



# 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*



## November 30, 2025 — 10:00 am

### The First Sunday of Advent

The flowers adorning the Chancel are sponsored in loving memory of our mothers, Dorothy and Vera by Susan & Dave Aufderhaar.

Join us at Fellowship Hour in the Student Center where your church family will enjoy celebrating the beginning of a Holy Advent.

### 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**

**The Acx Family, Advent Readers**

**Jim Muir, Liturgist**

**Julie Carver, Pianist**

**The Chancel Choir**

**Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician**

**Greeters:** Priscilla Kutler & Carol Lindsay

**Ushers:** Becky Wheat (Head Usher),

Greg & Julie Borden, Ben Hood,

Jack & Ellen Tanner

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 122

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

<sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

<sup>4</sup> To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,

as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls and security within your towers."

<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

<sup>9</sup> For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**Prelude:** "Sleepers Wake!"

Frederick William Zachau (1663-1712)

### Announcements

### Passing of the Peace

### Advent Candle Litany

The Acx Family

*The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)*

**Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.**

*We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come. Amen.*

**\* Hymn #8:** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

**1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!**

**3. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

**2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God. O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(silence)* Amen.

### Affirmation of Forgiveness

*Beloved, in your baptism you were bathed in light and clothed with grace.*

*Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ!*

*Know that you are forgiven, and 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

Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from

Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Signs and Times"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

### **\* The Affirmation of Faith**

Book of Common Worship

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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:** "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 #2: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

HYFRYDOL

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,<br>born to set thy people free;<br>from our fears and sins release us,<br>let us find our rest in thee.<br>Israel's strength and consolation,<br>hope of all the earth thou art;<br>dear desire of every nation,<br>joy of every longing heart. | 2. Born thy people to deliver,<br>born a child and yet a King,<br>born to reign in us forever,<br>now thy gracious kingdom bring.<br>By thine own eternal spirit<br>rule in all our hearts alone;<br>by thine all sufficient merit,<br>raise us to thy glorious throne. |
|--|---|

**\* Commission and Blessing:**

*About that day and hour no one knows.*

**Therefore keep awake,**

*For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*

**Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.**

*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: "Prelude in C"**

Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

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



### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

**December 7, 2025 10:00 am**

**Sermon:** "Signs & Times"

**First Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 24:36-44

### REMINDERS FOR TODAY

Fellowship Hour will be held in the Student Center. Don't forget to sign the letters of joys and concerns which are found on the long table in the Narthex.

### Christmas TOY Drive!

Every Christmas, VPC delights in our Toy Drive, bringing joy to deserving children in need.

Toys will go to the Salvation Army & Mision Peniel.

Bring a new, unwrapped toy to the office, church or school by December 10, 2025.



Donate at [vpcnaples.org](http://vpcnaples.org)  
Click GIVE - Mission  
add TOY to note



### Christmas

### COOKIE EXCHANGE

Bring your favorite homemade cookies (3 dozen), share the joy of baking, and leave with an assortment of festive treats to sweeten your holiday season. Not a baker? Join us anyway for a festive afternoon. Punch and treats, music, songs and games. Bring a copy of your cookie recipe to share. A free will offering will be collected for Mision Peniel.

**Sign up today in the Narthex or the Office!**

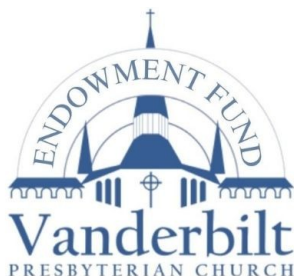
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025**

**1:00-3:00PM - HARP HALL**

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

Questions? Talk to the Endowment Team:

Julie Borden, Steve Blad,  
Debbie Dawley, Doug  
Dunn, Don Fern, Pat  
Rose, Steve & Jackie  
Woodring & Charles  
Whittington



- Eat & hydrate before donating
- Bring photo ID

**Spread the Joy,  
SHARE  
THE LOVE,  
GIVE BLOOD!**

**Sun. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 AM — 12:00 PM**

**Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church**

Sign-Up by calling: **239-597-5410**



### CHRISTMAS PAJAMA PARTY & GAME NIGHT

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**

**DECEMBER 3, 2025  
5:30PM**

Join us for a festive and cozy Christmas Pajama Party. Wear your favorite holiday pajamas, bring a game or play one here. Enjoy breakfast for dinner and get ready for a night of holiday cheer and fun!

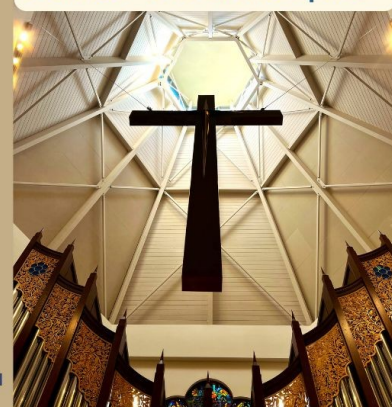
### A.I.M. – Adventures In Membership

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!"**



**December 7, 2025 at 11:15am**



# Christmas Concerts at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church

## Annual Choirs Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 — 4pm**

The Vanderbilt Chancel Choir will be joined by guest instrumentalists to present Mary McDonald's rousing, "Festival of Christmas: A Joyful Celebration of the Season." This concert will include the world premier of a newly commissioned hymn arrangement in honor of Jim Cochran's 35 years of music ministry arranged by Mary McDonald.

### Advent Noontime Concerts

**Wednesday concerts begin at 12pm and last 30 minutes.**

Bring a friend and go to lunch after the concert!

**Wednesday, December 3**

Susan Norbeck, Flute & Jim Cochran, Piano

**Wednesday, December 10**

Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano & Jim Cochran, Piano

**Wednesday, December 17**

Gordon Black & Jim Cochran, Organ & Piano

*Music Under  
the Spire!*

**Free will  
offering**

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



Help us help others  
by serving this  
important mission!

**Friday, December 12 at 1pm**  
**We carpool from the church**  
**returning around 7pm**

**Help us deliver the toys  
collected for Christmas!**



Email Karen Chappler  
[kchappler@aol.com](mailto:kchappler@aol.com)

*Join  
us!*

## Weekend Power Pack!



Are you looking for a way to help children in our community? The Mission Team needs your monetary donations and your physical help at our next WPP packing party! We also need drivers to deliver the packages! Let us know if you are able!

**Thursday, December 11**  
**at 10:30am in Harp Hall.**

To donate, go to [vpcnaples.org](http://vpcnaples.org) -  
click GIVE Mission - note WPP.  
Email Becky Wheat to volunteer:  
[sportbroad@comcast.net](mailto:sportbroad@comcast.net).

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a Christ-centered caregiving relationship ministered by specially trained lay members who are bound by confidentiality. The care-receivers have regular one-on-one attention by a Stephen Minister for as long as is necessary. God is the healer and curer while Stephen Ministers listen, empathize and pray.

## Christmas Eve Worship



4 pm  
Family Service  
7 pm  
Candlelight Service

*Let the weary world rejoice! For unto us a child is born!*

## 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.

Loraine Atkinson	Joyce Dersch	Sr. Markolette Madden	Twila Rowe
Ronan Bann	John Dietrich	Doris Martin	Sam & Marilyn Schellar
Chuck & Kristi Beattie	Asia Elsbree	Eugene McGuigan	Pete Schwiers
Kimberly Gould Blackwell	Martha Gates	Laura McLarty	Bill Shouldice
Russel Blad	Lorna Giblin	Nancy Miller	George Singer
Joan Butler	Mark Giersch	Sally Muir	Charles Thompson
Trisha Gould Champion	Jim & Mary Hart	Donna Mullins	Yana and family in Ukraine
Adriana Caruso	Deb Hincewicz	Nancy Myers	Susanne VanderStarre
Pat Colby	Charles Irvin	Herb Newman	Bill & Sue Van Fossen
Bob & Jan Conrad	June Johnson	Ivana Novelli	Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen
Sonja Cookson	Sandra Johnson	Audrey Olsen	John White
Richard Crawford	Lys	Pocket Patterson	
Dick Creviston	Carolyn Mackie	Mary Ann Portman	
Ron Davis		Jodi Reckmeyer	

**PRAYER**  
*list*



### Happy Birthday!

*Mary Lynn Myers	11/30	Judy Davis	12/3
Oscar Lowe	12/1	Adam Day	12/3
Ruth Bethem	12/1	*Jean Rawson	12/5

### Happy Anniversary!

**Penny O'Kelley & Paul McGuigan	12/1
Richard & Haley Hood	12/2
Noel & Shanna Davies	12/3
Joseph & Christine Bostater	12/4

\* **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 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.

**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. Grassetti**  
(Claudia Polzin's niece)  
**E4 Brian Guzman**  
USAF - Colorado  
(Cesar Guzman's son)  
**Staff SGT Jacob Guzman**  
US Army-Kuwait  
(Cesar Guzman's son)  
**SGT Wesley Kennedy**  
USMC - Ft. Myers, FL

**1st LT Tyler Olbrich**  
US Army - South Carolina  
(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)