



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



May 17, 2026—10:00 am The Seventh Sunday of Easter

The flowers on the Chancel are given to honor of our children's birthdays by Ann and Kevin Foote.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored in celebration of the reopening of Fellowship Hall!

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*
Jerry Grandey, *Liturgist*
Julie Carver, *Pianist*

The Chancel Choir
Devon Grider, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Greeters: Joan Butler & Joyce Hickmon
Ushers: Ron & Linda Addaman (Head Ushers), Greg & Julie Borden, Karen Chappler, Barbara Hebert

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 68:1-4, 32-35

¹ Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;

as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

³ But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴ Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the LORD— be exultant before him.

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,

³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies.

³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel;

he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Prelude: Variations on “What God Ordains is Best”

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

* The Call to Worship:

Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.

Let us all be jubilant with joy!

Sing to God, all peoples of the world. Sing praises to God most high.

From the sanctuary of heaven, God gives life and renews the face of the earth.

Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.

Let us all be jubilant with joy!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #446: “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

AUSTRIAN HYMN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
Thou may’st smile at all thy foes. | 2. See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
Never fails from age to age. |
|--|--|

Continued

**3. Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.**

**Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which God gives them when they pray.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

**Loving God, we confess that we do not always bring honor and glory to your name. We are rebellious and weak; we flee before your goodness. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us by the grace and mercy of Christ, that we may rise up again in peace to love and serve your world.
(silence) Amen.**

Affirmation of Forgiveness

*Sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God is resting on you, to restore, support, and strengthen you.
Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives and loves you; rise up and give God thanks.
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

Acts 1:6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

John 17:1-11

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "A Prayer for Unity"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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: "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace"

Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

The Chancel Choir

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Wherever there's despair, hope. Where there's darkness, light. Where there is darkness, joy. O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console, To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. For it is by faith that we believe. For in forgiving, we are forgiven. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!

*** 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 #326: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"**

MORECAMBE

**1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth,
through all its pulses move;**

**Stoop to my weakness,
mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.**

Continued

2. **Hast Thou not bid us love Thee,
God and King;
All, all Thine own:
soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!**
3. **Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;**

**Teach me the patience
of unanswered prayer.**

4. **Teach me to love Thee
as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the
heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.**

*** Commission and Blessing**

*Sisters and brothers, God loves and cares for each of us.
Therefore, cast all anxiety on God, and keep alert.*

**We may remain steadfast in faith with Christ,
Who supports and strengthens us in all things.**

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 G Minor"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

May 24, 2026 — 10:00 a.m.

Sermon: "Unleashing the Spirit"

First Reading: Numbers 11:24-30

Gospel Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Join us on Sunday,
June 28, 2026 at 10:00am
for Dr. James B. Cochran's
final Sunday as Director of
Music at Vanderbilt
Presbyterian Church.

THANK YOU JIM!

to the **GRAND RE-OPENING**
of
FELLOWSHIP HALL!

Join us for Fellowship Hour
Sunday, May 17, 2026
following worship!

REMINDER: The Deacons letters are in the Narthex for your participation.



Graduation Bibles

Help us gift our graduating seniors a study Bible! We invite you to highlight your favorite verse and write a short message on the inside explaining why you love it, and why you hope they do too or write a short note of encouragement for their journey!



Collier Harvest

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

Monday, May 18, 2026

4:15pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)

4:45-6pm - bagging food

at 4451 Mercantile Ave.



Friday, May 22, 2026

9:00 am

Leitner Park - 26724 Nomad Dr.

Bonita Springs 34135



CARING... SHARING... SERVING



CHURCH ON A MISSION

For information or to volunteer - email Eliza Nevin elizanevin@comcast.net

VPC VBS Needs your donations to Help us make VBS Amazing!

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

We are looking for paper wrapping supplies from Amazon deliveries and oversized boxes (appliance size). Bring them to the church office or the Student Center. Check the VPC Week at a Glance links to our Amazon and Group Wish Lists.



We're all moving UP!



If you have a student graduating or moving up to a new school, let us know! This includes grandchildren! Send us a picture and short paragraph including their name, school and grade they are graduating/moving up from and the school they are heading to. Please include family information and tell us something fun about your graduate. We will honor them on Graduation Sunday, May 31. Please email submissions by May 26 to Michele Byrd at mbyrd@vpcnaples.org

Graduation Sunday - May 31, 2026
Celebrating graduates and educational milestones!

VLC Spring Concerts and Graduation!

PK2 & PK3 Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 19 at 11:45am in the Sanctuary

Kindergarten Graduation & Concert

Wednesday, May 20 at 6pm in the Sanctuary

IN SYMPATHY

Richard "Rick" Bethem passed away on April 11, 2026. Rick was a member of VPC since 2019. A memorial service will be held on June 29 at 11:00 at the church with a reception to follow. Please keep his wife, Ruth, and his family in your prayers.

If you would like to send a card to Ruth:
1814 Imperial Golf Course Blvd, Naples, FL 34110.

We are saddened to announce the death of Farhat Naseem on May 9, 2026. She and her family have been members of VPC for 16 years. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:30 am at the church. Please keep her husband, Naseem Yousaf, and her family in your prayers. If you would like to send a card: The Yousaf Family, 4960 21st Place S.W., Naples, 34116.

Sadly, we announce the death of Joseph Feddern on May 12, 2026 at the age of 92. He and his wife, Barbara, have been members of VPC for over 13 years. Please keep his family in your prayers at this difficult time. The family is planning a memorial service at a later date. Condolences may be sent to Barbara at 4215 Los Altos Ct. Naples, FL 34109.

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.

Ridley Baird & Family	The Feddern Family	Megan Martin	Pete Schwiars
Chuck & Kristi Beattie	Jim Folliard	Barbara McElwaine	Bill Shouldice
The Bethem Family	Pat Gould	Laura McLarty	Tricia Taylor
Kimberly Gould	Lynne Gratton	John McMaster	Barbara Thomas
Blackwell	Jim & Mary Hart	Sally Muir	Bob Townsend
Jim Campbell	Margaret Horstman	Ivana Novelli	Yana & family in Ukraine
Adriana Caruso	Sandra Johnson	Audrey Olsen	Bill & Sue Van Fossen
Molly Cochran	Ana Koch	Pat Paciello	Yvonne & Tony
Pat Colby	Justin Loeffler	Jodi Reckmeyer	Van Rooyen
Bob & Jan Conrad	Andrew Lowry	Marsha Reed	Dianne Westerlund
Ron Davis	Carolyn Mackie	Pat Rose	The Yousaf Family
Joyce Dersch	Sr. Markolette Madden	Twila Rowe	
John Dietrich	Doris Martin	Sam & Marilyn Schellar	



Happy Anniversary!

Happy Birthday!

	Ron & Judy Davis	5/17
*Buck Evans	5/18	Joe & Jill Trees 5/17
*Amber Grider	5/21	CC & Bill Waskey 5/18
Fred Schulz	5/23	**Jim & Marsha Reed 5/20
Dan Westerlund	5/23	Chuck & Heidi Holley 5/22
		Stan & Linda Swihart 5/23

The James Cochran Fund for Tuning and Maintenance of the Fors Lively Fulcher Pipe Organ

To donate online go to
www.vpcnaples.org and GIVE in the
Endowment section.
Make checks payable to Vanderbilt
Presbyterian.
Add "Cochran Endowment Fund"
to the note.

* **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!

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)	SGT Wesley Kennedy USMC - Ft. Myers, FL
PVT E2 Joshua Fowler, US Army, Columbus, GA (Joe & Sharon Doggett's grandson)	E4 Brian Guzman USAF - Colorado (Cesar Guzman's son)	1st LT Tyler Olbrich US Army - South Carolina (friend of Karen Hiller)
	Staff SGT Jacob Guzman US Army-Ft. Campell, KY (Cesar Guzman's son)	LCPL Michael Russell USMC - Camp Lejeune, NC (Heather Anderson's son)