



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 24, 2023 10:00 am
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

The flowers on the chancel and the fellowship hour are sponsored in honor and in celebration of Ron and Nancy Guthy's 60th wedding anniversary.

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*

Stanley Leonard, *Timpanist*
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Greeters: Geri & Bill Payne
Ushers: Julie Borden (Head Usher), Ben Hood, Anne Smith, George Morton, Gwen Salyer, Joe Trees

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

⁶ They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

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

Prelude: Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

The Rejoicing

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Stanley Leonard, *Timpani* and *Arranger*

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.

Tell of God's wonderful works.

Today we open ourselves to God's presence.

Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.

We are guided by God's laws and statutes.

We benefit from God's generosity.

Let all the people worship with joy!

Let all whom God has chosen sing together!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #263: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

**1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name
we praise.**

**2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in
might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring
above Thy clouds, which are fountains of
goodness and love.**

**3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and
small; In all life Thou livest, the true life of
all; We blossom and flourish as leaves on the
tree, And wither and perish; but naught
changeth Thee.**

**4. Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their
sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit. Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ. We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy benefit from your generosity. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your living Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, 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

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or

am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Gratitude"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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: "O God, Beyond all Praising"

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Chancel Choir

O God beyond all praising, We worship you today And sing the love amazing That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder At ev'ry gift you send, At blessings without number And mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you And wait upon your word, We honor and adore you, our great and mighty
Lord. Then hear, O gracious Savior, Accept the love we bring, That we who know your favor May serve
you as our King; And whether our tomorrows Be filled with good or ill, We'll triumph through our
sorrows And rise to bless you still: To marvel at your beauty And glory in your ways, And make a joyful
duty Our sacrifice of praise.

*** 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 #423: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"**

DUKE STREET

- 1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**
- 2. To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.**
- 5. Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!**

*** Commission and Blessing**

*May you know joy and progress in your faith.
May this be a week of spiritual growth for you.*
**May Christ dwell in us and among us.
May the faith of the gospel empower us.**
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: "Sinfonies de Fanfares"

Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

Stanley Leonard, *Timpani* and *Arranger*

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Sermon: "The People Quarreled"

First Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

Second Reading: Exodus 17:1-7



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP



Wednesday Night Lights is up and running! Our next WNL is **September 27 at 5:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. We're going to build ice cream sundaes to remember to build our lives on Jesus, the solid Rock. For a complete schedule, check the Week-at-a-Glance email.

Questions?

Email Heather Mikes at

hmikes@vpcnaples.org.

Vanderbilt Children & Youth Groups and Learning Center

Halloween Costume Drive

Bring in gently used or new costumes for children in need.

Help kids have an awesome Halloween!

We will be collecting costumes through Sunday, October 1st.



Mark your calendar!

Join us for Trunk or Treat on **October 25th.**



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.



SUNDAES ON WEDNESDAY

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
SEPT. 27
5:30PM**


Would you like Giving Envelopes?

Please let us know if you would like weekly giving envelopes. Please call Barbara or sign up in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday mornings.

239-597-5410

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church
To Praise • To Bless • To Equip • To Serve
 1225 Piper Blvd. • Naples, FL 34110-1252
 239-597-5410 • www.vpcnaples.org

Annual Commitment \$ _____
 Vision Fulfillment \$ _____
 Board of Deacons' Fund \$ _____
 Other (Designate) \$ _____
 TOTAL: _____
You may write one check for all of your offerings.



*"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him."
 1 Corinthians 16:2*

"For where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also."

"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

We learn from Jesus' teachings as He obeyed a higher law. Jesus teaches us about the presence of God in the caring relationship and how to identify the connection between evangelism and caring. Stephen Ministers bring these connections to their care receivers.

stephen
MINISTRY

Medicare Updates & Changes Seminar Friday, September 29, 2023 10am-12pm in Harp Hall

Join us for a presentation provided by SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) counselors. It is free and open to current Medicare beneficiaries, individuals who will soon be eligible for Medicare, individuals who are transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare, as well as their families and caregivers.

**Bring us your questions!
 We are here to help!**



SHINE offers free, personalized, unbiased, and confidential Medicare counseling, is a federal/state/Area Agency on Aging Program and is not affiliated with any insurance companies or agencies.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION

- **Weekend Power Pack - Thursday, September 28 at 10:30am** in Fellowship Hall. Email Becky Wheat sportbroad@comcast.net.
- **Café of Life - Friday, September 29 at 9am** Leitner Park, 26724 Nomad Dr., Bonita Springs, 34135. Email Eliza Nevin elizanevin@comcast.net.
- Did you know? **Grace Place** and **Habitat for Humanity** recently sent VPC thank you notes and the Grace Place Goodness Report. Both are posted on the bulletin board in the office. Come and see the good we are doing in our community!

We need you! Consider becoming a Ruling Elder or Deacon.

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for Ruling Elders and Deacons (Class of 2027). Fill out the green forms in the Narthex and return them to the box by October 15.

We are all part of the Body of Christ.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders.

A gift to the **Peace & Global Witness Offering** enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.

Envelopes are in the **Narthex** for your donation.

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

Happy Birthday!

*Nena Beynon	9/24
*Julie Borden	9/25
*Peggy Landon	9/26
Stanley Leonard	9/26
Ann Lienemann	9/26
Mary Ann Portman	9/26
Rachel Heimberger	9/27
Jackson Bell	9/28
Laura Marzano	9/28
Carol Wood	9/28
Max Gould	9/28

*Mac McDonald	9/28
Virginia Garner Cullison	9/30
*Mary Thompson	9/30
Pat Rose	9/30



***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!

Bill & Mary Ann Koppelkam	9/27
Nancy & Ron Guthy	9/28
Joe & Barbara Feddern	9/28

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. **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.