

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

November 2021

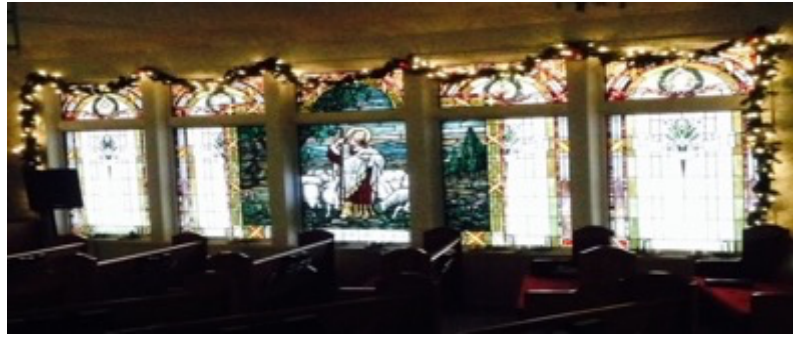


Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

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.



Notable November Dates

- 6th: Styrofoam Collection
- 7th: Standard Time Resumes
- 18th: Theology Pub
- 19th: VPC Book Club
- 25th: Thanksgiving Day

Holiday Fun and Get-Togethers

Stay tuned for upcoming chances to celebrate the holidays with church and community, including:

- 🌀 Thanksgiving dessert over Zoom
- 🌀 Vashon Christmas tree lighting (TBD)
- 🌀 Christmas holiday bazaar
- 🌀 Christmas cookie exchange
- 🌀 Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM

If you have ideas for potential get-togethers, both in person and via Zoom, please share them with either Barb Huff or Nancy Tucker.



A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

I had the gift of officiating the wedding of a dear friend of our family this past weekend. As part of the ceremony, we chose to include seven different blessings read by friends and family. The last of the blessings was this:

May you be blessed with community. May you always be blessed with the awareness that you are an essential part of a circle of family and friends. May there always be within this group love, trust, support, and laughter, and may there be many future occasions for rejoicing in their company.

As I read this one, I glanced over at my daughter who was the maid of honor, standing there beside her best friend since kindergarten with an audience of so many other friends. Truly one of the gifts of life God blesses us with is that of community.

During this season of gratitude, I want to express to you both how thankful I am to be in community with you and what joy I find in watching you continue to share love with the community around us. We are in community with one another, and I pray that you each know that you are an essential part.

We look to the apostles of Jesus as those who started the early church and continued his work after he ascended, which is all true. But those apostles began their journey with him as his friends, in community with him, learning from him and being in relationship with him. Part of Jesus' teaching was about widening their definition of community and honoring each one's place within it.

As we begin this month of worship, first we stop to celebrate the community of saints in our own lives that have gone before us, tethered to us still in our hearts and spirits. These are the shoulders on which we stand, not unlike the disciples stood on the shoulders of their friend Jesus after he was gone. He was their Lord and Savior, but he was also their friend.

God places us in community for a reason; it is not good for us to be alone. Jesus called a community when he began his ministry, and we are invited to take our place in that eternal community right here and right now. To be the hands and feet of Christ today, we need each other. We are blessed to be in prayer together, in discernment together, in God's word together and at the Table together. From there we are blessed to serve together in Christ.

I am so grateful to count you among my blessings and excited for the future together and this good and holy work of being in community together.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



In-Person Worship Guidelines

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 sing together.
- Pews will be clearly marked to allow safe distancing.
- Offerings 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.

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 October 19 at Elizabeth Loveness' home. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with a reading from Philippians and prayer. Pastor Leigh has been in conversation with Reverend Mike Ivaska of the Vashon Island Community Church and Reverend Sarah Colvin of Church of the Holy Spirit about future ecumenical activities. They have committed to meeting monthly. A presenter from the DOVE project offered a "Minute for Mission" during worship in October. A representative from VARSA (Vashon Alliance to Reduce Substance Abuse) will speak in November.

Session continued 2022 budget planning and discussed salary increases for staff. After reviewing increased hourly work performed by the cleaning team due to COVID protocols, Session agreed to increase their compensation from \$400 to \$600 per month effective November 1, 2021. Carpe Diem is also hiring cleaning staff to clean classrooms, bathrooms, and the basement two days per week. Final requests for budget changes will be presented to Jim by November 9 for approval at the November meeting.

Pastor Leigh, Elizabeth Loveness, and Barb Huff agreed to split the responsibilities of the Hospitality Elder until a new Elder is elected by the congregation. Plans include Halloween candy distribution at VPC, Zoom sharing of Christmas trees and ornaments from homes, and a possible Holiday Bazaar. Upon further discussion from last month, the 2021 Undesignated Mission Partner Contribution of \$1,000.00 will be awarded to REACH (Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches). The Purposeful Service committee proposed, and the Session approved, to support the Mary's Place Giving Tree Christmas activity once again this year.

The Nominating Committee recommended, and Session approved, that effective January 1, 2022 VPC change to three Elder classes, each with two Elders serving three year terms. VPC currently operates with two classes, each with three Elders serving three-year terms. This will eliminate the need to call three Elders in a given year and having a lag year with no election. Elders are corporate officers and the State of Washington requires that corporate officers be elected to serve for a period of at least three years.

Session discussed the need to set up a co-host to admit participants and monitor chat requests during hybrid worship. The team operating the broadcast from the sanctuary have their hands full adjusting cameras, images and sound levels. Attendance at worship has been fairly steady with between 16 to 22 in the sanctuary and 18 to 23 attending via Zoom. There have been recommendations to purchase additional cameras to mount in the front of the sanctuary and microphones to better capture prayer request from the congregation in the sanctuary.

Rev. Bruce Baker filled the pulpit on October 31.

The next meeting of Session will be November 21 at 2:00 at Elizabeth Loveness's home.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Purposeful Service Team News Areas of Responsibility

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

We will collect plastic bags, bubble shipping bags and Styrofoam at the VPC parking lot on Saturday, November 6 from 10:00-11:30 and then take them to the recycling event the next day. Please do not bring plastics that are accepted at the county transfer station, such as bottles and "clamshell" food containers. We will also accept hard plastics such as drinking glasses, coat hangers and outdoor furniture, but if you have large items, please e-mail Bob Spangler for coordination. For more information, visit www.zerowastevashon.org. This collection is part of VPC's Creation Care Initiative.

Stay tuned for details on the Giving Tree for residents of Mary's Place. This early December event will involve selecting new items from the Mary's Place on-line list of residents' needs and sending them to a central location.

Reminder: The First Sunday collection of non-perishables for the VMI Food Bank has resumed. Many of you heard Leslie's presentation during the worship service that encourages members especially to donate non-food items such as toilet paper, paper towels, and personal hygiene products. Items can be placed in the back pew of the sanctuary either on November 7 or on a weekday during office hours.

Our IFCH representative Brownie Carver reports that the new Vashon rent fund makes all islanders in need eligible. Information about this program is on the church bulletin board. Meals are once again being served in the evening at the Methodist Church. Also, it is time that we receive donations of warm clothing, including hand warmers. All clothing and blankets should be clean and in good condition, and brought to the church building during office hours or on Sunday morning. We did a great job last year and hope to repeat.

Mission Partner Update

Session approved Purposeful Service Committee's recommendation that the 2021 budgeted \$1000 Mission Initiative be donated to Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH). REACH was incorporated as a non-profit in 2012 and is focused on eliminating homelessness and hunger in south King County. Its shelter currently provides 24/7 accommodation for 35 individuals, and the meals program, coordinated with other area groups, offers breakfast Monday through Friday and suppers Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Staff at the meals provides support and referrals. REACH is currently partnering with Lakeridge Lutheran Church to expand the shelter program to provide new dignified sleeping spaces, showers, laundry, health care support and counseling services at LLC. Services to help families transitioning to permanent housing are also offered. Purposeful Service Committee is pleased that VPC has the resources to assist this worthy effort in an area with great needs.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Mission Resource Team News

Building and Grounds

Our work parties have recently mirrored our commitment to be the church, beyond the church building! In September we had a very productive work party at former Elder Kate Smith's house to help her family prepare to sell her house. In October we worked away at clearing shrubbery infringing access to Deacon Sue Weston's walk-in home at Sylvan Beach. The grounds at the church are still looking loved and prepared for the wet weather to come.

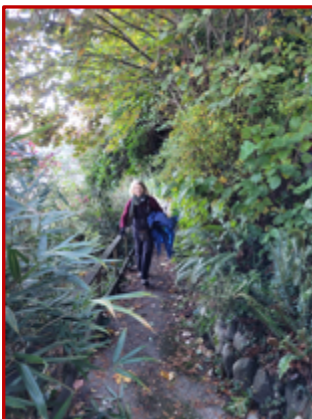
There won't be any Second Saturday work party this month as Beverly and I are going to be away again on November 13. Many thanks to the volunteers who drop by the church picking up trash and working on the flower beds at their own pace.

The leader of the Girl Scout troop which meets in the basement classroom on Monday evenings has agreed to start mowing the lawn in exchange for use of the classroom. (Yea!!) I'm hopeful this can also lead to involving the Scouts in some gardening projects in the spring.

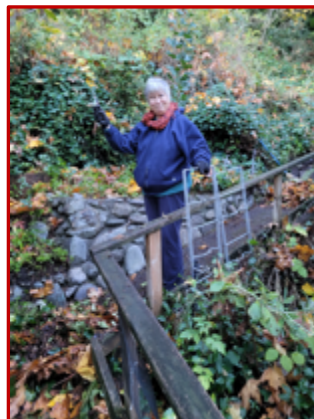
Planning is still in the works to convert the "Joyful Noise" (crying) room to an audio/visual control room with A/V equipment set up permanently and secured in that space. There has also been discussion of acquiring additional cameras and microphones to improve hybrid worship. Carpe Diem recently broadcast their "Poet's Afternoon" from the sanctuary. Parents, grandparents, and friends from all over the country were able to watch the young poets perform. The staff and teachers were extremely grateful for us operating the equipment for them. Please call the church if interested in learning to operate the equipment and we'll set up a training session.

Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator

Work Party at Sue's



Before



In Process



Done!



Needed: Flowers for the Altar

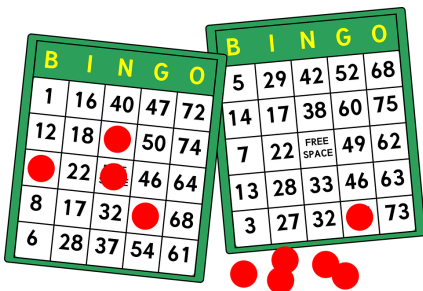
Now that we have recommenced in-person worship, we need altar flowers weekly. Currently we are lacking, as shown below, flowers for November 21 and the entire month of December. If you can provide flowers for any of those dates, please email Liz Loveness (Elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| November 7: Nancy van Roessel | December 5: |
| November 14: Hére Thieme | December 12: |
| November 21: | December 19: |
| November 28: Elizabeth Loveness | December 24/26: |



Bingo!

Game night continues! In October Barb Huff expanded her game repertoire with an exhilarating round of Bingo. At least 17 people participated and competed for the chance to yell, "BINGO!". Everyone had so much fun that we're adding Bingo one Friday each month. Watch for the notification in the weekly e-news.



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

This coming week marks the official end of the "young generation interviews." The class has been discussing what they have heard and seen in these specific live interviews to develop trends that reflects the larger population of the under 40. Basically, we see a generation that is not "in church" and are not seeking spiritual practices within the framework of the Christian church tradition. So how do we interface with those in this generation (often our own grown "children")? Mutual love and respect is always a good place to start. This would be the foundation. In our class we get much more specific. If you are interested, contact Liz or Thomas for details. We determined that language and understanding of scripture plays a role in the division between generations. To polish our communication of these and successfully convey them to the under 40 we have turned to someone who has been successful doing that. Tim Keller's book, The Reason for God reinforces our understanding of scripture and gives us the language he has used in his very successful ministry to young professionals in New York city. The major doubts and contradictions the young are citing are "the church is responsible for so much injustice; Christianity is a straitjacket; how could a good God allow so much suffering; there can't be just one true religion; how can a loving God send people to hell; science has disproved Christianity; you can't take the Bible literally." Keller addresses these and gives the reader language and understanding that resonates with the "educated young." The book allows you to articulate your beliefs, not to preach or proselytize, but to come alongside in that arena of love and respect and more effectively communicate what you believe. The interviews have been a very rewarding experience for me. I hope the class members would agree. Our final class is Tuesday, November 2nd. Then we will take a short break to prepare for Advent .

We are starting a new offering in Faith Formation beginning November 1. I hope if you have not been attending other classes that you'll give this one a try. Using the guide, **The One Year Through the Bible Devotional**, you can read a verse(s) each day and read in the guide a short passage for thought or prayer. **If you prefer a quiet and personal time each day for grounding and feeding your soul, maybe this activity is for you.** We will schedule time every two weeks beginning November 16 at 7 pm for comment or questions. I'm going to do this. I've not followed a daily devotional for a while. You may have a daily devotional of your own. That's okay!. You may also join in the bi-weekly share and comment. I have 15 copies of the guide available. They are going like hotcakes! Just let me know if you would like one. Also contact me if you have questions or comments. elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder

Outreach: Halloween Fun in the Community

Our first large scale community event since the pandemic was a smashing success! An estimated 500+ Vashonites and others took advantage of the beautiful autumnal day to meet up with friends and family and sample the treats offered by local establishments.

The celebration, scheduled from 5:00 – 7:00, began a bit early, as soon as the “cat”apult had been set up. The stream of trick-or-treaters held steady until we ran out of candy at 6:59:30. We distributed approximately 1,400 pieces of candy via the cat’s tongue; actually a gutter that Barb Huff had painted pink, and which fit perfectly in the cat’s mouth. Kids and adults were equally impressed with the catapult’s construction, and with the black cat painted by Caran-Marie Dunbar, which lent the perfect amount of creepiness to the event. Lindsay Hofman completed the tableaux in her witch’s hat, cape, and broom.

About two thirds through the event, Garrett Dorr took over as candy distributor, expertly sending candy down the chute into the children’s awaiting bags/sacks/buckets/cupped hands. He was joined by Chris Coldeen’s 5-year-old granddaughter Mirabai, who emptied her own sack of candy and shared it with the crowd.

Although the idea of the catapult was to promote safe distancing, it was so well received and operated so smoothly that it is likely to be a permanent part of our future Halloween celebrations.



Thanks to Caran-Marie Dunbar and Barb Huff for their work in designing and crafting our “cat”apult, through which we (Larry Commeree, Nancy Tucker, Garrett Dorr, and Mirabai Reeves) distributed candy to trick-or-treaters of all ages.

Deacon's Message

It's November, the month with a day set aside to officially give thanks for our blessings. Thanksgiving is America's favorite holiday according to a growing number of polls, surpassing even Christmas in popularity. What a pleasant image this conjures of a nation taking a collective breath to appreciate its many blessings. And this year, more than most, we need to remember our need to give thanks. 2020 and 2021 have surely been difficult times for everyone, each of us with our own story of loss.

But despite these difficulties, we have much to be thankful for, and that thankfulness most certainly includes our church family. While we all enjoy the festiveness of Thanksgiving, we realize that every day is one in which to give thanks to the Lord. In that same spirit of thankfulness we seek to lift others up.

The Deacons continue to reach out to everyone, church members and friends of our church and we encourage everyone to reach out to us. Let us know what you might need and how we might help. Our church family is such an important part of our lives. We want to help everyone with any needs whenever we can--from a trip to the doctor to just a visit at home, whenever we can.

May God continue to bless us all.

Deacon Susan Commeree



Reset Your Clocks!

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 7

At 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 7, we "fall back" into Standard Pacific Time and usher in the shorter, darker days our winters are known for. Thank goodness for the holidays, game nights, and for our fellowship to brighten these days.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed, thus ensuring you an extra hour's sleep and sparing you the frustration and embarrassment of showing up to church one hour early!

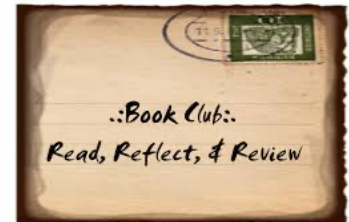
VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club will meet November 19. Check that week's e-news for time, location, and more details.

November's book selection is The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy. According to Amazon, "Charlie Mackesy offers inspiration and hope in uncertain times in this beautiful book, following the tale of a curious boy, a greedy mole, a wary fox and a wise horse who find themselves together in sometimes difficult terrain, sharing their greatest fears and biggest discoveries about vulnerability, kindness, hope, friendship and love. The shared adventures and important conversations between the four friends are full of life lessons that have connected with readers of all ages."

Future selections include Between Two Kingdoms by Suleika Jaouad.

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



November Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy birthday to:

- 8** Caran-Marie Dunbar
- 15** Claudia Ross-Weston
- 17** Chris Lee



Calendar

November 2021

- 2 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 5 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 6 Styrofoam, etc. collection at VPC 10:00-11:30 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM at VPC Communion Sunday
- 12 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 16 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM
- 16 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 18 Theology Pub at Camp Colvos 5:30 PM
- 19 VPC Book Club, 7:00 PM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 21 Session Meeting 2:00 PM, home of Liz Loveness
- 26 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 30 Faith Formation 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.

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

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