



# 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*



## August 31, 2025 — 10:00 am

### The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

The flowers adorning the Chancel and the Fellowship Hour are sponsored in honor of the Bevilacqua and Sciascia Families.

### 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*  
**Ellen Tanner, Liturgist**

**Julie Carver, Pianist**  
**The Chancel Choir**  
**Victoria Bonavita**,  
*Audio/Visual Technician*  
**Greeters:** Bill & Geri Payne  
**Ushers:** Joe Trees (Head Usher), Ron & Linda Addaman, Karen Chappler, Sonja Cookson, Henry Gaylord

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 112

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.

<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

<sup>5</sup> It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

<sup>7</sup> They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

<sup>9</sup> They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

<sup>10</sup> The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

**Prelude:** Music from the Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### Announcements

### Passing of the Peace

#### \* The Call to Worship:

*Sing aloud to God our strength.*

**Shout for joy to the Lord of Life.**

*Blessed be the one holy and living God.*

**Glory to God forever.**

*Let us worship God.*

#### \* Hymn #376 : "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest;

- Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

*Continued*

4. Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee;

Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Lord, all that we have is a gift from you, yet we do not live lives of gratitude. We ignore strangers and turn away from those in need. We seek honor for ourselves and allow pride to take root in us. Forgive our foolish ways, O God, and restore us to you, that we may walk in the way of love. *(silence)* Amen.

#### Affirmation of Forgiveness

*Beloved, your sins are forgiven, for God promises to never leave us. Therefore, be at peace and stand secure in the Lord.*

**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

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the

sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

Luke 14:1, 7-14

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. <sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." <sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message: "A Proper Banquet"**

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

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

From Book of Common Worship, Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is 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: "We Need A Faith"**

Jesse Seymour Irvine/John Thornburg

The Chancel Choir

Tune: CRIMOND

We need a faith so colorblind, so free from timeworn lies, That when we look from face to face we see the eyes of God. We need an ethic of respect, an honest pledge of trust, That when we share the deepest things we feel the warmth of God. We need to act as well as speak, to see each other's sweat, That as we labor side by side we do the work of God. Come, Christians, look for character and not for shade of skin, That as we rend the walls of race we live the peace of God.

**\* 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 #370: "Just As I Am"**

WOODWORTH

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

**\* Commission and Blessing:**

*God graces us with abundance and inspires us to be generous.*

**We will go into the world confident in the Lord's provision.**

*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 Major"**

J. S. Bach

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

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

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

**Sermon: "Finishing Well"**

**First Reading: Philemon 1:1-21**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33**

**REMINDERS FOR TODAY**

Due to the closure of Fellowship Hall, we have moved our Fellowship Hour to the Student Center.

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

**BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO EVERYDAY AI TOOLS**

Join us on Sunday, August 31 following worship at 11:15am in Harp Hall.



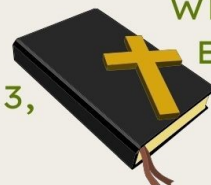
Greg Borden will give us a Beginner's Guide to AI and some practical uses for everyone!

Contact the office for the Zoom link.

*Pastor's Bible Study*

JOIN US AS WE STUDY THE UPCOMING READINGS FOR WORSHIP. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO REFLECT ON THE WORD OF GOD!

**WEDNESDAY**  
**STARTING SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**  
**AT 6PM**  
**IN THE LIBRARY**



PSALM 119:105

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.'*

**THE ALLELUIA CHOIR NEEDS YOU!**

Alleluia Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays with Dr. Jim in the Sanctuary from 5-5:30pm. Join us! – **September 10th!**



**DO YOU LIKE TO SING?**  
**JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!**

OUR MID-WEEK REHEARSALS BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 3RD. JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM IN COCHRAN HALL.

QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL JIM AT [jcochrans@vpcnapples.org](mailto:jcochrans@vpcnapples.org).







# Vanderbilt Children & Youth Groups and Learning Center Halloween Costume Drive



Bring in gently used or new costumes for children in need.

Help kids have an awesome Halloween!

All donations will benefit the Shelter for Abused Women & Children.

We will be collecting costumes through Sunday, September 28th.



Mark your calendar!  
Join us for Trunk or Treat  
on October 22nd.

**The church office and Learning Center at  
Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church will be closed on  
Monday, September 1, 2025  
in observance of Labor Day.**

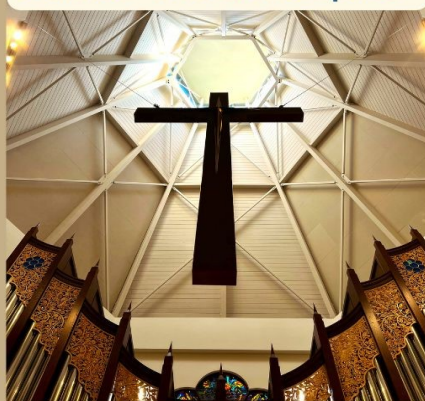
## A.I.M. – Adventures In Membership

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!"



**September 7, 2025 – 11:15am**



Volunteers from VPC are  
scheduled to serve at

Mision Peniel on

September 12, 2025 at 1pm.

If you can help, please email

Karen Chappler at

[kchappler@aol.com](mailto:kchappler@aol.com).

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**CAN YOU SPARE SOME**  
**TIME TO SERVE OTHERS?**



You're invited!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church  
Children & Youth Groups

**STUDY SERVE PRAY PLAY**

**Every Other Wednesday  
Starting September 10, 2025**

**5:30 - 6pm**

**Dinner in Student Center**

**6 - 7pm:**

Children will gather in small groups  
to enjoy special activities created  
just for them, so they learn about  
the love of God!

**6 - 7pm:**

Youth will meet to stretch their  
minds and hearts in activities  
designed to enrich their lives and  
love of God.

## 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.

John Baird	Lorna Giblin	Ivana Novelli	Pete Schwiers
Ronan Bann	Jim & Mary Hart	Audrey Olsen	Dr. Lou Thompson
Chuck & Kristi Beattie	June Johnson	Pocket Patterson	Joe Trees
Trisha Gould Campion	Sandra Johnson	Twila Rowe	Yana and family in Ukraine
Adriana Caruso	Carolyn Mackie	Sam & Marilyn Schellar	Bill Van Fossen
Pat Colby	Eugene McGuigan	Fred Schulz	Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen
Bob & Jan Conrad	Sr. Markolette		
Dick Creviston	Madden		
Lillian Dansereau	Doris Martin		
Annette Dietrich	Donna Mullins		
Dan Gagliano	Nancy Myers		
Martha Gates	Sue Norbeck		

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” - Isaiah 41:10  
We are charged to lean on God in tough times.



### Happy Birthday!

Elizabeth Lee	8/31	Nancy Ruppert	9/3
Anna Borden	9/1	Martha Jean Gordon	9/4
Brooke Borden	9/1	Jane Repp	9/4
Joan Elliott	9/1	*Linda Addaman	9/4
*Nancy Guthy	9/1	Joseph Riashi	9/5
Addison Acx	9/1		
Avery Acx	9/1		
Vicki Walker	9/1		
Mark McElwaine	9/2		
*Brooklyn Paciello	9/2		
Henry Riddick	9/2		



### Happy Anniversary!

**Steve & Rebecca Acx	8/31
Bill & Harriet Shouldice	8/31
Clark & Kathryn Leaming	9/1
Bill & Geri Payne	9/4
John & Maveilyn Millard	9/5
Ed & Pat Kirby	9/5
**Chris & Andrea Paciello	9/6

\* **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 - Iraq  
(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)