



# 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](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 28, 2025 — 10:00 am

## The First Sunday of Christmas

The flowers adorning the Chancel are sponsored in celebration of Jackie Burke's birthday by the Grider Family.

## 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**

**Susie Hilton, Liturgist**

**Julie Carver, Pianist**

**Gordon Black, Pianist**

**Chris Wood, Tenor**

**The Chancel Choir**

**The Campanile Ringers, Gordon Black, Director**

**Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician**

**Greeters:** Jan Fern & Joyce Hickmon

**Ushers:** Jerry & Mari-Bea Warnken

(Head Ushers) Carol Lindsay, Jane Repp, Jack & Ellen Tanner

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 148: 1-4, 13-14

<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>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:** "Catalonian Carol"

arr. Tammy Waldrop

Campanile Ringers, Gordon Black, *Director*

### Announcements

### Passing of the Peace

#### \* The Call to Worship:

*We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:*

**Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

*Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.*

**Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.**

*Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.*

**God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

*Let us worship God.*

#### \* Hymn #56: "The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

##### 1. The first Nowell the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds

in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay a keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

##### 2. They looked up and saw a star

Shining in the east beyond them far,

And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

##### 6. Then let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;

That hath made Heaven

and earth of naught,

And with His blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. (*silence*) Amen.

### Affirmation of Forgiveness

*In Jesus Christ we 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

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 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior <sup>9</sup> in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

**Special Music:** "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child!"

arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

Chris Wood, *Tenor*

### The Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." <sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Signs and Power"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

### \* The Affirmation of Faith

From The Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. 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: "Carol of the Light"**

David Barton (b. 1983)

## The Chancel Choir

In a world which seems so dark; in a world which seems so lost; May the light of Christ this Christmas, be a beacon, be a light. May the light of Christ be a beacon, May the beacon light your way. May the light send you forth, May it journey at your side, May the love of the Christ-child be your guide. In the cold of the night, in the warmth of the day, in the stillness of a newborn child; When we can't comprehend, why our wars never end: May the peace of Christ enfold you this year. May the love of Christ flow among you, May it hold the weak and strong: May that love never cease, May it offer signs of peace; May the love of the Christ-child hold you strong.

**\* 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 #44: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

ST LOUIS

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth!**
- 3. How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.**
- 4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!**

**\* Commission and Blessing:**

*Go out to share the good news with a world bent low from suffering and fear:*

**Jesus Christ has come to help us and to set us free!**

*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: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

MENDELSSOHN arr. Ron & Linda Sprunge

Jim Cochran, *Organ* & Gordon Black, *Piano*

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

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

**January 4, 2026 10:00 am**

**Sermon:** "The Light"

**First Reading:** Ephesians 1:3-14

**Gospel Reading:** John 1: (1-9), 10-18

**REMINDERS FOR TODAY**

Fellowship Hour will be held in the Student Center.

Come and enjoy some Christmas cookies!

Don't forget to sign the letters of joys and concerns which are found on the long table in the Narthex.

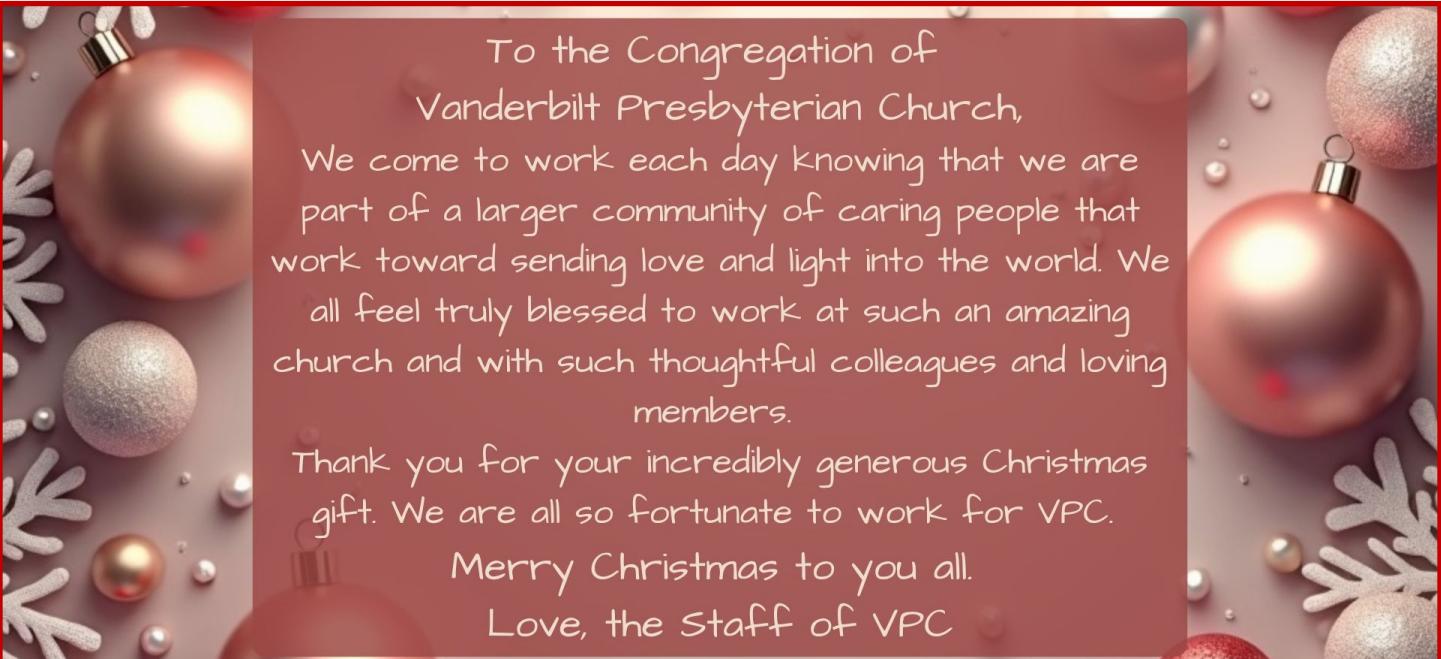
To the Congregation of  
Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,

We come to work each day knowing that we are part of a larger community 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 members.

Thank you for your incredibly generous Christmas gift. We are all so fortunate to work for VPC.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Love, the Staff of VPC



*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS!**



**Happy**  
*New Year!*



The Pastor's Bible Study held on Wednesday evenings at 6pm is on hiatus until mid-January.

A new ladies group is being formed...

## Femme Foodies



Ladies, if you would enjoy getting together with other married women from VPC for a casual lunch, this is the group for you! If there is enough interest, we will begin lunching together once a month beginning in January.

Contact Jane Higdon by January 10 via text 301-643-0570 or email [higdonjh@msn.com](mailto:higdonjh@msn.com).

Be thinking of places you would like to go.

We look forward to hearing from all of you!



Groups are being formed. They will meet once a month starting in January, at a time and location of their choosing.

Questions?  
Email Tom Grundstrom  
[tgrundstrom@vpcnaples.org](mailto:tgrundstrom@vpcnaples.org)

Signup sheets are in the Narthex.  
Specify day (lunch) or evening (dinner).

## JUDAISM 101

WHEN:

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

WHERE:

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church,  
Harp Hall

WHO:

Rabbi Adam Miller, Temple Shalom

WHAT:

Presentation on the basics of the Jewish faith with a Q&A session.

Please sign up in the Narthex



Rabbi Adam Miller



## 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!"



January 4, 2026 at 11:15am

## Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church

presents

### Narrative

Free will offering

Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 4:00 pm



Narrative is a jazz collective made up of musicians from Orlando and New York. Led by national award-winning drummer Christian Snedeker and vocalist Lexi DeLaRosa, this group features musicians with a wide array of experiences to come together and play originals and arrangements of all styles, including swing, hard bop, Latin, and R&B.

Our Mission Team supports many worthy organizations locally and globally. If you would like to learn more about our Mission Team, please attend the next Mission Team Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7pm. In person or via Zoom.

## Adult Education Opportunities

Tom Grundstrom, Facilitator

Beginning January 11 (11:30am) & 12 (6:30pm)

"The Upside Down Kingdom: The Sermon on the Mount."

This class will work our way through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), starting with the Beatitudes and then tackling the counter-culture topics through the rest of the sermon.

Beginning January 13 (11:00am)

"Confirmation Remix – Rewind, Replay, Renew."

It may have been a long time since you went through confirmation, and you'd love a refresher course. For others, you may not have had the opportunity in the first place, but you'd love to explore and understand the major topics of our faith. Either way, this is a great class to reaffirm your faith with maturity and clarity.

## 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.

Ronan Bann	Andrea Daggett	Laura McLarty	Bill Shouldice
Chuck & Kristi Beattie	Ron Davis	Sally Muir	Janet Simmons
Rick Bethem	Joyce Dersch	Donna Mullins	George Singer
Kimberly Gould Blackwell	John Dietrich	Nancy Myers	Stephanie Smith
Russel Blad	The Eliot Family	Herb Newman	Barbara Thomas
Trisha & Jessie Campion and baby Greyson	Mark Giersch	Ivana Novelli	Charles Thompson
Adriana Caruso	Jim & Mary Hart	Audrey Olsen	Yana and family in Ukraine
Molly Cochran	Deb Hincewicz	Pocket Patterson	Bill & Sue Van Fossen
Pat Colby	Charles Irvin	Mary Ann Portman	Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen
Bob & Jan Conrad	Sandra Johnson	Jodi Reckmeyer	Ian Walker
Sonja Cookson	Lys	Twila Rowe	Mariah Warnken
Richard Crawford	Carolyn Mackie	Sam & Marilyn Schellar	Don Westall
Dick Creviston	Sr. Markolette Madden	Pete Schwiers	Jon White
	Doris Martin	Walt Seible	Morgan Winiecki

## Happy Birthday!

*Doris Martin	12/28	Molly Godley	1/2
Jerry Grandey	12/28	*Bill Reckmeyer	1/2
*Nancy Thompson	12/30	Joan Haller	1/3
Gracia Schmidt	12/31	Carol Loebs	1/3
Ben Buchanan	1/1	Ron Sieling	1/3
Phyl Auman	1/2	Bill Cornell	1/3

## Happy Anniversary!

**Greg & Julie Borden	12/28
Jason & Heather Mikes	12/28
Jim & Patty Shields	12/30
Max & Janey Borden	12/30
Chuck & Connie Lewis	12/31
Rick & Ruth Bethem	12/31
Lois Ann & Jim Folliard	1/02

\* **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-Ft. Campbell, KY  
(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)