



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



August 23, 2026—10:00 am

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The flowers on the Chancel and the Fellowship Hour are sponsored in celebration of the Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson's 90th birthday by his wife, Mary, and his loving family.
Happy Birthday, Dr. Lou!

Worship Participants

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
James Cochran, Director of Music Emeritus
Julie Carver, Organist & Pianist
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
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Jan Fern & Ruth Wade
Ushers: Jerry & Mari-Bea Warnken (Head Ushers), Steve Blad, Greg & Julie Borden, Barbara Hebert

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 138

- ¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
³ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.
⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.
⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.
⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.
⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Prelude: "Prelude on AD TE LEVAVI: To You, Oh Lord, I Lift Up my Soul" Marinus de Jong (1891-1981)

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

* The Call to Worship:

We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.

Even when we are in deep trouble, God makes us live again! The love of God lasts forever!

Let us worship God!

* Hymn #370: "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

WOODWORTH

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come! | 3. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come! |
| 2. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come! | 4. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come! |

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives to the ways of the world and not the ways of your kingdom. We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly. We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be exalted. We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony. Have mercy upon us, we pray. Forgive and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. *(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

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.

Baptism

**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

Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in

teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "A Fair Question"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** Affirmation of Faith**

The Confession of 1967

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. 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: "Near to the Heart of God"

Cleland Boyd McAfee (1866-1944)

The Chancel Choir

The text can be found in the Hymnal on page 527.

*** 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 #377: "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"**

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

1. You have come up to the lakeshore,
Looking neither for wise nor for wealthy,
You only wanted that I should follow.

Refrain:

O Lord, with Your eyes
You have searched me,
And, while smiling, have called out my name.
Now my boat's left
on the shoreline behind me,
Now with You I will seek other seas.

2. You know that I own so little,
In my boat there's no money nor weapons,

You'll only find there my nets and labor.

Refrain

3. You need the caring of my hands,
Through my tiredness,
may others find resting.
You need a love that just goes on loving.

Refrain

4. You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever long for by souls that are waiting,
My dear and good friend,
as thus You call me.

Refrain

*** Commission and Blessing**

Though we are many,

Remember that we are one body in Christ and members of one another.

Offer your gifts according to the grace given you, as a living sacrifice to God. 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: "Postlude on A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

arr. Eleanor Whitsett (b. 1955)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

August 30, 2026—10:00 a.m.

Sermon: "Living in Harmony"

First Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

PRAY FOR

COLOMBIA

On August 10, 2026, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake hit Ecuador and Colombia, devastating a large region and impacting thousands of lives. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbyterian Church in Colombia and other partners to respond to emergency unmet needs and, eventually, long-term recovery.

DONATE AT WWW.PCUSA.ORG - DISASTER RELIEF

REMINDERS

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



Please join us in welcoming Anna Lynn, the daughter of Gino and Cassidy Lynn Salvatore, new VPC members.



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, August 24, 2026

4pm - unloading van (heavy lifting)

4:30-6pm - bagging food

at 4451 Mercantile Ave.



VPC
**Summer
Sunday School**

Sundays, May 31 - September 6

Wednesday Night Lights

Meeting Schedule

5:30p-6:00p
Dinner in Student Center
6:00p-7:00p
Study/Serve/Pray
7:00p-7:15p
Play & Pick Up



**You're Invited
Wednesday Night Lights**

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church
Children & Youth Groups

Children & Youth Groups

PK3 and PK4
Elementary School
Middle School
High School

Drop Off & Pick Up

Student Center
Use Door "L"

Meeting Dates

Every Other Wednesday
Starting Sept. 9, 2026
through May 12, 2027

THE ALLELUIA CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Alleluia Choir will rehearse
on Wednesdays in the
Sanctuary from 5-5:30pm.
Join us! – **September 9th**



DO YOU LIKE TO SING? JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

OUR MID-WEEK REHEARSALS BEGIN ON
SEPTEMBER 9TH! JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM IN COCHRAN HALL.

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL MICHELE AT MBYRD@VPCNAPLES.ORG.

Rooted & Ready

Growing Together as God's Family



*"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord... They will be like a tree planted by the water that
sends out its roots by the stream."*

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

A SEASON OF FAITH — FOR EVERY AGE

SEP

■ Kick Off Begins!

Pastor's Bible Study starts weekly & Wednesday Night Lights starts bi-weekly
Pediatric Mental Health Seminar

OCT

🔑 Seminars, Small Groups & Adult Sunday School

Identity Theft Seminar · Friends in Faith & Bad Girls of the Bible begin

JAN

🏠 Holocaust Museum Tour

Guided tour (1/22) · Traveling exhibit visits Fellowship Hall (1/31)

FEB

🏠 Craig Lecture Series

February 26-28, 2027

MAY

✓ Celebrations

Friends in Faith closes the season together · date TBD

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church & Learning Center

Full schedule & sign-ups coming — everyone welcome!

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	Joe & Mary Lou Eddy	Andy Lowry	Marsha Reed
Ridley Baird & Family	Tom Falzone	Carolyn Mackie	Pat Rogge
Chuck & Kristi Beattie	Jim Folliard	Sr. Markolette Madden	Twila Rowe
Peg Black	Lori Godwin	Bob & Doris Martin	Sam & Marilyn Schellar
The Byrd & Gerlach Families	Pat Gould	Sarah Martyniak	Bill Shouldice
	Jim & Mary Hart	Paul J. Moore	Mary Jane Stoner
Adriana Caruso	Jim Hofert	Sally Muir	Kara Subleska
Tom Clark	Margaret Horstman	David Nale	Larry Tatum
Molly Cochran	Kathy Huebner	Ivana Novelli	Barbara Thomas
Yvonne Corbin	Sandra Johnson	Audrey Olsen	Yana & family in Ukraine
Michael Coront	Ana Koch	Peggy Paulsen	Yvonne Van Rooyen
Ron Davis	Justin Loeffler	Mary Ann Portman	Alexis Williams
Joyce Dersch	Kenneth Loeffler	Leah Ray	



Happy Birthday!

Ann Hoffman	8/23	Karen Lawrence	8/26
*Lou Thompson	8/24	Kate Dillingham	8/29
Ginny Dieken	8/24	Sumera Yousaf	8/29
Cherry Jacobus	8/25	Eleanor Sarina	
Quinn Lawrence	8/25	Hoppner	8/29
Gabrielle English	8/25	Tim Grove	8/29
Sebastian Aguilar	8/26		

Happy Anniversary!

**Nancy & Charles Thompson	8/23
Bruce & Wendy Baker	8/23
Donald & Brooke Halpin	8/24
Bob & Laura Reardon	8/26
Don & Jan Fern	8/29

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

COL Jessica D. Grasseti
(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
CPT Tyler Olbrich
US Army - South Carolina
(friend of Karen Hiller)
LCPL Michael Russell
USMC - Camp Lejeune, NC
(Heather Anderson's son)