Dr., Bonita Springs 34135. Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed. Email Eliza Nevin at [elizanevin@comcast.net](mailto:elizanevin@comcast.net)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Graduation Sunday!**  
**Family Led Worship!**  
**May 21, 2023**  
**10:00 am**  
Celebrating graduates  
and educational  
milestones!



Vanderbilt Learning Center students and families will celebrate the end of the school year with joyful songs on **May 15 at 6:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Come see what they've been working on with Dr. Jim. Help us celebrate our preschool and kindergarten graduates!

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our church family and friends facing illness, injury and hardship. Also, if you have any joys or concerns, let us know. They are lifted up daily through our intercessory prayer ministry. Prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be submitted.

Sharon Acx	Lori W. Godwin	Jeff Moon	Aysegul Timur, newly appointed President of FGCU
Rich Annunziata	Max Gould	Leah Ray	Wes
Charlyn Bonk	Carol Harper	Marilyn & Sam Scheller	The Wood Family
Adriana Caruso	Sandra Johnson	The Schwiers Family	Maggie Woodruff
Carrie Crispin	Chester Kauffman	John Shea & Family	The Wynn Family
Marlene Everson	Robbie Landon	Ursel Stanley	
Nadine Gaylord	The Marshall Family		

### Happy Birthday!

*Steve Blad	5/14
Laura Piipponen	5/14
*Jean Dugan	5/14
*Jim Shields	5/15
Jay Truax	5/16
*Buck Evans	5/18
Jay Chesslo	5/19

### Happy Anniversary!

Ron & Judy Davis	5/17
Joe & Jill Trees	5/17
Jim & Marsha Reed	5/20



*We are saddened to announce the death of **Donna Wolf**. We were just notified that Donna passed away on September 11, 2021 at the age of 100. Donna was a member of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church since 2012. Please keep her family in your prayers.*

**\*Birthday Club** Members give one dollar for each year of their life to celebrate their special day. The Education Team may annually request up to 5% from the Club for Youth and Education Ministry!

## 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.

### ENSIGN Francis Alvares

US Navy, Pensacola, FL  
(Friend of Jay & Mary Chesslo)

### MSgt Kristopher Chesslo

USAF (Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)

### LT Wyatt R. Dawley

US Navy Intel/SEAL Team  
(Debbie Dawley's grandson)

### MAJ Allen Fujinaka

US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)

### CPTN Jennifer Giles

USMC, Philippines  
(Mary Giles' granddaughter)

### CPTN Jeremy Giles

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

### COL Jessica D. Grassetti

(Claudia Polzin's niece)

### 1st LT Jacob Guzman

US Army—South Korea  
(Cesar Guzman's son)

### CPTN Devon Hennessey

Korea (Toni Hubbard)

### SGT Wesley Kennedy

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**



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