

AUGUST 2020

Vashon Presbyterian Church

“Love One Another”

August 2020 Newsletter

Late Summer Events

August 9, 16, 23 30

Early Morning Prayer 8:30
Sunday Worship 10

August 9, 16, 23, 30

“Art in Worship” 2 pm

August 11, 18, 25

“Spiritual Journaling” 7 pm

August 7, 14, 28

Game Nights 7 pm

August 21st

VPC Book Club 7 pm

August through the 31st

Informal Mini Gatherings

There’s Still Fun to be Had with VPC Zoom Activities

As summer drags on and social distancing is still very much in place we are all getting a little restless. We have enjoyed being able to be connected by Zoom.....**but many have not yet taken advantage of all that is available.** So if you’re restless and still don’t feel comfortable with in-person gatherings, we encourage you to try one of Zoom activities that you haven’t yet jumped in to.

Game Night is really fun and is for all ages. The whole Dorr family joined in one evening and the kids were the stars of the evening.

VPC Book Club Have you thought of joining book club but didn’t want to go out at night or hadn’t read the book in time etc? Well here’s an easy way to try it out! Just Zoom into the meeting Friday evening, August 21st at 7 pm. Check out the book selection list on p 4. If you are not inclined to join the Zoom meeting maybe you would like to read one of the books and meet with someone from book club for a dessert and discuss the book informally. Give it a try!

Mediation Prayer with Movement Pastor Leigh has been leading prayer with movement on Wednesday mornings at 8 am. A new and inspirational experience and you can leave your visual feature of Zoom off so you can try the movements and not be seen!

There are also many other opportunities. It is important to say that if you have not joined the Zoom activities because of technical problems or just not feeling comfortable using Zoom in general there are members ready and willing to come to your home and with “safe distancing” help you get going. If you don’t have the technology to “Zoom” we can find a friend with zoom and with “safe distancing” get you together to join in . Contact Pastor Leigh if you’d like help!

Dear Ones of VPC,

In March, when we first took worship online, I was concerned we wouldn't be back together in time for Easter. It wasn't long before it became clear that Covid-19 was far more serious and impacting than any of us realized then. We had to adapt.

What I continue to be encouraged by is your ability to do just that, to adapt. Your Session has adapted beautifully, with no previous training in this. They have quickly adapted their programming and their leadership to make it all work and their work is thriving.

The Deacons have adapted. They have stepped up and led us with their caring, compassion and concern for each and every one. Their calls and visits and check ins have been an invaluable gift to me and to everyone.

And you, my dear friends, have adapted too. As I see your faces pop up on my laptop screen each Sunday in worship, in Text Study, at Happy Hours, Game Nights, in meetings and all the many ways in which you and I gather together, I am reminded how very faithful you are.

You pay attention and remain curious about what God is doing in our midst and you point to hope and grace and love each and every day. Never before has it been so clear how much we belong to one another. You cheer one another on, you pray for and encourage each other, and you lovingly and faithfully continue to support the church.

One of my favorite quotations is by Charles Colson, who said, "Life is a mess. And theology must be lived out in the midst of that mess." You and I are living in messy days and we can't know what the future holds but we are living out our faith and theology together in the midst of the mess. That's who you are. That's who I have come to know you to be. You are a congregation who moves forward through messy moments, who lovingly and courageously adapts to what is needed. You are a beautiful example of what it means to be the church and I am so incredibly grateful to be your pastor.

I continue to pray that we will be able to gather together in person soon. And while we wait for that time, we will continue to gather, we will continue to ask questions, to show up and be present, to learn and grow and be the church together.

I thank God for you, each and every day.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship
Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

Trace Hyde and I completed installation of an access point increasing **wifi coverage in the sanctuary**. This will allow us to continue online worship via zoom when we resume limited worship in the sanctuary. It will also allow greater flexibility in projecting online videos or images in the sanctuary, library and chapel.

Session received correspondence from **Creative Preschool** that they do not feel comfortable resuming classes for the 2020-2021 school year. Session agreed to forgive their rent for the fall term and will adjust the budget to reflect the lost income for the remainder of 2020. We are also in discussion with **Carpe Diem** about their plans for the fall. A contract has been agreed upon but includes a clause to adjust rent if necessary depending upon enrollment. We are also looking at building modifications to increase air flow in the classrooms and possible outdoor instructional spaces.

There are **still a couple of drainage issues in the crawlspace beneath the social hall** and parking lot that we can only address in the drier months. Please contact me if you'd be willing to help and we can coordinate our schedules.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington

Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Purposeful Service committee did not meet in July, but we will have a planning session online in August. We will start the publicity and interviews for the Heindsmann scholarship, and recommend to session another mission partner. We will ensure that the congregation has information about the work of our current mission partners even if we are not worshipping in the sanctuary.

Please remember our commitment to the Food Bank. Even though we do not have the first Sunday collection at the service, food and nonperishables can be dropped off at the local supermarkets.

As a community committed to creation care, VPC encourages recycling at both the county transfer station and the first Sunday styrofoam collection featured in the e-news. With the building closed to the public we are unable now to collect members' recyclables in our new bins.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian Formation (all ages)

Spiritual Journaling The spiritual journaling class will continue on Tuesdays 7 pm. Each week a prompt is given and members of the class share their response. Discussions of how individuals use journaling and how it relates to their spiritual journey have been very inspiring! You can join the class at any time. Join in!

August Book Club The VPC Book Club will meet Friday, August 21st 7 pm. We will be discussing Love and Other Consolation Prizes by Jamie Ford. Join us!

Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Upcoming Book Club Selections

September The Nightingale Kristi Hannah

October Ho Chi Minh: A Life William J. Duiker

November One Long River of Song Brian Doyle

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

Outreach continues with Friday night Game Nights
via zoom 7pm - same link as worship.

Yard Sale - there will be no yard sale this year

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

The worship team will be sending out a survey by email about your comfort level with in person worship and your preferences for gathering. Please take a few moments to inform us of your opinions. We would like to hear back from everyone.

Let us know if you would like to furnish music, or if you know of anyone who would like to play for one of our services. Musicians from across the country are also invited to participate!

The worship team would also like to know your favorite hymns. Contact Brownie at bc2vashon@centurytel.net

Leigh will be out of town next Sunday August 9th. Bruce Baker will be delivering the message.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Mini Gatherings! As people feel more comfortable meeting in person with safe distancing in place, the mini gatherings are beginning to happen! If you would like to join in contact Nancy Tucker, who is the Point Person, or Pastor Leigh who'll coordinate through Nancy. It's beautiful summer weather. There are many safe options for getting together for real! Hope to see you FTF soon!

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Put on Your Own Oxygen Mask First

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22: 37-40

As this pandemic digs in its heels, prayer requests from this congregation and doubtless countless others center around finding the discernment, the patience, and the energy to know how to best help those facing serious obstacles and challenges. In the early days of COVID it was easy for almost everyone in the church to minister to others; we had boundless enthusiasm for such outreach. As the virus drags on, though, it seems we are growing individually and collectively exhausted, yet we all still resolutely reach out to others despite our own weariness. Perhaps it is time to follow Jesus's example and take time to retreat and recharge.

While the Bible doesn't explicitly instruct us to take a spa day, there are plenty of passages that point to God's expectations that we will take care of the body created in His image, and of the mind and spirit that reside within. We are expected to love ourselves, as evidenced in the second greatest commandment. Loving ourselves, including replenishing our physical, mental, and spiritual stores needs to be a priority if we hope to successfully serve as God's hands and feet. So let's be kind to ourselves, unembarrassed and unapologetic about serving our own needs so that we can better serve others'.

Although this is especially true for healthcare workers, it is probably unrealistic to think they will find much downtime until the pandemic crisis has passed. Claudia Ross-Weston shared this prayer at our Deacons meeting. It resonated with us and we hope it will strike a chord within you as well.

Prayer of Awed Thanks for Nurses

“Witnesses, attendants, bringers of peace; brilliant technical machinists; selfless cleaners of all liquids no matter how horrifying; deft finders of veins when no veins seem available; soothers and callers and amusers; tireless and patient and tender souls; brisk and efficient when those are the tools to keep despair at bay; those with prayers in their mouths as their patients slide gently through the mysterious gate, never to return in a form like the shriveled still one in bed; feeders and teasers, mercies and singers; they who miss nothing with their eyes and ears and fingers and hearts; they who are not saluted and celebrated and worshipped as they ought to be; they who are the true administrations of hospitals and clinics, for it is they who have their holy hands on the brows and bruises of the broken and frightened; they who carry the new infants of their sobbing exhausted thrilled mothers; they who must carry the news of damage and death to the family in the waiting room; they whom You know, each and every one, glorious and lovely in greens and blues and rainbow clothing; they who are You in every tender touch and quiet friendly gentle murmured remark; they who are the best of us; bless them always and always, Mercy; for they are the clan of calm and the tribe of tender, and I bow in thanks for them. And so: amen.”

From A Book of Uncommon Prayer by Brian Doyle

P.S. Although these are indeed difficult and divisive days, imagine if you were born in 1900. Check out this video for a gentle reminder of how blessed we are:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-IzlvGRxA8>

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting July 21st via ZOOM with all Elders present. Notice was received from Creative Preschool that they were not comfortable with reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. After discussion Jim Lilje moved to forgive the preschool's rent for the fall session of 2020 and adjust the budget to reflect the lost income for the remainder of 2020. Jim also reported that VPC is still in good financial condition. Donations continue to exceed anticipated amounts required to support our budget. A contract has been signed with Harbor School for the upcoming school year and we have received a grant of \$5000 from Seattle Presbytery to help pay salary related expenses. We have also arranged to receive credit and debit donations online and a link allowing electronic donations has been added to the VPC website. Pastor Leigh reported she continues Pastoral visits with social distancing as well as virtual visits and forwarded information from the presbytery about cautiously resuming worship in the future. Worship will survey the congregation about resuming limited worship in the sanctuary. Purposeful Service and Faith Formation plan to coordinate congregation-wide readings on racial justice and create small group discussions led by elders. Elders are reading **White Fragility** and will assess it as a congregational reading for discussion. Outreach reported the continued success of Friday Night Game Nights and with session's approval, will begin posting recorded zoom sermons on public media. Authorization to resume 12 step meetings of no more than 5 people was granted provided the group present a request to the building use coordinator outlining their plans to meet state guidelines.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session



Members have dropped by to water, weed and nurture the church landscape on our warm summer days. Here Kathy O'Laughlin waters the front flower beds!



Calendar for August 2020

(all events on Zoom unless otherwise stated)

Aug

- 2 Sunday Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 2 Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Communion)
- 9 Sunday Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 16 Sunday Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 18 Deacon's Meeting 3:30 pm
- 18 Session Meeting 4:30 pm
- 21 VPC Book Club 7 pm
- 23 Sunday Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 23 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 30 Sunday Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 30 Sunday Worship Service 10 am

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Art in Worship Sundays 2 pm

Text Study Group Mondays Noon

Coffee at Sporty's Tuesdays 9 am

Spiritual Journaling Tuesdays 7 pm

Movement Prayer Wednesdays 8 am

Happy Hours Mon Wed Fri 5 pm

Games Nights Fridays 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.