



# 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](http://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 29, 2024**

**10:00 am**

**The First Sunday of Christmas**

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of George & Margie Mackie on December 26th.

**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**  
**Colin Gerlach, Violinist**  
**Sue Van Fossen, Liturgist**

**Julie Carver, Pianist**  
**The Chancel Choir**  
**The Carillon Ringers, Gordon Black, Director**  
**Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician**  
**Greeters:** Priscilla Kutler & Bob Miller  
**Ushers:** Bill & Geri Payne (Head Ushers), Nancy Guthy, Barbara Hebert, Jack & Ellen Tanner

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 148

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!  
<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.  
<sup>6</sup> He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.  
<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!  
<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!  
<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike, old and young together!  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Prelude: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"  
"In Dulci Jubilo"

arr. Kevin McChensey  
McChensey

The Carillon Ringers, Gordon Black, *Director*

### Announcements

#### The Call to Worship

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.*

**Praise the Lord from the earth!**

*Young and old alike, men and women together!*

**Praise the Lord!**

\* Hymn #29: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

1. **While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.** Refrain

2. **The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.** Refrain
3. **Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.** Refrain

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

**God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. *(silence)* Amen.**

### Affirmation of Forgiveness

*People of God, rejoice!*

**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

Colossians 3:12-17

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music:** "Gesù Bambino"

Colin Gerlach, *Violin*

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

arr. Stephen DeCesare

**The Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:41-52

*<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years<sup>[c]</sup> and in divine and human favor.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Jesus Increased"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

**\*Affirmation of Faith:**

from A Declaration of Faith

**The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offertory:** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

The Chancel Choir

Robert Lau (b. 1943)

**\* 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 #22: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"**

REGENT SQUARE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Angels from the realms of glory,<br/>Wing your flight o'er all the earth;<br/>Ye who sang creation's story<br/>Now proclaim Messiah's birth.</b></p> <p><i>Refrain:</i><br/><b>Come and worship, come and worship,<br/>Worship Christ, the newborn King!</b></p> <p><b>2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,<br/>Watching o'er your flocks by night,<br/>God with us is now residing;<br/>Yonder shines the infant light: <i>Refrain</i></b></p> | <p><b>3. Sages, leave your contemplations,<br/>Brighter visions beam afar;<br/>Seek the great Desire of nations;<br/>Ye have seen His natal star.</b></p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> <p><b>4. All creation, join in praising<br/>God, the Father, Spirit, Son,<br/>Evermore your voices raising<br/>To the eternal Three in One.</b></p> <p><i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

**\* Commission and Blessing:**

*Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.*

*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: "Giga"**

Colin Gerlach, *Violin*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
arr. Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

*Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.*



**Fellowship Hour**  
on December 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!

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

January 5, 2025 — 10:00 am  
**The Second Sunday of Christmas**  
**Sermon:** "The Light"  
**First Reading:** Ephesians 1:3-14  
**Gospel Reading:** John 1: (1-9), 10-18

**Extended Communion for Homebound Congregants**

If you are unable to attend church and would like to receive communion at home, please call the office at 239-597-5410.

If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon and would be willing to help with this important ministry, we need volunteers.

**A.I.M.**

**Adventures In Membership**  
Are you interested in joining our church family?

Join us for worship and stay for a brief Q&A with Pastor Rob as we chat about Vanderbilt and what it means to be involved in the ministry of Christ's church.

\*childcare provided

**January 5 - 11:15am**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**

Burgers & Boards  
January 8, 2025  
5:30p - 7:00p

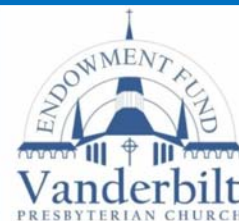
**HAPPY New Year**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Gifts like faith, mercy, compassion and encouragement are ways that Stephen Ministers put action into their spiritual gifts. Stephen Ministers joyfully share these gifts with their care receivers.

*"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house...offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." - 1 Peter 2:5*

**RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE.  
ENSURE THE FUTURE OF VPC.  
MAKE A PLANNED GIFT.**



Contact Us | 1225 Piper Boulevard Naples, FL 34110 | [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org) | 239-597-5410

- CASH
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- IRA CHARITABLE TRUST ROLLOVER
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- CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

**GRACE PLACE**

There are many opportunities for volunteering at Grace Place. Take a moment to stop by the bulletin board and see where you might serve!

# GINGERBREAD HOUSE 2024 VOTING RESULTS

The most creative

#26: Sydney & Olivia Carver

The most humorous

#3: Parker Whittington

The most traditional

#14: Pastor Rob & Beth Marrow

The most colorful

#21: Julianna Gendron, Brier Manring,  
Hattie Mikes, Anna & Evelyn Whittington

The best theme

#4: The Waters Family

The most unique

#29/30: Jason & Evangeline Mikes,  
Scarlett & Sloane Mullen

The most candy

#10: The Olsen Family

The most festive

#16: Isabella Aguilar, Kingsley Kurtz &  
Emmy Vayda

The most icing

#19: The Baker Family

The best overall

#1: The Stresen-Reuter Family

## Adult Education Opportunities Mark your calendars!

**Opportunity 1:** A ten week Study of the Book of James.  
Sunday mornings from 11:30am-12:15pm in Harp Hall  
Starts January 12, 2025

OR

Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm in the Library  
Starts January 13, 2025

**Opportunity 2:** A seven week Study on Chapters 2 & 3 of Revelation.  
Tuesdays mid day 11:30am-12:30pm in Harp Hall  
Starts January 14, 2025

**Opportunity 3:** An eight week Topic Study on "It's All About Me."  
Monday mornings 11:00am-12:00pm in Harp Hall  
Starts January 13, 2025  
Tom Grundstrom, Facilitator

To the Congregation of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,  
We come to work each day knowing that we are part of a larger group of caring people that work toward sending love and light into the world. We all feel truly blessed to work at such an amazing church and with such thoughtful colleagues and loving church members. Thank you for your incredibly generous Christmas gift. We are all so fortunate to work for Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Love, the Staff of VPC

Thank  
you!



Thank You for Donating **19 Blood Donors**  
**Vanderbilt** **13 Pints Collected**  
**Presbyterian Church** **39 Lives Saved!**



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



### Happy Birthday!

*Nancy Thompson	12/30
Gracia Schmidt	12/31
Phyl Auman	1/2
Molly Godley	1/2
Bill Reckmeyer	1/2
Joan Haller	1/3
Carol Loeb	1/3
Ron Sieling	1/3
Bill Cornell	1/3
Russell Vance	1/4

### \* Birthday 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!

### Happy Anniversary!

Jim & Patty Shields	12/30
Chuck & Connie Lewis	12/31
Rick & Ruth Bethem	12/31
Lois Ann & Jim Folliard	1/2



## 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](mailto: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**