



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 17, 2023 10:00 am
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

The flowers on the chancel are donated in loving memory of Norm Burke by the Grider Family and in celebration of our 31st wedding anniversary on September 12th by Jack & Ellen Tanner.

The fellowship hour is sponsored in honor of Lou and Mary 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
Susie Hilton, Liturgist
Julie Carver, Pianist

The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Ruth Felipe & Becky Wheat
Ushers: Bill & Geri Payne (Head Ushers), Reggie Smith, Tim Hall, Sonja Cookson, Carline Lobban

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 114

¹ When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

² Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

³ The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

⁴ The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

⁵ Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

⁶ O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ who turns the rock into a pool of water,

the flint into a spring of water.

Prelude: "Prayer for Organ"

Julius Chajes (1910-1985)

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

*When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,
God helps us turn the evil to good.*

We need not be afraid whatever happens.

We are in God's care wherever we go.

Sing the praises of God, our strength.

Know that God is majestic and holy.

How great is God's mercy for all who worship!

We sense among us God's kindness and patience.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #372: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart. | 3. Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart. |
| 2. Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart,
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart. | 4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart,
in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart. |

*** Call to Confession**

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

We bow before your judgement seat, O God. We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. *(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 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed

them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "We are Accountable"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Recognition of New Member

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

From Book of Common Worship

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Traditional Spiritual

The Chancel Choir

Text found on page 368 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 #438: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

DENNIS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above. | 3. We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear. |
| 2. Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares. | 4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity. |

*** Commission and Blessing**

Let every knee bow daily before our God.

Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.

God helps us turn evil into good.

Every day we can know God's loving presence.

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: "Prelude in D Minor"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

September 24, 2023 — Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sermon: "Gratitude"

First Reading: Philippians 1:21-30 — Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!



Joe Hodgson joined VPC on Sunday, September 10 at our AIM class. He has been attending our church for a long time with his partner, Nancy Diederich. Joe is a Virginia native who lived in Maryland, New Jersey and New York during his career. He has a son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren who live in North Carolina. Joe is transferring his membership from First United Methodist Church of Delmar, New York and will be a full time member of Vanderbilt.



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.



*"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

Stephen Ministers help meet the needs of people both inside and outside of the church. People are drawn into God's vision - as individuals and as a community of faith.

stephen
MINISTRY.

Collier Harvest

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

Monday, September 18, 2023
4:15pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)
4:45-6pm - bagging food at 4451 Mercantile Ave.

Email Pete Rodino pvrodino@aol.com to volunteer!

Collier Harvest Foundation

HELP support OUR MISSION

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a mission-minded congregation with opportunities for everyone to participate.

We partner with over a dozen different organizations; donating food, clothing, school supplies, holiday gifts, and helping hands. The Mission Team is always in need of more volunteers.

Please join us on **September 19 at 7pm!**

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom, allowing everyone to participate.

Toni Keefer tonimkeefe@hotmail.com
Becky Wheat sportbroad@comcast.net

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.

Vanderbilt PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Friday, September 29, 2023
9:00 am
Leitner Park
26724 Nomad Dr.
Bonita Springs 34135

Email Eliza Nevin elizanevin@comcast.net

Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed.

THANKS A LOT!

CAFÉ OF LIFE
CARING... SHARING... SERVING

DO YOU LIKE TO SING? JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

OUR MID-WEEK REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN. JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM IN COCHRAN HALL.

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL JIM AT jcochrans@vpcnaples.org.

THE ALLELUIA CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Children and youth of all ages are invited to music with Dr. Jim and Mrs. Carver on Sundays 11:30am-12pm in Cochran Music Hall. Families are invited to stay in Fellowship Hall or the Student Center.

EMAIL HEATHER MIKES hmikes@vpcnaples.org

YOU'RE INVITED

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS
FELLOWSHIP HALL 5:30-7:15PM

DINNER STUDY SERVE PRAY PLAY

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Night Lights is up and running!
Our next WNL is **September 27 at 5:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. For a complete schedule, check the Week-at-a-Glance email. Questions? Email Heather Mikes at hmikes@vpcnaples.org. Mark your calendar and join us!

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

A Prayer for the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya.



God, upon you we rely, and to you we turn.

You do not waver, and you do not abandon. Be with the people of Morocco and Libya in these days and the weeks ahead as they face the tragedy of loss, and begin to rebuild their lives. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Happy Birthday!

*Peggy Paulsen	9/17
Marie Walton	9/17
Martha Fligg	9/19
Brooke Vayda	9/19
Christine Rockhold	9/19
Sandra Johnson	9/20
*Jim Reed	9/20
Steve Acx	9/21
John Millard	9/22

Happy Anniversary!

Al & Linda Teti	9/19
Merle & Sharon	
Wylie	9/22

***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)	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.