



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 8, 2024 — 10:00 am

The Second Sunday of Advent

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Kennet & Annabel Graham by Judith G. Jacobs and in loving memory of my husband, Bill, by Joyce and the Dersch Family.

Join us at the Fellowship Hour for the Heifer Fair!

Activities for all ages and special treats, all provided by Leslie Loughran.

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*

Bob & Laura Reardon, *Advent Readers*

Gwen Salyer, *Liturgist*

Julie Carver, *Pianist*

The Chancel Choir

The Carillon Ringers, Gordon Black, *Director*

Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*

Greeters: Pat Gagliano & CC Waskey

Ushers: Joe Trees (Head Usher), Steve Blad,
George Morton, Anne Smith, Mike Swain &
Gisela Yingst

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it,

² for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

⁸ Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Prelude: Two Pieces: Fanfare for Bells

Mary McCleary

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prichard, arr. Susan Geschke

The Carillon Ringers – Gordon Black, Director

Announcements

Moment for Adult Education

Tom Grundstrom

Advent Candle Litany

Bob & Laura Reardon

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*** Hymn #9: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

VENI EMMANUEL

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Continued

**2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**3. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Refrain

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
(silence) Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

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 1:3-11

³ I thank my God for every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy ⁵ for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Gustav Holst, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

The Carillon Ringers

The Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "The Preparations Continue"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*Affirmation of Faith:

Luke 1:68-75

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Every Valley"

John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

The Chancel Choir

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted and ev'ry mountain made low and the crooked made straight
and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

*** 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 #5: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

PICARDY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.</p> <p>2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.</p> | <p>3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.</p> <p>4. At His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"</p> |
|--|---|

*** Commission and Blessing:**

I am confident of this: that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ!

Prepare the way of the Lord!

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: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

**Annual Choirs Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 8, 2024 — 4 p.m.**

This year's Christmas Concert features "O Holy Light - A Cantata for Christmas" by Mary McDonald.

Our choir will be joined by a small chamber orchestra and vocal soloists Michele Byrd and David Curtiss. The Carillon Ringers will also be playing. There will be a Christmas cookie reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert, and everyone is invited to attend!



Pick up a brochure or go online for a full list of concerts. Copies are available in the Office or the Narthex. www.vpcnaples.org

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 15, 2024 — 10:00 am

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sermon: "Proclaim the Good News"

First Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18

A promotional graphic for Heifer International. It features a teal heart with a world map inside, labeled 'A HEART FOR MISSIONS'. To the right is a photo of a woman holding a small calf. The Heifer International logo is in the top right. Below the images is a teal banner with white text: 'Join us at the Heifer Fair on Sunday, 12/8 in Fellowship Hall.'

**Join us at the Heifer Fair on
Sunday, 12/8 in Fellowship Hall.**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 12 P.M.

ADVENT NOONTIME CONCERT

GORDON BLACK & JULIE CARVER, ORGAN & PIANO

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

A promotional graphic for a Ladies Christmas Tea. It features a red 'JOY TO THE WORLD' logo at the top. Below it, the text 'Ladies Christmas Tea' is written in a large, elegant font. Underneath, it says 'Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.' in red. At the bottom, it says 'All girls, young women and ladies are invited in their Christmas finest. Sign up today!' in black.

**JOY TO THE
WORLD**

Ladies Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 14, 2024
at 11:00 a.m.

**All girls, young women and ladies are invited
in their Christmas finest. Sign up today!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Printed copies are in the Narthex and online in the Week at Glance.
- **CHRISTMAS JOY:** The Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools equipping communities of color. Envelopes in the Narthex.
- **CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE!** Bring a new, unwrapped toy to help us bring Christmas to deserving children. Return Mision Peniel gifts or Salvation Army Toys for Tots by **December 10**.
- **WEEKEND POWER PACK:** **Thursday, December 12 at 10:30am** in Fellowship Hall will be our next packing event. We also need monetary donations and another driver for this worthy mission.
- **MISION PENIEL:** **Friday, December 13 at 1pm** - We will meet at the church to caravan to Mision Peniel to spend the day working. Email Karen Chappler for information (kchappler@aol.com).
- **BLOOD DRIVE:** Our next Blood Drive is **Sunday, December 15 from 9am-12pm**. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, or call the office (597-5410) to schedule your time to donate!
- **FAMILY LED WORSHIP:** **Sunday, December 15** is our next Family Led Worship service. We will also receive our new members during the service. Join us!
- **VPC BOOK CLUB:** Our next meeting is the Christmas Luncheon on **Monday, December 16 at 11:45am**. We will be discussing *Foster*, by Claire Keegan. Email Peggy Landon to RSVP and get the location (mlandon711@gmail.com).
- **COLLIER HARVEST:** **Monday, December 16 at 4:15pm** is the next packing event at 4451 Mercantile Avenue. Also, on **Tuesday December 17 at 8:30am**, we need 3 volunteer drivers to meet at the Pelican Strand Publix to pick up and deliver hams to Collier County Schools. For more information email Pete Rodino (pvrodino@aol.com).

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24

Family Service

Christmas Pageant

3:30pm arrive to get a costume

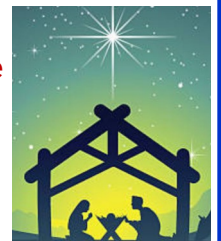
4pm Family Service

Traditional Service

Candlelight and

Carols

7pm



Coming Soon!

New Adult Education opportunities will begin in January 2025!

Tom Grundstrom, Adult Education Coordinator, will present a Moment for Education on **Sunday, December 8** at the 10am worship service.

Please check your email for a special survey on **Tuesday, December 3**.

Your survey answers will help choose the best day, time and subject matter.



We need your input! Please take the survey so we can plan accordingly.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. - Proverbs 9:10

STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Recalling your tears, I long to see you." —2 Timothy 1:4

Stephen Ministers are equipped to understand and comfort through life's biggest challenges.

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

PRAYER
list

Happy Birthday!

Carol Jorgensen	12/8
Chad Brodbeck	12/8
*Carol Lindsay	12/10
Carly Jacob	12/11
*Mary Jane Stoner	12/13
*George Mackie	12/13
*Ada Nuhn	12/14
*Mary Lou Gast	12/14
Nancy Diederich	12/14

Happy Anniversary!

There are no anniversaries this week.

IN SYMPATHY

*We are saddened to announce the death of VPC member, **Marion Wayenberg**, on November 29, 2024 at the age of 91. Marion was a member of Vanderbilt for over 18 years.*



Please keep her family and friends in your prayers during this tender time. A memorial service will take place in Michigan.

*** 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!

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 - 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**