

J U L Y 2 0 2 0

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

“Love One Another”



July 2020 Newsletter

VPC Summer Event Schedule

July 5th

Combined Service w/VUMC

July 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st
BEST GAME NIGHTS

July 17th

VPC Book Club

July 3rd – August 30th
Summer Mini Gatherings

July 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Spiritual Journaling

July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Text Study

All Events on Zoom except
the Summer Mini Gatherings

Summer Mini Gatherings

Summer Mini Gatherings will provide a very gradual return to in-person fellowship once again. In the informal and welcoming setting of people's gardens, decks, or island beaches and parks we can relax and enjoy each other's company. Pastor Leigh plans to attend all of the mini gatherings and really looks forward to these personal visits once again. We will observe the appropriate safe distancing, face masks and limitations on numbers. We will use all precautions to insure that these visits will be safe and within the guidelines set out by government recommendations. Sign up with Nancy Tucker. You can indicate whether you want to be a host, a guest or whether you want to wait until later in the summer or fall. Cautiously moving forward!



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Dear Ones of VPC,

Of all of the fruits of the Spirit, I think my biggest struggle is patience. I pray for it daily in these Covid-19 days. I miss you. I miss our in-person gatherings, I miss our in-person worship. I miss when you would stop by the office just to say hi.

I've been reflecting a lot lately on what it is that I most miss about the pre-Covid days and our times together are at the top of my list...that and Disneyland. At the same time, I am enormously proud to moderate a Session that is being cautious, concerned not only for each of us in the congregation but for the well being of the whole island. I'm grateful to serve alongside these elders who are prayerfully waiting for the time when it once again safe for us to gather.

My patience is strengthened by the patience of others around me. I suspect that's the case with all of the spiritual fruits. When I experience and witness kindness, I want to share more kindness myself and so on. It's a good reminder that we are stronger in community than we are alone. We are more reflective of the Body of Christ together than any of us can be on our own. And our health is dependent on one another. The health of the island is dependent on us and each and every person.

As you are practicing your own patience, searching for your own spiritual fruit in these days, I pray that you would draw strength from the ties that do bind us across the distance we must keep in order to stay healthy. I am thankful for our Zoom gatherings, our phone calls, and our cards. And most importantly, I am thankful that you and I are woven together by the One who calls us all.

As always, I keep you in my prayers, I cherish the times when we speak and see one another, and I cherish YOU. We will get through this time and there will be lessons that we learn to carry forward. Until then, know that you are not alone.

Love and Grace,
Leigh



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

The Purposeful Service team met via Zoom on June 12. The team recommended that we send via the e-News an article prepared by PCUSA about racial justice. The e-News will also mention the Saturday showing by Zoom and community discussion of the movie “13th.”

The committee discussed the possibility of a congregation-wide reading of a book on racial justice, and the elders from Purposeful Service, Faith Development and Outreach met by Zoom with Leigh to discuss this and other possible educational projects.

The Mental Health group continues to meet via Zoom the first and third Thursdays. Bev regularly sends out information about events and resources to interested people.

Speakers and information about our mission partners are being deferred until there is further information about when we can resume worship services in the sanctuary.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Eder

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Areas of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Summer Mini Gatherings Summer Mini Gatherings will provide a very gradual return to in-person fellowship once again. In the informal and welcoming setting of people’s gardens, decks, or island beaches and parks we can relax and enjoy each other’s company. Pastor Leigh plans to attend all of the mini gatherings and really looks forward to these personal visits once again. We will observe the appropriate safe distancing, face masks and limitations on numbers. Contact Nancy Tucker if you are interested in knowing more.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship, Evangelism and Invitation.

Game Night What makes for a happy weekend? A happy hour followed by Game Night! Fridays at 5 pm for happy hour and 7 pm for the BEST Game Night Ever! Invite the neighborhood!

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial Stewardship

Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

The flower beds are in full bloom and dogwood tree out front is covered with new growth! They proclaim the Lord's glory day in and day out, whether we notice them while gathering at VPC for worship or if they go unnoticed as we gather virtually while remaining in the safety and comfort of our homes.

We are just about finished increasing wifi coverage in the sanctuary to allow us to continue online worship via zoom when we resume limited worship in the sanctuary. It's quite interesting that many of the churches in our presbytery are experiencing increased attendance at virtual worship gatherings as are we.

Although it's very quiet around the church these days and we're not sure when we'll gather together in a large group again, there is work to be done. We have come to agreements with Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool for the fall so playgrounds and parking lots need to be maintained. There are a couple of drainage issues that we can only address in the drier months and light fixtures that can only be replaced when classrooms are empty.

Please contact me if you'd be willing to help and we can coordinate our schedules.

Jacq Skeffington Buildings and Grounds

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Sacraments celebration, music program, readers, bulletin, ecumenical worship

The VUMC will be attending our Zoom service on July 5th. Pastor Paul will be on vacation.

The worship team will be meeting on Monday, July 13th, at 7:00.

Please contact me if you would like to provide music for our services.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Faith Exploration

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Faith Formation Class We will continue our class on spiritual journaling through the month of July.

VPC Book Club will the 17th at 7. The discussion will be on the book Town Kid by Gary Porter.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Be a Peacemaker

“...the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.”

James 3:5,10

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

God hears what we say every day. He hears us when we compliment, encourage, and urge others forward. He also hears us when we condemn and criticize, and let's face it: it has never been easier in our society to do exactly that. Whether it's politics, pandemic, or police, we as a people seem to have misplaced our ability to engage in civil discourse. We can get so wrapped up in our own viewpoint (which is the correct one, of course) that we become hyper-defensive and impugn even the motives of those with whom we disagree. The easy anonymity of social media sites does not show us as God's children at our best. It is a breeze for people of all viewpoints to spread malice-tinged misinformation, and it is SO tempting to jump in and set them right. Rarely does this have a good outcome.

Last week I attended a Zoom webinar devoted to the healing properties of essential oils. The 30 or so participants were women of all ages and the moderator, a mother of four in her thirties, was doing a great job of explaining the benefits of each oil when a Zoom “bomber” made his (or her) presence known in the chats. Using a racially charged screen name, the bomber typed in dozens of hate-filled, profane invectives aimed at blacks, Jews, women in general and the moderator in particular. This could have quickly become a Zoom slugfest, but no one in the audience took the bait. The moderator, ignorant of all of this until she concluded her presentation, noticed that there was a lot of chatter, which she initially took to mean that the attendees had asked lots of questions. We watched as she started reading the comments, her eyes widening with surprise at the vitriol, and then said, “Oh, my. It looks like someone has joined this meeting by mistake.” She addressed the legitimate questions and comments, thanked the audience and concluded the meeting. By any standards of decency, moral outrage was justified in this situation; yet by responding not with sanctimony but with compassion, the moderator disarmed the bomber and left him to peddle his hatred elsewhere.

Let's acknowledge that we have a choice in how we respond to talk and actions we consider offensive, or even if we choose to be offended at all. Let's not give power to hate by engaging on the same level. Instead, let's be peacemakers. Remember, Jesus didn't say, “Blessed are those who are right.”

Deacon Nancy Tucker

P.S. For your entertainment, the ever-creative Piano Guys have taken their talent to a new level. Please check this out—you'll be impressed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3Z9oJBuetI&feature=youtu.be>



Calendar for July 2020

July

- 5 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 12 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 14 Deacons Meeting 3:30 pm Session Meeting 4:15 pm
- 17 VPC Book Club 7 pm
- 19 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 19 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 26 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Art in Worship* Sundays 2 pm
- Text Study Group* Mondays Noon
- Morning Prayer* Tuesdays 8:30 am
- Morning Prayer* Wednesdays 8 am
- Happy Hours* Monday Wednesday Friday 5 pm
- Game Night* Friday 7 pm

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