



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 7, 2025 — 10:00 am

The Second Sunday of Advent

The flowers adorning the Chancel are sponsored in loving memory
of Michael & Joann Regan by Russell & Kathleen Vance

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored by the Grider Family in celebration of 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 Peterson Family, Advent Readers

Mary Lynn Myers, Liturgist

Julie Carver, Pianist

The Chancel Choir

Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician

Greeters: Bob & Dianne Townsend

Ushers: Karen Chappler (Head Usher),
Ron & Linda Addaman, Steve Blad,
George Morton, Anne Smith

Communion Servers: Janie Ballurio, Joan Butler,
Peggy Free, Jerry Grandey, Tom Grundstrom,
Debbie Hamilton, Tom Hauschild,
Barbara Hebert, Joe Hodgson, Ben Hood,
Jane Repp, Tim Riggers

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
² May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.
³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
⁵ May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Prelude: Prelude on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Advent Candle Litany

The Peterson Family

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

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.**

**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***

**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

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. *(silence)* Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe. 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 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat

straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' " ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Signs and Stories"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

The Chancel Choir

Amid the winter's cold embrace, clothed in a shroud of white, an anxious world in silence waits through the dark of night. As the lonely song of a dove echoes across the sky above, we can feel the moment is near; soon the Child of Peace will appear. What child is this the world awaits with quiet expectation? When will He come, the promised one, to bring us peace and salvation? Raise, raise your prayers on high. Prepare His way, the time is nigh. Come, come, Emmanuel, O Child of Love and Peace. The air grows colder, the light grows dim, darkening the sky above. But soon the chill of winter wind will warm with God's gift of love. And a star will brighten the sky; songs of joy will echo on high! We will know the moment is here; the Child of Love and Peace will appear.

*** 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**

Pastoral Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion: Improvisation

Julie Carver

Prayer after Communion

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

PICARDY

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.
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.
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.
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!"

*** Commission and Blessing:**

*May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another.*

In accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together we may with one voice

Glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Amen!

*** The Lord's Prayer**

Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964)

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.

Postlude: "An Old Noël"

César Franck (1822-1890)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 14, 2025 10:00 am

Sermon: "Signs & Truths"

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11

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.



- Eat & hydrate before donating
- Bring photo ID

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

**Sun. Dec. 7th
9:00 AM — 12:00 PM**

**TODAY!
WALK IN DONORS
WELCOME!**



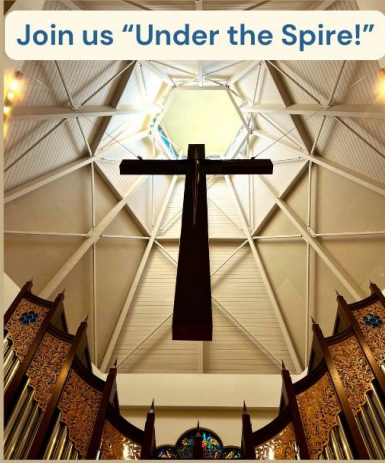
A.I.M. – Adventures In Membership

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



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



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 & Misión Peniel.

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

Please be sure to bring all toy donations to the church on or before December 10, 2025. Thank you for your generosity!

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 – click GIVE Mission – note WPP.

Email Becky Wheat to volunteer:
sportbroad@comcast.net.



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, December 15, 2025

4:15pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)

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



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.

Wednesday, December 10

Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano & Jim Cochran, Piano

Wednesday, December 17

Gordon Black & Jim Cochran, Organ & Piano

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

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

Rejoice in Hope,
 Be patient in Tribulation,
 Be constant in Prayer.
 -Roman 12:12

Happy Birthday!

Judy Deme	12/7	*Carol Lindsay	12/10
Carol Jorgensen	12/8	Carly Jacob	12/11
Chad Brodbeck	12/8	Mary Jane Stoner	12/13
Margie Berend	12/9	*George Mackie	12/13



Happy Anniversary!

Dave & Stacia Hinkler 12/7

* 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). Thank you for your continued prayers for these military personnel.

LT Wyatt R. Dawley US Navy Intel (Debbie Dawley's grandson)	COL Jessica D. Grassetti (Claudia Polzin's niece)	1st LT Tyler Olbrich US Army - South Carolina (friend of Karen Hiller)
PVT E2 Joshua Fowler, US Army, Columbus, GA (Joe & Sharon Doggett's grandson)	E4 Brian Guzman USAF - Colorado (Cesar Guzman's son)	MAJ Rex Rafferty USAF—Alabama (Norm & Linda Parker's granddaughter's husband)
MAJ Allen Fujinaka US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)	Staff SGT Jacob Guzman US Army-Kuwait (Cesar Guzman's son)	LCPL Michael Russell USMC - Camp Lejeune, NC (Heather Anderson's son)
	SGT Wesley Kennedy USMC - Ft. Myers, FL	