

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

October 2021

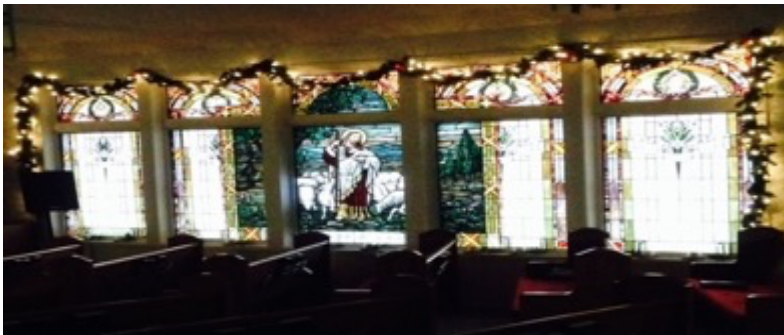
Sermons Posted on Church Website

vashonpreschurch.org

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.



October 3rd: World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. World Communion Sunday is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. Starting in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, it was an attempt to bring churches together in the spirit of unity, and to understand how each congregation is interconnected with one another. The movement started slowly but gained momentum during World War II, when World Wide Communion symbolized the efforts to hold things together in a spiritual sense. Today World Communion Sunday is celebrated across the globe.

It is appropriate and fitting that we share this special Sunday with our brothers and sisters from Vashon United Methodist Church. Please join us, either in person at VPC, or on Zoom.



New Office Hours

The church office is currently open
Monday through Thursday 10-12.

Should you have a need to reach the church,
please leave a voicemail at 206-463-2010 or e-mail
vashonpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com.

You may also contact Pastor Leigh at 425-221-1142.

A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

Recently I had a conversation with someone at Café Luna. The person recognized me as VPC's pastor and came up to express appreciation for all the church does for the community. "You have such a nice space."

Those words really hit me. While we do have a nice physical space, I like to think we have also learned to create space for others. Making space is something Jesus did a lot. He made space for those not welcome. He made space for the sick. He made space for women. He made space for strangers. He made space for all those considered "other." He made space for those who disagreed with him. Making space is at the heart of ministry if we are to be like him.

I believe that the process of making and widening space starts within our own congregation. We don't all agree on everything in life. We represent a variety of views and feelings and I think that's a very good thing. What we do agree on is our desire and hope to be more like Jesus and follow his teaching and so we make space.

Perhaps that's one of the greatest litmus tests we Christians have, asking if others feel safe when they share who they are? Does each of us feel safe? Can we be authentic? I believe these are foundational questions when we do the work of being disciples.

"You have such nice space." My prayer for each of us and the community around us is that we live into that each day, that everyone feels welcome, just as they are. Jesus said, "Come to me. Follow me." When we work to create, honor, and hold nice space on every level for every person, we are doing just that.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



In-Person Worship Guidelines

The last time our congregation gathered for worship in person in our sanctuary was Ash Wednesday of 2020. And yet we have continued to worship, continued to be the church, and continued to care for the community around us. Still, we recognize that the ability to gather in-person is a vital part of being the church together. Your Session met in August and prayerfully concluded that in person worship will resume on **Sunday, September 5th**. If you are ready to join us in person, you are welcome to come starting that Sunday. If you are not yet comfortable, you will continue to be able to worship with us live on Zoom. We are committed to continuing both ways of engaging worship together.

Due to the current guidelines from the King County Health Department, the concern over the delta variant and our need to create the safest possible space for everyone, we will follow these guidelines::

- We strongly recommend vaccination for Covid-19 .
- Everyone attending in-person worship must wear a mask, in keeping with Washington State (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/Articles/ID/2901/Updated-statewide-masking-order>)
- We will be singing together.
- Pews will be clearly marked to allow safe distancing.
- Offering will continue to be received online and by mail, but we will also have an offering plate up front for those who wish to contribute in person.
- We will share in communion. Bread will be placed on trays in individual paper holders and juice will be in little cups. We will not pass plates but come forward to receive the elements. If you prefer to bring your own elements you are welcome to do so.
- For now, there will be no coffee hour.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned before and after worship by custodial staff.
- There will be a screen in the sanctuary to allow those in person to see who is worshipping with us on Zoom and to hear their prayer requests when possible.
- We will use the pew hymnals..
- Bulletins will be placed on the table outside the sanctuary doors. We will continue to email them on Saturdays.

These are challenging days as a nation and world, sadly divided in too many ways. The guidelines we have agreed upon as a Session are not meant to further divide or challenge anyone. They are simply our collective prayerful discernment about what is best for now. We will continue to strive to make the safest possible place for all to worship, in our sanctuary or in your home. And we look forward, with you and the whole world, to the end of this pandemic.

We are delighted to be able to worship together in person again as you are ready. Feel free to reach out to us, via the church's or Pastor Leigh's email if you have any questions or concerns.

Elders Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Liz Loveness, Al Ross-Weston, Bob Spangler

Leigh Weber, Moderator

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk

Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting September 21 at Elizabeth Loveness's home. All Elders were present, and Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with prayer and all Elders checked in, many emotionally sharing memories of Elder Kate Smith.

The clerk noted that the death of Elder Kate Smith on September 8, 2021, was recorded in the church rolls. A celebration of her life was held at VPC on September 26. A request to also hold a celebration of life ceremony in the sanctuary on October 9 for Barbara Zook, a non-congregant of VPC, was approved.

Mission Resources Elder Jim Lilje, presented the year-to-date budget vs actual, a statement of cash on hand as of Aug 31. Donations continue to exceed budgeted estimates, and expenses remain less than budgeted. Session received the first draft of the 2022 budget worksheet and will review it and discuss revisions in November. Work clearing the south containment pond was completed by Zellerhoff Construction in August. A SeaPres Mission Grant application has been submitted to Seattle Presbytery to reimburse VPC for half the cost of the project. A recurring trouble alarm on the fire sprinkler control panel was diagnosed by a Washington Alarm Service technician Sept 15 and repaired by a CINTAS technician on September 21. Vashon Youth and Family Services representatives visited the classrooms vacated by Creative Preschool and are interested in renting the spaces.

The Purposeful Service Committee recommended the 2021 Undesignated Mission Partner Contribution be awarded to REACH (Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches). The motion was put on the table for consideration at the next regular Session meeting. The entire \$1000 Mission Partner contribution budgeted for Viet Nam Ministries in 2021 will support the Presbyterian Church of Viet Nam. COVID has interrupted the Associated Scholarship program.

Barb Huff reported that the yard sale brought in \$1515.50 – earmarked to be donated to Vashon Youth and Family Services.

Hybrid worship continues. A special thanks to Jim Lilje, Jacq Skeffington, Claudia Ross-Weston and Bev Skeffington, our tech team. There will be a combined hybrid service with the Methodists at 10:00 on October 3 at VPC. Session authorized Reverend Al Ross-Weston to bless Communion during that service. Pastor Leigh will take vacation from October 11-15. Rev Bruce Baker has been invited to fill the pulpit on October 31.

The next regularly scheduled Session meeting will be October 19th, 4:30 PM.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session



Purposeful Service Team News Areas of Responsibility

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

At the September 28th Purposeful Service Committee meeting, members agreed on recommendations to Session for mission funding in 2022.

We will resume the collection of non-perishable items for the Food Bank on the first Sunday of the month. If you are coming to in-person worship, please leave donations at the rear of the sanctuary. For those attending via Zoom, items can be placed in the marked box near the north entrance during office hours (Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm), preferably during the last week of the month. You are also encouraged to place signed Thriftway and IGA receipts in the designated boxes at VPC; those for Thriftway are redeemed for donation to the Food Bank.

We are not able to collect plastics and Styrofoam at VPC this weekend. We will plan a November collection. If you have items and wish to take them yourself on Sunday October 3, the hours at the Sheffield Building (18850 103rd Avenue SW) are 10 am to 4 pm.

The IFCH Virus Rent Program (which VPC has supported) will most likely end in December. Since April 2020 IFCH has distributed \$358 K to needy islanders. The \$50K remaining in this program is being repurposed to a new program, "New Vashon Subsidized Rent Program." We have posted information about the new program on the church bulletin board, as it is too lengthy to include here. Also, our IFCH representative, Brownie Carver, asks that the VPC community start saving cold weather clothing and sleeping bags in good condition to be distributed when needed; do not bring them to the church building yet.

IFCH meals, including two hot meals a week, are provided daily at the Methodist Church at noon. There is no plan yet to return to serving the meals inside church buildings.

Mission Partner Update

Vashon Presbyterian Church has had a long-standing relationship with the United Presbyterian Church of Vietnam. Several of our members have travelled to Vietnam with Binh Nguyen, a member of Mercer Island Presbyterian Church who coordinates Vietnamese ministries there. Last year VPC's donation was split evenly between the UPCV and a scholarship program for youth in an impoverished area. Binh recently wrote, "The UPCV is now facing a very hard time because the pandemic is spreading in Vietnam. The government is locking down all cities and provinces, especially in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Therefore, most people in Vietnam have no income and are short of food. Of course, the church is not allowed to have any in-person worship services, so its finance is in crisis. ... I deeply appreciate that Vashon Presbyterian Church steps in at the right moment to support our brothers and sisters in Vietnam...." Binh also noted that the school situation is uncertain. In view of this information, the Purposeful Service Committee recommended allocating the entire 2021 donation of \$1,000 to the UPCV to help sustain its ministry in difficult times.

*Bob Spangler
Purposeful Service Elder*

Mission Resource Team News

Building and Grounds

Second Saturday work parties will take a break in October while some members vacation and others are glued to TVs watching college football. We had a very productive party on September 11th, trimming rhododendrons and other shrubs on the north side of the building while Debbie Finch and Beverly Skeffington vacuumed the carpet and pew cushions and generally spruced up the sanctuary in preparation for resuming worship there. Please feel free to stop by the church at any time and pick up trash around the parking lot or trim shrubbery we haven't gotten to yet.

Work clearing the south containment pond was completed by Zellerhoff Construction on August 31, and reported to King County, renewing VPC's reduced land tax for 2022 due to compliance with Surface Water Management Best Practices. A SeaPres Mission Grant application has been submitted to Seattle Presbytery to reimburse VPC for one half the cost of the project. A recurring trouble alarm on the fire sprinkler control panel was diagnosed by a Washington Alarm Service technician on September 15 and repaired by a CINTAS technician on September 21. Vashon Youth and Family Services representatives visited the classrooms vacated by Creative Preschool and are interested in renting the spaces. A Girl Scout troop will begin using one of those classrooms one night a week in October. Carpe Diem is in full session five days a week, and the office staff has resumed office hours from 9:00-1:00 Mondays through Thursdays.

Session discussed renovating the "Joyful Noise" (crying) room, to allow the audio/video equipment to be set up permanently and secured in that space. At present it takes about 45 minutes to set up before and 30 minutes to secure after each use. The room would be locked, and the glass window replaced with lockable shutters or panels. Elder Jim Lilje has spent hours learning the system and is willing to train others who might be interested. Please call the church if interested and we'll set up a training session.

Jacq Skeffington
Building Use Coordinato

Outreach Update Join the Fun on Game Night!

Come join us for game night as the Fall evenings and rainy skies keep us indoors. For those of you who haven't joined us before, come try it out. Just light-hearted fun playing a variety of games via Zoom. Use the same link as church worship services on Friday nights 7pm.

Barb Huff
Outreach Elder



Hospitality Update

It's a sad chore to be writing this article in place of dear Kate, our Hospitality Elder. As a committee member I have volunteered to take on the signup for the altar flowers. The signup sheet is reflected below. If you see a Sunday that is free and you are willing to provide flowers that day, email me at the address below.

Oct 3 Kathy O'Laughlin
Oct 10 Here Thieme and Elizabeth Loveness
Oct 17 _____
Oct 24 _____
Oct 31 _____
Nov 7 _____
Nov 14 Here Thieme and Elizabeth Loveness
Nov 21 _____
Nov 28 Elizabeth Loveness

Kate had mentioned the Monet show at SAM. Here's a link if you are interested in going. Tickets are available at the museum's website: <https://secure.seattleartmuseum.org/events>.

The Nominating Committee has reconvened and will be seeking an elder to replace Kate. This will happen at the 1st of the year. In the meantime, Barb Huff and Pastor Leigh will be keeping us all up to date on social events. They are planning a crafts bazaar for the holidays. So stay tuned!

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Committee

elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com



Faith Formation Class - Our "Continuing" Series on Young Adults and Their Faith Journeys!

This class will feature live interviews with young (25-40) adults who are involved in careers and starting families but not finding mainstream churches as a foundation for their faith journeys. Join Thomas and me for what has turned out to be fascinating and illuminating...and even inspirational, as we listen to these young people relate their stories and how they interface with the modern, media driven, hyper competitive, multi-cultural world in which they live and try to find meaning and purpose.

Tuesday October 5th we've scheduled a young woman, Judy Twedt, who attends the Zen center.... a fascinating interview. Then, Tuesday October 12th, we will interview Aglaia Olsen, a young person many of us have met but, as in my case, never had really gotten to know. We had an inspiring, honest and forthright conversation. **So you won't want to miss the next two Tuesday evening classes!**

We have five interesting young people lined up to talk with us in this second series. At the end of these interviews, I would like to pause, meet, and draw some conclusions about what we've heard and seen. We will be using the book The Reason for God by Timothy Keller to address some of the trends we see among young people.

We also have a request for forming a group that is willing to follow a guided reading of the Bible, day by day throughout the 365 days in a year. The book being used for this is The One Year Through the Bible Devotional. We will have copies of this guide for your use available in the office as of October 4st. We'll will have an organizational meeting mid-October to meet each other and decide how often to get together for discussion or progress reports.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder

Leigh's Sermons Available Online

Have you missed a church service and want to hear Leigh's message for the week? Or would you like to re-listen to one that especially spoke to you? Sermons from January 3rd to present are posted on our website at vashonpreschurch.org.

Perhaps you know of people looking for community in a church. Invite them to check out VPC at their own comfort level by going to the website and listening to Leigh's sermons.

Deacon's Message

I have been out in our garden often this year. It has been a great comfort and healer during the ongoing pandemic and a place of peace and contemplation. I am once again reminded of what a special place we live in. Two experiences this past month have informed me and challenged me to share more with our island community and my family.

As I process my thoughts and pray for all the people around me and my extended family, I am struck once again by how much loss we have experienced. At the same time how many blessings we have been gifted. This was reflected so poignantly as we participated in Kate Smith's service this past Sunday. We all feel the loss of Kate, her many cards and notes all of us have received over the years, her stories of adventures in Alaska and Yellowstone, and her honest assessment of our church community. She shared of herself and often volunteered. I was so struck by what her high school friend Teresa said. She reminded us not to put off contacting our friends and loved ones. When you think of someone put aside time to call or write.

In parallel the other thing that has come into my life this past week is the book Braiding Sweet Grass. The book is full of wonderful stories, anecdotes of Native American culture and lore, and a great understanding of the connections between all living creatures. It is so rich and full of illustrations of how we are inextricably interconnected with all of life. It has caused me to remember all the stories in my family and especially my maternal grandparents who were so tethered to the land, the seasons, the wildflowers of the rimrock in North Idaho, raising the food that all our family benefited from, prayers of gratitude for what they were given and the loving care they exhibited for all living creatures. We are all gifted with stories that are just waiting to be shared.

So, I challenge each and every one of you to call or visit someone you have been meaning to contact. Don't put it off. Remember your contact and caring are forms of gifting others with your presence and compassion. There are few greater gifts.

Also, write down some stories of your childhood, family myths or about recent adventures you may have been on. Share them with your loved ones, turn them into a book and give them away as holiday gifts or just savor them yourself.

Peace and light go with you this fall season. Take time to savor life and enjoy our community.

Deacon Claudia Ross-Weston



VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club will meet October 15 at 7:00 PM, at the home of the Ross-Westons, 12912 SW 200th Street. The meeting will be held indoors, and desserts and beverages will be served. There is plenty of parking. This is an in-person meeting, without Zoom. All are welcome!

October's book selection is Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. According to Amazon, "As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, Robin Wall Kimmerer has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to this land, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers.

In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as 'the younger brothers of creation.' "

Subsequent books include The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy, and Between Two Kingdoms by Suleika Jaouad.

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



October Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy birthday to:

- 1st Jim Lilje
- 7th Kathy Olsen



Calendar

October 2021

- 1 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM at VPC with VUMC **World Wide Communion Sunday**
- 8 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 12 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 15 VPC Book Club, 7:00 PM
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 19 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 21 Theology Pub at Camp Colvos 5:30 PM
- 22 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 26 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 29 Game Night 7:00 PM

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
- 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, Bob Spangler
- Deacons** Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Susan Commeree, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman, Nancy Tucker, Sue Weston