



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

April 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.



Holy Week Schedule

SUNDAY, April 10

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY, April 10-13

THURSDAY, April 14

FRIDAY, April 15

SUNDAY, April 17

SUNDAY, April 17

SUNDAY, April 17

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 AM, Hybrid

EVENING PRAYER SERVICES 5:00 PM, Zoom

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 5:00 PM, Hybrid

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE, 5:00 PM, Hybrid

ECUMENICAL SUNRISE SERVICE, 6:15 AM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM, Hybrid

EASTER COFFEE HOUR AND EGG HUNT, 11:00 AM, in person

See Page 4 for More Details

A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

Do you remember the first time you stepped into the VPC building? For me it was my interview with the Pastor Nominating Committee one Sunday afternoon. Brownie thoughtfully looked through the window in the East Room to tell me which door to enter. We went into the library for our conversation and afterwards walked around the church.

Over the past few months, since returning to in-person worship, I've been thinking about that first day. I wouldn't have known where to park if I hadn't been given instructions or what door to use. Brownie was looking for me and it helped me know I was in the right place.

When people come to the church building for the first time, I wonder what they see. I am confident they see a friendly and welcoming congregation, but I wonder if they know where to go, where to put their coats, whether they are expected to give money, how should they dress, are their kids allowed to be noisy, what is with communion? I suspect if we put on our "first Sunday" way of thinking we might come up with a long list of questions.

These are the questions that I think we should be asking ourselves all the time. What do others, who don't have my long history with VPC, see when they come here and where might there be some gaps in our hospitality.

When we started the painting project these were some of the questions we had in mind? How does our space look? Cared for? Fresh? How does it smell? Musty? Fresh? What's the first thing people see in the first ten steps they take in our building? What does our signage say? Do they know where bathrooms are located? Do they know they are welcome, just as they are?

Throughout this spring and summer and into the future, I'd like to invite you to think like a first day person and help us see. Help us to pay attention. And help us to talk about what we notice.

Who are we, VPC? And what does our shared space say about that? Jesus said, "Let the little ones come to me and do not hinder them..." How do we clear the way? And what might we need to let go in order to do that?

Let's keep talking

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting March 15 via Zoom. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with prayer. She is planning vacation April 18- April 24. Reverend Dr. Bruce Baker has agreed to fill the pulpit on April 24. Leigh reported there is increased interest by other island clergy to coordinate services, share pulpits and combine efforts in ecumenical events such as a Vacation Bible School. Services are planned for each night of Holy Week at 5:00 PM. Services on Sunday through Wednesday will be via Zoom only. Thursday and Friday services will be hybrid. Beth Bekkevold's memorial service will be held via Zoom at the family's request on April 2.

Electronic statements of cash on hand as of end of February and year-to-date income and expenditures versus budget were reviewed. Motions to renew a contract for the 2022-2023 school year with Carpe Diem at the same rental rate as last year and to Vashon-Maury Cooperative Preschool at the rental rate Creative Preschool had paid in 2021-2022 were approved. Both the Session and Cooperative preschool are very excited about the opportunity to begin a long-term relationship.

Purchases of a 6' and an 8' lightweight folding table were approved. If found sturdy enough, the heavy rectangular tables now used for coffee hours and yard sales will be replaced with light weight plastic tables. With Session approval, the Mission Resources group will coordinate painting and remodeling of the Main Street Entry, Narthex, and East Room by Easter.

The Hospitality group has resumed hosting coffee fellowship in the East Room after worship. A reception following Diana Spaulding's memorial March 5 expected a turnout of about 35 people; instead, over 60 attended. Future events were presented for discussion.

Purposeful Service will continue promoting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to be received by Palm Sunday, styrofoam and plastics collection on April 2nd and the Heidsmann Scholarship.

Game Night continues to be well attended. Around 25 pies were shared on Pi Day by church members and a variety of islanders. First Friday bonfires will resume April 1, and a bunny chute for distribution of candy to youngsters (as we employed at Halloween and Winterfest) at our Easter egg hunt are being planned.

Faith Formation: Pastor Leigh is leading a Lenten discussion group on Tuesday evenings via Zoom reading [Entering the Passion of Jesus](#). After Lent the group will return to reading [Following the Call](#).

Details of all committee activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter. Due to Pastor Leigh's April vacation, the next regular session meeting will be May 9th at 7pm via zoom.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session



Worship Committee

Services During Lent

We are continuing to have communion every Sunday during Lent through Palm Sunday, April 10. Pastor Leigh is preaching from the Gospel of John, looking at the historical, but more importantly the relational events leading to Jesus's Crucifixion and Easter Resurrection. All of Leigh's sermons are recorded and posted to the church website: vashonpreschurch.org. This has been a heartfelt, inspirational series of sermons. It is well worth listening to any Sunday's message you might have missed--or even relisten to some of your favorites.

Thank You for our Hybrid Worship Services Team

A huge thank you to the volunteer crew that has assembled to allow our worship service to be "in person" yet interactively viewed at home. Jim and Diana Lilje, Jacq Skeffington, Claudia Ross-Weston and Thomas Abraham have devoted many hours of gaining the skills needed to accomplish our "hybrid" worship service each Sunday morning.

Ecumenical Sunrise Easter Service – 6:15 Easter Morning, April 17

Sunrise over Quartermaster Harbor set in the lush spring splendor of Camp Burton is an inspirational way to begin your celebration of the Risen Lord. We join with our brothers and sisters from the Methodist church in leading an ecumenical gathering around the campfire and sharing fish as it might have been done in Jesus's time. For me, this has been a most meaningful way to share God's love here on the island.

Holy Week – Easter!

April brings springtime in the Pacific Northwest, and to us Christians our most important holiday. During Lent Pastor Leigh has been taking us step by step through Holy Week with her sermons from the Gospel of John and the Faith Formation class study of [Entering the Passion of Jesus](#) by Amy-Jill Levine. We have looked deeply at the major players, their motives, and their fears.

So as we enter Holy Week again this year, we can feel a deeper meaning of the crowds cheering Hosanna ("Save me") on Palm Sunday. Sunday through Wednesday evenings we will share in Evening Prayer, reading scripture and having a time of prayer and music. Thursday, April 14 we will *celebrate* with a Maundy Thursday communion service combined with Vashon Lutheran. Good Friday will be our traditional Tenebrae service. All services will be at 5:00 PM, with Thursday and Friday both in person and on Zoom. Sunday-Wednesday evenings will be Zoom only.

Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder



Faith Formation

The discussion group, guided by the text The One Year Through the Bible Devotional will continue on Zoom to meet alternate Mondays at 7:00 PM. The next meeting is April 4.

The Lenten study, led by Pastor Leigh on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM on Zoom has been marked with lively discussions. We will read Chapter 5 in Entering the Passion of Jesus for April 5 and continue with one chapter a week through Holy Week.

There will be no Faith Formation on Tuesday, April 19. The following week we return to reading Following the Call; Living the Sermon on the Mount. If you have any authors you would particularly like to discuss, please let me know (Lindsay 206 434-5439 CP). We found in previous discussions that it was very interesting to learn background information about the authors. Look to the E-news for information about the reading for April 26.

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

Outreach

First Friday is back on the calendar – April 1– no foolin! We'll start the fire pit at 6:00 PM out on the front lawn and we'll provide the fixings to make S'mores. Stop by the warm fire with your friends as you stroll around town looking at the art.

Game night – April Fool's Day – Friday 7:00-9:00 PM. If you're home Friday night, log onto Zoom and join in the fun and laughter while playing games. We'll test your current events and other trivia. Invite a friend. We'll continue to have games night on Friday evenings except for when Book Club is scheduled.

Easter Egg Hunt – following worship on Easter Sunday, April 17, we will have an Easter egg hunt. We're looking for donations of plastic eggs and small wrapped candy. We also need help stuffing the eggs with candy – date to be determined. Be sure to invite your grandkids and the kids in the neighborhood. The hunt will spotlight a bunny chute to dispense candy, thanks to the art work of Caran Marie.

The Vashon Parks District is looking for volunteers for their Saturday, April 16 Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM at Ober Park. They also need help stuffing eggs. Call Eric Wyatt to volunteer 206-463-9602.

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder



Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

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

The process for awarding the Heindsmann scholarship is underway! Bev Skeffington is leading a small group that is publicizing the scholarship and will interview applicants and recommend an applicant. The scholarship is not intended for high school seniors; rather, preference is given to those with several years of college or trade school, or for those returning to post-high school study after starting a career. Applications will be available in the VPC office starting April 4, with a deadline of April 28. Please tell friends and family about this opportunity. **See details regarding qualification and approval process on the following page.**

We will be collecting plastic bags, bubble mailers, Styrofoam and other packing material at the VPC parking lot on Saturday, April 2 at **3:00 pm** (note departure from usual time). Help Vashon keep this non-degradable stuff out of our landfill! The organizers ask neighbors and groups to combine collections to reduce traffic at the site. If you prefer to take your material directly, the hours at the Sheffield Building are 10 am – 4 pm on Sunday April 3.

Our parent denomination sponsors four annual nationwide special offerings. VPC has regularly participated in the first offering: One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering, collected during Lent, is distributed almost equally among three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (above), Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-development of People. For those in our community who attend worship in person, more information about these programs will be available in bulletin inserts. Those not attending may pick up copies in the east room during office hours or visit the PCUSA website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>. Our parent denomination is also conducting a special collection for Ukraine refugee relief. See the weekly e-news for details.

April 3 is Food Bank Sunday. Bring non-perishable food items and personal hygiene supplies to VPC and leave them in the collection box at the back of the sanctuary.

Brownie Carver, VPC's representative to Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness, reports that the IFCH subsidized rent program gave rent to 34 households for 2022, of which 29% are seniors. VPC donates \$250 each quarter to support IFCH's ministry.

The Mental Health Ministry is meeting on April 7 at 7:00 pm both via Zoom and in person. Contact Bev Skeffington for details.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder



Heidsmann Family Endowment Scholarship General Information

The Scholarship Committee of the Vashon Presbyterian Church of Vashon, Washington, annually awards the Heidsmann Family Endowment Scholarship. The scholarship is funded by an endowment created by the late Ted and Virginia Heidsmann and is awarded to a deserving student, based on financial need, academic promise, and dependability, who has **completed two or more years** of higher education or is seeking special training or retraining.

The following rules govern the award of the Heidsmann Family Endowment Scholarship:

1. The Scholarship is not limited to applicants attending any one college, university, or technical school nor those pursuing a particular course of study.
2. The Scholarship will usually be offered to a student affiliated with Vashon Presbyterian Church, but this rule is not binding.
3. The Scholarship Committee will determine annually the number of Scholarships awarded and the amount of each award.
4. Consideration will be given only to
 - a. students currently enrolled in a school of higher education who have completed two years and are planning to return to school in the Fall or
 - b. an individual who has the desire to return to a college, university, or technical school after an absence.

The scholarship is not open to high school seniors!

5. The decision of naming the recipient of the Scholarship rests with the Scholarship Committee.
6. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the following items:
 - a. Financial need
 - b. Academic promise
 - c. Dependability
 - d. Intent of the student to continue an education at a college, university, or technical school.
7. **Completed application packets must be returned via email or to the church by Thursday, April 28, 2022.** Finalists will be scheduled to meet with the church's Scholarship Committee in May. The presentation of the award will be made during a Zoom Worship Service that will be announced in the future.

Beverly Skeffington



Hospitality

A big thank you to everyone who has helped or has volunteered to help with our ongoing **after-worship coffee fellowship**. We still have some gaps in the schedule through May: **April 10, May 8, May 22, and May 29**. If interested, please contact me.

Easter Sunday, April 17: We'll host a special coffee/refreshment fellowship after the service. What will make it especially special are the homemade treats from the chefs and bakers in our church family. **We'll also set up a refreshment stand** on the lawn for the Easter Egg Hunt participants and their parents/guardians. Instead of coffee, we'll offer more suitable beverages to the kids. We'll need someone to host that table. So, if you can bring a homemade or home-baked goodie, and/or are willing to supervise the outdoor refreshment table, please let me know.

May 1, All Church Barbecue Lunch, following worship service: We are planning an all-church barbecue lunch., complete with outdoor grills and grill chefs. Invite your family and your friends! Hospitality will provide the burgers (beef and plant-based) and chicken for grilling. Looking for people to provide side dishes, condiments, and beverages, and to assist with setup and cleanup.

Small Gatherings at Your Home: Interested in hosting a lunch or a dinner? You decide how many people you would like to host, indoors or outdoors, what you would like to serve (or if you prefer pot luck), and the date. Hospitality will help you coordinate.

Other upcoming events through June include a reception following worship on May 22 for Mike and Laura Jean Fisher as they renew their wedding vows; a ladies' tea social on June 4 (looking for a host with outdoor space suitable for this event), and a Progressive Dinner on June 23. More details on these as we get closer to the dates. Contact me directly to volunteer! tuckernb@gmail.com 818.259.1770

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder



Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on March 12 was mostly a cleanup of the parking lot. Doug Johnson hauled a well-packed truckload of yard waste which we had stockpiled around the perimeter over the winter, to the transfer station. We also pretty much filled the dumpster and recycling bins with trash left around the lot. If the weather is agreeable, we'll use pressure washers on the memorial patio, steps, ramp and sidewalks in April and continue freshening up the landscape.

Big news of the month is the painting of the East Room. Thanks to Aglaia Olsen, Inge King, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob Spangler, Claudia and Al Ross-Weston, Rev. Leigh Weber, Beverly Skeffington, Jim Lilje and the Holy Spirit for an incredible job with many laughs amidst doughnuts from Barb Huff. We hope to continue spreading the joy and paint to the Narthex and Main Street Entry Vestibule on March 31 and April 1. Many compliments have already been received and we hope to put on our most hospitable welcome to newcomers on Easter Sunday.

Please mark your calendar and join us for work parties on the Second Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM-noon. It's a good time to gather and keep up with maintaining the kitchen, sanctuary, library and the rest of the building and grounds. And if you have suggestions, please let me know.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Before



After



Before



After



Deacon's Message

Lord of the springtime, Parent of flower, field and fruit, smile on us in these earnest days when the work is heavy and the toil wearisome, lift up our hearts, O God, to the things worthwhile – sunshine and night, the dripping of rain, the song of the birds, books and music, and the voices of our friends. Lift up our hearts to these this night and grant us Thy piece. Amen

W. E. B Du Boiss

As we approach Easter and begin Spring, I hope we are each able to take moments and time to experience the many blessings of the season. In honor of the season, we will again be distributing flowers to each household. We will have them at the Palm Sunday service for you to take home. If you are not able to attend that Sunday, we will bring the posies to you.

On behalf of all the deacons we wish you each a wonderful Easter Season.

Deacon Claudia Ross-Weston



April Birthdays

Let's wish a happy April birthday to:

- 1** Al Ross-Weston
- 2** John Neal
- 8** Jacq Skeffington
Phil Yunker
- 15** Dave Rogers

And a Little More Humor

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitation once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. The winners are:

1. **Cashtration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. **Intaxication**: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
3. **Reintarnation**: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
4. **Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
5. **Giraffiti**: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
6. **Sarchasm**: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it
7. **Inoculatte**: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
8. **Osteopornosis**: A degenerate disease.
9. **Karmageddon**: It's like when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
10. **Decafhalon** (n): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
11. **Glibido**: All talk and no action.
12. **Dopeler Effect**: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
13. **Arachnoleptic Fit** (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web
14. **Beelzebub** (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
15. **Caterpallor** (n.): The color you turn when you discover half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

The Washington Post has also published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. And the winners are:

1. **Coffee**, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flabbergasted**, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
3. **Abdicate**, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade**, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.
6. **Negligent**, adj. Absent mindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.
7. **Lymph**, v. To walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle**, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. **Flatulence**, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.
10. **Balderdash**, n. A rapidly receding hairline.
12. **Rectitude**, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. **Pokemon**, n. A Rastafarian proctologist.
14. **Oyster**, n. A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
15. **Frisbeetarianism**, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
16. **Circumvent**, n. An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

VPC Book Club

Our April book selection is Apples Never Fall by Lianne Moriarty, author of Big Little Lies and Nine Perfect Strangers.

Rated as one of AudioFile's best books of 2021, and one of Washington Post's Best Books of the Year, Apples Never Fall "looks at marriage, siblings, and how the people we love the most can hurt us the deepest."

Amazon's description: *The Delaney family love one another dearly - it's just that sometimes they want to murder each other....*

If your mother were missing, would you tell the police? Even if the most obvious suspect was your father? This is the dilemma facing the four grown Delaney siblings.

At press time the date of the Book Club meeting has not been determined. Check out your weekly E-News for updates.



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

Calendar

April 2022

- 1** First Friday S'Mores on VPC lawn 7:00 PM
Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 2** Styrofoam and More VPC parking lot 3:00 PM
- 3** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion throughout Lent
- 4** Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 5** Faith Formation 7:00 PM – Lenten Study Entering the Passion of Jesus
- 8** Game Night or VPC Book Club 7:00 PM
- 9** Second Saturday Work Party
- 10** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM – Communion throughout Lent
Evening Prayer Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 11** Evening Prayer Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 12** Evening Prayer Service 5:00 PM Zoom
Faith Formation 7:00 PM – Lenten Study Entering the Passion of Jesus
- 13** Evening Prayer Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 14** Maundy Thursday Service 5:00 PM Hybrid
- 15** Good Friday Tenebrae Service 5:00 PM Hybrid
- 17** Easter Sunrise Worship Service 6:15 AM Camp Burton
Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM – Communion throughout Lent
Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship – Immediately following worship service
- 21** Theology Pub 5:00 PM
- 22** Game Night or VPC Book Club 7:00 PM
- 24** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 25** Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 26** Faith Formation 7:00 PM – Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount
- 29** 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.

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