



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
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



**July 23, 2023 10:00 am — Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
Family Led Worship — VBS Celebration Sunday**

The flowers on the chancel are donated in grateful appreciation for all the VBS volunteers who made our Monumental VBS week a success!

The fellowship hour is sponsored by Nancy and Charles Thompson.

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
Steve Woodring, Liturgist
Brooke Borden, Youth Liturgist
Vacation Bible School Choir

Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Joan Butler & Ruth Felipe
Youth Greeters: VBS Crew Leaders
Youth Acolyte: Carter Mikes
Ushers: Greg & Julie Borden (Head Ushers), Sonja Cookson, Joan Butler, Joe Trees, Ben Hood.
Youth Ushers: Annabelle Annunziata & Riley Mikes

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

¹⁴ O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Prelude: Petite Sonata in Three Movements:
Moderato, Andante, and Allegro

Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

God has searched us and knows us.

God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

God searches out our path and our lying down.

God is acquainted with all our ways.

Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it.

God's hand is ever available to guide us.

Such knowledge is a wonder to us.

It is beyond anything we can attain.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #339: "Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

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| <p>1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.</p> <p>2. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.</p> | <p>3. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true
word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.</p> |
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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Search us and test us, that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator. Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage. Reshape our will to conform with your intentions for us. We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives. Our focus has drifted from the harvest you intend to the fears and greed that hold us hostage. Release us from bondage to decay that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day. *(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.

Vacation Bible School Celebration

"Watching Over You"

Jay Stocker

"Monumental Love"

Chris Sligh

"Awesome God"

Rich Mullins

Vacation Bible School Choir

**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

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Amazing Grace"

Dale Wood (1934-2003)

*** 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 #345: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"**

REST

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| 1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise. | 3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love! |
| 2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee. | 4. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace. |

*** Commission and Blessing**

Scatter to serve, listening for God's direction.

Let your faces shine with the good news you have received.

The Spirit of God will lead us day by day.

God claims us and is with us every moment.

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: "Toccata in C Major"

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

Plastic Free July
As part of VPC's pledge to Growing Climate Solutions, we challenge you to a Plastic Free July!
Avoid single-use plastic products!
Try reusable bags, bamboo straws, metal or glass containers!
Do your best! Every small change helps!


 

#PlasticFreeJuly www.plasticfreejuly.org

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK
July 30, 2023
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
Sermon: "Answer the Question Truthfully"
First Reading:
Romans 8:26-39
Gospel Reading:
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

With Sympathy

*We are saddened to announce the death of **Loren Warner** on April 15, 2023 at the age of 93. Loren was a member of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church since 1997 and was active in our music program. Please keep his family in your prayers at this difficult time.*



For more information, see the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall.

stephen MINISTRY®

"Listen to me, oh house of Jacob. I have made you and I will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you."
Isaiah 46:3-4.

We will miss you



celebrate

Ruth is retiring!

Our Financial Manager, Ruth Wade, is retiring on July 31st. Please help us celebrate Ruth and her years of dedicated service, on Sunday, July 30th at the 10am worship service. Send a card to the church or bring one on the 30th to let her know she is loved and appreciated!

Thank you



Grateful



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WAS A "MONUMENTAL" SUCCESS!

One of the most inspiring things about VBS is watching God work among us and through us! The body of Christ comes together to serve God's children. With the support of our amazing staff and more than 45 volunteers, we hosted 113 campers this year. **Thank you families** for trusting us with your children. **Thank you volunteers** for sharing your time, talent and treasure. Thank you all for sharing God's love, for your prayers and donations, for encouraging one another and building each other up!



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

SAVE THE DATES

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING AUGUST 13, 2023

FALL EDUCATION KICK OFF SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

VBS MISSION PROJECT & BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

VPC is collecting school supplies and monetary donations for needy children in Collier County. Everything will be split between Grace Place and Mision Peniel. We are collecting **through July 23rd**. Make checks payable to VPC - Memo: Backpacks. Drop off any of the following supplies to the office during the week or on Sunday morning: zipper backpacks, crayons, washable markers, No.2 pencils, composition notebooks, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, blunt-topped scissors, rulers, blue or black ballpoint pens, erasers, highlighters, permanent markers, loose left paper, spiral bound notebooks, white glue (bottles), colored pencils. Thank you!



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	Louise Eliot	Gordon Herman	Norman Parker
Rich Annunziata	Marlene Everson	Kay Hurley	Leah Ray
Loraine Atkinson	Susan Flynn	Judy Jacobs	Jodi Reckmeyer
Linda Bauer	Nadine Gaylord	Sandra Johnson	Ron Sieling
Charlyn Bonk	Lori Godwin	Chester Kauffman	Lou Thompson
Adriana Caruso	Max Gould	Robbie Landon	Jerry Tragesser
Nancy Diederich	Bunny Heitman	Jeff Moon	The Wood Family

Happy Birthday!

Jon White	7/23
*Michele Yovanovich	7/23
John Monda	7/24
Karen Negri	7/24
Courtney Lowe	7/26
Donald Throckmorton	7/27
Connie Lewis	7/28
*Madge Bush	7/29
*Charla Henningsen	7/29

*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!

Happy Anniversary!

Oscar & Elizabeth Lowe	7/24
Lynn & Shar Rosser	7/24
Craig & Amber Grider	7/25
Jonas & Christine Rockhold	7/25
Joe & Ruth Felipe	7/25
Karen & Joseph Negri	7/27
David & Elizabeth Lee	7/28

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). 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!"**