



**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*



**July 9, 2023 10:00 am — Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

The flowers on the chancel are given in loving memory of our mother,  
Edith Sieling, by Ron Sieling and Joan Elliott.

The fellowship hour is sponsored by the Grider Family.

**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*  
**Jerry Grandey**, *Liturgist*  
**Julie Carver**, *Pianist*

**Brooke Vayda**, *Children's Moment*  
**The Chancel Choir**  
**Victoria Bonavita**, *Audio/Visual Technician*  
**Greeters:** Jan Fern & Ruth Felipe  
**Ushers:** Bill & Geri Payne (Head Ushers), Ron &  
Linda Addaman, Karen Chappler, Joe Trees

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 145:8-14

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup> to make known to all people your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

**Prelude:** Improvisation on "Holy Manna"

David Lasky (b. 1957)

### Announcements

#### \* Call to Worship:

*Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God.*

*Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.*

**God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion.**

**All creation joins us in giving thanks.**

*Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.*

*Come, for Christ has promised rest.*

**The gentle spirit of Christ invites us.**

**We have come to find rest for our souls.**

*Let us worship God.*

#### \* Hymn: "Shall We Gather at the River?"

LOWRY

1. **Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God?**

#### *Refrain:*

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.**

2. **On the margin of the river,  
Washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever,  
All the happy golden day.**

#### *Refrain*

3. **Ere we reach the shining river,  
Lay we every burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver,  
And provide a robe and crown.**

#### *Refrain*

4. **Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver  
With the melody of peace.**

#### *Refrain*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder you will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. *(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

Brooke Vayda

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 7:15-25a

*<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the*

*desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*<sup>16</sup> "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." <sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Burden or Opportunity?"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

### **\* 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:** "The Gift of Love"

Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

The Chancel Choir

Though I may speak with bravest fire, And have the gift to all inspire, And have not love, my words are vain, As sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, And striving so my love profess, But not be given by love within, The profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; By this we worship, and are freed.

**\* 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 #527: "Near to the Heart of God"**

MCAFEE

**1. There is a place of quiet rest,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where sin cannot molest,  
Near to the heart of God.**

**2. There is a place of comfort sweet,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where we our Savior meet,  
Near to the heart of God.**

**Refrain:**

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
Sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us, who wait before Thee,  
Near to the heart of God.**

**Refrain**

**3. There is a place of full release,  
Near to the heart of God,  
A place where all is joy and peace,  
Near to the heart of God.**

**Refrain**

**\* Commission and Blessing**

*We encounter God in unexpected places.*

*God surprises us in the life and witness of people.*

**We will find rest and renewal through Christ.**

**We seek to express the same humility and gentleness.**

*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:** Partita on "St. Anne"

Lasky

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

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

**July 16, 2023**

**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

**Sermon: "Planting Seeds"**

**First Reading: Romans 8:1-11**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**TODAY!**

After Fellowship Hour, small groups will meet for lunch at a restaurant around noon.



**THANK YOU!**

Special thanks to Julie Carver for filling our worship service with beautiful music while Dr. Jim Cochran is on vacation.



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 ENDOWMENT NEWS**

We would like to thank the families of Gene (and Peggy) Blanchard and Jo and John Rist, whose estates recently donated gifts to the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Endowment. This is a separate fund established to provide for expenses outside the annual operating budget and annual Stewardship campaigns to further advance the ministry of our Church. Gifts to the Endowment leave a lasting legacy to VPC.



**HYDRATION STATIONS**

We're always looking for ways to be good stewards of God's creation. Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church and Learning Center, together with a generous donation from a loving family, recently installed eco-friendly bottle filling stations in the Education and Music Wing. Children and adults alike can maximize hydration and fill their reusable water bottles using touchless technology. No germs! No waste! The stations have filters for cleaner water and counters that track how many single-use plastic water bottles have been avoided. Students are learning about sustainability and caring for the earth. We're all growing together in Christ and managing our facilities in ways that respect and cherish all creation.







## VBS Needs Y-O-U!



Join us for a brief volunteer meeting on

**Tuesday, July 11 at 1:30pm** in the Student Center (located in West Wing).

Can't make it? Come see us on **Sunday, July 16**, after worship

**(between 11:15am-12:15pm)** to pick up your shirt and assignment.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to serve at "Monumental" VBS

**July 17-21, 9am-12pm.** Opportunities still available for adults, college students, high schoolers & middle schoolers to help campers discover how awesome our God is.

Check out the Monumental display in the Narthex!

We are accepting donations to help offset the cost of our VBS!

See Amber Grider or Brooke Vayda today!

For more information/questions, email Heather

Mikes at [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org). Thank you!!



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

### Happy Birthday!

### Happy Anniversary!

Sherry Smith	7/9	*Vicki Evans	7/15
Mavelyn Millard	7/9	Joni Poposki	7/15
Tom Nale	7/10		
*Jodi Reckmeyer	7/12		
Peter Tremblay	7/12		
Hal Wendler	7/12		
Dianne Westerlund	7/13		
Pat Gould	7/13		
Colton Monda	7/13		
Lio Martinez	7/14		
Bob Reardon	7/14		

Jim & Carmen Campbell	7/11
Karen & David Rohde	7/11
Dick & Sherry Hardgrove	7/15

#### \*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!"**