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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

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

Vanderbilt Learning Center
Growing, Caring, Sharing

October 25, 2026—10:00 am

The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

REFORMATION SUNDAY

The flowers on the Chancel and Fellowship Hour are sponsored by the Grider Family.
Wishing everyone a fabulous fall and fun-filled Halloween!

Worship Participants

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor*
Dr. Augustine Sobeng, *Director of Music & Organist* playing the **Richard & Patricia Fors Organ** given to the glory of God
Heather Mikes, *Director of Christian Education*
James Cochran, *Director of Music Emeritus*
Tom Hauschild, *Liturgist*

The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Youth Acolyte, Margi Miller
Youth Greeter: Colette Vayda
Greeters: Bob & Dianne Townsend
Ushers: Greg & Julie Borden (Head Ushers), Joan Butler, Doug Dunn, Jack & Ellen Tanner

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 1

1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,
2 but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.
3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.
4 The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
6 for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Prelude: Élévation-Carillon — Gaston Bélier (1863-1938)
"Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" — Johann Nicolaus Hanff (1663-1711)

Announcements

Moment for Stewardship — Jim Hofert

Passing of the Peace

*** The Call to Worship:**
Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God
With all your heart, and with all your soul,
And with all our mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.
On these two commandments hang all of the law and the prophets.
Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #260:** "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" — EIN' FESTE BURG

1. **A mighty fortress is our God,**
a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

2. **Did we in our own strength confide,**
our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name,
from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

3. **And though this world, with devils filled,**
should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo,
his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Continued

4. **That word above all earthly powers,**
no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess: We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation. We have judged unjustly, regarded others ungenerously, profited at the losses of those near and distant, borne grudges, desired vengeance, and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing. We long to live in accord with your desire that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty will govern our hearts and minds, turning us toward lives of peace. Forgive us and lead us. *(silence)* **Amen.**

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters, the Holy One who promises forgiveness to those who seek the good hears your confession. As the crucified and risen child of God, your Redeemer fully knows your sorrow and your desire for reconciled relationships. You are forgiven. In that promise is the power to love your neighbors and yourselves as beloved of God who created all that exists.

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 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

[1] You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, [2] but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. [3] For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, [4] but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. [5] As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, [6] nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, [7] though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. [8] So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 22:34-46

[34] When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, [35] and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. [36] "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" [37] He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [38] This is the greatest and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." [41] Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: [42] "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." [43] He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, [44] 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '? [45] "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" [46] No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "No Truer Words Have Been Said" The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** Affirmation of faith** from Matthew 22

This is the greatest commandment: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Amen.

Offering

Let us with gladness present our gifts and offerings to the Lord.
Gifts may be placed in the offering plates, given online, or by scanning the QR code.

Offertory: "A Song of Autumn" James Kirkby

The Chancel Choir

When the lamps are lit, when the days begin to wane, when the mountains glow and creation is all aflame, we give thanks to Him whose riches from the ripened fields we bring, and praise Him, our God and King. As the earth waits in wonder, as winter draweth nigh; We await the ancient promise of new birth as fields in silence lie. May the blessings of this season come to you, the mist of autumn eve and morning dew; for bounteous gifts of fruit and grain our harvest hymn we sing, and praise Him, our God and King. 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 #555:** "Now Thank We all Our God" NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1. **Now thank we all our God**
   With heart and hands and voices,
   Who wondrous things hath done,
   In whom this world rejoices;
   Who, from our mothers' arms,
   Hath blessed us on our way
   With countless gifts of love,
   And still is ours today.

2. **O may this bounteous God**
   Through all our life be near us,
   With ever joyful hearts
   And blessèd peace to cheer us;
   And keep us in His grace,
   And guide us when perplexed,
   And free us from all ills
   In this world and the next.

3. **All praise and thanks to God,**
   Who reigns in highest heaven,
   To Father and to Son
   And Spirit now be given.
   The one eternal God,
   Whom heaven and earth adore,
   The God who was, and is,
   And shall be evermore.

*** Commission and Blessing**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.

We will love our neighbor as ourselves.

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: Toccata for Organ — Gaston Bélier (1863-1938)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

November 1, 2026—10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Dana Waters, guest preacher

First Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

ROOTED AND READY OPPORTUNITIES!

Book Study: Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible:
Sundays after worship in Harp Hall at 11:30am
Jane Higdon, higdonj@msn.com

Pastor's Bible Study:
Wednesdays at 6pm in the Library

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church
2027 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP

growing OUR FAITH THROUGH Generosity

The 2027 Stewardship packets are available! They were mailed the second week of October. If you need one, extra copies are in the Narthex, Office or on the website under Stewardship.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Growing our Faith through Generosity

WHO IS GOD CALLING?

VPC Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for leaders to serve three-year terms commencing June of 2027:

RULING ELDERS (Leading • Discernment • Governance • Vision)

DEACONS (Compassion • Care • Service • Hospitality)

Help us identify gifted leaders for the future of our congregation. Self-nominations are encouraged. Provide your recommendations to a CNC member or send an email to sfhilton@aol.com ASAP.

CNC members are: Steve Blad, Jeff Berger, Karen Chappler, Susie Hilton, Jan Fern, Priscilla Kutler, Price Lindsay, and Jane Repp.

REMINDERS

The Deacon's Sunday Letters are in the Narthex for your participation.



Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, October 31, 2026—on Sunday, November 1, 2026 Daylight Saving Time Ends!

CHURCH ON A MISSION

Collier Harvest

Email Pete Rodino - pvrodino@aol.com to volunteer!

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



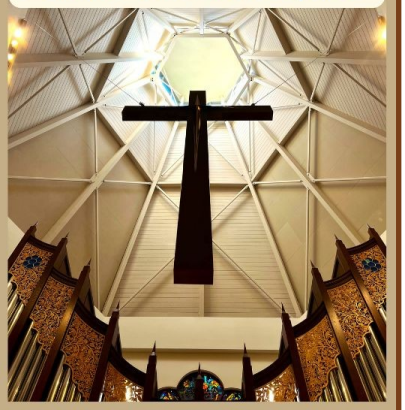
Monday, October 26, 2026
4pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)
4:30-6pm - bagging food
at 4451 Mercantile Ave.

Collier Harvest Foundation

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!"



November 1, 2026 at 11:15am

I ♥ Vanderbilt Presbyterian

Our blue Vanderbilt golf and "Live by Faith" shirts are now available to order! Whether wearing your shirt during churchactivities or just around town... In your Vanderbilt shirt, you'll go places in life!!! All sizes are available! Please contact Barbara Hebert for further information or to order barbillsr@aol.com.

CHURCH SHIRTS ON SALE NOW!

Italian Potluck

Sign up in the Narthex

JOIN US!
Thursday, November 5 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
A VPC Potluck Supper with an Italian Flavor!
A very special evening of delicious food, entertainment, and socializing with some of your Vanderbilt friends...present and future! Be sure to sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 597-5410.

"That's Amore!"

ARE YOU MUSICAL?
Dr. Sobeng wants to get to know you if you enjoy singing or playing an instrument! Email: asobeng@vpcnaples.org.

Vanderbilt PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A CHURCH ON A MISSION

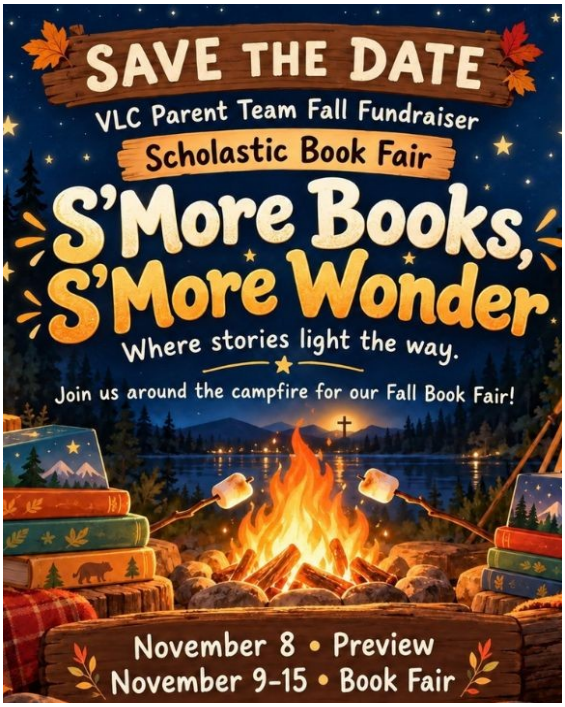
BE A PART OF OUR MATCHING MISSION CHALLENGE!

October 1 - November 15, 2026

We are requesting donations for 3 of our mission partners - Cafe of Life, Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance and Mision Peniel. Every dollar raised will be matched, up to $4000 per mission partner. Let's do our best to meet the challenge and help our neighbors!

Café of Life – Caring... Sharing... Serving
Misión Peniel
Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc.

To make a donation, go to www.vpcnaples.org and click GIVE.
Go to the Mission section and mark "Challenge" in the memo - or specify a mission.



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. Prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for **30 days**.

Justin Aquino & Family
Ridley Baird & Family
Janie Ballurio
Chuck & Kristi Beattie
Peg Black
Carol, Marsha Bennett's Sister
The Burwinkle Family
Adriana Caruso
Sonja Cookson
Michael Coront
The Counts Family
Ron Davis
Joyce Dersch
Joe & Mary Lou Eddy
Lori Godwin
Pat Gould
Jim & Mary Hart
Liz Hart
Joyce Hickmon
Charles Irbin
Sandra Johnson
Vanessa Lobban
Justin Loeffler
Kenneth Loeffler
Carolyn Mackie
Bob & Doris Martin
Sarah Martyniak
Paul J. Moore
Sally Muir
Tom Nale
Ivana Novelli
Audrey Olsen
Peggy Paulsen
Jan Pomerico
Marsha Reed
Pat Rogge
Twila Rowe
Sam & Marilyn Schellar
Bill Shouldice
Mary Jane Stoner
Linda Surowiak
Mike Swain
Barbara Thomas
Ulysses, Suzanne & Roger Eastman's grandson
Marianne Walsh
Dianne Westerlund
Yana & family in Ukraine

Happy Birthday!

Leslie Loughran	10/25	Jason Heimberger	10/26
Devon Grider	10/25	John Roth	10/27
Ashley Lowe	10/26	Gregory Hudson	10/28
Merle James Wylie	10/26	*Evangeline Mikes	10/31
*Marijane Glantz	10/26	Bill Shouldice	10/31
Jeremy Barber	10/26		

* **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 request up to 5% for Youth & Education Ministry!

We are saddened to announce the death of two members who left Naples to live closer to their families. ***Patricia Counts*** *died on September 2, 2026 at the age of 99. She was a member of Vanderbilt for over 28 years.* ***Linda Burwinkle*** *passed away on October 3, 2026 at the age of 84. She and her late husband, Lee, were members of Vanderbilt for over seven years. Please keep their families in your prayers at this difficult time.*

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.

LT Wyatt R. Dawley
US Navy Intel
(Debbie Dawley's grandson)

PVT E2 Joshua Fowler,
US Army, Columbus, GA
(Joe & Sharon Doggett's grandson)

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

Staff SGT Jacob Guzman
US Army-Ft. Campbell, KY
(Cesar Guzman's son)

Staff SGT Wesley Kennedy
USMC - Ft. Myers, FL

CPT Tyler Olbrich
US Army - South Carolina
(friend of Karen Hiller)

LCPL Michael Russell
USMC - Camp Lejeune, NC
(Heather Anderson's son)