



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



**September 3, 2023 10:00 am
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

The flowers on the chancel are donated in honor of my best friend and sister, Joan Elliott, by Ron Sieling and in celebration of 59 years of marriage by Geri & Bill Payne.

The fellowship hour is sponsored by Lynn & Shar Rosser in honor of the faithful, hard working volunteers who handle this great time of fellowship.

Worship Participants

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
The Rev. Michael Butler, Guest Preacher
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
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Priscilla Kutler & Ruth Felipe
Ushers: Greg & Julie Borden (Head Ushers), Carolyn Magarro, Dianne Westerlund, Joan Butler, Sonja Cookson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 26:1-8

¹ Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

² Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind.

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

⁴ I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;

⁵ I hate the company of evildoers and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Prelude: Chorale Prelude on "Adoro te Devote"

Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

God calls us to this time of worship.

The place where we are standing is holy ground.

Give thanks to God: sing praises.

Give attention to the voice of God.

Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses.

In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.

We will listen for God's message to us.

Surely God's strength will supply our needs.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #430: "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy"

DARWALL'S 148TH

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Come sing, O church in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord
has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now and praise the Lord! | 3. Let courage be our friend,
Let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission
magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now and praise the Lord! |
| 2. Long years have come and gone,
And still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us
To catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now and praise the Lord! | 4. Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church in song!
For Christ the Lord
has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate
the journey now and praise the Lord! |

*** Call to Confession**

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are, and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. (*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

Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to

look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." ¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you'.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Stumbling Block or Cornerstone?"

The Rev. Michael Butler

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "With a Voice of Singing"

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

The Chancel Choir

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

*** 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 #276: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

FAITHFULNESS

**1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they
fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.**

**2. Summer and winter and springtime and
harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
*Refrain***

Refrain:

**Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to
guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
*Refrain***

*** Commission and Blessing**

Seek every day the presence we have known here.

God offers strength for every challenge we face.

We will give thanks and call on God's name.

We will open our eyes to see God's daily miracles.

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: "Sent Forth With God's Blessings"

Wood

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.



THANK YOU MICHAEL BUTLER!

We welcome **The Rev. Michael Butler** to our pulpit today. Rev. Butler is a recently retired United Methodist Pastor who has served churches in Ohio, Indiana, and Florida. He and Pastor Rob serve together on the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance Board of Directors.

In observance of Labor Day,
the church office will be closed on
Monday, September 4th.



With Sympathy

*We are saddened to announce the death of **Rose Wendler** on August 18, 2023 at the age of 94.*

Rose and her husband, Hal, were affiliate members of VPC for over 25 years.

The family will have a memorial service in Illinois.

To send Hal a card: 620 North Ottawa Ave, Dixon, IL 61021.

***Ali Frimpter** passed away on August 20, 2023 at the age of 80.*

Ali and her late husband, Mike, were members of VPC for over 29 years.

The family will have a memorial service in Cape Cod.

*Sadly, **Rita Marrow**, completed her earthly journey on August 29, 2023 at the age of 90.*

Rita was the mother of Pastor Robert J. Marrow.

Cards may be sent to Pastor Rob at 1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, FL 34110

A funeral service was held in Pennsylvania.

Please keep these families in your prayers at this difficult time.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

September 10, 2023 — Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Family Led Worship — Fall Education Kick Off

Sermon: "Step by Step" — First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 — Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

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. 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**.

"Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart." - Proverbs 25:20

As humans we want to reach out and help those who are hurting - but the words and actions we use may unintentionally add to their burden. **STEPHEN MINISTERS** are trained to use a compassionate approach, and concrete ideas to bring God's loving presence to hurting people when they need it most.

stephen
MINISTRY.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR FIRST WNL

YOU'RE INVITED

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

EMAIL HEATHER MIRES FOR MORE INFO HMIRES@VPCNAPLES.ORG

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
FELLOWSHIP HALL 5:30-7:15PM

DINNER
STUDY
SERVE
PRAY
PLAY



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

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

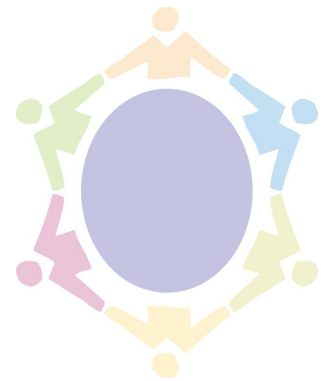
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSIONS

- **WEEKEND POWER PACK: Thursday, September 28th at 10:30am.** We are in need of donations. Mark your gift WPP (check or online donations). Thank you.
- Join our **MISSION TEAM** by zooming into our next meeting on **Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm.** Email Toni Keefer at tonimkeefer@hotmail.com.

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.

Loraine Atkinson	Kimberly Gould-Blackwell	Brad Ponkratz	Kay Winemiller
Katie Carpenter	Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt	Mark Pratt	
Adriana Caruso	Sandra Johnson	Leah Ray	
Molly Cochran	Warren Kargel	Donna Riley	
Dick Creviston	Chester Kauffman	Sam & Marilyn Scheller	
Andrea Daggett	The John Kennedy Family	Pete Schwiers	
Nancy Diederich	Robbie Landon	Shannon Simmons	
Marlene Everson	The Marrow Family	Lou Thompson	
The Frimpter Family	Nancy Miller	The Wendler Family	



Happy Birthday!

Nancy Ruppert	9/3
Martha Jean Gordon	9/4
Jane Repp	9/4
*Linda Addaman	9/4
Joseph Riashi	9/5
Penny O'Kelley	9/7
Karen Schulz	9/8
Bruce Stryker	9/8
*Judy Istock	9/8
Susan Hallin	9/8



***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!

Clark & Kathryn Leaming	9/1
Bill & Geri Payne	9/4
John & Mavelyn Millard	9/5
Fred & Barbara Minter	9/7
Don & Greta Corcoran	9/9



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)	CPTN Jennifer Giles USMC, Philippines (Mary Giles' granddaughter)	CPTN Devon Hennessey Korea (Toni Hubbard)
MSgt Kristopher Chesslo USAF (Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)	CPTN Jeremy Giles US Army Special Forces, Ft. Bragg, NC (Mary Giles' grandson)	SGT Wesley Kennedy USMC - Okinawa, Japan
LT Wyatt R. Dawley US Navy Intel/SEAL Team (Debbie Dawley's grandson)	COL Jessica D. Grassetti (Claudia Polzin's niece)	MAJ Rex Rafferty USAF—Alabama (Norm & Linda Parker's granddaughter's husband)
MAJ Allen Fujinaka US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)	1st LT Jacob Guzman US Army—South Korea (Cesar Guzman's son)	

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

- Please let the office know if you are in the hospital. **239-597-5410**
- Go to www.vpcnaples.org/live/ to view our Livestreamed worship.
- Questions? Check our weekly email: **"Week at a Glance!"** every **Monday** morning.