

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 0

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

**Love One Another**

## November 2020 Newsletter

### **Special Study on Racial Justice “The Color of Compromise”**

Theology Pub returns to explore racial justice through a series of videos entitled “The Color of Compromise.” Your discussion leaders Bob Spangler, Al Ross Weston and Barb Huff will show a 20-minute video and then lead a discussion. This series will last six weeks until November 19<sup>th</sup> on Thursdays at 5-6:30 pm.

### **Holiday Bazaar**

Each Monday during Happy Hour someone will bring an idea for us to paint, mold, sew or bake to give us the opportunity to visit over a little holiday project. Materials will be available and can be delivered to people’s doors before the Happy Hour. On December 13<sup>th</sup> we’ll have a virtual Christmas Bazaar!

### **Barn-Raising Fund Raiser**

The Vashon Care Network (VCN) grew out of the need to connect people on Vashon with services, supplies, and support required to live at home independently. VCN helps Islanders by offering free medical equipment and supplies through our Care Closet and information regarding care options for individual care needs. Dedicated volunteers over the past year, have provided more than 1,200 islanders with needed medical equipment. Donations have increased and the pandemic has resulted in more islanders in need. The Care Closet, located at the Vashon Lutheran Church, is full and overflowing! PLEASE JOIN US in a campaign to build two small barns, to be located adjacent to the Vashon Lutheran Church parking lot. Go to our website ([vashoncarenetwork.org](http://vashoncarenetwork.org)) for additional information. You may donate through the website or send a check to Vashon Care Network, PO Box 13135, Vashon, WA 98013.

Save the Date!

The Color of Compromise  
Pub Theology  
November 5, 12, 19

VPC Book Club  
November 20

Thanksgiving Pie w/Leigh  
November 26

First Sunday of Advent  
November 29

Advent Faith Formation Class  
Begins December 1

Holiday Bazaar  
December 13



Dear Ones of VPC,

The other day, while on the ferry, I was treated to orcas playing in the water. It always takes my breath to watch them. As the ferry captain announced the pod was passing by, masked passengers jumped from their cars to stand and watch together. Each time this has happened on my travels, I've been struck by how fascinated we all become, how cameras come out and everyone has a smile. There is a oneness in the watching.

On Wednesdays, during our Happy Hour time we have been sharing "Wonderful Wednesday." It's just been a time to stop and share the wonderful things we notice in this life, to be fascinated and smile together, like when the orcas leap through the ferry channel. I think we need to honor the wonderful more. God created a world of beautiful creatures and changing seasons, flowers and trees and birds in the air and we should stop and pay attention.

As you think about and plan for this year's Thanksgiving, I recognize that your plans may not be as robust as in years past. For many, there will be grief in the awareness that we can't have the holiday seasons like we'd like with others. And for those of you who are available, I'd like to invite you to join me on Thanksgiving Day at 6 pm for dessert. I'll be having pumpkin pie with whipped cream from the can...it's my favorite. I'll be on Zoom at our VPC link and if you want to stop in and share some dessert time with me, I'd welcome that. I'd also like to hear something for which you are thankful.

Most importantly, I am thankful this season that you and I are still held in love by the One who never lets us go. And if you find these days harder than others, please know that I would be honored to check in with you by phone, on Zoom or for a distanced walk. You are not alone.

Grace and Peace,  
Leigh



## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Text Study** A new time for this group. Text Study now meets on Tuesdays at noon. The group reads the new scriptures for the week and discusses them.

Always a lively time. Join in!

**The Color of Compromise** For six Thursdays our discussion leaders, Bob Spangler, Barb Huff and Al Ross Weston will explore racial justice through a series of videos entitled “The Color of Compromise”. There will be opportunities for open honest discussion.

Through November 19<sup>th</sup> .

5-6:30 pm.

**Advent Series** As the Theology Pub series ends an Advent faith formation class on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm will begin. We look forward to lively faith forming discussions in the coming fall season.

**VPC Book Club** meets on Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing One Long River of Song by Brian Doyle. See p 5 for upcoming selections.

*Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder*

Lindsay’s  
“Zoom  
partner”  
Her grand  
daughter-  
Victoria  
Lindsay!



## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**All Saints Day** We will celebrate All Saints’ Day with the Methodist on November 1st. We hope you can join as we celebrate our saints who have completed their baptism. This also a communion Sunday.

**Christ the King Sunday** is November 22nd.

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

**Virtual Christmas Bazaar** Look for something fun and functional during Monday’s Happy Hour during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Each Monday someone from hospitality will show us how to bake, make, sew, paint and cook our way through this pandemic kind of holiday. At some point in mid December we’ll have our virtual Christmas bazaar. Not a serious fundraiser just the opportunity to visit over some of the fun and creative preparations for Christmas.

**Zoom Partners** Recently some of us have been inviting a friend that has not been able to use Zoom to join us on Sunday mornings for the worship service. If you are someone who uses Zoom and has the capacity for more than one “Zoom station” (far enough apart so that they don’t interfere with each other) you can be a Zoom partner too. Get in touch with Leigh or Liz to make arrangements.

**Hospitality Meeting** Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am after the Sporty’s Coffee gathering. We’ll be making plans for Advent and Christmas.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder*

Mission Resource  
Team News  
Area of Responsibility  
Financials  
Building and Grounds

Purposeful Service  
Team News  
Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene Weekend,  
IFCH Dinners, Mission Partner Relations

**Buildings and Grounds** Remember what great fun we used to have at the Halloween celebration? Candy for the kids on the front porch and a roaring fire to warm up by. As with most things this year Halloween was a little different. We were still lit up and a few costumed characters greeted those who dropped by but no candy was distributed and everyone was encouraged to maintain masking and social distancing. We're still not sure about plans for the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Lighting, but be assured, COVID cannot stop Christmas! We are called to live with joy and hope, remembering The Light entering the world at Christmas.

We had another very productive, socially distanced, **work party** October 17<sup>th</sup>. Let's plan to have work parties on the second Saturday of each month. Barb had a great idea to shape the shrubs around the north end parking area so bring hedge trimmers if you have them.

Our major project now is to **install opening windows** in the social hall, offices and classrooms so that Leigh, Carpe Diem students and teachers can meet and work safely indoors during the winter months. Sliding windows to replace fixed windows above the large picture windows have been ordered and will be installed by a contractor in early November.

I'd like to switch our toolbelts group meetings to 10 AM Thursdays. Since I volunteer in the office Tuesdays, I'm often distracted by clerical events which keep me from getting my hands dirty with maintenance projects leaving volunteers alone. Let me know if you're available Thursday mornings for changing lightbulbs or furnace filters or minor carpentry and plumbing repairs.

Blessings and Grace,  
Jacq Skeffington

With session concurrence, the committee selected **Rainier Valley Leadership Academy** for the 2020 mission initiative donation. RVLA is a charter school in south Seattle serving primarily minority and students with special needs and providing courses and skills required for college admission.

**The Heindsmann scholarship** was awarded to Tage Rauen, a Vashon native and mathematics major at UW. Tage recently resumed his classes at UW after an injury required him to leave his program.

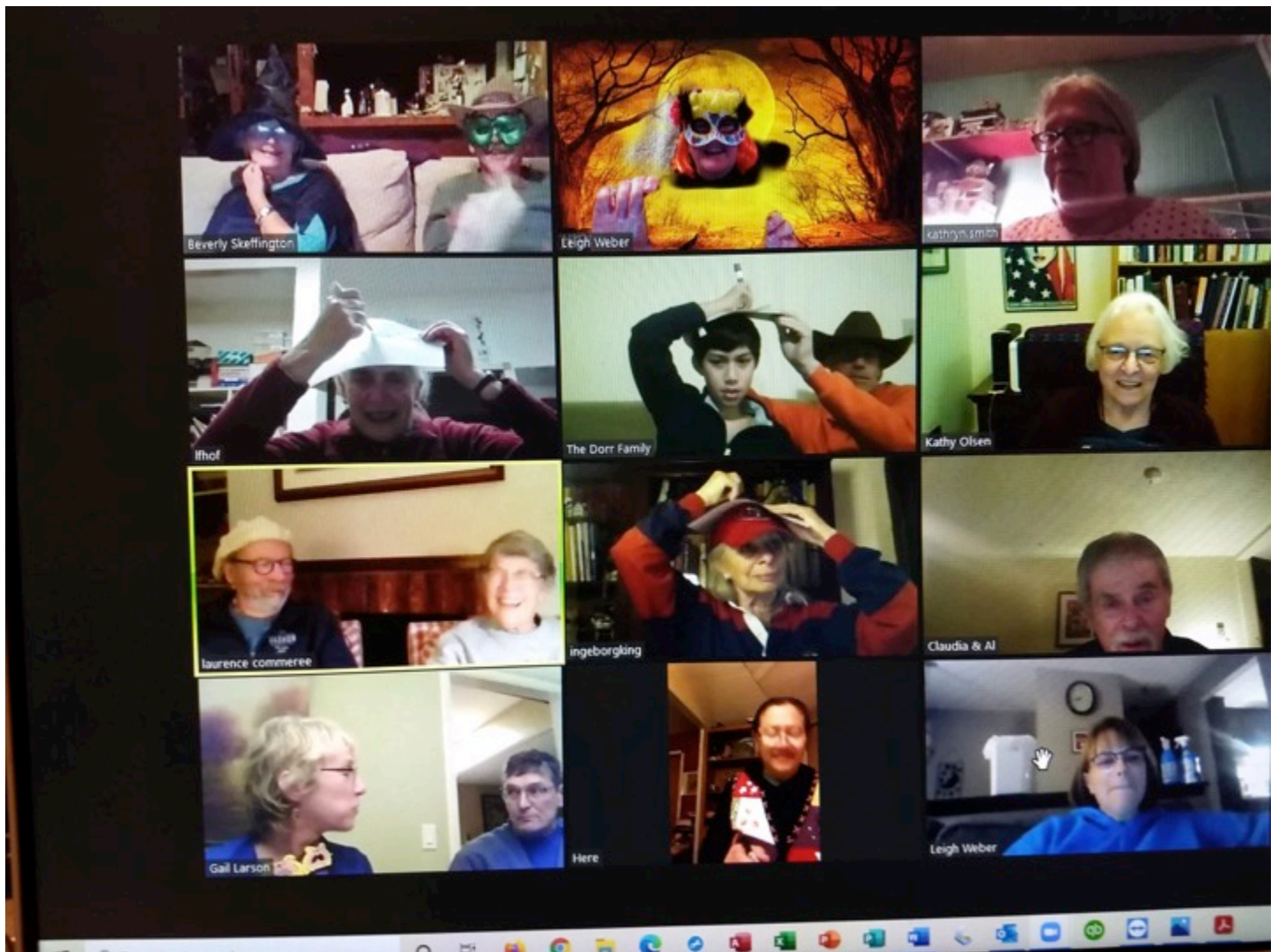
We will be participating in the virtual **Mary's Place Christmas Giving Tree** this year. Unfortunately, we will not have a real tree in the building, but Mary's Place has alternatives for your donations. More information will be provided in November.

**IFCH** is helping over 30 families each month with rent. Nightly meals are being served as take outs at the Methodist Church. Approximately twelve or more are being served. Toni is preparing the food, which is purchased by the IFCH.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*



# Halloween Game Night Costumes and Laughs!



## Upcoming Book Club Selections

December Wishin' and Hopin' - Wally Lamb

January Ho Chi Minh: A Life - William J Duiker

**Blessed are the Peacemakers**

*"...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

Ephesians 4: 2,3

*"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'"*

Revelation 21:3-4

In this, the most hotly contested and contentious Presidential election in any of our lifetimes, we would be hard-pressed to find any voter who lacks a strong opinion on key issues and on the candidates themselves. The constant vitriol and misinformation that have been heaped upon both candidates and their running mates have sorely tested our patience and have taken their toll on our mental and maybe even our physical health. Not since the Civil War, it seems, have we been so divided as a nation. We'd like to think that on November 4, our lives will return at least partly to normal and we can unify to combat COVID-19, the upcoming flu season, and the other unexpected shenanigans that 2020 likely has up its disruptive sleeve. But we know that this won't happen on its own. God has His work cut out for Him, and so do we.

Regardless of the election's outcome, which might not be known for some time, there WILL be brokenhearted people in the aftermath. There WILL be mourning, and crying, and pain for those who truly believe that the outcome portends calamity for our nation. Let's recognize this and come together, not as liberals or conservatives, Republicans or Democrats, but as brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us give grace rather than gloating, and acceptance rather than acrimony. Through our peaceful, reconciling words and actions, may we help to bind our own and others' wounds of disappointment. Let's make ours the calming voices that forestall anger and incivility. In our little place on this planet, in our slight snippet of allotted time, God calls on us to be peacemakers. May each of us answer that call.

*Deacon Nancy Tucker*

P.S. Enjoy this SPECTACULAR computer-generated fireworks display, depicting how the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo was envisioned to conclude. Perhaps in a couple of months we can extend its purpose to celebrating the end of 2020!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCFMeOwG2IQ>

## Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting October 20<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM with all Elders present. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with a meditation from Romans 8 and prayer. Leigh reported that she has continued socially distant pastoral care, coming to Vashon twice per week and hosting a new group by zoom on Fridays for those who have recently lost a loved one. The group is growing and intimate. Treasurer Jim Lilje reported that VPC is still in good financial condition. Donations are continuing to exceed anticipated offerings. Session spent most of their time together working on a budget for 2021 with many uncertainties to be considered. We should receive word from Creative Preschool in November whether they plan to return to in person teaching at the beginning of 2021 or in the fall. A laptop to enable joining zoom worship services from the sanctuary by guest musicians and speakers was purchased. The Purposeful Service committee recommended awarding the Heindsmann Scholarship of \$2,000 to Tage Rauen, a 33 year old native Vashon resident returning to UW. Session also approved a \$1,000 donation to the Ranier Valley Leadership Academy and approved participation once again in the Mary's Place Christmas Giving Tree. Outreach, Faith Exploration and Purposeful Service are coordinating a Tuesday evening discussion group by zoom on a series entitled The Color of Compromise. Video clips of the series are provided and discussion follows. Details are forwarded in the weekly eNews.

Blessings and Grace,  
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

## Our Mission Partners

### AIDNW

Among the new VPC mission partners this year is **Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW)**, a non-profit based in Tacoma whose sole purpose is support for immigrants in and released from the Federal Detention Center there. That facility, which is operated by a for-profit company, is built to house 1500 detainees, although the current population is lower due to administration policies limiting immigrants from pursuing asylum cases and social distancing requirements.

AIDNW, which relies on an extensive volunteer base, provides support to those in detention by means of a 50+ volunteer visitation program (temporarily limited now to letters and phone calls due to pandemic restrictions on visits). AIDNW also provides free phone cards to detainees, and volunteers donate books and craft supplies for recreation. A proposed English as a Second Language program is pending approval and the lifting of restrictions.

Each business day immigrants who have been granted permanent or temporary release leave the facility with only what they had upon entry. AIDNW owns an RV staffed by volunteers who offer immigrants and/or waiting family members snacks, use of cell phones, backpacks for travel and clothing. Volunteers assist released detainees in arranging travel to their destination and provide money for meals during the trip if needed. AIDNW rents a house in Tacoma, capable of housing 10 immigrants, for overnight use by immigrants who cannot start travel soon after their release. Because of the pandemic, the house is now available only to a smaller number of longer-term immigrants who have received a negative virus test. Those detainees now being released without immediate travel plans are lodged in motels at AIDNW expense. Volunteers assist the released immigrants with travel to the airport, etc.

VPC donated \$1,000 to AIDNW this year to support its efforts. More information, including volunteer opportunities, is available at [www.aidnw.org](http://www.aidnw.org).

***Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder***

*I ran across a stack of wonderful recipes our members and friends had sent to me in response to a call for composing an impromptu recipe book that captured the **essence of the comfort and nurturing provided mainly by deacons during the Covid pandemic**. About that the time I was involved two surgeries that got moved up due to opening space as Covid had not filled all the beds. The recipes found themselves in a rather large stack of papers labeled “unfinished projects” on my desk. So I thought I would present them one or two at a time in the monthly VPC Newsletter. At whatever point we have enough I will compile into a booklet entitled, Comfort in the Days of Covid: Recipes from the Many Caregivers at Vashon Presbyterian Church Liz*

## Maybe this instead of Turkey This Thanksgiving?

### GARLIC ROAST CHICKEN

Courtesy of Ina Garten

Level: Intermediate

Total: 2 hr.15 min.    Prep: 30 min.    Cook: 1 hr. 45 min.    Yield: 3-4 servings

#### Ingredients:

1 (5 to 6 pound) roasting chicken  
 Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 2 heads garlic, cut in ½ crosswise  
 1 lemon, halved  
 ½ large Spanish or yellow onion, thickly sliced  
 4 carrots cut diagonally into 2-inch chunks  
 2 large Yukon gold potatoes, cut into 6 pieces  
 4 tablespoons butter, melted

#### Directions:

1. As soon as you get the chicken home, salt it inside and out, wrap it and keep it in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.
2. When you are ready to cook the chicken, first preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
3. Pat the outside of the chicken dry with paper towels. Liberally salt and pepper the inside of the chicken and stuff the cavity with all the garlic and lemon. Tie the legs together with kitchen string and tuck the wing tips under the body of the chicken. Scatter the onion slices, carrots and potatoes around the chicken. Brush the outside of the chicken with the butter and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
4. Roast the chicken for 1 ½ hours, or until the juices run clear when you cut between a leg and a thigh. Remove the chicken to a platter and cover with aluminum foil. Place the vegetables back in the oven and continue cooking for an additional 15 minutes.
5. When the vegetables are cooked, carve the chicken and place the slices on the platter surrounded by the vegetables. Drizzle some pan juices over the chicken and vegetables.

*Submitted by Nancy Tucker*



**Here's an idea from Susan Commeree who left these scrumptious morsels of love on her Deacon's rounds.....This might be a good replacement for the more time consuming pumpkin pie for thanksgiving!**

Taste of Home



## Great Pumpkin Dessert

★★★★☆

*Canned pumpkin and cake mix make these bars an effortless alternative to pumpkin pie. It's a tried-and-true dessert that always brings big smiles. —Linda Guyot, Fountain Valley, California*

**TOTAL TIME:** Prep: 5 min. Bake: 1 hour

**YIELD:** 16 servings.

### Ingredients

- 1 can (15 ounces) solid-pack pumpkin
- 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 package yellow cake mix (regular size)
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1-1/2 cups **California Walnuts**
- Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream

### Directions

1. In a large bowl, beat first five ingredients until smooth.
2. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Sprinkle with cake mix and drizzle with butter. Top with walnuts.
3. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

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## Calendar for November 2020

Nov

- 1 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 1 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM - All Saints Day - Communion
- 5 Color of Compromise 5 PM
- 8 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 12 Color of Compromise 5 PM
- 15 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 17 Session 4:30 PM Deacon's 3:30 PM
- 19 The Color of Compromise 5:00 PM
- 20 VPC Book Club 7 PM
- 22 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 26 Thanksgiving
- 29 Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Sermon Reflection/Text Study** Mondays Noon

**Coffee at Sporty's** Tuesdays 9 am

**Text Study** Tuesdays Noon

**Movement Prayer** Wednesdays 8 am

**Theology Pub** Thursdays beginning until 11/19 5 pm

**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.