



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



September 27, 2026—10:00 am

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The flowers on the Chancel are given by the Grider Family to celebrate friendship.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored by the Worship, Music & Liturgical Arts Team in thankfulness for Julie Carver and her leadership and musical talents.

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*

Karen Chappler, *Liturgist*
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Greeters: Bill & Geri Payne
Ushers: Ron & Linda Addaman (Head Ushers),
Steve Blad, Greg Borden, Jack & Ellen Tanner

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

Prelude: "The Lone, Wild Bird"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

* The Call to Worship:

At the name of Jesus

Every knee should bend

And every tongue confess

That Jesus Christ is Lord.

Let us worship God!

* Hymn #516: "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"

O QUANTA QUALIA

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lord, we have come
at Your own invitation,
chosen by You,
to be counted Your friends.
Yours is the strength
that sustains dedication,
ours a commitment
we know never ends. | Teach us to serve
without pride or pretension,
Lord, in Your kingdom,
whatever our place. |
| 2. Here, at Your table,
confirm our intention,
give it Your seal
of forgiveness and grace; | 3. When, at Your table,
each time of returning,
vows are renewed
and our courage restored;
May we increasingly
glory in learning
all that it means
to accept You as Lord. |

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Righteous God, we confess that we have not lived as your obedient children. We have honored you with our words, but we have denied you with our actions. We have not pursued the mind of Christ, who took the form of a servant, for we have acted with selfish ambition. We have put our interests before the interests of others and have not regarded them in humility. Forgive us our arrogance, awaken our hearts to sincere repentance, and enable us to will and work for your good pleasure, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *(silence)* Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters, God offers forgiveness of our sin and abundant life to those who repent. Turn, then, and live in Christ, our 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

Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”
²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: “Doing God’s Will”

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** Affirmation of Faith**

Adapted from A Declaration of Faith

Jesus’ involvement in the human condition is God’s involvement. His compassion for all kinds of people is God’s compassion. His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God’s demand. His willingness to suffer rejection is God’s willingness. Jesus’ love for the very people who reject him is God’s love. We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ’s commission to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives. 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: "Morning Has Broken"

arr. Arlen Clarke (b. 1954)

The Chancel Choir

Text for the anthem is found in the hymnal on page 469.

* 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 #423: "Jesus Shall Reign Where e'er the Sun"

DUKE STREET

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more. | 4. Blessings abound where e'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blessed. |
| 2. To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice. | 5. Let every creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen! |
| 3. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name. | |

*** Commission and Blessing**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ.

To God be the glory.

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: "FOUNDATION"

arr. James Pethel (1936-2026)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

October 4, 2026—10:00 a.m.

Sermon: "True Leadership"

First Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

REMINDERS

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

**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 27th.



Weekend Power Pack!



Are you looking for a way to help children in our community? The Mission Team needs help at our next WPP packing party! We also need drivers to deliver the packages! Let us know if you are able!

**Thursday, October 1, 2026
at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall.**

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

**Email Pete Rodino
pvrudino@aol.com
to volunteer!**

Collier Harvest

Join us to pack bags of healthy food for our hungry neighbors across Collier County.



**Monday, September 28, 2026
4pm- unloading van (heavy lifting)
4:30-6pm - bagging food
at 4451 Mercantile Ave.**



Pastor's Bible Study **JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM
IN THE LIBRARY.**

**Donations for World Communion Offering
will be collected through October 4, 2026.
Envelopes are located in the Narthex.**

Education
Seminar:

Learning about Identity Theft



Lt. Brian Sawyer,
Collier County Sheriff's Office

Thursday, October 8 at 6pm in Harp Hall

Identity Theft can impact people of all ages, including children.
Join us to learn more about it.

- What you can do to minimize becoming a victim
- Recognize scams and secure personal data
- Free to Community
- Childcare Provided Upon Request



Sign up in the Narthex, call the office or click the QR code

Join the VPC Book Club!

Monday, October 19, 2026

at 1:30pm in Harp Hall.

We will be discussing

Culpability

by Bruce Holzinger.

Bring your ideas for other books to share!



For more information,
email Peggy Landon
mlandon711@gmail.com

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Sundays after worship in Harp Hall

11:30am - 12:15pm

Starting October 11, 2026

Jane Higdon, Facilitator
higdonjb@msn.com

We will learn about Sarai, Hagar,
Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel
and what their flawed lives can teach
us about sin and goodness.

Sign up in the Narthex - Order your book on Amazon

JOIN US FOR THIS BOOK STUDY

FRIENDS IN FAITH

10:00-11:30am

October 21, 2026

Questions?

Lois Ann Folliard

lafolliard@gmail.com



**DON'T BE A
SCAREDY CAT
DONATE BLOOD**

VANDERBILT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - BLOOD DRIVE



Sunday, October 11th



9:00 AM - 12:00 PM • Appts. encourage - Walk-ins welcome



1225 Piper Blvd. Naples, FL 34110



Sign-up: Call 239.597.5410

Questions? Liz 239.734.0290 Call/Text



2026 Medicare Open Enrollment Event

Friday, October 23

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church (Harp Hall)

1225 Piper Blvd.

Naples, FL 34110

Italian Potluck

Sign up in the Narthex

Please hold the evening of Thursday, November 5 for a
fantastic time. A VPC Potluck Supper with an Italian Flavor!
A very special evening of delicious food, entertainment,
and socializing with some of your Vanderbilt
friends...present and future! Start now by collecting your
favorite Italian recipes to share with all!

"That's Amore!"



YOU'RE INVITED

Join us for a

**CHILI COOK-OFF
& TRUNK OR TREAT**

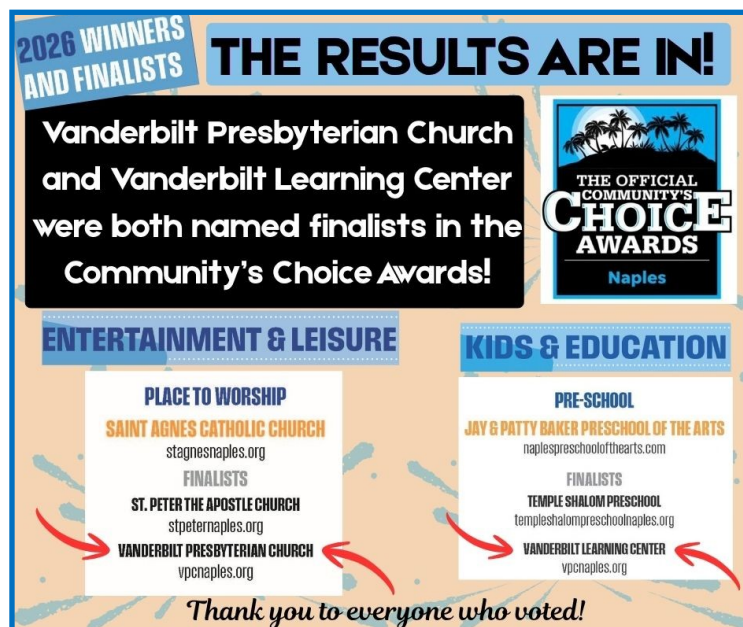
WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 21, 2026 • 5:30p-7:30p

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	Sandra Johnson	Kara Subleska	Yana & family in Ukraine
Ridley Baird & Family	Ana Koch	Linda Surowiak	Yvonne Van Rooyen
Janie Ballurio	Justin Loeffler	Mike Swain	Alexis Williams
Chuck & Kristi Beattie	Kenneth Loeffler	Larry Tatum	
Peg Black	Carolyn Mackie	Barbara Thomas	
Adriana Caruso	Bob & Doris Martin		
Yvonne Corbin	Sarah Martyniak		
Ron Davis	Paul J. Moore		
Joyce Dersch	Sally Muir		
Joe & Mary Lou Eddy	David Nale		
Lori Godwin	Ivana Novelli		
Pat Gould	Audrey Olsen		
Jim & Mary Hart	Peggy Paulsen		
Liz Hart	Marsha Reed		
Margaret Horstman	Pat Rogge		
	Twila Rowe		
	Sam & Marilyn Schellar		
	Bill Shouldice		
	Mary Jane Stoner		



Happy Birthday!

Rachel Heimberger	9/27	*Mary Thompson	9/30
Laura Marzano	9/28	Pat Rose	9/30
Carol Wood	9/28	*Michael Swain	10/1
Max Gould	9/28	*Margaret Mackie	10/2
*Mac McDonald	9/28	Anna Salvatore	10/2
Cassidy Salvatore	9/28	Ted Beisler	10/3
Virginia Cullison	9/30	Ruth Wade	10/3

Happy Anniversary!

Bill & Mary Ann Koppelkam	9/27
Gary & Brenda Karnes	10/3

* **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)

E4 Brian Guzman
USAF - Colorado
(Cesar Guzman's son)
Staff SGT Jacob Guzman
US Army-Ft. Campbell, KY
(Cesar Guzman's son)
Staff 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)