

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

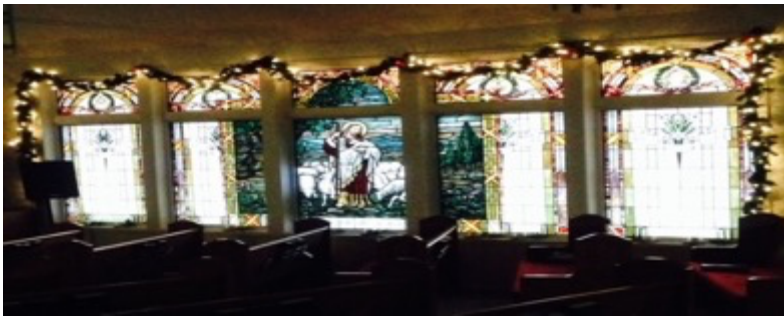
### May 2021



Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

**Love One Another**

*Whoever you are and wherever your life's journey has taken you, you are welcome here. We hope that you will find VPC to be a people of warmth, acceptance, and commitment to the calling of Jesus Christ. We are honored to have you worship with us.*



### Sermons Posted on Church Website

Did you miss attending church one Sunday? Did you want to ponder Leigh's message a second time? Want to tell someone about a sermon you think they will enjoy? Just go to our website and click on the sermons tab and then choose the date you want.

Sermons are now being posted on our website for all to enjoy.

<http://www.vashonpreschurch.org/>

### Report of the Regathering Committee

As of April 27<sup>th</sup>, King County is hovering between staying in Phase Three and moving back to Phase Two, according to the Health Department. It is not yet the time to gather for in person worship in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. However, we are encouraged by vaccination numbers on Vashon and the increasing nice weather of summer and want to encourage outdoor small group gatherings.

At this time, VPC Book Club plans to gather outdoors in members' backyards as weather permits. Hospitality Elder, Kate Smith is working on plans for other outdoor summer social gatherings as well.

We are also working on monthly outdoor worship services at a to be determined location, one of which we hope will include Mary's Place. And the VPC Yard Sale is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Waiting to gather in person is hard on everyone. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to gather for in person worship sometime around Labor Day assuming the data in King County is supportive of that decision.

We remain grateful for the faithfulness of the congregation and look forward to opportunities this summer to be in small gatherings together.

### Highlights

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# A Word from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

In this season of Easter, moving toward Pentecost on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are looking at a lot of texts about the nature of God and God's love for us. Jesus says, "I am." "I am the Good Shepherd; I am the vine." The gospel writers were each addressing their early communities, telling them the stories of Jesus and who Jesus was and is for them. It has left me thinking a lot about what stories you and I are called to tell our community today, both about Jesus and the love of God. What does this community in 2021 need most to know?

We are each created in the Sacred Image. That makes us and each and every human being unique and special. We are each loved beyond our comprehension. How can we share that Good News with those around us? How can we be a voice of love to our individual neighbors and on Vashon? What do people feel and experience about the love of God when they interact with us? These are questions I believe we are called to ask ourselves and keep in mind as we interact with anyone. "Who do I say he is?" "How does my life reflect that?"

Questions like these are at the heart of our call of loving one another. Loving God means that we must love one another but exactly how do we do that?

In order to share that kind of love and grace with the world around us, I suspect the best start is to answer those questions for ourselves. What DO you believe about the love of God for yourself? We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today? That is a call not to be taken lightly but must be rooted in the awareness of our true identity.

As the weather gets a bit warmer, my plan is for the Wednesday Happy Hour to relocate to an in-person time outside at Camp Colvos and these are some of the questions I'd like to wrestle with together. I look forward to the conversation.

We are not alone. The Spirit is with us and I can't wait to remember the depth of what that means on Pentecost! I thank God for each of you every day.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Faith Formation

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM we will complete a five-week series designed for Women's History month. It is based on a study series called *12 Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*. Several class members have led the discussions with stories of Rebekah and Leah of the Old Testament and the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well. The moderators' keen insight and background preparation kept the discussions lively and participative. The material we are using is good but doesn't really give new insight as it claims. The overall exercise, though, has allowed us to think and in some cases journal about how the stories relate to our daily lives.

During the second five weeks, through June 15<sup>th</sup>, I plan to have the Tuesday evening class explore the world of young professionals and families and their walks of faith. These discussions are based on interviews both in person (as opening allows) and with Zoom, directed at populations that are often absent from mainstream churches. It will be a time for listening and asking questions.

I'm also providing a time, 5:30 Mondays, for what we call "Free for All" to discuss subjects of interest which don't require a lengthy series to satisfy our curiosity. These will be light-hearted at times, bittersweet or serious at other times. This enlightening hour is open to everyone. Some of the upcoming topics are 1) the power of prayer in our daily lives 2) travel slides and personal stories of travel in Holy Lands 3) Why did Jesus teach in parables 4) how to write a parable.

Text Study still tends to be well attended and is one of our longest running Faith Formation Bible studies. It meets at noon on Tuesdays.

Those interested in follow-up for racial justice issues can do so through the Purposeful Service area, including volunteering for the Mary's Place event this summer and other opportunities. See resources available through the Seattle Presbytery and the bibliography we developed in the class for further reading.

Follow up for our Zero Waste session can be done through Mission Resource helping with our recycling and composting system in the building once we are back together, and coordinating with the two schools to implement their composting program. Also we are following up through Purposeful Service coordinating the collection for First Sunday Recycling effort, described in the Purposeful Service article in this newsletter.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder*

## Deacons' Message

### *A Morning Routine*

When I am at home, my routine follows a pattern. No matter how rushed I am, how much I have to get done today, how late I am; the first thing I always do upon opening my eyes is look to the right of my pillow at the water and the mountain peaks. And the last thing I do at night, after I turn out my light, is look at the water and sky, noting the moon's path and listening to the waves and wind.

When I lived inland on the island I would lie in bed upon awakening and watch the light move up the massive cedar tree trunk outside my window. The light was reflected back from pink from the eastern sky, shot with gold as the sunlight or clouds moved slowly up my tree. Only then would I push back my covers, get out of bed, and start my day.

Nature: That sacred part of God is a creation that, if you allow it, look at it, and listen to it when you are still and half asleep, will seep deep into your soul, quieting and calming you for your day. It is a gift, freely given by a loving God, that washes over you and through you, cleansing and renewing you, giving you strength to face whatever challenges the rest of your day may bring you.

Thanks be to God.

*Deacon Sue Weston*



## Hospitality Committee Update

Summer is just around the corner, and Hospitality can't wait! Join us for our meeting on **Wednesday, May 5, at 3:30 PM** via Zoom., as we begin planning summer gatherings and other events. If you would like to host a summer get-together, please contact me via e-mail, and include the month/date you'd like to host, as well as how many people you are comfortable inviting.

VPC will follow the CDC and state guidelines, as well as the rules outlined by each host. Contact me directly via e-mail if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting. Bring your enthusiasm and your great ideas!

*Kate Smith, Hospitality Elder*

# Purposeful Service Team News

## Areas of Responsibility

### Scholarships, Mary's Place partnership, IFCH, Mission Partner Relations

We have received two applications for the Heindsmann scholarship. A team will review the applications and related documents and will interview the candidates during May.

The styrofoam and other plastics recycling event will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 2 at the Sheffield building. Purposeful Service committee is planning a collection at the church building prior to the event to allow a consolidated effort to reduce the number of cars going to the Sunday collection. Details will be in the Thursday e-news.

The One Great Hour of Sharing collection was \$1,115. Thanks to all who donated for this annual PCUSA appeal.

Our April Mission Partner donation was \$1,000 to the Food Bank. VPC's 2021 budget includes \$7,000 to be donated in support of our mission to support organizations meeting critical needs both in our local community and worldwide.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Announcing Our (Usually) Annual Yard Sale

We now have an official date for the VPC yard sale – **Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.** That's plenty of time for you to finish your decluttering projects, be they closets, cupboards, drawers, basements, and/or garages. All those items you contribute will hopefully find a new home while supporting church ministries. In addition to bringing your items, there is ample opportunity to help prior to and during the sale:

- Advance promotion
- Sorting and pricing
- Setup
- Cashiers
- Table oversight
- Cleanup

**Please contact Barb Huff to volunteer your services in support of our Yard Sale.**

Per tradition, the yard sale will be followed by refreshments and celebration.

We will follow CDC guidance to create a safe environment for conducting the yard sale, so stay tuned for current info as the event draws closer. Mark your calendars!



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM with all Elders present. Pastor Leigh reported that she has continued pastoral visits both in person and by phone with many congregants. She noted that more people are requesting pastoral visits and many express concerns about pandemic-related isolation. Outdoor gatherings and summer suppers are being planned to counter the isolation effects. The worship re-entry group continues working on what hybrid worship services will look like and seeking guidance from the presbytery and other organizations about safely resuming in-person worship.

Mission Resources Elder Jim Lilje reported that congregational donations were lower than anticipated in the first two months of the year but exceeded expectations in March, more than making up for the shortfall. We now have above budget income, and due to lower than budgeted expenses we have a considerable surplus for the first quarter. VPC will donate \$1,000 to the food bank in April as budgeted. One Great Hour of Sharing donations exceeded those of the past two years. Session authorized the clerk to prepare contracts for Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool for next year at the rates previously offered.

Two applications for the Heindsmann scholarship have been received. A review committee is being formed.

Faith Formation Elder Elizabeth Loveness plans to offer discussion gatherings on Zoom until our church reopens or in some cases together at someone's home, outside, and numbers limited before the official church opening. Gatherings will be on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM beginning with a five-week series designed for Women's History month. This is open to both women and men.

Outreach Elder Barb Huff reported that attendance seems to be consistent at Friday night Game Nights and the VPC website has posted sermons since the beginning of the year.

After attending new membership classes and interviews with the Session, Leslie Hauck, Debbie Finch and Thomas Abraham joined the congregation on Easter Sunday. Nancy Johnson was elected by the congregation to serve as a Deacon in the class of 2022 and was installed on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Carl Coldeen passed away on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Carl had been a member of the congregation since 1980.

Given the expansion of the list of items accepted at the First Sunday Recycling event which will resume in May, the Purposeful Service group plans to have a combined collection effort at VPC the Saturday before the event so that fewer people must wait in line at the collection facility on Sunday. There are no plans to provide parking for the Strawberry Festival this year.

Session's next scheduled meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Mission Resource Team News

### Building and Grounds

Our Second Saturday work parties have caught the attention of people who want to expand the idea to include indoor work parties! This group plans to deep clean the kitchen, sanctuary, chapel and library with light dusting, shelf and drawers cleaning, etc. Last month Kate Smith and Barb Huff got busy with pressure washers and cleaned much of the north sidewalks of their winter buildup. This month we'll continue pressure washing that parking area and cleaning up and trimming the growth on the north end of the parking lot. All are invited to join us every second Saturday from 10 AM -Noonish, inside or out!

Please contact me if you would prefer to work at your own pace and on your own schedule to help maintain a small area of the landscaping. People and families have "adopted" a particular flower bed or area in the past and enjoyed private or family time weeding, mulching, and growing things which the whole community has enjoyed. We will gladly reimburse any expense.

The owners of the old KIMCO property have cleared the brush and trees up to our southern property line. Now is the time to clean up the brush on our side between the southern containment pond and the property line and install a fence to limit access to the playground. I believe that this work is beyond the capabilities of our work parties, and I will seek bids from landscape contractors. Please let me know if you have suggestions.

Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool have both expressed interest in using our classrooms next year. Session is preparing contracts to offer both schools.

If anyone cares to take on the task of mowing the lawn at your leisure, please contact me. We have a self-propelled rotary mower stored at the church or you can use your own if it's more comfortable. For the next couple of months the lawn will need trimming at least every other week.

Jacq Skeffington



## Can Death Be a Medicine for the Living?

On Thursday evening May 6 at 7:00 pm **Michael Hebb**, founder of the Death Over Dinner project and the End of Life Collective, is coming to Vashon via Zoom to talk about how our lives can become richer and more meaningful if we face our mortality. The first 25 Vashon residents to register will receive a copy of Michael's book, *Let's Talk About Death (Over Dinner): An Invitation and Guide to Life's Most Important Conversation*. The best way to get a sense of his passion and commitment to the living and dying conversation is to check out his EOL website: <https://collective.round.glass/End-of-Life/welcome> He has created a marketplace for a deep and wide range of resources on living wisely and dying well.

**Register Here for Free May 6 Event:**

<https://collective.round.glass/vashon-eol/events/can-death-be-medicine-for-the-living-a/welcome>

This is a collaborative event offered by Vashon Community Care, the Vashon Senior Center and the Vashon Conversation for the Living about Dying team to encourage islanders to initiate conversations about their end-of-life wishes and complete advance directives.

## May is National Mental Health Month

Throughout the pandemic the Mental Health Advocates of Vashon Presbyterian Church have been maintaining, via Zoom meetings, a monthly support group for friends and family of those who have loved ones experiencing a mental health condition. We look forward to a time when we can once again meet in person, (and yet most of our participants currently are not from Vashon, but are spread throughout King County and even to California!) and where we can provide a broader program of in-person seminars and other services.

In the interim, if you or someone you know would be interested in joining this group, it meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM and uses the church Zoom link, found in the church bulletin, the e-News, and on the cover page of this newsletter.

*Beverly Skeffington*



## May Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy May birthday this month to:

- 10 George Lee
- 14 Jo Goforth
- 26 Carol Spangler
- 27 Tom Lehman
- 27 Wendy-jo Weston
- 29 Sue Weston



## VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club will meet May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM, via Zoom. May's book selection is The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill by Mark Bittner. Amazon describes the book:

*Like a lot of young people in the 1970s, Mark Bittner took the path of the "dharma bum." When the counterculture faded, Mark held on, seeking shelter in the nooks and crannies of San Francisco's fabled bohemian neighborhood, North Beach. While living on the eastern slope of Telegraph Hill, he made a magical discovery: a flock of wild parrots. In this unforgettable story, Bittner recounts how he became fascinated by the birds and patiently developed friendships with them that would last more than six years. When a documentary filmmaker comes along to capture the phenomenon on film, the story takes a surprising turn, and Bittner's life truly takes flight.*

June's book selection is The Tender Land by William K. Krueger.

## Church Leadership

<b>Pastor</b>	Reverend Leigh Weber
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Jacq Skeffington
<b>Session Members</b>	Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Al Ross-Weston, Kate Smith, Bob Spangler
<b>Deacons</b>	Claudia Ross-Weston, Moderator Susan Commeree, Sheryl Lehman, Nancy Tucker, Sue Weston

# Calendar

## May 2021

- 1** Styrofoam recycle collection at church 10:00 AM-Noon (See e-News for details)
- 2** Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM **Communion Sunday**  
Styrofoam and More Recycling – Sheffield Center Noon – 4:00 PM
- 4** Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 6** “Death over Dinner” 7:00 PM on Zoom (See article in this newsletter for details)  
Mental Health Advocates meeting on VPC Zoom link 7:00 PM
- 7** Game Night 7:00 PM
- 8** Work Party – Indoor and Outdoor 10:00 AM - Noon
- 9** Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 11** Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 14** Game Night 7:00 PM
- 16** Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 18** Deacons’ Meeting 3:30 PM Session Meeting 4:30 PM Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 21** VPC Book Club 7:00 PM
- 23** Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 25** Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 28** Game Night 7:00 PM
- 30** Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM

### *Please Note*

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

## Ongoing Activities

- Mondays** Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 PM  
“Free for All” Discussion 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
- Tuesdays** Sporty’s In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM-10:00 AM  
Text Study Noon – 1:00 PM  
Faith Formation Class 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8:00 AM
- W,F** Happy Hour 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- First Thursdays** Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
- Fridays** Grief Group 11:00 AM – Noon (Call Leigh for details)  
Game Night 7:00 PM