



Vanderbilt

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



April 28, 2024 — 10:00 am The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The flowers on the chancel are given in loving memory of Carol Schwiers by Pete and family and in memory of Marilyn McKee by her loving family.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored in loving memory of Carol Schwiers and in honor of the VPC Deacons for their outstanding support by Pete and 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
Janie Ballurio, Liturgist
Julie Carver, Pianist

David Curtiss, Baritone
The Chancel Choir
The Carillon Ringers, Gordon Black, Director
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Joan Butler and Priscilla Kutler
Ushers: Jerry & Mari-Bea Warnken (Head Ushers), Sonja Cookson, Joe Trees, George Morton, Henry Gaylord

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 118:19-25

- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

Prelude: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" arr. Stanley Leonard
"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" arr. Ron Mallory
The Carillon Ringers – Gordon Black, *Director*

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity; Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness. Let us worship God.

* Hymn #343: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.</p> <p>2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.</p> | <p>Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.</p> <p>3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues free and fair.</p> |
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Continued

4. So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. *(silence)* Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

This is 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

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: "Safe Within Your Arms"

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

David Curtiss, *Baritone*

The Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "We Bear Fruit"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

adapted from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*

We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love. We believe the good news that gives us comfort that we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our sake, so that nothing will ever separate us from God's love. We know this good news through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace"

Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

The Chancel Choir

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Wherever there's despair, hope, Where there's darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console. To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. For it is by faith that we believe. For in forgiving, we are forgiven. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life! Make me an instrument of Thy peace!

*** 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 #554: "Let All Things Now Living"**

THE ASH GROVE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished,
All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light. | 2. By law God enforces.
The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine:
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean
proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise.
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving, |
|---|---|

*** Commission and Blessing:**

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed,

Securely abiding as branches of the true vine.

Go and tell the story of faith

That is given to you by the One who never lets you go.

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: "Let All Things Now Living"

Dale Wood (1934 - 2003)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

May 5, 2024 10:00 am

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Michael Butler, Guest Pastor

First Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17



**We're all moving
UP!**

If you have a student graduating or moving up to a new school, let us know! This includes grandchildren! Send us a picture and short paragraph including their name, school and grade they are graduating/moving up from and the school they are heading to. Please include family information and tell us something fun about your graduate. We will honor them on Graduation Sunday, May 19. Please email submissions by May 5 to Heather Mikes at hmikes@vpcnaples.org

**Graduation Sunday
May 19, 2024**

Celebrating graduates and educational milestones!

First Presbyterian Church, Dunedin invites you to the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of **The Rev. Dr. Thomas P. Harp**
 Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 10:30 am
 To send Dr. Harp a card use his home address:
 1441 Forestedge Blvd.
 Oldsmar, FL 34677



**WEDNESDAY
 NIGHT LIGHTS
 FIESTA NIGHT
 MAY 1
 5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

*Can you sponsor
 Fellowship Hour?
We need you!*
 We are in need of sponsors for our Fellowship Hours on Sunday mornings. Call Barbara at 597-5410 to choose a date. It's a great way to give back to your church family!

Thanks!

VBS Needs Y-O-U!
 Share God's love with children this summer **July 22-26, 9am-12pm!**
 Vacation Bible School is loads of fun and full of lasting impact for everyone involved. There are lots of opportunities for every level of giftedness and availability. **So many ways to serve: adults, collegiate, rising middle school and high school students.**
<https://vbspro.events/p/scuba-vpc>
 Please consider sending donations directly to our team.
 Email Heather for more information: hmikes@vpcnaples.org.



**GIVE BLOOD
 1 DONATION
 SAVES 3 LIVES**
**Sunday, May 5
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
 Hosted by NCH Community Blood Center
 1225 Piper Blvd. Naples, FL 34110
**Sign-up for an arrival time:
 239-597-5410**

GiveBloodCBC.org



- Eat before donating blood
- Be well hydrated with water
- Bring Photo ID
- Minimum weight: 110 pounds
- Minimum age: 16 with parent consent
- No age maximum
- Cholesterol & mini health screenings

STEPHEN MINISTRY
 Acts 4:33 — *“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.”*
 God works through us to minister to the grieving.

Vanderbilt Ladies Who Lunch
 Single Ladies!
 Join the Vanderbilt Ladies Who Lunch at a different restaurant each month.
 The next luncheon will be **Monday, May 13 at 12:00pm.**
 Email Barbara Hebert at barbillsr@aol.com

Join Us!
Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 11:30am
**The Vanderbilt Learning Center
 Spring Concert & Graduation**
 Vanderbilt Learning Center students and families will celebrate the end of the school year with joyful songs on **May 23 at 11:30am** in the Sanctuary.
 Come see what they've been working on with Dr. Jim.
 Help us celebrate our preschool and kindergarten graduates!



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.

Christy Bauer	Ivana Novelli	Joanne & Bill Whitman
Linda Bauer	Tami Oelkrug	Chris Wood & Family
Carmen Campbell	Linda Parker	
Adriana Caruso	June Peterson	
Bob & Jan Conrad	Laura Piipponen	
Dick Creviston	Joni Poposki	
Yana Drebyshv & Family	The Riley Family	
The Gaylord Family	Ron Shaffer	
Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt	Rev. Louis Thompson	
Kate Hafner	Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen	
Sandra Johnson	Judy Varian	
Chester & Janet Kauffman	John Vaughn	
Doris Martin	Laura Warnken	
The McKee Family	Dan Westerlund	

*We are saddened to announce the death of **Donna Riley** on April 19, 2024 at the age of 98. Donna and her late husband, Bob, were longtime members of VPC, joining in 1983.*

*We also share that **Bud Getman** passed away on April 21, 2024. Bud and his wife, Bee, have been active members of VPC for over 14 years.*

To send Bee a card: 870 Classic Ct Apt 210
Naples, FL 34110



Happy Birthday!

Chris Wood	4/28
*Jim Hart	4/29
*Stephen Myers	4/30
Katherine Barkley Willis	5/2
Barbara Hurst	5/2
Joanne Whitman	5/2
*Marie Jablonski	5/2
*Lewis Bevan	5/3

Bill Van Fossen	5/3
Joe Feddern	5/3
Kyle Vayda	5/3

***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!

Alyce & Jack Demma	4/25
Courtney & Emilio Martinez	4/25
Tony & Yvonne Van Rooyen	4/29
Dennis & Alice Lebo	4/29
Ron & Linda Addaman	4/29
Clifford & Margaret Swaby	5/1

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)

COL Jessica D. Grassetti
(Claudia Polzin's niece)

E4 Brian Guzman
USAF - Colorado (Cesar Guzman's son)

Sgt Jacob Guzman
US Army-Seattle, WA (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)

LCPL Michael Russell
USMC - Cape Lejeune, NC
(Heather Anderson'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.