

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

August 2021

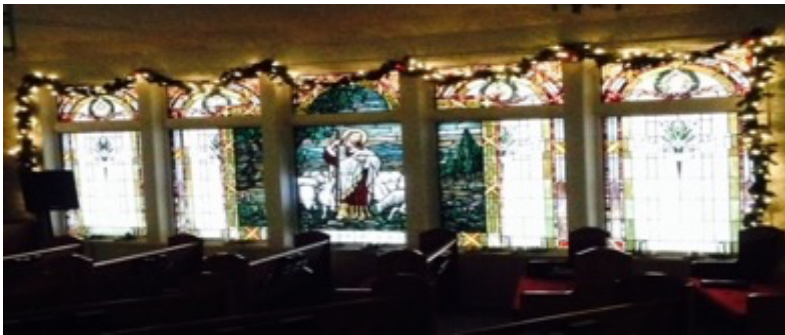
Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

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.



Fellowship and Fun at First Mini-Retreat

Our first in-person church gathering since the pandemic was held on Sunday, July 11th at the home of Jan and Nancy van Roessel. The van Roessels shared their lovely outdoor pavilion which easily seated the 20 people attending, and they graciously provided delicious homemade refreshments. Leigh led a spirited discussion, capturing everyone's sometimes diverse concerns regarding resuming in-person worship. Chris Coldeen led the singing, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet face to face.

A big thank you to Nancy and Jan for the use of their home in this important step forward.



Highlights

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Dear Ones of VPC,

Part of the process of getting ready for in person worship involves the procurement of better technology. A few weeks ago, a few of us met with a young man that the Presbytery suggested for us. He came in, told us what we needed and will be setting it up for us soon. The Session voted on his proposal and unanimously approved the purchase of the equipment.

“Hybrid worship” is a term I hear frequently in my conversations with other clergy these days and yet one that I had never heard of until recently. Hybrid worship is the combination of in person worship while still keeping our virtual presence on Zoom and/or livestream. And everyone I have talked to about this concept is convinced that it is the only way to go forward for any of us.

These are some of the things I have learned from worship during Covid:

- Worship is life giving and we will find our way to be together however we can.
- Not everyone is able to come to the sanctuary for a variety of reasons. They may be traveling or sick. They may be struggling with issues that they prefer not to share.
- Not everyone is free on Sunday morning. I’ve heard from a number of folks both on Vashon and in the Greater Seattle area that they are watching our sermons posted online. Their jobs prevent them from being free on Sunday mornings. Many of them miss the church but don’t see a way “in” given the constraints of their jobs.
- Our presence online is invitational to those who want to check out our worship without having to come into the building. For those with social anxiety, we become more assessable. They can “church shop” without being overwhelmed.

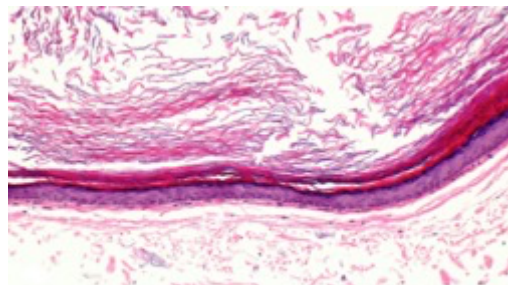
I am grateful to work with a forward-thinking Session that recognizes the importance of accessibility for others. And my hope is that “hybrid worship” is a launching point for other ways to meet others where they are. Five day a week jobs aren’t everyone’s truth, for example.

As we move forward together, I’m asking you to think about “hybrid” church and how we can be more inclusive in all areas of our congregational life. I believe God is asking us not to “return to worship” but to “launch into a new way of including others.”

Thank you for your patience. Our electronics are arriving and will soon be installed. You will be invited to learn how to use them, to learn how to take your events, bible studies, forums, meetings, etc. into a new hybrid life. We can do this! We can do this together. Most importantly, we can do this with God’s help.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting July 20th at Elizabeth Loveness' home. Elder Jim Lilje attended via Zoom. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with prayer.

Re-entry discussion focused on allowing the sanctuary and other meeting rooms' use by outside groups and resuming in-person worship in the sanctuary. Cautiously approaching increased usage, Session increased the number of people allowed in the Upper Room to 10 and the sanctuary to unlimited, providing safe social distancing is maintained. All persons entering the building will continue to be required to sanitize their hands and remain masked while in the building.

Mission Resources Elder Jim Lilje, presented the Income and Expense report through June and cash on hand through second quarter. VPC continues to run ahead of budget and to show a positive cash flow thanks mainly to greater than budgeted donations. Mission partner donations continue as scheduled. Session approved allocating \$4,000 from the Mission Vision budget and \$2,952 from undesignated Memorial Fund donations to cover the cost of IT equipment purchase, installation, and training to facilitate hybrid worship services originating in the sanctuary. Session anticipates starting hybrid worship once the new IT equipment has been installed and becomes operational. Training for **anyone** wanting to learn to operate the IT equipment is scheduled for Friday, August 6th. Contact the office if interested.

Carpets and windows are scheduled to be cleaned in August after the yard sale and prior to the return of Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool children. The picnic/worship with Mary's Place at Ober Park will be postponed due to rising concerns of break through viral infections. Styrofoam recycling efforts will resume for the first Sunday in August with drop-off of small amounts at VPC on the preceding Saturday, July 31st. Yard sale plans are focusing on maintaining a COVID safe environment during the sale by limiting the number of browsers within designated outdoor areas. Session approved donating proceeds of the yard sale to Vashon Youth and Family Services. Faith Formation will reduce activities during the month of August. The series about the faith journeys of young adults will resume in September. Theology Pub and Text Study will continue as scheduled and be advertised in the weekly E-news.

Session's next scheduled meeting is August 17th.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session



Purposeful Service Team News Areas of Responsibility

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

After careful thought, it was decided that we could not host a traditional service and picnic with guests from Mary's Place. Purposeful Service Committee will be looking at other opportunities to share an event.

We scheduled a collection of styrofoam and plastic products at the church so that a combined load could be taken to the recycling event on August 1. Our "creation care" program will expand when the building reopens to the public.

We have started research to identify a new mission partner for this fall. Information about the work of our current mission partners will be highlighted in this newsletter every other month.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Mission Resource Team News

Building and Grounds

Second Saturday work parties will resume August 14th from 10:00-noon. Feel free to drop by the church any time before the Aug 7th yard sale to pick up litter and recycling materials. We anticipate a large turnout for the sale and want to make the grounds as welcoming as can be. Debbie Finch has agreed to lead our interior maintenance group and will coordinate kitchen and sanctuary deep cleaning events.

Someone has donated a string trimmer to the church for touching up around the edges and fences. It is stored in the closet in the social hall. Please use caution operating it as they are known to send rocks flying towards windows and pedestrians!

Session has approved the purchase and installation of IT equipment to enable live streaming of events in the sanctuary, facilitating hybrid worship and other presentations online. The installer will host training for anyone interested in operating the equipment Friday, August 6th. If you are interested, please contact to church office for details. We hope to have a few people trained to increase availability.

Contractors will remove excessive silt from the containment pond at the south end of the parking lot in August. This will be expensive maintenance but is required by King County Water and Land Resources. The silt has built up over 20 years.

Carpets and windows will be cleaned after the yard sale in preparation for the return of students to Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool.

*Jacq Skeffington
Building Use Coordinator*

The Yard Sale is Here! Support Your Community!

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 Vashon Youth and Family Services.

Please Contribute:

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

Please do NOT bring:

- Clothing
- Computers and electronics
- Outdated technology items

If you are contributing heavy furniture, please bring it on the day of the sale so it doesn't need to be moved twice. Here's how you can help:

Prior to Sale: Tuesday – Friday 10 AM-2PM

- Sort and price
- Bring supplies – boxes, paper grocery sacks

Day of Sale – Setup 7:30 AM Closing 3:00 PM

- Carry out tables and boxes; unpack items on tables
- Table oversight during sale
- Cashiers for two-hour shifts
- Carry tables back into church
- Package leftovers into grocery sacks
- Deliver leftovers to Granny's
Maximum four grocery sacks per vehicle



Contact Barb Huff at **206-713-6232** to sign up.

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



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Jacq Skeffington
Building Use Coordinator



Deacon's Message

Me

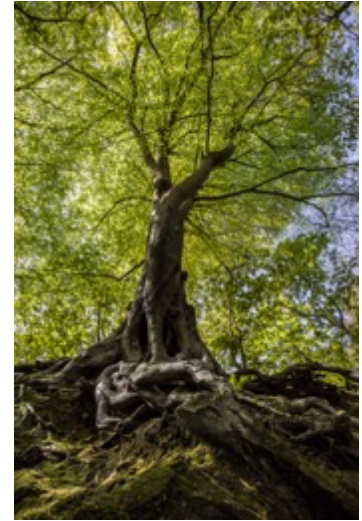
by Walter de la Mare

As long as I live
I shall always be
My Self--and no other,
Just me.
Like a tree.

Like a willow or elder,
An aspen, a thorn,
Or a cypress forlorn,

Like a flower,
For its hour
A primrose, a pink,
Or a violet-
Sunned by the sun,
And with dewdrops

Always just me.



When I feel discouraged, by reading this poem I am reminded that God made me to be uniquely me because He has a purpose for me. He had a special purpose only for me because of my individuality, warts and all. All He asks in return is that I be the best possible me, being open just like the tree or the flower; letting his love shine like the sun and the dewdrops into and through me to the world.

That is why He made you also to be you, warts and all. No two trees or flowers are ever exactly the same. But you are special and unique because He made you exactly like you. And there are things that only you can do and be. And if you let Him, He shines on you like the sun and nourishes you like the dewdrops do the tree or the flower.

Perhaps most importantly, you have your own beauty, as does each kind of tree or flower, and the ability to let the onlooker take joy in you and as a result, in God. There is beauty in the pine twisted from the wind on the mountain just as much as the carefully tended perfect rose. If we look, we see and recognize the beauty of both. And we go on our way enriched by both. So also, if we look for the beauty of each individual, we are enriched by that and no longer blinded by the thorns of each other. So,

As long as I live,
I shall always be
My Self--and no other
Just me.

Because God made me that way.

Deacon Sue Weston

Faith Formation Ends 2021 Summer Session

“Youth and Their Faith Journeys”

The “Interview” class ran in June and July and ended its first series of interviews July 20. It has proved to be fascinating for teachers and class members alike. Thomas Abraham has provided invaluable help on these interviews. We’ve interviewed four young adults and now have a list to interview in our second series beginning in September. In the quest to answer the question “who’s not here,” the interviews have given us much insight.

What have we learned so far? The class is meant to be a chance for listening to young people talk about faith and how they integrate that into their busy lives. Of the four we’ve talked to so far (both in the pre interview session and the interview itself) we see these trends: Most do not attend a church service although most did when they were growing up. Many retreat to nature for inspiration. They find their social connections through groups other than church, e.g. nonprofits, work associates, family or community service organizations. Many have been disillusioned with the structure and exclusivity of the mainline churches. Some have been hurt deeply by the rigidity of conservative churches. Most want to find a meaningful way to express their faith or values regarding the world that is “bigger than themselves.” They are searching to some degree for spiritual practices to give their lives more meaning, e.g. yoga. They are not seeking through organized churches. Most discuss these topics with only their closest friends. One described his journey as a “solo Christian.” Most say that Jesus and His teaching is the good thing about the Christian church, not church doctrine or social construct. They are busy, perhaps too busy, to slow down enough to consider faith, God, religion, good/evil in the hyped-up media-driven world. They can be communicating with several people from around the world at any given moment. Most know history well enough to know Christian churches have been complicit in racism, wars, and social injustice. Most seek secular help for their problems via doctors, medications, therapists, counselors, friends.

No conclusions. These are just a few threads that seem to run through the younger generation’s narrative. Join us in September for more “listening” in hopes of achieving greater understanding and empathy between the generations.

Autumn Session 2021

There will be a recess of “Free for All” and the Faith Formation class until the week after Labor Day. “Youth and Their Faith Journeys” - interviews will resume the first week of September. We have 5 very interesting and diverse young men and women who will be sharing their faith journey with us. If you would like to read something to prepare for our future interviews I have several copies of The Reason for God by Timothy Keller. There is also a study guide and DVD that we may use some to debrief our own interviews.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder

Theology Pub and Text Study Continue

Theology Pub (in-person/outside at Camp Colvos) will continue this summer, with Leigh hosting. This event is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of your VPC friends while soaking in the summer weather and sampling a pint of your favorite local brew. Meeting dates are weather-dependent as we meet outside. Check the Thoroughly Thursday e-News for updates.

Text study will be ongoing as well. Take the opportunity to join text study while it's still on Zoom. We meet at noon on Tuesdays.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder

VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club will meet August 20th at 7:00 PM, at the home of Kate Smith, 9825 SW 156th Street. The meeting will be held outdoors. There is plenty of parking. This is an in-person meeting, without Zoom. All are welcome!

August's book selection is *The Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. It is a 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award winner.

Publisher's summary: "An illuminating debut memoir of a woman in science; a moving portrait of a longtime collaboration, in work and in life; and a stunningly fresh look at plants that will forever change how you see and think about the natural world.

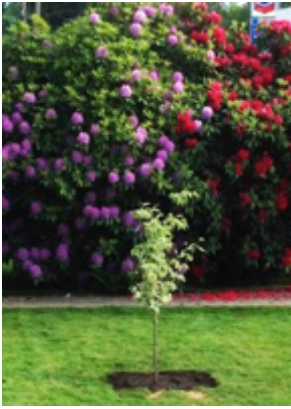
Acclaimed scientist Hope Jahren has built three laboratories in which she's studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. Her first book might have been a revelatory treatise on plant life. *Lab Girl* is that, but it is also so much more. Because in it, Jahren also shares with us her inspiring life story, in prose that takes your breath away."

Future book selections will be announced shortly.

Check the Thoroughly Thursday e-news for updates on this meeting as the month progresses.



Watch Us Grow!



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021

Annual Growth Report

"Leigh's Tree" and Weston and Garrett Dorr

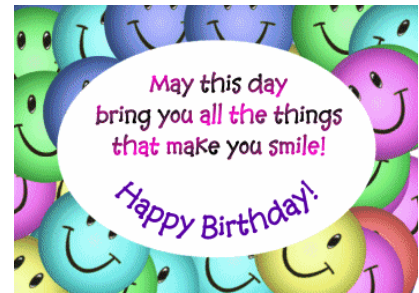
This flowering dogwood tree was planted during Leigh's installation celebration in June 2017. Members of the congregation brought bags of dirt from their yards or gardens to add to the soil and nurture the tree's roots during the planting, which was done by Weston and Garrett Dorr as the congregation and installation commission looked on.

Each year we commemorate "Leigh's Tree" with a photo including the Dorr boys. In doing so we are reminded of the various ways in which we grow as a church, as a community, and especially spiritually as God's unique creation.

August Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy August birthday to:

4th Larry Commeree
12th Leigh Weber
31st Kathy O'Laughlin



Save Your Grocery Receipts *An Easy Way to Help our Community!*

Do you know that your Thriftway and IGA grocery receipts can generate a donation directly to the church?

Through the Thriftway and IGA 1% Program, we receive a one percent rebate on all receipts that we turn in to them. To be considered, each receipt must include the shopper's name and telephone number. Almost all purchases are eligible for this rebate, with the exception of items with no profit such as stamps, newspapers, and gift cards.

Beverly Skeffington has taken on the painstaking job of totaling and turning in the receipts. Recently she turned in Thriftway receipts that will generate a rebate of \$115. We donate the proceeds from this program to the Vashon Food Bank.

Beverly does the hard part. All you need to do is write your name and your telephone number on your grocery receipts, save and bundle them, and turn them in. Easy as 1-2-3! You may drop them into the prayer box outside the church, or you may mail them to VPC, or if you are inside the church you may drop them into the designated boxes in the East Room. (Or simply hand them to Leigh the next time you see her!)



Calendar

August 2021

- 1 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM **Communion Sunday**
- 6 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 7 Yard Sale 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- 8 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 13 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 15 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 17 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 20 VPC Book Club at Kate Smith's 7:00 PM
- 22 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 27 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 29 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM **Joint worship with VMUC.**

Ongoing Activities

- Mondays** Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 PM
- Tuesdays** Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM
Text Study Noon
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8:00 AM
- First Thursdays** Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
- Fridays** Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)
Game Night 7:00 PM

Please Note:

Dates, times and events might change after the time of this publication. Refer to the church bulletin and the weekly e-news for up to date information.

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