



Vashon Presbyterian Church News and Concerns February 2022

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.



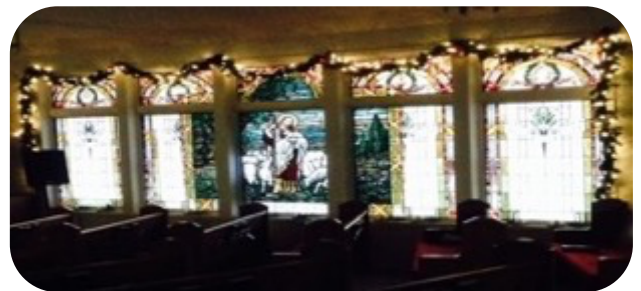
Event-Full February

Despite being the shortest month, there's a lot going on this February! Check it out (more details inside):

- Styrofoam/recycle collection on February 5
- Inside/Outside cleaning party February 12
- Weekly breakfast at Sporty's
- Weekly Faith Formation class
- Murder mystery dinner? TBD!
- Weekly Game Night
- Book Club February 18
- Theology Pub February 25

In-Person Worship Resumes February 6

It appears that the Omicron wave of COVID has waxed and is now waning. We are pleased to reinstate our hybrid worship service beginning February 6th. Please review the in-person worship guidelines and consult the weekly E-news for worship updates.



A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

Several years ago, after many years in the planning, my daughter made a Groundhog's Day pilgrimage to Punxsutawney, PA to see Phil, the famous groundhog. When you raise kids on Bill Murray films you should expect trips like this, I guess. I got up extra early to turn on the Weather Channel and watch the festivities from here. Those in the "Inner Sanctum" around Phil, dressed in top hats and morning jackets reached into the little hole and pulled out the poor little guy and held him up while the crowd burst into cheers. Music from the movie "Groundhog's Day" played in the background.

A couple of hours later, while grabbing lunch in a diner, Emily called to tell me how charming it was, how the whole town was filled with memorabilia related to Phil. She and her husband had a blast.

I share this story with you not just because it's days away from Groundhog's Day 2022 as I write this but because it really did live up to what she had envisioned. She got to be there! After years of watching, she got to be there. I felt similarly when I went to the Rose Parade. Growing up on the East Coast, Pasadena felt as far as Jupiter, and I couldn't imagine how I'd ever see it in person when I was a little girl. When I did it was even better than I imagined, and I can't wait to go back.

Dreams and desires are important. They aren't just things to check off on a bucket list. They make us think bigger. And I wonder if that's not how we should envision this work of God's kingdom. Dreaming and planning and working for a day when no one is hungry. Dreaming and planning and working for a day when equality and the celebration of diversity are realized. Dreaming and planning and working for a day when it really is done on earth as it is in heaven.

We all get to have those dreams about trips and places we want to see and experience but together I pray we dream about that day when we really do live in God's Realm right here. I suspect the way to get there is by wanting to get there, by keeping our eyes fixed on it and being excited about the steps along the way. And what a day that will be.

Keep dreaming, my friends. Keep looking forward to the good and holy work to which we are called. Jesus taught us to pray for this very dream. He will help us get there. Are you in?

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



In-Person Worship Guidelines

Due to the current guidelines from the King County Health Department, the concern over the variants 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 requirements (<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 in the back middle pew 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.
- 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 Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Liz Loveness, , Bob Spangler, Nancy Tucker

Leigh Weber, Moderator

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk

Clerk's Corner

January was a very difficult month for the Congregation and Session due to a spike of Covid cases following the holidays and the illness and passing of Beth Bekkevold. In a unanimous email action on January 4th Session cancelled in-person worship for January 9th. During that Zoom-only worship, newly-elected elders Lindsay Hofman and Nancy Tucker and deacon Thomas Abraham were ordained and installed. Previously ordained deacons Sheryl Lehman and Chris Coldeen were also installed.

At a special Zoom meeting on January 11th, Session resolved to suspend in-person worship January 16th and to discuss at their monthly meeting the cancelling in-person worship for the remaining Sundays in January, as well as conducting the annual congregational meeting on January 30th via Zoom only.

Session then met in their regular monthly meeting January 18th via Zoom and elected corporate officers, mission teams leaders, and commissioners to Presbytery. They also set meeting dates and times for the remainder of 2022. Jim Lilje returns as Mission Resources Financial elder; Liz Loveness will serve as Worship elder, Lindsay Hofman and Liz Loveness will both serve as Faith Formation elders, Nancy Tucker will serve as Hospitality elder, Bob Spangler continues as Purposeful Service elder and Barb Huff remains as Outreach and Personnel elder. **Other actions approved were:**

To cancel in-person worship for the remaining Sundays in January and conduct the annual congregational meeting on January 30, 2022 via Zoom as stated above.

To retain Marsha Morse to play organ and piano for three Sundays per month, help with the coordination of congregation musicians, and help obtain musicians from the greater Vashon community.

To approve participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection during Lent.

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation held after worship January 30th Barb Huff, Beverly Skeffington, Caran-Marie Weston Dunbar, Larry Commeree, Thomas Abraham and Nancy Tucker were elected to the 2022 Nominating Committee. The clerk reported the deaths of Carl Coldeen, elder Donna Donnelly, elder and deacon Kate Smith, elder Billie Christiansen, and deacon Diana Spalding in 2021. The 2021 Annual Report and 2022 budget were reviewed.

The next regular Session meeting will be February 15th via Zoom at 3:00pm. The Presbytery of Seattle will also meet February 15th via Zoom at 5:00 pm.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Hospitality and Outreach News

As we resume in-person worship, we are wanting to get together for fun fellowship with a side of discussion. This month we will have a Hospitality Committee meeting via Zoom (check the weekly E-News for the date and time) to brainstorm ideas for gatherings. In the meantime, think about what YOU would like to see in the way of VPC socialization! Would you like to host a small gathering once the weather is nice? Interested in an old-fashioned ice cream social this summer? What about an all-church lunch or dinner? You don't have to wait until the meeting to share your ideas. Call or text Nancy Tucker at 818-259-1770, or email her at tuckernb@gmail.com .

Tired of the rain and gray skies and sitting at home? Ready to try something new and different? Join us for a murder mystery party! Assume the role of a character/suspect as you dine and enjoy some suspense and intrigue while flexing your sleuthing muscles. You'll be sent an invitation, along with costume suggestions, for the character you'll play. The setting is Watersdown Mansion in Yorkshire, a 1930's English mansion. Days and times to be determined for February and March, and more than one group event can be planned. Depending on space available, you might also be able to include a friend. Interested in hosting, attending, and/or contributing a dish to the meal? Call Barb Huff at 206-713-6232 or email barb.huff@comcast.net .

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder and Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on Jan 8th removed both our Christmas trees and then stored Christmas decorations while Debbie Finch and Nancy Tucker deep-cleaned the kitchen. Thanks to Kathy O'Laughlin, Sheryl Lehman, Barb Huff, Chris Coldeen and his granddaughter Mirabai, and Al and Claudia Ross-Weston for removing and storing all the decorations; and to Debbie Finch for vacuuming the sanctuary and removing all the pine needles. Everyone remained masked while within the building.

It was just about this time last year that we trimmed back a lot of the shrubs around the parking lot, which made a great difference in the growth later in the spring. There are now a lot of small branches and cones that have dropped beneath the large spruce tree out front. On February 12th (Second Saturday 10-noon!) let's plan to do it again and pick up and haul away clippings that were piled up around the parking lot and yard last summer. I'll bring my pickup, clippers, rakes, and pitchforks. If anyone else has any of the above, please bring them also.

Please mark your calendar for work parties on the Second Saturday of every month from 10-noon. It's a good time to gather (socially distanced outside and masked inside) to keep up with maintaining the kitchen, building and grounds. And if you have suggestions, please let me know.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Church Community Tool and Equipment Lending

Have you been thwarted in tackling a home improvement task because you are missing the right tool and don't want to spend the money to buy it? We might have a solution within our VPC family. We are talking about creating a church community tool and equipment lending list you can consult before shelling out cash for a tool you might seldom use again. From items you and your church colleagues volunteer, we can create a list of tools, vehicles, or equipment for VPC members to borrow for a specific task. The owner of each item can either simply supply it or accompany the tool/equipment to the "job site" and assist. If you have a tool or other equipment you are willing to share and would like to contribute it to the list, please email the name of each item to the church office. We will begin creating the list at the church and will publish it in an upcoming E-News.



Update From the Worship Committee

On February 6th we will resume our hybrid worship service, in person for those who choose to do so and Zoom for those who prefer to attend from home. As a worship committee we look forward to helping make, the worship service available and meaningful to all our congregation, whatever the circumstance. We have assembled a great group to accomplish the many tasks that it takes to be in worship. Committee members and their roles:

Lay Leaders:	Liz, Leigh		
Oversight/Coordination:	Leigh, Liz, Al, Brownie	Music:	Leigh, Marsha, Bev, Liz
Sanctuary Décor:	Leigh, Claudia, Liz	Banners:	Brownie
Technical/Building:	Jacq	Colors:	Kathy O'Laughlin
Bulletins:	Diana	Flowers:	Hére
Art:	Caran-Marie	Drama:	Thomas
Ushers/Greeters:	Liz	Online Greeter:	TBD
Communion:	Deacons and Elders take turns	Nursery/Childcare:	TBD

If you have questions or would like to help in any of these areas, please talk to me or any of those already signed up. I will be calling for volunteers to be lay leaders, greeters, and ushers. It will be great to be together again!

Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder

Faith Formation Report

We continue on our Bible exploration, guided by the text [The One Year Through the Bible Devotional](#). We have a lively group discussion every two weeks; others are content reading the book on their own. We are running short of copies; if you have a copy of the book and are not currently using it, please contact Liz or Lindsay so that we can give it to another person. If you've just taken a short break but plan to use it in the future, feel free to keep it.

Our next project for the class at 7:00 on Tuesday evenings is a fascinating study entitled [Following the Call; Living the Sermon on the Mount Together](#). Over 90 writers, theologians, philosophers and pastors weigh on this Christian calling. Such voices as Soren Kierkegaard, C. S. Lewis, Mother Theresa, Richard Rohr and Leo Tolstoy are there for our examination. This class will begin on February 15 and continue until we break for Leigh's class for Lent in March.

*Lindsay Hofmann and Elizabeth Loveness
Faith Formation Co-Elders*



Purposeful Service Team News Areas of Responsibility

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

Purposeful Service Committee met on January 21 to plan for 2022 programs and events. We will be publicizing these activities in the e-news, newsletter and at worship services. We invite new members; contact Bob Spangler (rwspang@centurytel.net) if interested.

Session voted that VPC participate in the annual One Great Hour of Sharing collection, to be held during Holy Week. We will provide more information about this collection in the March newsletter.

The previously-delayed collection of plastics and Styrofoam will be held on Saturday, February 5 in the VPC parking lot from 10:00 to 11:00 am. This collection is for plastic and foam products that are not recycled at the county facility on Vashon, such as plastic bags, packing peanuts, bubble wrap etc. More information will be provided in the February 2 e-news.

Please remember to bring items for the VMI Food Bank on Sunday, February 6. Items can also be brought during office hours (10:00 – noon, Monday – Thursday). In addition to nonperishable food, paper and hygienic products are needed.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder



Deacon's Message

A Covid State of Mind

"Anyone needing transportation?" was an item on the agenda of this month's Deacons' meeting, my first as a new deacon. Well, I needed to get to Seamar. My appointment didn't fit the bus schedule, and it looked like the Senior Center would have a hard time rustling up a volunteer driver on short notice. Could another deacon help? Of course, said Claudia, who led the meeting. And she gave me a ride.

That's all I could come up with about being a deacon. The rest of this piece is about how Covid seemed to affect me these last couple of years in ways that seems different than many people's experiences. Even though I belong to a community that cares deeply about things I care about. I realize the following doesn't mention God or say anything uplifting. Just me exploring some dissonance and sharing it with you.

(From an August 2020 email to a columnist in a now defunct island newspaper):

"Suggesting that viruses may be a feedback mechanism, you wrote that 'going back to the old normal will mean we haven't learned how to listen.'

"I have to bite my tongue when I hear people pine for pre-Covid days, when they ask when they can go back to normal. I don't want to get back to normal. Normal is what brought us to the current crisis.

"Ever since Covid grabbed us by the scruff of the neck, I've wanted more of us to make the connection between the virus and climate change, with the environment-as-plunder ethos, with our food and agriculture practices, and how we humans relate with other-than-human life.

"My ears perk up when friends and neighbors notice a bird-call, or say how they notice once again the verdant beauty of this beloved island, and when I hear an NPR report on decreased road-kill, in contrast to the mounting waves of terror and despair.

"Your recent column also encouraged me to explore if introverts like me find it easier to deal with the isolation imposed by the Corona virus."

(From a journal entry later that month):

A spiritual mentor refers to herself as an urban monk. A friend says he's not upset being a hermit. Another says he was a hermit long before Covid. He remembers his chronic back pain went away after he let go of a lot of his social life. He remembers how stressful social life was, even though he had a strong streak of extraversion as a younger man, the "life of a party" who loved bringing other people together.

(I'm) not missing the closures many folk are lamenting. I wonder if my "shadow" agoraphobia makes social distancing easier for me. . . . I wonder how I can offer this freedom from distress to my island community (and beyond, perhaps). A mentor / guide suggested I may want to offer my writing. "You have a distinctive way of expressing yourself," she said. One like-minded friend alerted me to remember the risks of being too comfortable with decreased social interaction. Having experienced clinical depression, that is a salutary caution for me.

(January 3 2021 journal entry):

I feel at odds with the hopefulness with which many people look at the new year. "Good riddance to 2020!" I hear them say. It's almost as if I don't want to let it go. True, I have not lost a loved one. I haven't been sick. I haven't lost a job, or faced the prospect of a definite loss of one. I haven't faced eviction or food insecurity.

Deacon Thomas Abraham

Coffee Hour is Back! Hosting Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with our after-service coffee fellowship, specifically with providing nibbles and assisting in setup and cleanup. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Tucker.



February Birthdays

Please wish a happy February birthday to:

- 10 Debbie Finch
- 23 Beverly Skeffington

VPC Book Club

The book we are reading for January is The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles, author of A Gentleman in Moscow and Rules of Civility. This book is a *New York Times* Notable Book, and was chosen by *Oprah Daily*, *Time*, NPR, *The Washington Post*, and Barack Obama as a Best Book of the Year. Critics say:

"Wise and wildly entertaining ... permeated with light, wit, youth." (*The New York Times Book Review*)

"A classic that we will read for years to come." (Jenna Bush Hager, Read with Jenna Book Club)

"A real joyride ... elegantly constructed and compulsively readable." (NPR)

March's selection is completely different in style and plot but also highly entertaining –Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce.

Currently we plan to meet on Zoom on February 18th at 7:00. As weather and Covid circumstances improve, we might meet in person. Check out your weekly E-News for updates.

Calendar

February 2022

- 5 Styrofoam and more recycle collection 10:00-11:00 AM VPC parking lot
- 6 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
- 8 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 11 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 12 Second Saturday Work Party
- 13 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 15 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM
Session Meeting 3:00 PM
Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 18 Book Club 7:00 PM on Zoom
- 20 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 22 Faith Formation 7:00 PM
- 24 Theology Pub 5:00 PM
- 25 Game Night, 7:00 PM
- 27 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM

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** Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob Spangler, Nancy Tucker
- Deacons** Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Thomas Abraham, Chris Coldeen, Susan Commeree, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman

