



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



**August 27, 2023 10:00 am
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

The flowers on the chancel are donated by Shar & Lynn Rosser in honor of our wonderful, faithful audio/visual technician, Victoria Bonavita, whose talent enables all of us to enjoy our worship services. Thank you, Victoria!

The fellowship hour is sponsored by the Arnie Alexander.

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

Julie Carver, Pianist
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Priscilla Kutler & Becky Wheat
Ushers: Bill & Geri Payne (Head Ushers), Steve Blad, Anne Smith, Linda & Ron Addaman

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 138

- ¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
³ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.
⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.
⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.
⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Prelude: "Fantasy in C Major"

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

*Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth
Come to worship the One who answers our prayers.*

We rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.

Blessed be our God, whose word is true.

In thankfulness, we bring our joyous songs.

We are here to pay attention to God's instructions.

We are here, seeking to discern God's will.

We are open to God's transforming Spirit.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #261: "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us"

O QUANTA QUALIA

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength
for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing. | Guarding our thoughts
and our passions controlling. |
| 2. Wandering and lost,
Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts
with Thy Word of consoling;
Wrap now Thy peace,
like a mantle, around us, | 3. How shall we stray,
with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars
in their courses art guiding?
What shall we fear,
with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth
in Thy greatness confiding? |

*** Call to Confession**

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

O God, we did not realize that we are among the rich oppressors of this world. We think we are poor when we cannot have everything we want. Keep us from misusing the power we have. We confess our fear of those who are unlike us. We set up barriers against them when we are afraid. Keep us from acting in ways that alienate and divide. When we are tempted to conform to the world's standards, set before us the higher model of sacrifice and service that is given to us in Jesus, in whose name we pray. *(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 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with

sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "A Fair Question"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers and the one body of Christ, the Church. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Near to the Heart of God"

Cleland Boyd McAfee (1866-1944)

The Chancel Choir

Text found on page 527 of the Hymnal.

*** 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 #241: "Behold the Goodness of Our Lord"**

CRIMOND

- 1. Behold the goodness of our Lord,
How blest it is to be
A company of God's beloved,
In holy unity.**
- 2. Like precious oil upon the head,
A healing for our strife,
It flows throughout our common bond,
Refreshing all of life.**
- 3. As dew on Zion's mountaintop
Brings freshness to its door,
Our Lord commands this in our midst
And brings life evermore.**

*** Commission and Blessing**

Serve the world as people transformed by God.

Let others know God's mercy and forgiveness.

We seek to live as Jesus taught.

We seek to embody trust in God and love of all.

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: "Processional" from Judas Maccabeus

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon: "Identity"

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-2

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION



Live out your faith by teaching Sunday School!

Join us after worship for an informational meeting on **Sunday, August 27, at 11:15am** in the Student Center to talk about teaching Sunday School to children, youth and adults. We supply the curriculum. You share love, patience and passion with all God's children, as we spend time in God's Word together.

Fall Education Kick Off is Sunday, September 10!

Sometimes called Rally Day, children and families return to formal Sunday school classes on **Sept. 10th**. At Vanderbilt, Fall Education Kick Off is for all God's children! It's a time for learning and growing in our faith, as we deepen our relationship with God in a variety of ways.

What is God calling you to?

He has given us all gifts, talents, resources and time and

He is calling us all to be a blessing to others.

He is calling us all to action.

We encourage you to answer the call as you are able - in our church and in our community.

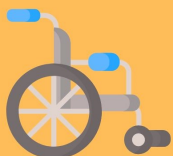
Join us for another family-led worship service at **10:00am**. Children and youth, PreK-3 through high school, will be invited to Sunday School immediately following the Children's Moment. Nursery Ministry will be available for infants and toddlers, beginning at **9:45am**.

Questions?
Call the office!
597-5410

VPC has a lending library of physical therapy equipment?

We are currently running low on both wheelchairs and walkers!

If you have either that you would like to donate, we would be happy to add them to our inventory.



Thank you!



I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name
forever and ever.

- Psalm 145

Extended Communion for Homebound Congregants

If you are unable to attend church and would like to receive communion at home, please call Michael Bevilacqua at 612-803-0767.

If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon and would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Michael to volunteer.

Other questions?

Call the office - 597-5410



Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

JOHN 6:56, NRSV

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSIONS

Join our **Mission Team** by zooming into our next meeting on

Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm.

Email Toni Keefer at

tonimkeefe@hotmail.com or Becky

Wheat at sportbroad@comcast.net

for more information.

Are you interested in joining our church family?

Adventures In Membership

Sunday, September 10 - 11:15am



Join us for worship and stay in the sanctuary with Pastor Rob for a brief Q&A, as we chat about Vanderbilt and what it means to be involved in the ministry of Christ's church. *Childcare Available

Collier Harvest



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

Email Pete Rodino pvrodino@aol.com to volunteer!

Monday, August 28, 2023

4:30pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)

4:45-6pm - bagging food at 4451 Mercantile Ave.



DONATE ❤️

Can you help?

♥️ SUPPORT ♥️

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

We need financial donations to be able to purchase the food.

Please send any amount and put WPP in the memo www.vpcnaples.org.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Thursday, September 28th at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall.

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



Have you signed up for Lunch Bunch yet? Join us! Our next lunch is on Sunday September 17th!

We are saddened to announce the death of former member, **Suzanne F. Smith,** on August 10, 2023 at the age of 83.

Suzanne and her late husband, Dennis, were members of VPC for over 14 years until they moved to Indiana to be near their family. Please keep her family in your prayers at this difficult time.



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	Dick Creviston	The John Kennedy Family	Shannon Simmons
Rich Annunziata	Nancy Diederich	Robbie Landon	Lou Thompson
Loraine Atkinson	Marlene Everson	Jeff Moon	Kay Winemiller
Jeff Berger	Kimberly Gould-Blackwell	Brad Ponkratz	Chris Wood & Family
Charlyn Bonk	Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt	Leah Ray	
Katie Carpenter	Phil Jacobus	Jodi Reckmeyer	
Adriana Caruso	Sandra Johnson	Donna Riley	
Molly Cochran	Chester Kauffman	Pete Schwiers	



Happy Birthday!

Eleanor Sarina Hoppner	8/29
Sumera Yousaf	8/29
Tim Grove	8/29
Al Teti	8/29
*Pete Schwiers	8/30
Barbara McElwaine	8/30
Janet Kassing	8/31
Elizabeth Lee	8/31
Anna Borden	9/1

Brooke Borden	9/1
*Joan Elliott	9/1
Nancy Guthy	9/1
Addison Acx	9/1
Avery Acx	9/1
Mark McElwaine	9/2

Happy Anniversary!

Don & Jan Fern	8/29
Steve & Becca Acx	8/31
Bill & Harriet Shouldice	8/31
Clark & Kathryn Leaming	9/1

*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). 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

MAJ Rex Rafferty

USAF—Alabama
(Norm & Linda Parker's granddaughter's husband)

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!"**