



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



December 15, 2024 — 10:00 am

The Third Sunday of Advent — Family Led Worship

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored in loving memory of Fran Marinari by her family.

The flowers and Fellowship Hour are sponsored by the Grider Family.

On this Family Led Worship Sunday - Thank you Families! We are grateful for all of your endless efforts!

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*
Carol, Chris & Jayce Wood, *Advent Readers*
Mary Lynn Myers, *Liturgist*
Julie Carver, *Pianist*

The Chancel Choir
Carter Mikes, *Youth Acolyte*
Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Greeters: Bill & Geri Payne
Ushers: Price & Carol Lindsay (Head Ushers), Dick Clark, Barbara Hebert, Jane Repp, Lynn Thomas
Youth Ushers: Devon Grider & Riley Mikes

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 12

¹ Help, O LORD, for there is no longer anyone who is godly;
the faithful have disappeared from humankind.

² They utter lies to each other; with flattering lips and a deceitful heart they speak.

³ May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts,

⁴ those who say, "With our tongues we will prevail; our lips are our own—who is our master?"

⁵ "Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan, I will now rise up," says the LORD;
"I will place them in the safety for which they long."

⁶ The promises of the LORD are promises that are pure,
silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

⁷ You, O LORD, will protect us; you will guard us from this generation forever.

⁸ On every side the wicked prowl, as vileness is exalted among humankind.

Prelude: "Voluntary in C Major"

Richard Peek (1927-2005)

Announcements

Advent Candle Litany

Carol, Chris & Jayce Wood

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together. Amen.

* **Hymn #23:** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

**1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: **Gloria, in excelsis Deo;
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song? Refrain**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world.
(silence) Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven.

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you.

Do not worry. Live in peace.

Thanks be to God!

* 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 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Proclaim the Good News"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

***Affirmation of Faith:**

from the Confession of 1967

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

Reception of New Members

Offering

Offertory: "Amen! Tell It on the Mountain!"

arr. Mary McDonald

The Chancel Choir

Amen! Sing it over! Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light! The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! Above the earth Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Go tell it on the mountain! Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, And God sent to us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*** 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 #31: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

MENDELSSOHN

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain: **Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,**

**Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel. *Refrain***

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

*** Commission and Blessing:**

Go to love and serve the Lord, showing mercy to 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: "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 22, 2024 — 10:00 am

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "Fulfilling the Promise"

First Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Bobby & Danielle Riddick joined VPC as full time members by reaffirmation of faith on December 1, 2024. They are

both Florida natives who recently moved back from North Carolina. They are proud parents of three children; Alice (6), Charlotte (4) and Henry (2). The whole family enjoys being together and doing fun things in the outdoors.

WORSHIP. EQUIP. SERVE.

Plug In To
Family
Led Worship

Give Blood
Sun. DEC. 15 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We invite you to dedicate poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones.

Complete the form in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate with payment or return to the office with your donation (any amount).

Donors names will be included in the Christmas Eve worship service bulletins.

Please send your donation and dedication by 12/15.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of presence because that's the way to provide the best care for the care receiver.

"After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you."

1 Corinthians 16:5

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 6 P.M.

VANDERBILT LEARNING CENTER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 12 P.M.

ADVENT NOONTIME CONCERT

SHERRY HARDGROVE, SOPRANO & JIM COCHRAN, PIANO



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

THE PERFECT GIFT

Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40

Envelopes in the
Narthex.



JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE:

Children are invited to worship with their families at either Christmas Eve service - 4pm or 7pm.

BE A PART OF THE STORY!

The Christmas Eve Family Service begins at 4pm on December 24 and includes our **Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant.**

Children are invited to dress as angels & shepherds, as we experience the Christmas story together.

Costumes will be available in Fellowship Hall at 3:30pm.

Christmas Eve Worship



4 pm Family Service

7 pm Candlelight Service

Let the weary world rejoice!

For unto us a child is born!

VPC BOOK CLUB:

Email Peggy Landon to RSVP and get the location

(mldandon711@gmail.com).

Our next meeting is the Christmas Luncheon on **Monday, December 16**

at 11:45am. We will be discussing *Foster*, by Claire Keegan.



Fellowship Hours

on December 22nd & 29th
following the 10am worship service

The Parish Life Ministry Team will provide coffee, water and tea after the 10am worship services. If you could bring a plate of cookies to share, we would appreciate it!

Thank you in advance!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

SIGN UP IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL
OR EMAIL HEATHER
HMIKES@VPCNAPLES.ORG

Gingerbread house

DECORATING
PARTY



Wednesday December 18
5:30-7:30 PM

- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Printed copies are in the Narthex or online in the Week at Glance.
- **COLLIER HARVEST: Monday, December 16 at 4:15pm** at 4451 Mercantile Avenue. Email Pete Rodino (pvrodino@aol.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.

John Baird	Joe Felipe	Laura Piipponen	Russell Vance
Alexis Bevan	Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt	Mary Ann Portman	Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen
Hudson Boyd	Kate Hafner	Father Monty Sayers	The Wayenberg Family
Joan Butler	Elaine Hinkle	Marilyn & Sam Schellar	Jay Wilson
Steve Carsten	Sandra Johnson	Ron Shaffer	Chris Wood & Family
Adriana Caruso	Doris Martin	Sue Shields & Family	Rita Yeager
Tom Clark	Joan Mountford	Jocelyn Stein	
Bob & Jan Conrad	Donna Mullin	Bruce & Heidi Stryker	
Dick Creviston	Ivana Novelli	Jodi Reckmeyer	
Sigrid "Siggi"	Ada Nuhn	Yana and family	
Deneke & Family	John Paalman	in Ukraine	



Happy Birthday!

*Chris DeBruyckere	12/15
*Francine Marinari	12/15
*Dick Watts	12/16
Courtney Martinez	12/18
*Charles Whittington	12/19
Paul Higbee	12/21
*Jackie Woodring	12/21

Happy Anniversary!

Norman & Linda Parker 12/18

This week we give thanks for our ushers. Our ushers give of themselves every weekend, helping to ensure that our services go smoothly. They welcome everyone who comes through the church doors. They offer guidance and answer questions. They collect our offerings and present them—symbols of ourselves. They keep order and assist with the ministration of Communion. They do not ask for



recognition, but we give thanks for them nonetheless.



Thank you, ushers!

* **Birthdays Club Members** give one dollar for each year of their life and ** **Anniversary Club Members** give two dollars for each year of their marriage to celebrate or commemorate these special events. 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)

PVT E2 Joshua Fowler,
US Army, Columbus, GA
(Joe & Sharon Doggett'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-Tennessee
(Cesar Guzman's son)

CPTN Devon Hennessey
Korea (Toni Hubbard)

SGT Wesley Kennedy
USMC - Ft. Myers, FL

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](tel:239-597-5410)