

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

July 2021

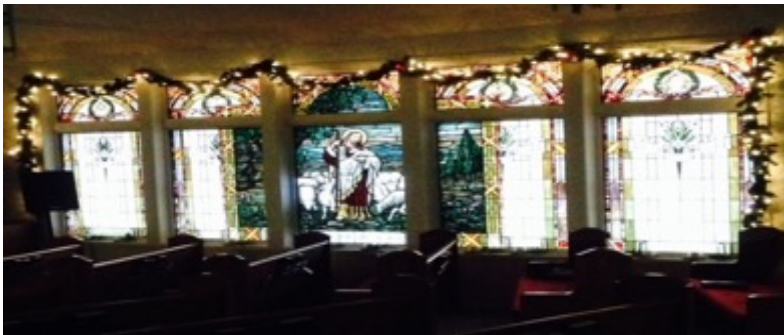


Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

Sermons Posted on Church Website
vashonpreschurch.org

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.



Preparing to Resume Indoor Worship

As mask and gathering restrictions are being lessened and/or lifted, preparations are underway at VPC to not only bring back indoor worship, but to expand and enhance the experience for everyone.

"Zooming" has provided us the opportunity to share our worship experience with those across the country. Worship service attendance via Zoom is routinely higher than when we worship solely in person. Offering a Zoom worship option in the sanctuary therefore is a priority.

We are in the process of ordering the technology equipment (webcams, screen, etc.) to set up an integrated in-person/Zoom worship experience. We have already upgraded our internet capability for this purpose. Stay tuned and stay patient—we WILL be worshipping together soon!

Good to Know...

- July 1** Theology Pub at Camp Colvos
- July 2** First Friday S'Mores **cancelled** due to fire danger
- July 4** Styrofoam and more collection **cancelled** due to holiday
- July 11** Outdoor worship gathering at van Roessels'
- July 12** Free for All resumes
- July 13** Faith Formation resumes in person
- July 31** Blueberry Picking with the Pastor: Details in an upcoming Thoroughly Thursday E-News

Dear Ones of VPC,

As we have been reading the words of the prophet Jeremiah, I am struck by how God’s message was to live life right where you are. In the midst of exile, keep living, keep your part of the covenant, to love God and love one another. And that’s exactly what has been happening during our season of exile known as Covid-19.

I’ve watched as you logged in to worship right where you were each week. I’ve listened to the stories of calls made to check on others. I watched as you matched the Presbytery’s grant for IFCH to care for the community around you. This the kind of life that God asks us to live even in exile.

As we begin to gather in person socially, in small groups and eventually back in Sunday morning worship, I wonder what lessons of exile we will bring with us. What have we learned about God, about one another and about our presence in the community? What is God saying to us today as we return to the land we had to leave for a time?

One person shared that they felt a closeness to the congregation in ways they hadn’t before because of the sharing experienced in small group settings on Zoom. How do we bring that back from the exile with us? Others have shared how grateful they have been for the variety of music we have experienced. What have you experienced and felt?

There will be an opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings from this season at an upcoming afternoon gathering at Jan and Nancy van Roessel’s home. We are relocating our July 11th (2-4 pm) gathering to their outdoor pavilion where we can be sure to stay a bit cooler in the shade. We’ll sing and pray together and be in small and large group discussions about all of these things as well as where we hope VPC is in 100 years.

What do you hear God saying? And what do WE hear God saying? This feels like a good time to talk about just that and I look forward to the conversation.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting June 16 via Zoom. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with prayer.

Mission Resources Elder, Jim Lilje, presented the Income and Expense report through May 2021 and cash on hand as of May 31. Donations were slightly below anticipated for May but still above anticipated year-to-date. Expenses remain lower than budgeted, and mission partner donations continue as scheduled. Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool have both agreed to renew their leases for next year.

The Purposeful Service Committee will continue plans for a picnic/worship with Mary's Place, at Ober Park, in early September and will invite other churches to help with the event. They will also ramp up recycling efforts through information this summer. Faith Formation Elder Elizabeth Loveness has begun a series about the faith journeys of young adults. Free for All Zoom gatherings will move to 6:30 on Mondays evenings with a new topic, "Travels in the Holy Land." Outreach Elder Barb Huff reported that we will resume First Friday with S'mores on July 2nd. Worship Elder Al Ross-Weston reported that a worship service will be held outdoors at the Ross-Weston's home in the afternoon of July 11. After Talk will begin meeting at the church on Mondays. While the sanctuary and other meeting rooms may be used for small group meetings, to avoid scheduling conflicts, their use must be reserved through the building use coordinator.

Session's next scheduled meeting will be July 20th at 4:30 pm at the home of Elizabeth Loveness.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Do You Need Help? Contact a Deacon!

The Deacons' main mission is to provide care and comfort for the church community. Whether this be through dedicated prayers, meals for the grieving or ailing, rides to doctors' appointments, and more, the Deacons are here to serve. For instance, during these past days of extreme heat, the Deacons coordinated the delivery of fans to members who needed cooler, circulating air. Feel free to contact any of the Deacons if you find yourself needing assistance with your basic day-to-day needs.



Purposeful Service Team News Areas of Responsibility

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

In partnership with the Methodist church and the Park District, we are planning a worship service and picnic lunch with Mary's Place in late August or early September. Beverly Skeffington is the point person on this. More information will be provided in the August News and Concerns.

Brownie Carver reports that Island workers who lost employment due to the pandemic are doing better. IFCH helped 19 families with rent and seven with utilities in June. Each month the number has been decreasing since the beginning of Spring. Last June we were assisting 27 families. The most that were given assistance was 37 this past March. Although the donations are decreasing, the need seems to be going down for virus rent.

One of our Mission Partners is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a program of our parent denomination. PDA is to committed immediate and long-term response to natural and human-caused disasters, and humanitarian response to refugees and asylum seekers. In 2020 PDA made 476 grants, providing \$6.5 million in 47 states and 56 countries, including \$3.5 for COVID-19 assistance. PDA also provides resources to educate and guide congregations, and deploys National Response Team members. This year we sent \$1,000 from the VPC general fund to PDA for this important ministry, in addition to a portion of our One Great Hour of Sharing collection that went to PDA.

In August we will hold another collection of styrofoam and plastic materials not accepted at the county transfer station. **There will not be a July collection because of the holiday.** We still collect IGA and Thriftway receipts for reimbursement and donation of the funds; please be sure to write your name and telephone number on each receipt, and put them in the prayer box facing the highway. The first Sunday is still Food Bank Sunday. Please consider a donation at one of our supermarkets.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club will meet July 30th at 7:00 PM, at the home of Jacq and Beverly Skeffington, 25910 Stuckey Avenue SW. There is plenty of parking. Refreshments will be provided. This is an in-person meeting, without Zoom. All are welcome!

July's book selection is *Getting Mother's Body* by Suzan-Lori Parks.

Publisher's Summary: "Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks' wildly original debut novel, *Getting Mother's Body*, follows pregnant, unmarried Billy Beede and her down-and-out family in 1960s Texas as they search for the storied jewels buried (or were they?) with Billy's fast-running, six-years-dead mother, Willa Mae.

Getting Mother's Body is a true spiritual successor to the work of writers such as Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker - but when it comes to bringing hard-luck characters to ingenious, uproarious life, Suzan-Lori Parks shares the stage with no one."

WORSHIP ALERT!

All-Church In Person Outdoor Worship on July 11th

Our first post-pandemic, in-person church gathering will be held on Sunday, July 11th, from 2:00 – 4:00. This mini retreat will be hosted by Jan and Nancy van Roessel on the grounds at their home, 13007 SW Cove Road. The meeting will feature sharing, music and singing (yes, we can sing!). Light appetizers will be served. If you have folding camp chairs, please bring them with you.

This is our first all-church gathering since we began quarantining over 15 months ago. Plan to attend and get reacquainted with your fellow VPC friends!



Summer Gatherings are Back!

It's feeling less like a pandemic and more like a new beginning-as we venture away from our homes and gravitate toward public venues. This is evident within our congregation as well. In June the in-person gatherings included Tuesday coffee fellowship at Sporty's, the VPC Book Club meeting, a wine auction hosted by Liz Loveness, a luncheon at Lindsay Hofman's, a late afternoon get-together at the Tuckers', and a surprise retirement party for Kate Smith at Liz's home.

There are plenty of available days in July to host a summer gathering, and you can decide on the venue, the menu, and the number of guests. If you are interested in being a host, contact email Kate Smith at vashonkathryn@icloud.com.



Reflections from The Pretty Place



The Fred W. Symmes Chapel, aptly known as "Pretty Place," is part of YMCA Camp Greenville. Set on the eastern ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Camp Greenville is the fifth largest "Y" in the nation and has been in operation over 100 years. The chapel provides breathtaking panoramic views of the South Carolina upstate area and is highly sought after for weddings.

Last month my two brothers and I, as part of a 10-day roadtrip through the Carolinas, visited Pretty Place to take in the views. Sadly, it was a foggy day and the best we got were glimpses of greenery through moving clouds. But equally inspirational were the many plaques posted on timbers, with verses or dedications in honor of past YMCA campers and leaders. We noted the many that were dedicated to young men who had perished in World War II. Some of the messages were poignant. Here's a one that spoke to me. I hope it resonates with you as well.

"O thou Divine Spirit that, in all events of life, art knocking at the door of my heart, help me to respond to Thee. I would not be driven blindly as the stars over their courses. I would not be made to work out Thy law unintelligently, to obey Thy mandates unsympathetically. I would take the events of my life as good and perfect gifts from Thee; I would receive even the sorrows of life as disguised gifts from Thee. I would have my heart open at all times to receive—at morning, noon, and night; in spring, and summer, and winter. Whether Thou comest to me in sunshine or in rain, I would take Thee into my heart joyfully. Thou art Thyself more than the sunshine; Thou art Thyself compensation for the rain; it is Thee and not thy gifts I crave. Knock, and I shall open unto Thee. Amen." *George Matheson*

Deacon Nancy Tucker

P.S. Check out the newest entrant in the 2021 Summer Olympics in Tokyo: ***The Giraffe Diving Team!***

<https://biggeekdad.com/2013/05/giraffe-diving-team/>

Mission Resource Team News

Building and Grounds

We've decided to take a break from our Second Saturday work parties in July while some of us are away on vacations. Feel free to drop by the church and pick up litter and recycling materials around the parking lot. Receptacles are within the chain link containment area.

People and families can still "adopt" flower beds or areas on the church grounds and enjoy private or family time weeding, mulching and growing things which the whole community will enjoy. We will gladly reimburse any expense. Please contact me if interested to reserve your area.

King County has informed me that we will need to remove excessive silt which has accumulated in the containment pond at the south end of the parking lot this summer. Please contact me if you have any experience with this type of project or would like to help out.

Blessings and Grace,

Jacq Skeffington

Faith Formation

The Tuesday evening Faith Formation class continues to explore the world of the young (25-40) and their walk of faith. It has been a time for listening and asking questions. Many thanks to Ivan Wong and Charlotte Skeffington for being our two interviewees so far. We found wisdom and inspiration in their honest and thoughtful comments. We are now taking a long 4th of July break. The class will resume Tuesday the 13th when we will be interviewing Mary Mossey, an adventure design specialist for Rivian electric cars!

Our "**Free for All**" is now scheduled for 6:30 Mondays. We discuss subjects of interest but those not requiring a lengthy series to satisfy our curiosity. This is lighthearted at times, bittersweet or serious at other times. Free for All will resume July 12th. We will meet at Liz's in person and share travel slides of Holy Land! Refreshments and an outside event!

If you have never attended **Text Study**, noon on Tuesdays, you should try it while we are still on Zoom. It's easy to tune in and it's a time that really prepares you for the scriptures and sermon the following Sunday. The discussion deepens your worship experience. Give Text Study a try sometime in July!

Last but certainly not least is the resumption of **Theology Pub**, 5:00 every first Thursday! We meet this month, Thursday, July 1st at Camp Colvos. The theme for this month is "what it means to be in community." The weather has cooled off, so come on down and join us for a lively discussion.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder

The Yard Sale is On! Mark Your Calendars!

Plan to be part of our annual Summer Yard Sale, scheduled for **Saturday, August 7th, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. The items you contribute will find a new home while supporting church ministries.

Please Contribute:

- Kitchen and household goods
- Books
- Games and toys
- Tools and gardening items

We Do Not Accept:

- Clothing
- Electronics
- Computers

A classroom is available for collection of Yard Sale items. Come by on Tuesdays from 10:00 – Noon to drop off your donations, or contact Barb Huff at (206) 713-6232 for an appointment.

In addition to donations, there is ample opportunity to participate prior to and during the Sale:

- Advance promotion
- Sorting and pricing
- Setup
- Providing snacks
- Cashiers
- Table oversight
- Takedown, cleanup, and taking what's left to Granny's

**Contact Barb
Huff and
volunteer your
help!**

Working together we create a great yard sale for the community, while also meeting and greeting our neighbors. Join the fun!

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

July Birthdays

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

- 1 Ben Tucker
- 5 Lindsay Hofman
- 8 Chris Coldeen
- 13 Bonnie Nelson
- 25 Nancy Tucker
- 27 Jan van Roessel



Calendar

July 2021

- 1 Theology Pub Live! at Camp Colvos 5:00 PM
- 2 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 4 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service with VUMC 10:00 AM **Communion Sunday**
- 9 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 11 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
Outdoor All Church Worship at the van Roessels' 2:00
- 12 Free for All resumes 6:30 PM
- 13 Faith Formation resumes 7:00 PM
- 16 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 19 Free for All 6:30 PM
- 20 Deacons' Meeting 3:30 PM Session Meeting 4:30 PM Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 23 Game Night 7:00
- 25 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 26 Free for All 6:30 PM
- 27 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 25 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 26 Free for All 6:30 PM
- 27 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 30 VPC Book Club at the Skeffingtons' 7:00 PM
- 31 Blueberry Picking with Leigh TBA

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 6:30 PM
- Tuesdays** Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM
Text Study Noon
Faith Formation Class 7:00 PM
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8:00 AM
- First Thursdays** Theology Pub Live! at Camp Colvos 5:00 PM; Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
- Fridays** Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)
Game Night 7:00 PM

Church Leadership

- Pastor** Leigh Weber
- Clerk of Session** Jacq Skeffington
- Session Members** Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Al Ross-Weston, Kate Smith, Bob Spangler
- Deacons** Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Susan Commeree, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman, Nancy Tucker, Sue Weston