

# 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*



## February 23, 2025 — 10:00 am

### The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany — Family Led Worship

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored by the Grider Family.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored by the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Endowment Ministry Team in thanksgiving for the James & Cindy Craig Lecture Series and in honor of our visiting guests from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

### Worship Participants

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow**, *Pastor*  
**The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee**, *Guest Preacher*  
**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*  
**Molly Godley**, *Liturgist*  
**Carter Mikes**, *Youth Liturgist*

**Julie Carver**, *Pianist*  
**The Chancel Choir**  
**Evva Crown**, *Youth Acolyte*  
**Victoria Bonavita**, *Audio/Visual Technician*  
**Greeters:** Bill & Geri Payne  
**Ushers:** Price & Carol Lindsay (Head Ushers), Jerry & Mari-Bea Warnken, Mike Swain & Gisela Yingst  
**Riley Mikes & Ayden Carver**, *Youth Ushers*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Prayer of the Day

God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good,  
sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life.  
Teach us your way of grace — to meet hatred with kindness,  
to answer curses with blessing to love without holding back,  
to give without thought of return;  
all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prelude:** “Voluntary in C Major”

Richard Peek (1927-2005)

### Announcements

### The Call to Worship

*Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.*

**Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God’s actions.**

*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.*

**The Lord is our refuge in times of trouble.**

*Let us worship God.*

\* **Hymn #482:** “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty,<br/>the King of creation!<br/>O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health<br/>and salvation!<br/>All ye who hear, now to His temple draw<br/>near; Join me in glad adoration!</p> <p>2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things<br/>so wondrously reigneth,<br/>Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so</p> | <p>gently sustaineth!<br/>Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have<br/>been granted in what He ordaineth?</p> <p>3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that<br/>is in me adore Him!<br/>All that hath life and breath, come now with<br/>praises before Him.<br/>Let the Amen sound from His people again,<br/>Gladly for aye we adore Him.</p> |
|--|--|

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. *(silence)* Amen.

## **Affirmation of Forgiveness**

*Now go and live as Christ commands: be merciful, as God is merciful; do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; but forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\* 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**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

*<sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, <sup>2</sup> for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD and do good; live in the land and enjoy security. <sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. <sup>6</sup> He will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday. <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. <sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. <sup>9</sup> For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. <sup>10</sup> Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. <sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity. <sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. <sup>40</sup> The LORD helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked and saves them because they take refuge in him.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

*27 "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; 28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "The Difficult Equation ....."

The Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee

**\*Affirmation of Faith:**

From the Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offertory:** "In the Morning, Joy"

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

The Chancel Choir

Blue mist rising from the hollows to the hills. Morning comes, and with it all the joy that morning brings. Gone the weeping of the long night slowly stills. Morning comes, and with the morning joy! Pale sun glowing, drives the darkness from the night. Morning comes, horizons gleam with promise for the day. Shadows dancing freely in the breaking light. Anxious mother, wayward child, lost, alone. Grieving father, lonesome soldier far from home. Heartsick family, weeping through the long dark night, Wait for morning, for it comes, and with it joy! Bright sun shining, burns the rising mist away. Morning comes, the morning full of promise and delight. No more waiting for the light and warmth of day. Morning comes, and with the morning, joy.

**\* 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 #262: "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"**

NATIONAL HYMN

- 1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the  
skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.**
- 2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and  
stay; Thy Word our law, Thy paths our  
chosen way.**
- 3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**
- 4. Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.**

**\* Commission and Blessing:**

*Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.*

**Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.**

*For God is kind to all and full of mercy.*

*Filled with life-giving spirit of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,*

**We bear the image of the risen one**

**and take delight in the abundance of what we have already received.**

*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: "A Short Voluntary"

William Walond (1719-1768)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.



Mark your calendar for our final packing event this season, Thursday, April 10 at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall.

Last Sunday's WPP Packing Event was incredible! We had over 50 eager volunteers and finished quickly and efficiently. Thank you to everyone who helped or donated!



SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

March 2, 2025 — 10:00 am Transfiguration of the Lord

The Rev. Lisa Lefkow, Guest Preacher

First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)



March is Habitat for Humanity Month at VPC!

Our goal is to raise \$100,000!



For more information about volunteering on-site, email Karen Chappler - [kchappler@aol.com](mailto:kchappler@aol.com).

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers instill hope by communicating through words and actions and they are trained to unconditionally accept the person they are caring for. Accepting acknowledges understanding, not necessarily agreeing.



Collier Harvest

Join us to pack bags of healthy and nutritious food for our hungry neighbors across Collier County.

Email Pete Rodino [pvrodino@aol.com](mailto:pvrodino@aol.com) to volunteer!

Monday, February 24, 2025

4:15pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)

4:45-6pm - bagging food at 4451 Mercantile Ave.



Friday, February 28, 2025

9:00 am

Leitner Park

26724 Nomad Dr.

Bonita Springs 34135

Join Us

Email Eliza Nevin [elizanevin@comcast.net](mailto:elizanevin@comcast.net)

Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed.






**FRIENDS  
IN FAITH**  
 Wednesday,  
**February 26, 2025**  
 at 10am  
 in Harp Hall  
**Study of  
 Sacred Encounters**

Questions?  
 Lois Ann Folliard  
 lafolliard@gmail.com

*Pastor's Bible Study*

JOIN US AS WE STUDY THE  
 UPCOMING READINGS FOR WORSHIP.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
 TO REFLECT ON THE WORD OF GOD!



**WEDNESDAY  
 EVENINGS AT 6PM  
 IN THE LIBRARY**

PSALM 119:105

*"Your word is a lamp to  
 my feet and a light to my path."*

**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

Join us "Under the Spire!"



**March 2, 2025 – 11:15am**


**Adult Education Opportunities**

*Opportunity 1:*  
 A ten week Study of the Book of James.  
**Sunday from 11:30am-12:15pm**  
 in Harp Hall  
 OR  
**Monday from 6:30-7:30pm**  
 in the Library

*Opportunity 2:*  
 A seven week Study on  
 Chapters 2 & 3 of Revelation.  
**Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm**  
 in Harp Hall

*Opportunity 3:*  
 An eight week Study "It's All About Me."  
**Monday 11:00am-12:00pm**  
 in Harp Hall

**Adult Education**



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

**Tom Grundstrom,  
 Facilitator**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE**

Mark your calendar for **March 9, 2025** for  
 the Annual Meeting of the Congregation at  
 Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.  
 The meeting will be held immediately  
 following the 10am worship service.  
 The purpose of the meeting is to elect the  
 next class of VPC officers and all members  
 of the Congregational Nominations  
 Committee, approve the 2025 Terms of the  
 Pastoral Call, and to receive the 2024  
 Annual Report.

***We hope to see you there!***



**Live into Hope**

## 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.

### PRAYER list

|                               |                          |                        |                            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Betty Angulo & Aguilar Family | Sonja Cookson            | Sandra Johnson         | Ron Shaffer                |
| Susan Aufderhaar              | Dick Creviston           | Ed Kirby               | Ron Sieling                |
| John Baird                    | Teresa DeBaun            | Doris Martin           | Matthew Skrip              |
| Chuck & Kristi Beattie        | Jordan Dieken            | Joan Mountford         | Jocelyn Stein              |
| Johnny Beckman                | Alice Fasbender          | Donna Mullin           | Erik Strandwitz            |
| Alexis Bevan                  | Francisco Gomez & Family | Ivana Novelli          | Bruce & Heidi Stryker      |
| Alexia Brown                  | Max & Pat Gould          | Pocket Patterson       | Bob Townsend               |
| Adriana Caruso                | Fran Gray                | Vito Petruzzella       | Yana and family in Ukraine |
| Pat Colby                     | Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt  | Laura Piipponen        | Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen   |
| Bob & Jan Conrad              | Kate Hafner              | Jackie Procyk          | Jay Wilson                 |
|                               | Elaine Hinkle            | Father Monty Sayers    | Chris Wood & Family        |
|                               | Tom Hurley               | Sam & Marilyn Schellar |                            |
|                               |                          | The Schulz Family      |                            |

### Happy Birthday!

|                   |      |                    |      |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Andrea Daggett    | 2/23 | Mary Ann Koppelkam | 2/26 |
| Thomas Loughran   | 2/23 | Terry Mountford    | 2/26 |
| Dave Windley      | 2/23 | Mauricio Aguilar   | 2/26 |
| Emily Beynon      | 2/24 | *Connie Hawkins    | 2/26 |
| Yvonne Van Rooyen | 2/24 | June Johnson       | 2/27 |
| *Joe Hodgson      | 2/24 | Roberta Hobbs      | 3/1  |
| Alice Riddick     | 2/24 | *Shirley Schwindt  | 3/1  |
| Jeanie Darnell    | 2/25 | Dale Tremblay      | 3/1  |
| *Joyce Geary      | 2/26 | Brian Carver       | 3/1  |

### Happy Anniversary!

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Al & Elizabeth Todd | 2/28 |
| Todd & Gina Truax   | 2/28 |

\* **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](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  
(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. Grasseti**  
(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  
**1st LT Tyler Olbrich**  
US Army - Iraq  
(friend of Karen Hiller)  
**MAJ Rex Rafferty**  
USAF—Alabama  
(Norm & Linda Parker's granddaughter's husband)  
**LCPL Michael Russell**  
USMC - Camp Lejeune, NC  
(Heather Anderson's son)

#### NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

Please let the office know if you are in the hospital. **597-5410**