

MARCH 2021

Vashon Presbyterian Church



March 2021 Newsletter

“Love One Another”

Faith Formation Classes Offer Variety

Pastor Leigh offers a variety of approaches for us to embrace the Lenten season. Pantoums, analytic meditation, writing our own Psalm and body prayer are only a few techniques that gives us a fresh look at the season and could even lead to a new and meaningful part of our faith journey. Join the class Tuesday evenings 7 pm.

Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!

**Pi Is Like God’s Love –
Real, Irrational and Never Ending**

$\Pi\pi$

Bring a pie to share! We want to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 3.14) by inviting everyone from VPC to drop by and pick up a piece of homemade pie! See p 4.

Growing through Grief

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 two years. This group will meet on ZOOM on Monday afternoons beginning April 19th through May 24th, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. The experience will create a safe environment for growth and can help provide guidance with life adjustments following the death of a significant person.

This is a closed group and registration is required. Please contact Jane Fleming with PHOS Grief Support Services at 206.749.7704 for more information and to register. Space is limited.

Save These Dates!

March 9th 16th 23rd
Lenten Faith Formation Class 7 pm

March 1st – 31st
M W F Happy Hours

March 14th
“PI” Day 2-3 pm

March 19th
VPC Book Club 6 pm



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Service
March 28th 10 am

Sunday –Wednesday
Evening Holy Week Services
March 28th – 31st 6 pm

Maundy Thursday Service W/ VUMC
April 1st 7 pm

Good Friday Service W/VUMC
April 2nd 7 pm

Easter Sunday Worship Service
April 4th 10 am

Dear Ones of VPC,

As I write this on the first day of March, I am at the end of my Monday day off and, honestly, I'm a little sore. The sun came out and I decided this was the day to pull out the lawn mower for the first time this year. My backyard is not a small one and it has a steep bank in one part of it. As I pushed the mower up that bank for the first time this season, I felt its steepness in my legs. By summer, it will be easier, it always is. But that first time each year...it's harder.

We've been inside for a long time. We've been inside because of cold and rain but we've also been more inside in our isolation. And I wonder what it will feel like as the sun comes out and vaccines are widely received. I wonder what those first experiences will be like. I suspect it will feel a bit odd at first and it may take some folks longer to feel safe than others and that's okay. But what I am sure of is that we will be out together again.

This Lent we are looking at the healing stories of Jesus in Matthew's gospel and I wonder what life was like for those folks after the healing. What was it like for the leper to go back to the Temple? What was it like for the servant who was paralyzed to walk in his community again? What was the next chapter in the stories of those Jesus healed? I suspect it took some time to feel completely at ease again.

I suspect the same will be true for you and me, but we will get there. My own self advice that I share with you is to be gentle with yourself. Be gracious with yourself. Be kind to yourself and take things at the pace that makes you feel most comfortable and safe. The sun is slowly returning to our rainy Seattle skies. Glimpses of spring are popping up all around. There is new life.

We will be together in person again, we will share meals together again and we will find our way back to in person worship, while also offering ways to stay online as well. There will be a next chapter. And let us also pay attention to and learn from this chapter as well. There are lessons in the wilderness. That's the nature of Lent.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

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

Purposeful Service News

The IFCH virus rent fund gave assistance to 33 households which have been impacted by the pandemic in February and to 40 in March. Besides rent the fund also helped with utilities. The general fund is continuing to serve the homeless and near homeless. Brownie Carver, our IFCH representative, also provided assistance in handing out warm weather items. VPC donated \$1000 to IFCH in February – half to the rent fund and half to general.

We will be publicizing and interviewing for the Heindsmann scholarship in the spring.

We do not know yet whether or how we will have a program with the folks from Mary's place.

The Mental Health Support Group, facilitated by Bev Skeffington, continues to meet regularly online.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

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

One Great Hour of Sharing

This year VPC will again participate in the Presbyterian church-wide collection called One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This offering, traditionally received during Lent, is distributed almost equally among three Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) programs:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees.
- Presbyterian Hunger Program: Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systematic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- Self-Development of People: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

Traditionally we would be distributing bulletin inserts and other resources that provide examples of how the funds are being used. With the church building closed, we refer you to the PCUSA website (www.pcusa.org) to view these resources. In spite of the building closure, VPC members last year were generous in supporting OGHS, and we ask that you do so again during Lent. Checks should note OGHS in the memo line; for on-line giving there is a specific line for OGHS donations.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Service
March 28th 10 am

Sunday –Wednesday
Evening Holy Week Services
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Al Ross Weston, Worship Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship

Areas of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!

**Pi Is like God's Love –
Real, Irrational and Never Ending**

VPC will celebrate PIE Day on 3/14 for members only. Come by the church between Noon and 1 pm to drop off. Then all of our church family invited to come between 2 and 3 pm to pick up a delicious piece of homemade pie. The event will not be open to the public. Pie serving will be by the door leading up to the social hall by the parking lot. Math lives!

Kate Smith, Hospitality and Fellowship Elder

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,
Building and Grounds

The work party scheduled for Feb 13th was cancelled due to the snow. Let's finish cleaning up the branches from the fallen fir trees at the north end of the parking lot at this month's **Second Saturday Work Party, March 13th**, weather permitting. Hopefully we can also pressure wash the sidewalks on the north side of the church and along the highway. I'll bring the machine, just bring some ear protection if you'd like to try it out. Please also bring hedge trimmers, lopping shears, rakes and pitchforks and we'll continue pruning and shaping the shrubs around the from 10am-noon.

Carpe Diem has begun indoor classes on a limited basis. Pre-K and Kindergarten students are presently in the building on Tuesdays and other grades will start up on other days in 2 weeks if all goes well. **Session has also approved limited attendance (no more than 5 people) at AA and other support groups using the Upper Room.** Anyone entering the building must sanitize hands upon entering and remain masked at all times. Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington

Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Only one place to be on Friday nights -

VPC Game Night!

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting February 16th via ZOOM with all Elders present. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with a meditation and prayer. Claudia Ross-Weston, moderator of Deacons, joined briefly to report on Deacon activities and concerns.

The church has received several inquiries about building use now that COVID restrictions are easing. A taskforce is reviewing guidelines and church usage policies. A worship reentry group is also working on what hybrid worship services will look like, recognizing the desire to resume limited in person worship as well as continuing zoom participation. Two microphones have been purchased for better sound quality which members may use at home when participating in worship services.

Financial donations have fallen off slightly but expenses have been less than budgeted so we are near breaking even at this point in the year. Jim Lilje gave a brief "minute for mission" in worship to keep the congregation informed. Hospitality planned another cookie and puzzle exchange. Leigh will lead Faith Formation classes on "Healing", Tuesday evenings and Communion will be celebrated every Sunday during Lent. Session approved the collection of The One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. Outreach reported that video recordings of weekly sermons (past and present) are now posted on the church website.

Presbytery met Feb 23rd at 5:00 pm via zoom. Session's next scheduled meeting will be March 16th at 4:30 pm via zoom.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

VPC Book Club The VPC Book Club will meet March 19th at 6 pm this month. The book selection for April is American Nations by Colin Woodard.

Faith Formation Class Pastor Leigh offers a variety of approaches for us to embrace the Lenten season. Pantoums, analytic meditation, writing our own Psalm, and body prayer are only a few techniques that gives us a fresh look at the season and could even lead to a new and meaningful part of our faith journey. Join the class Tuesday evenings 7 pm.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder



VPC Upcoming Book Club Selections

American Nations by Colin Woodard

Wild Parrots/Telegraph Hill by Mark Bittner

Amish Grace by Donald B. Kraybill PhD

From the Deacons

It has been a whole year since we have been able to meet together in our Sanctuary. But thanks to God, Zoom and our wonderful Pastor, we have managed to stay connected and close as a congregation. What a blessing although most of us are tired of the Covid pandemic! The Deacons have been very involved in contacting members and people who come to the Sunday worship as well as other gatherings that have kept us in contact and have been fun. In our monthly meetings we keep each other informed of how members and others are doing. And what needs we might have been able to recognize.

And now we are celebrating Lent together and the beautiful story of Palm Sunday, the Crucifixion and the Easter Sunday of our Risen Lord. And the Deacons will continue to recognize, contact and support our Congregation as we have been called and blessed to do. We all have our own unique gifts that we can share with one another. And that will bind us all together as we go forward.

Deacon Susan Commeree



Church Leadership

Pastor Rev Leigh Weber

Clerk of Session Jacq Skeffington

Session Members Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness,
Kate Smith, Bob Spangler,
Al Ross Weston.

Deacons Susan Commeree, Sheryl Lehman, Claudia Ross
Weston, Nancy Tucker, Sue Weston

Calendar March 2021

March

- 7 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 9 Lenten Faith Formation Class 7 PM
- 13 Work Party 9 - Noon
- 14 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 14 Pi Day Drop off Noon to 1 pm - Pick Up 2-3 pm
- 16 Deacons Meeting 3:30 pm
- 16 Session Meeting 4:30 pm
- 16 Lenten Faith Formation Class 7 pm
- 19 VPC Book Club 6 pm
- 21 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 23 Lenten Faith Formation Class 7 pm
- 28 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service w/VUMC)
- 28 Lenten Service 6 pm
- 29 Lenten Service 6 pm
- 30 Lenten Service 6 pm
- 31 Lenten Service 6 pm

April

- 1 Maundy Thursday Service w/ VUMC 7 pm
- 2 Good Friday Service w/VUMC 7 pm
- 3 **Easter Worship Service 10 am (Communion Service)**

Ongoing Activities

- Mondays** Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 pm
- MWF** Happy Hour 5 pm
- Tuesdays** Sporty's Coffee Hour 9 -10 am
- Tuesdays** Text Study Noon - 1 pm
- Tuesdays** Lenten Faith Formation Class 7 pm
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8 am
- MWF** Happy Hour 5 pm
- MWF** Happy Hour 5 pm
- Fridays** Game Night 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.