

J U N E 2 0 2 0

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

“Love One Another”

June 2020 Newsletter

Summer Events

Save these Dates!

Tuesday June 2, 9, 16, 23
Spiritual Journaling 7 pm

Friday June 5
First Friday Game Night 7 pm

Every Sunday
Art in Worship 2 pm

Every Monday
Text Study Noon

Tuesday June 16
Deacons/Session Meeting
3:30 and 4:15 pm

Friday June 19
VPC Book Club 7 pm

Every Monday, Wednesday
Happy Hour 4 pm

**What’s even bigger and more fun than
Game Night??? FIRST FRIDAY GAME NIGHT!!!**

A proven favorite Game Night takes it up a notch fun-wise on First Fridays. Virtual s’mores, and fire? Maybe not but we are assured that Outreach Elder and Game Host Extraordinaire Barb Huff will come up with some great ideas (and surprises) for First Friday Game Night. 7 pm this Friday June 5th. Be looking for the link in the news or special alert from Pastor Leigh.

New Faith Formation Class Starts this Week

Spiritual Journaling will be taught by Al Ross Weston on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Given the extra time at home and our reflections on life under distancing restrictions we’ve been provided with a special lens for deepening our faith. Whether you chose this or some other aspect of your life you will have the opportunity to learn the practical skills of journaling while contemplating and exploring your spiritual journey. Be sure to have a journal or writing paper and pen with you. The class will be offered the 5 Tuesdays in June. Join in any time.

See how much our tree and Weston and Garrett have grown in the past year! P 6.

See “What’s On Your Mind” P 8.

Dear Ones of VPC,

As I sit here writing this to you, I find myself stopping to take a deep breath. The virus is still among us, and who knows for how long. People of color are STILL being unjustly treated, and who knows for how long. Cancer still invades the lives of people we love, and who knows for how long. God's people crying out in pain, and who knows for how long.

That first paragraph reads like a modern psalm of lament. How long, O God. In our Sunday afternoon Art of Worship gathering, we have been reading and drawing through the psalms and once again I am reminded that the pain you and I feel is not unknown to God nor to all the saints that have gone before us. Life has hard times and our society is going through a particularly hard one now. Yet God is still God and God is calling us to be a part of the change, of the healing.

During this virus, we have been reminded that we belong to one another, that my health is dependent on yours and yours on mine. We've been reminded that our actions have consequences. We don't wear a mask for our own sake but for the sake of others. And as a white U. S. citizen, my actions, my white silence, and the privileges I don't recognize also hurt my siblings of color. As I cry out How Long, O God, I wonder if God is not calling back the response of "You tell me."

During the course of this summer, we will be looking at a sermon series on the Book of Exodus. We will also be looking at several different discussion opportunities on how we can be better allies to people of color, how we can learn more about privileges that we take for granted. I'm inviting you to take a deep breath and do some hard work with me. And I'm inviting you to walk through this wilderness journey trusting that there really will be daily bread each day and each day's portion will be enough. This is NOT an invitation to politics. It's an invitation to go deeper in what the virus has taught us already; we belong to each other.

I pray for each of you every day. I cherish you and I miss our in-person gatherings but we are still the church and God is still God and for that I am most grateful.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

Game Nights Continue. Game Nights continue each Friday except for VPC Book Club Fridays. This week a special First Friday Game Night! See p 1 for details.

Barb Huff, Invitation and Outreach Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

The worship team met in May. We reviewed our Zoom services and it was suggested that pictures from our church and activities would be a good addition to our service. Please send any pictures from our church to Leigh that you think would be useful.

We have been pleased with our Zoom services, but let us know if you are having problems linking in. Also, I would like to hear from anyone who would like to be included on the worship team.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship.

Hospitality Meeting There will be a Hospitality Meeting Thursday June 4th at 4 pm. It will be a short meeting to check in and talk about ideas for summer “gathering”. A link will be provided in the Wednesday enews this week. All are welcome!

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, IFCH dinners,
Mission Partner Relations.

Purposeful Service committee met via Zoom on May 15. We are continuing to look at new mission initiatives while ensuring that the church building closure does not impair the ongoing programs. VPC is still committed to supporting the Food Bank by asking the congregation to either make a monetary donation (P. O. Box 1205) or drop off goods at Thriftway, IGA or Chase Bank.

The Heindsmann scholarship interviews and award will be held this fall.

The impact of the virus is expected to increase the number of people experiencing mental health issues. The committee will be recommending financial assistance for the local programs being created to deal with these issues. Our ongoing efforts in this area include the VPC group that meets every other week, with about four people attending via zoom. When we can return to group worship services, we will have presentations by two of our mission partners: Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (new partner in 2020) and Vietnam Ministries.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Faith Exploration Team News

Areas of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

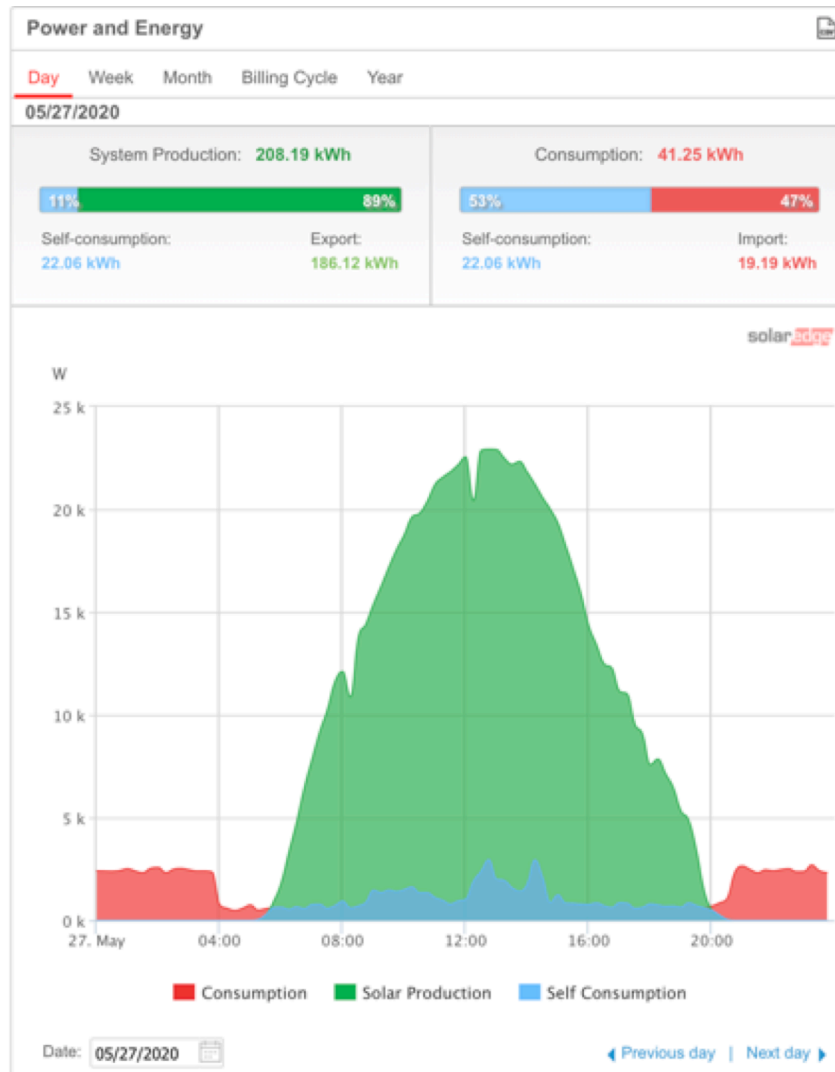
Spiritual Journaling A new Faith Formation class will begin Tuesday, June 2nd at 7 pm. See detailed information on P 1.

VPC Book Club Book club will meet June 19th at 7 pm. We will be discussing The Kingdom by Emmanuel Carrere. See list on p 8 for upcoming selections.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Mission Resource - Making Haystacks While the Sun Shines

Many people have asked me how the solar installation is working. Right now we are producing far more electricity than we consume. The excess power is being put back onto the island’s electrical grid and we are receiving credit for that excess from Puget Sound Energy. Our electric bill is zero though we still do pay some small connection fees. This will be the case from about mid-April through about mid-October. In the fall and winter when the days get short and cloudy our usage will start exceeding the output from the panels. When that happens, the credit we are building now will pay our electrical bills.



Solar panels produce the most electricity with clear skies and when the sun is at an optimum angle. The graph above shows our usage and production for May 27th. We start producing power shortly after sunrise with output rising steadily as the sun gets higher in the sky and moves to the South. After 1 PM the production drops off until just before sunset when it goes to zero. This arc is called a “haystack”. There are a couple of notches in this haystack when power production dropped, probably because the sun was briefly covered by a cloud.

Our production far exceeded our usage on the 27th as it has every day this month. Oddly, our highest usage is from 9PM to 4AM. That’s when the parking lot lights are working. When we start using the building again, the daytime usage will increase back to more normal levels.

Jim Lilje. Mission Resource Elder

Mission Resource Buildings and Grounds

Just a year ago, after worship Sunday June 2nd 2019 we “burned the mortgage”. Rev Scott Lumsden’s message that day seemed so appropriatethat when God calls, if we answer His call, things may not turn out as we thought they would but His purpose will be served.

Well, we burned the mortgage and now we can’t gather in the building! So what do we do? We gather beyond the building. We learn something new every day and we build relationships with people all over the country. So what’s next? We add infrastructure (wifi) to continue gathering together within the building (when we can safely), around the island, and all across the country. We add internet access points in the sanctuary and throughout the building so that Pastor Leigh and the teachers will have the option of streaming on line while working in their safe spaces. ... when God calls, if we answer His call, things may not turn out as we thought they would but His purpose will be served.

Continued thanks to all who drop by the church and pick up trash, trim the shrubbery, mow the lawn and weed those flowerbeds. The Mission Resources Facilities Team meets the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom. We’ll post a link for Tuesday, June 2nd at 4:00pm. Check the weekly Zoom links and join in the conversation of where you feel God is calling us as faithful stewards.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington

Clerk’s Corner

Session held its monthly meeting May 19th via ZOOM with all Elders present. The Deacons joined in again (virtually) for a brief period of meditation and prayer led by Sue Weston and Bob Spangler. Pastor Leigh reported she continues Pastoral visits with social distancing as well as virtual visits. Finance Elder Jim Lilje reported that VPC is still in good financial condition. We submitted a proposed contract to Harbor School for the upcoming school year and applied for a grant of \$5000 from Seattle Presbytery to help pay salary related expenses. Bob Spangler reported Purposeful Service Committee met via Zoom on May 15 and decided to publicize and award the Heindsmann scholarship in the fall. In view of mental health problems that are expected to arise from the spread of the virus, the committee will be looking at ways to provide funding in this regard as a local mission effort. Al Ross-Weston reported that Elizabeth Loveness will finish her class on recycling and creation in May and Al will lead a 4 week class on Spiritual Journaling in June. The Worship team met and discussed using power point pictures during zoom worship services and unmuting during the Call to Worship. A memorial service for George Thieme was planned for May 24th.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Deacon's News

Fear Not

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1: 9

"...for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:7

Entering our fourth month of the COVID-19 quarantine, we are now well settled into our self-isolating, social-distancing, mask-wearing-in-public routine. As bizarre as it would have seemed at the beginning of March, this lifestyle has become our new normal. So much so that as our gathering restrictions begin to ease, we are uncomfortable and apprehensive of returning to our former routines.

And why wouldn't we be uncomfortable? Amid the constant and often conflicting barrage of information from all sources, including epidemiologists who disagree with each other, and CDC advice given one day and contradicted the next, how can we *not* be unsettled? We seek definitive science-based guidance in a heretofore unoccupied arena where the science appears far from settled. But here's the good news: As Christians, not only are we given the life-saving gift of faith, we are *commanded* to use it. When we embrace our faith, we find that there is not room for fear. Faith and fear cannot coexist. We also accept that it is our obligation—our mission-- to share our faith with others through our actions and our words. Perhaps never before in our lifetimes has this mission been so critical.

So in the coming weeks as we navigate our gradual reentry into society, let's set aside our own worries and help others do the same. May we remember that as God's children, we are loved, nurtured, and strengthened. Let us take to heart the words of Isaiah (41:10): *"...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you..."*

Thanks be to God!

Deacon Nancy Tucker

Weston's Annual Tree Growth Report



2017



2018



2019



2020



Weston's Annual Tree Growth Report

Even with a different view it is plain to see the tree and Weston and Garrett are thriving! ... as is our congregation! Thanks to Weston and Garrett for caring and keeping the annual growth report going.

What's on Your Mind?

Socially Isolated Giving

For the last 2 plus months we have had to learn many new ways to exist. Being socially isolated is not the way we wish to be but the way we need to be to protect each other. We have needed to learn how to Zoom and how to continue being church.

When this social isolation first started, as your Financial Secretary, I was concerned that not being together each week in church for the offering plate to be passed would significantly affect our budget. And I expected that our attendance would be diminished. Oh my, I am ashamed of myself. I know now how little faith I had. The Lord has provided for us. Each week we have had most of our regular attendees and more and you have risen to the occasion so that our giving has been all that we needed. We have a very healthy church and a healthy budget. Blessing be on all of you!

Diana Lilje, Financial Secretary

Grocery Store Receipts

THRIFTWAY RECEIPTS

I would like to be tallying the Thriftway receipts and since you cannot get into the church at this time to drop them off, I would like to offer pick up service at your house. Please let me know if you have receipts that I could come and pick up from you. Thanks.

Beverly Skeffington (206/354-8921)
beverlyskeffington@gmail.com



VPC Book Club Selections

June	The Kingdom	Emmanuel Carrere
July	Town Kid	Gary Porter
August	Love and Other Consolation Prizes	Jamie Ford
September	The Nightingale	Kristin Hannah

Calendar for June 2020

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



June

- 5 First Friday Game Night 7 PM
- 7 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion Service
- 14 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 16 Deacons Meeting 3:30 PM
- 16 Sessions Meeting 4:15 PM
- 19 Book Club 7 PM
- 21 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 28 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

See Your Zoom Schedules and ENEWS for
Ongoing Activities

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