



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 30, 2023 10:00 am — Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

The flowers on the chancel are donated in celebration of 55 years of marriage by Mike and Reggie Smith.

The fellowship hour is sponsored in recognition of Ruth Wade's many years of service to VPC by June Peterson and P.J. Mahoney.

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
Greg Borden, Liturgist
Julie Carver, Pianist

The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Becky Wheat & Geri Payne
Ushers: Karen Chappler (Head Usher), Dianne Westerlund, Nancy Guthy, Linda & Ron Addaman, Tim Hall

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

¹³¹With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

¹³³Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

¹³⁵Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Prelude: "Voluntary" in C Major

Anonymous (18th century)

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

Let us open ourselves continually to God's presence.

Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.

Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

The Spirit searches our hearts and enlarges our prayers.

Who can separate us from the love of God?

Will hardship, distress, or peril overcome us?

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

We can face all things, knowing God's care.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #281: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more. | Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield. |
| 2. Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through; | 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee. |

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

You know us, God, better than we know ourselves. You know the ways we scheme and manipulate for our own advantage. You are aware of how often our deeds fail to match the faith we claim. Help us to face ourselves with honesty. Give us the will and courage to change our ways. We give thanks for Christ's intercession of us. We rejoice as the Spirit gives voice to all we cannot express. Save us, O God, that our lives might give expression to your reign.
(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

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died,

or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Answer the Question Truthfully"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

from The Confession of Belhar

We believe: that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Praise Ye the Lord!"

J. Jefferson Cleveland (1937-1986)

The Chancel Choir

Text for this anthem is found in the hymnal, page 258.

*** 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 #262: "God of the Ages"**

NATIONAL HYMN

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.</p> <p>2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past; In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay; Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.</p> | <p>3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase; Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.</p> <p>4. Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never-ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.</p> |
|--|---|

*** Commission and Blessing**

We are invited to make God's realm our first priority.

Living as God intends is life's greatest fulfillment.

May our mustard-seed faith grow strong.

We treasure God's realm in our midst.

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: "Gavot with Variations" (Organ Solo from a Concerto)

Thomas Sanders Dupuis
(1733 - 1796)


Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

August 6, 2023 — Tenth Sunday After Pentecost — Sermon: "God Will Satisfy"

First Reading: Romans 9:1-5 — Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

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



"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.



VPC
Summer Sunday School
Sundays, June 4 - September 4



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING
AUGUST 13, 2023

SAVE THE DATES

FALL EDUCATION KICK OFF
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023




KEEP CALM AND TRUST GOD

Join Us on the Stewardship Committee!

We are looking for VPC-loving members to help plan the stewardship campaign for 2024, which will launch later this year. We want to hear your ideas for how as a church we can "Giving Back to God" for the blessings of our lives.

You can participate at the level that works with your schedule and that takes advantage of the skills with which God has blessed you.

Stewardship is about far more than money: it's about living and sharing a life that reflects your faith and your gratitude.

The committee's next meeting is **Monday, July 31 at 3:00 PM.** You can participate in person or by Zoom.

Please let Pastor Rob know of your interest — or just come to the first meeting to see what it's all about.

See you there!

WE NEED SPONSORS FOR CHANCEL FLOWERS AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR!

THANK YOU

Have you considered sponsoring the Chancel Flowers on a Sunday morning for worship? What about sponsoring the Fellowship Hour following the worship service? Take advantage of these options for remembering a special event (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or the memory of a loved one.

Call Barbara at 597-5410 to schedule a date!



Collier Harvest

Mission Opportunities

Join us to pack bags of healthy and nutritious food for our hungry neighbors across Collier County.

Monday, August 28, 2023
4-5:15pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)
5-6pm - bagging food at 4451 Mercantile Ave.

Email Pete Rodino pvrodino@aol.com to volunteer!



We will miss you

Ruth is retiring!

Thank you

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!



celebrate

Grateful

Our local blood supplies have taken a dive!

GIVE BLOOD

Sunday, August 13, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church



Sign up by calling
597-5410



Can you lend a hand?
Our Mission Team needs you!



Weekend Power Pack relies on volunteers to pack about 300 bags of food for children living at or below the poverty level.

Thursday, August 3rd at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall.

The packing should take about an hour.

If you can volunteer, contact Becky Wheat at sportbroad@comcast.net.

Financial donations are needed!

Weekend Power Pack in memo www.vpcnaples.org.



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING & TEACHER COMMISSIONING

August 13, 2023
10:00 am Family Led
Worship Service

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you for all the generous donations to our VBS Mission Project & Back to School Backpack Drive. We collected \$645 and boxes full of supplies for distribution to children in need through Grace Place and Mision Peniel. God goes with us everywhere! Awesome God!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING & TEACHER COMMISSIONING SUNDAY!

Join us for family led worship on **August 13 at 10am.**

We will celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask God for blessings upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them.

Meet our new director of the Vanderbilt Learning Center and our teaching team.

Stay for a picnic lunch and ice cream social in Fellowship Hall.

Sign up! hmikes@vpcnaples.org.

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



Happy Birthday!

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|---------------------|-----|
| Justin Gallo | 7/30 | Mary Wollaston | 8/3 |
| Scott Wollaston | 7/31 | Jennifer Yousaf | 8/3 |
| *Cynthia Russell | 7/31 | Elizabeth Van Mater | 8/3 |
| *Marilyn McKee | 8/1 | Deborah Hamilton | 8/3 |
| Tony Van Rooyen | 8/1 | Bunny Heitmann | 8/5 |
| Gwen Salyer | 8/1 | Jan Fern | 8/5 |
| Gwynne Wells | 8/2 | Ann Parker Foote | 8/5 |
| Mimi Braun | 8/2 | *Beth Marrow | 8/5 |
| LaVerne Perrollaz | 8/2 | Norman Parker | 8/5 |
| Nancy Myers | 8/3 | | |

*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!

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Fred & Karen Schulz | 7/30 |
| Mike & Reggie Smith | 8/3 |
| Donald & Joanna Throckmorton | 8/4 |
| Laura & Jeff Piipponen | 8/4 |

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. Grasseti

(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!"**