

MARCH 2019

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070



Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy

March 2019 Newsletter

Theology on Tap

February 28th was our very first **Theology on Tap** gathering. We had a great turn out and a wonderful discussion. One of my areas of focus for this year is the ongoing work of making space for increasingly new and different ways to engage in meaningful conversation and fellowship. When **Camp Colvos Taproom** moved in next door we got new neighbors, folks who shout, "How are you doing?" across our shared parking lot and wave their hands when I come and go at the office. And these friendly neighbors of ours have created space for us to be in the community in a new way and, in doing so, they have also become people to call friends.

So, each month, we'll gather on the last Thursday at 5 pm. Sometimes we will have a topic picked out in advance and sometimes not. It's a great way to invite others to join the discussion or just to have some fellowship time and make new friends. We always all need new friends!

I'd encourage you to make it a priority to check out Theology on Tap on **Thursday, March 28th**! And if you have or about this other ideas gathering, to check in so feel free out.

Leigh



questions thoughts or any for I'd love with you to reach

Save These Dates!

March 6th

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm

March 10th

Beginning of Lenten
Faith Formation Class 9 am

March 12th, 19th, 26th April 2

Lenten Taize Services 6:30 pm

March 14th

"PI" Day 10-3 pm

March 23rd

John Olsen Memorial 2:00 pm

Holy Week Schedule

April 14th - April 21st



Taize Services on Tuesdays 6:30 pm.

**Maundy Thursday Service at the
Methodist Church, 7 pm.**

**Good Friday Service at the
Presbyterian Church, 7 pm.**

**The Stations of the Cross will be set up in our
church and will be available to everyone
Monday thru Thursday from 10 am until 2 pm**

“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.”

John 1:14 (The Message)

Dear Ones of VPC,

The Word...Logos...in the Greek, Jesus, of God, from God, in God, himself God...that's who became flesh and blood but, as Eugene Peterson translates it, that wasn't where he stopped. He moved into the neighborhood and we saw glory, with human eyes. And he was generous, inside and out, true from start to finish.

I've been on a bit of a personal journey lately, refocusing my own spirit to be intentional in my openness to see glory with my own eyes. It started in Colombia I suspect, where God's glory just seemed to break into the scene, invading my heart, making me aware that even after we come down from the mountain top moments, glory shows up and comes alongside us, surprising us at times.

I shared some of my reflections with my colleague who had been scheduled to preach for you during the epic snowstorm. After reading my thoughts, he emailed back to me these words by Walter Brueggemann, “Brueggemann summarizes so eloquently [of the Israelites making their exit]: ‘They learned, against their expectation, that the wilderness is governed by God, a place of nourishment and protection.’”

I've spent the last several days, as of this writing, leaning in to that truth, looking more deeply at where glory is breaking in to my life and to the life of the church and the world around us, asking myself what resistance is within me that I struggle to see it at times. And having set that as a deliberate intention, I've been consistently caught by how much and how many different places I see it.

Our first Theology on Tap gathering was held on Thursday, February 28th. We went over to our nextdoor neighbors at Camp Colvos with a large group from VPC. The discussion was good and surprisingly intimate, given the size of the group and the hearing constraints in a noisy space. Once again, I was taken by your honesty, your compassionate listening to one another and your ability to be absolutely real and quite vulnerable and I saw it in you, God's glory, shining in your faces as you talked about what it means to *move into the neighborhood*, more and more with what you are called to as God's people.

When one of you engaged a couple at the table beside us, I was honored to overhear a comment about our Pi Day sign. “I like your sign about God's love and Pi, ‘real, irrational, never-ending.’” And it was good to hear them say they looked forward to coming by for a piece of pie, that you are sharing with this neighborhood in which you find yourselves. Another moment of glory.

I wonder where you see it, I wonder where you are caught off guard by it. I wonder if, like the Israelites, and your pastor, that you are learning that even the wilderness is governed by God. I wonder if our Lenten invitation isn't mostly about looking for just that, perhaps especially in the wilderness. The desire to stay on the mountain at the Transfiguration was great but Jesus moved into the neighborhood instead. I'm grateful that you are doing the same.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Sacraments celebration, music program, readers, bulletin, ecumenical worship, church décor.

Lent begins this month. **Ash Wednesday** is on the 6th. Our service will be combined with the Methodists and will be held in our sanctuary 6:30 pm. Pastor Leigh will be available during the day to give ashes for those unable to make the service.

Beginning on March 12th, there will be a **Taize service** at 6:30 pm each Tuesday

Members of the **Vashon Chorale** will sing on March 17th during our morning worship service. This is always a treat.

On March 31st, we will have a **combination morning worship service with the Methodists at VUMC**. We are also hoping for a combined choir. Stay tuned for more info!

Brownie Carver Worship Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Palm Sunday Brunch There will be a special brunch on Palm Sunday.

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt Always a favorite event the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt will follow the Easter Worship Service on April 21st. Be sure and plan to stay after for wonderful baked goods and the fun of watching the little ones hunt for eggs!

Elizabeth Loveness Hospitality Elder

Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend/partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations.

One Great Hour of Sharing Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression.

Heindsmann Family Endowment Scholarship

Application packets for the Heindsmann Scholarship 2019 will be ready March 11th. This scholarship is for someone who has already had some higher education and are continuing or returning after an absence. It is not for high school seniors. You can pick up application packets in the office M-Thurs 10-2. More information will be given in the enews and local newspapers. Deadline for the application is April 18th.

Purposeful Service Meeting We will meet Thursday March 7th at 5:30 PM.

Elizabeth Loveness Purposeful Service Elder

IFCH Report Our session has approved the use of the older parts of our church to be used as an emergency shelter during extreme weather conditions with trained attendants. The schools in our building will not be affected by this. There is much planning involved in setting this up and getting the community involved. The goal of the IFCH is to have a safe, reliable shelter.

Brownie Carver VPC IFCH Representative



Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!

$\Pi\pi$

Is like God's Love –
Real, Irrational and Never Ending

Bring a pie to share! VPC wants to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 – 3.14) by inviting all islanders to stop by for a piece of pie!

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. The earliest known official or large-scale celebration of Pi Day was organized by Larry Shaw in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium, where Shaw worked as a physicist. While it has generated a lot of interest in the study of Mathematics, it has also become an excuse for eating a lot of pie! Join us in celebrating Pi day 3.14 from 10 - 3 in the east room. We are looking for volunteers to work 2 hour shifts - 9-11; 11-1; and 1-3; first shift will cut and prepare; last shift will clean up. Please bring your pies at 9 am.

Barb Huff Outreach Elder

Faith Exploration

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Faith Formation Class The adult Sunday morning class will continue with its discussion of the writings of Brian Doyle. A new class is in the works for Lent. Details will be forth coming.

Al Ross-Weston Faith Formation Elder

VPC Book Club meets this month on the 15th . We will be discussing the book The Other Alcott By Elise Hooper. A potluck supper will be served at 6:30. Location TBD.

Al Ross Weston

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,
Building and Grounds.

Building and Grounds

We finally had a little taste of winter! During the **heavy snow the sidewalks, ramp and handicapped parking areas were shoveled** thanks to John Williams, Phil Yunker and a crew of gardeners hired by Liz Loveness. The Plum tree in the back yard split and fell on the Creative Preschool swing set. It was cleared from the swings and cut down to branches and rounds that can be hauled away.

Our **work party to fill potholes** in the parking lot was snowed out Feb 9th. We've rescheduled it for Saturday March 2nd from 9am till noon. Sunny skies are forecast so bring your shovels, iron rakes and/or wheelbarrows to spread it around. We also hope to haul the plum tree branches to the transfer station so bring your pickup truck if you've got one.

We still have an ongoing need to **pick up trash around the parking lot on a regular basis**. If you have any free time and would like to help out, you can always stop by the church on your own and pick up litter around the lot and shrubbery. Recyclables and trash can be placed in the receptacles within the fenced collection area in the parking lot. Please wear rubber gloves!

The **social hall and hallway carpets were cleaned** Feb 18th. Thanks to Jim Huff and Phil Yunker all the necessary furniture, chairs and tables were temporarily moved to classrooms A and B, and then returned prior to school's resumption.

We've begun adding the written text of Leigh's sermons to our website and I also uploaded a copy of the Annual Report for 2018. **Our website is at vashonpreschurch.org.**

Blessings and Grace,

Jacq Skeffington

Mission Resource Buildings/Grounds Elder

News Update from the Deacons

The ministry of the deacons is one of compassion, witness and service. This takes many forms. I would like to mention some of the actions taken in the last few months as part of this ministry and those Deacons and others involved.

Myrtle has been sending cards, on a regular basis, to those who are sick or unable to get around or are bereaved. She also has called to find out if some need more attention.

Sheryl and Claudia organized baskets of fruit and other goodies at Christmas to be taken to those unable to attend church. They and others delivered baskets to 11 households. They are planning an Easter delivery.

Lindsay has been in charge of services at Vashon Community Care on alternating 1st and 5th Sundays. Chris Coldeen leads the singing of hymns and Dana Hofman and Nancy Tucker help with the service.

Jacque Skeffington (an elder) helped out by running the 5th Sunday service in December. These services run about 20-30 minutes and include prayers, hymns and a brief message (about 10 minutes). Anyone who would like to come and participate is welcome. We feel very much appreciated by those who attend from VCC.

Kathryn O'Laughlin records the prayers of the people every Sunday and Claudia emails these to the deacons to be included in personal prayers throughout the week. Sue Weston has been writing a column for the newsletter suggesting ways we all can show compassion and love for others in our daily lives both by helping Island organizations and in everyday interactions with our neighbors.

All of the deacons help with preparation, serving and clean up of communion. We meet regularly on the third Tuesday of the month and discuss the needs of the congregation and how best we can meet them. Please contact us if you have suggestions.

Deacon Lindsay Hofman

A Special Thanks to Phil Yunker and Jim Huff for painting Pastor Leigh's Office!!!

I am what I am

There is a song from the musical *LaCage* that states "I am what I am and what I am needs no excuses" The basic idea is that you need to be open and honest about who you really are and not hide what you are. If your identity is that of a follower of Christ then you need to "open up your closet and share who you really are with the world." This song continues "your life is a sham till you can shout out loud, hey world, here I am" Life as a Christian may not always be easy. Just like the song says, for a Christian sometimes life may be hard or disappointing. "Sometimes the aces and sometimes the duces." But if we would make our lives conduits for God's love to flow through us and into the world then we have to stand up and let the world know that "I am what I am" as a child of God and then daily be the best follower of Christ you can possibly be.

(I am what I am by Jerry Herman from the musical LaCage aux folles.)

Deacon Sue Weston

Clerk's Corner March 2019

Session held its monthly meeting on February 21, with one member absent. Members submitted written reports for their teams' activities; some discussion followed. There will be a new members class held during Lent. Plans were made for the Holy Week schedule. Much discussion revolved about the plans for a Cross Walk to be held on Good Friday. The elders unanimously supported the decision to have the walk and to invite other churches and the community to join in with us. There was also discussion on how we as a church can support the homeless in our community in times of emergency such as our recent snowstorms. We voted to be willing to open our doors for emergency shelter provided chaperones are available and to also coordinate with the community at large.

Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session

Calendar March 2019



March

- 2 Bible Study 10 AM
- 2 Spring Cleanup Work Party 9 - Noon
- 3 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 3 Faith Formation Class 9 AM
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service, Food Bank)
- 3 Hospitality Meeting after Worship
- 6 Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM combined with VUMC at VPC
- 7 Purposeful Service Meeting 5:30 PM
- 10 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 10 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 12 Lenten Taize Service 6:30 PM
- 14 Pi Day 10 AM - 3 PM
- 16 Bible Study 10 AM
- 17 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 17 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 19 Lenten Taize Service 6:30 PM
- 23 John Olsen Memorial 2 PM
- 24 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 24 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 Lenten Taize Service 6:30 PM
- 28 Theology of Tap 5:00 PM at Camp Calvos
- 31 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 31 Lenten Study 9 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study meets Mondays at noon.

Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9 AM on Tuesdays.

Toolbelts meet 9-Noon Tuesdays

Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Saturdays 10 AM.

Please note: Dates, times and events may change after publication.
Refer to the weekly e-News or Sunday bulletin for confirmation of
details.