

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



April 2019 Newsletter

Holy Week - Easter

Palm Sunday April 14th
Church Brunch 10 AM
Communion Service
Food Bank Sunday

Sunday – Wednesday April 14th -17th
Taize Service 6 PM at VPC

Maunder Thursday April 18th
Joint Communion Service
at VUMC 7 PM

Good Friday Cross Walk April 19th
Meet at Ober Park
1 PM

Good Friday Service April 19th
7 PM at VPC

Saturday Easter Vigil April 20th

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
CAMP BURTON - Time TBD

EASTER SERVICE
10 AM AT VPC

Good Friday Cross Walk

Why carry a cross on Good Friday? I suspect there are as many reasons as there are people. For me, it's a symbolic reminder that this work to which I am called, radical and extravagant love and grace...well it could cost me everything and Jesus is still asking, "Are you in despite what it could cost you?"

Jesus never once backed down, never once stopped loving, never once stopped reaching out to those his culture excluded. He never stopped. God is so much bigger than our definition of God. And God's love for all humankind is so much bigger than our definition of love.

Sometimes, oftentimes, living into love and grace for all, speaking up for truth...it's not popular and it's just hard.

I'll be helping to carry the cross on Good Friday not to show off or define myself as Christian. I'll be carrying it because it's hard, because I don't know what others might think or how I'll even be received, because I choose to take my place in this Body...even when it's hard. And perhaps it will help me remember that I'm called to do hard things the next time loving someone else doesn't feel easy. Perhaps it will remind me that I have a voice when someone being marginalized doesn't. Perhaps it will remind me that I both worship, love and am loved by someone who spent his whole life in service to others even when it resulted in his death on that cross.

I imagine it will be all those things and more but I pray it will remind me more deeply of my call to extravagant grace and radical love no matter the cost.

Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

As we move more deeply into Lent and prepare for Holy Week and Easter, I have been reflecting on our growing times of silence in worship. Many of you have reached out to share with me how meaningful this practice has been for you. It has been for me too. Adding a minute more each Sunday has helped us embrace the liminal space of this season.

We live in a cacophony of noisy distraction in this modern world of ours, much of it by our own choosing. For all of our instant access we have often sacrificed the gentleness of quiet moments. As our magi continue venturing around the church throughout this year, returning by another way, I wonder if part of our invitation is to venture into more quiet moments together, a chance to journey by another way.

During Holy Week we will have the opportunity to dwell in even more communal intentional silence. Palm Sunday evening through Wednesday evening we will offer our Taize Evening Prayer service nightly. It's a time of song and silence to prepare our hearts together for the three days of worship before Easter Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday. I'd also like to invite you to lean in to the quiet moments you can find in your own life as you prepare for Easter.

As always, I'm here. If you want to check in, take a walk or enjoy some silence with another soul, it would be my honor to share the time with you as we together continue in this journey and this art of being church.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,
Building and Grounds.

Building and Grounds The entrances to the church look great. Nancy and Jan vanRoessell cut back some shrubs that severely impacted Leigh's allergies but we'll have to dig up the roots and plant replacements. With the return of sunlight and warmer weather we'll have to continue trimming the shrubbery and weeding those flower beds so we're planning a **work party Saturday April 13th from 9-noon**. We'll also have to set up the social hall for brunch/worship the following day, Palm Sunday.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up the social hall for John Olsen's memorial. Even people walking through the church on their way to recovery programs commented on how beautiful everything looked.

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!

Blessings and Grace,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder



Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

During Lent there is a Taize service each Tuesday evening at 6:00 in our sanctuary.

On Palm Sunday our worship service will be in the social hall for a Church Brunch.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service, April 18th, will be at VUMC at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday Cross Walk is at 1:00 pm meet at Ober Park.

The Good Friday Service will be at VPC at 7:00 pm.

Easter

Sunrise Service is at Camp Burton - time TBD.

Easter Service at VPC is at 10:00 am

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Faith Formation Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages).

Faith Formation Class There will be a Lenten faith formation class Sundays in the library at 9 am.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

One Great Hour of Sharing The One Great Hour of Sharing collection will be taken on Palm Sunday, April 14th. Throughout Lent we have received information about the various mission areas that OGHS supports.

Heindsmann Scholarship Application Deadline

Only one person has picked up the Heindsmann scholarship application from the office. If you are interested in applying or know of someone who would qualify – note the **deadline of 2 PM Thursday, April 25th**. This scholarship is open to those individuals who are currently enrolled in a program of higher learning or are returning after an absence. It is not open to high school seniors.

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Easter Egg Hunt

Question: Who has more fun at the **Easter egg hunt?** The kids? Or Mom, dad and grandma, grandpa? Don't miss it! April 21 right after worship! Invite your neighbors and friends!



Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Palm Sunday April 14th “Church Brunch” Meet in the social hall for morning worship 10 AM. Don't forget to bring items for the food bank and your OGHS fish banks.

Easter Sunday on April 21st Congregants are invited to bring Easter treats for coffee hour and spring flowers for the sanctuary.

An Easter egg hunt will follow the Worship service. All children are invited. If you would like to help with wrapped candy, please leave contributions in the office before Palm Sunday.

Thank you! It has been a very busy time for the Hospitality/Fellowship Team! I have an enormous amount of gratitude for the enthusiastic and faithful members of our team. **Brownie Carver, Susan Commeree, Jo Goforth, Barb Huff, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman, Diana Lilje, Bev Skeffington, Kate Smith, Here Thieme, Nancy Tucker, Myrtle Walls, Laura JeanWalls-Fisher, Sue Weston and Barbara Zue** have baked pies, lovingly prepared for John Olsen's Memorial and will serve “church brunch” on Palm Sunday – special times for everyone. Thanks to these ladies and also to our ad-hoc members **Paul Blake, Thomas Abraham, Jim Huff, Doug Johnson, Jim Lilje, Jacq Skeffington and George Thieme** who help greatly when it is time for set up or clean up.

VPC Book Club Book Club meets on the 4th Friday this month, April 26th. The gathering will begin at 6:00 PM at Barb and Jim Huff's. The book selection is Devil in the White City by Erik Larson.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Deacon's Letter

Turning numbers into individuals can turn fear and hate into love and compassion. I stood on the corner at the Vashon stop light last month as part of a silent vigil to honor both our Vashon Syrian Muslims and the people of Christ Church, New Zealand. Just standing on a street corner for half an hour may not seem like a big deal but it can change both the people on the corner as well as the many people in cars driving by. Some of us were strangers to each other, but as we chatted quietly it was a chance to get to know others that I might not otherwise meet. I was a bit nervous about being on that corner but now I wish all of you could have joined us. Hate is so often motivated by fear and here I was surrounded by adults and children of different religions and ethnicities. And I was amazed, watching the cars driving by, at the diversity of the people in the cars. On this island we are very lucky to live in close quarters with people of different races and religions. That gives us a chance for people who might be different from us to become individuals and not just faceless numbers of "evil" or "destructive" others. Hate is truly not welcome here. As you make contact with people who are different from you will discover that they are not so different after all but have many of the same hopes and fears that you have. We have a loving God who loves all people. And so, if we want to be vessels through which God's love can freely flow out to a crying and battered world then we must take the time to see people as individuals and not numbers. No matter what society might say, there is no "other". There is only us and "hate is not welcome here."

Deacon Sue Weston

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting on March 14 with two members absent. The Pastor submitted updated goals for 2019 and each elder discussed the goals for their mission areas. Plans were finalized for Holy Week and discussion continued about the plans for the Cross Walk to be held on Good Friday. The procession will commence at Ober Park at 1 pm. Members of the session submitted written reports for their teams' activities.

Diana Lilje, Clerk of Session



Daffodills Planted by the Cub Scouts
Beautify the Church Grounds!

Mental Health Forum In May

A second important Forum in our focus on Mental Health issues is scheduled for May 18th. It is very timely that the Presbyterian Church is going to screen a very powerful film about Anxiety in children and young adults at the May 18th Forum. It begins at 9am. It will be shown for free.

There will be information each Sunday in the worship service about the mental health crisis in this country. Worship material that deals with mental health is available if you are interested.

Beverly Skeffington
Mental Health Forum Coordinator

Film Series on Living and Dying

Vashon Conversation for the Living about Dying is hosting a series of powerful films. Two award-winning documentaries, End Game and Extremis, will be featured for the final offering on Saturday, April 13 at the Land Trust Building, 1:00 – 4:00. Both documentaries invite us to consider difficult decisions from the perspective of patients, families and healthcare providers. Showings will be followed with discussion about the challenge and value of end-of-life decision making. Advance care planning facilitators will be available to answer questions and provide resources. Suggested donation: \$5.00. Popcorn is free!

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SCREENING OF ANGST, THE MOVIE

According to the surgeon general, one in 5 Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year and half of all Americans have such disorders at sometime in their lives. One in ten children/youth has a serious mental illness condition. Do I have your attention?

On Saturday, May 18th, from 9am to noon, VPC will present the movie ANGST, which deals with anxiety (and other mental disorders) in children and young adults. It is a powerful movie that everyone should see to better understand and to respond to those experiencing it, whether adult or young person. The movie is narrated largely by young people and how they experience anxiety in their daily life. There will be discussion following the movie. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. Please plan to attend this event. (movie is 60 minutes in duration). Having seen this movie, I can tell you it is VERY worthwhile. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this event.

Beverly Skeffington
Mental Health Forum Coordinator

Grief Support Group

Providence Hospice of Seattle Grief Support Services is offering a 6-week support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one in the last year. This group will meet on Vashon on Monday evenings beginning April 15th through May 20th, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This is a closed group and registration is required. Please contact Grief Support Services at 206.749.7702 for more information and to register. Space is limited.

What's on Your Mind.....

My Morning at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church

I was missing from the worship service with the Methodist Church on Sunday morning as I had been invited by Rev Binh Nguyen to attend worship at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church as the head of the clinic (sister Anna Nguyen, no relation to Binh).in Hue, Viet Nam would be there speaking about the clinic. It was so good to see Binh and Glo and Dale (a few among the others we had traveled with to Viet Nam in 2005). Binh sends his warmest regards to his sisters and brothers at Vashon Presbyterian Church.

The Kim Long Charity Clinic was founded in 1992 and has been running continuously since then. We were told today that the land it sits on has been leased all this time and now the owners wish to sell it and they must leave. That's the bad news. The Good news is that there is a German nonprofit (MISEREOR) that will foot 70% of the cost (\$1.6 million dollars) to build a new clinic, so they just need to raise \$450,000. This current clinic sees 450 patients each week at the clinic site. 18,000 patients have had dental care through the clinic. 15,000 patients who live in remote area have benefitted by a mobile unit. The clinic provides much-needed support for those with HIV/AIDS as well as nurturing the families of those with HIV/AIDS in an attempt to stop the stigma that still exists there.

Binh spoke of the blessing that financial support has meant for the scholarship program for girls in Viet Nam. The scholarships support children from elementary school and higher, including college. They find that the communities where children and especially girls get an education has great impact on the family of that student as well as the whole community. It breaks the cycle of poverty and provides hope and economic improvement of the community.

If you are interested in contributing to the clinic project or to the scholarship program or both, please make your contribution to Mercer Island Presbyterian Church, 3605 84th Avenue SW, Mercer Island , WA 98040., making a note on the memo line that it is for Kim Long Charity Clinic or Viet Nam Scholarship Program.

Beverly Skeffington

Calendar for April 2019

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)

April

- 2 Taize Service 6 PM
- 6 Bible Study 10 AM
- 7 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 7 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)(Food Bank)
- 9 Taize Service 6 PM
- 11 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 13 Spring Work Party 9- Noon
- 14 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 14 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 14 Palm Sunday Church Brunch 10 AM (OGHS Collection) (Food Bank)
- 14 Taize Service 6 PM
- 15 Taize Service 6 PM
- 16 Deacons Meeting 3:30 PM
- 16 Taize Service 6 PM
- 17 Taize Service 6 PM
- 18 Maundy Thursday Service at VUMC 7 PM
- 19 Good Friday Cross Walk meet at Ober Park 1 PM
- 19 Good Friday Tenebrae Service at VPC 7 PM
- 20 Bible Study 10 AM
- 20 Saturday Easter Vigil Time TBD
- 21 Sunrise Easter Worship Time TBD Camp Burton
- 21 Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 21 Easter Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt after Worship
- 25 Heindsmann Scholarship Applications Due 2 PM
- 25 IFCH Meal 5:30-6:30 PM
- 25 Theology on Tap 5:30 PM
- 26 VPC Book Club 6 PM at the Huff's
- 28 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 28 Faith Formation Class 9:00 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group meets in the Chapel at noon on Mondays.

Women's informal breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9:00 am on Tuesdays.

Tool Belts 9-noon on Tuesdays.

Bible Study meets in the library at 10 am on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

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