



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

May 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.



In This Issue

- Acknowledge the kindness of others: Pastor Leigh's message
- A thoughtful reflection on Holy Week and Easter: Liz Loveness
- Updates on our facilities and church business: Jacq Skeffington
- Two Faith Formation classes and content: Lindsay Hofman and Liz Loveness
- Ongoing Outreach activities and an Easter recap: Barb Huff
- Upcoming Hospitality events: Nancy Tucker
- VPC Book Club selection for May
- May birthdays
- May calendar



Scenes from
Our Church
Barbecue Lunch
May 1

A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

For the last few years on May 1, I open my door to a little bouquet of flowers. They're often dandelions and daisies, lovingly placed by the little girl next door. She has the greatest gift of making something simple incredibly special. As I gather in my little bouquet and place it in a cup of water each year, I feel special too.

There's something about kindness, about actions that tell someone you notice them, and they matter to you. Too often we think that we must do something significant to show caring and then we lament that we didn't do something when we thought we should have. I wonder if we might rethink that a bit and let my little neighbor serve as a leader. A wave, a smile, a phone call, dandelions in a wet paper towel...all those things indicate paying attention to those around us.

That's what I see in the stories of Jesus. Jesus paid attention. He noticed those that others didn't. He paid attention to the ones left out and it was infectious. He showed God's love for humankind in little and big ways.

I'd like to invite you to join me in paying attention this spring and summer and finding quiet and simple ways to let others know they matter. I wonder if we can find a way to share those stories together and fill our lives with bouquets of kindness. The world certainly needs more of it.

In the coming week, you will notice some green stems and leaves for flowers on one of the bulletin boards. On the table beneath it will be petals and a sharpie. You are invited to take a petal and write a name or a prayer or a kindness that you notice. It can be very simple. Then staple it to the board and let's create a bouquet together this May.

Together we can create something beautiful, and I think that's exactly what Jesus would like us to know.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Session did not meet for business during the month of April since Pastor Leigh had requested vacation for the week following Easter. Reverend Dr. Bruce Baker filled the pulpit April 24. Leigh and a few members participated in an ecumenical sunrise service on Easter morning at Camp Burton. A bountiful celebration with communion was held on Easter at VPC in a hybrid worship service.

The treasurer forwarded electronic statements of cash on hand and year-to-date income and expenditures versus the budget as of March 31 to all Elders for review. No action was requested or taken. Vashon-Maury Cooperative Preschool informed the Session that they had received a better offer for relocating their school for next year. Although they greatly appreciated our offer and the hospitality we extended, they will not rent the basement classrooms next year. They would like to hold a parent and toddler class one Thursday each month in our nursery. The building use coordinator is in communication with both Cooperative preschool and Carpe Diem, finalizing rental contracts.

The lightweight tables approved in March have been purchased and we will get a chance to use them during the barbeque following worship May 1. Painting and remodeling of the Main Street Entry, Narthex, and East Room were also accomplished before Easter as authorized by session in March.

The Hospitality group has resumed hosting coffee fellowship in the East Room after worship. Total attendance at Sunday worship remains at around forty, and there has been a noticeable increase in attendance in the Sanctuary. Purposeful Service will continue promoting Styrofoam and plastics collection and the Heindsmann Scholarship.

Details of all committee activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter. The next regular Session meeting will be May 9 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on April 9 included another cleanup of the parking lot. The weather was agreeable, so we pressure-washed the steps, ramp and sidewalks around the north entrance. We've been working on getting apparently abandoned cars removed from the parking area and relocating homeless people who have been sleeping in cars there. At present there are no abandoned cars or homeless guests in the lot.

Negotiations are in progress with Carpe Diem to renew their contract for next year. We are also planning painting of the classrooms and hallways in the areas they've been renting during the summer months.

We received sad news that Cooperative preschool has decided not to rent the basement classrooms for next year. They had sought bids from contractors to make some modifications to the classrooms to allow larger classrooms and better viewing between classrooms which enhances the parent/teacher child educational experience that is the cornerstone of their cooperative method. They received an offer of another location which would not require classroom modifications and have accepted it. They have requested use of our nursery, adjacent to the East room, to hold a Parent and Toddler class once a month and we have agreed on a rental rate for that use although Session did not meet in April to approve the action. It will be exciting watching the interaction of parents, infants and toddlers.

Please mark your calendar and join us for another work party on May 14 from 10:00-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. If you have a pressure washer, there are still a few sections of the sidewalk, the memorial patio and paved parking area which need cleaning. And if you have suggestions, please let me know.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Worship Committee *Easter 2022*

Easter this year was and is for me more personal and therefore more meaningful than ever before. Leigh's sermon series from John, and the Faith Formation class based on the book [Entering the Passion of Christ](#) inspired me to really try and put myself in the mindset and emotional reality of the week that led up to Easter Sunday. One conversation I had with Caran really put me in Pilate's place. Can you imagine being in that room with Jesus? We read the line of questioning that gives us a clue to Pilate's position, but spending time really becoming Pilate for a while opens a spectrum of what his personal encounter with Jesus might have been like.

OR

Have you ever casually denied being associated with someone or something, thinking, "I'll just slip out of this uncomfortable spot and present my real beliefs 'when it really matters'?" Maybe Peter was thinking, "These people asking if I was part of Jesus's group are just in this bunch gathered around the warming fire, and they could turn on me on a whim. I'll wait until I'm with Jesus and I'll make my stand."

OR

What prompted the elite priest class to be so intolerant to Jesus's teaching and very existence? Jealousy? A very practical but deadly commitment to Roman rule and "peacekeeping"? Or, perhaps, coming to grips with the political reality of the undermining of their absolute infallibility within the Jewish hierarchy? What about groupthink?

OR

What was it really like being among friends, dining and having Jesus, the teacher, possibly the Messiah that the times and had called for, wash your feet? And while taking bread say to you, "This is my body broken for you"? What kind of legacy is our beloved friend and leader establishing?

We have been asked many times, perhaps every Easter, to try and really "wrap our heads and mostly our hearts around" the significance of Jesus's Resurrection. It seems to me every human emotion, good and bad, came to bear on the events of what we now name Holy Week. This familiar Easter request took root for me this year as I know it did for others. The result is a stronger commitment than ever.... not just based in pure faith but in aligning with the real people who lived in Jesus's day and lived firsthand the miracle of Easter.

Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder



Faith Formation

The discussion group guided by the text One Year Through the Bible will start again Monday, May 2, at 5:00 PM and continue every other Monday after that on Zoom. Watch E-news for time changes.

The group meeting Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom restarted discussing Following the Call after Easter. We will be reading Chapter 5 for Tuesday, May 3. If anyone would like a book, let me (Lindsay) know as I have an extra copy. (Text or call me @ 206 434-5439).

After having some trouble accepting the ideas of one of the authors in Following the Call, it occurred to me (Lindsay) that the point of reading books like this is to learn and let you decide if and how the information contributes to your own understanding and relationship with God. As Amy-Jill Levine wrote in Entering the Passion of Jesus (p134), "Different people will necessarily have different perceptions of Jesus and of God." So I now look forward to reading different interpretations and viewpoints.

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

Outreach

With the weather finally beginning to seem like Springtime, we're enjoying the outdoors during our First Friday S'mores on the front lawn. Join us on **May 6** at 6:00!

Many of us are still enjoying our weekly **Game Night on Fridays** at 7:00 on Zoom. These are always full of laughter and fun. If you're interested in hosting occasionally, please let me know.

On **Good Friday**, our cross was set up on the lawn, where we plan for it to remain through Pentacost.

Our **Easter Egg Hunt** was a great success, with lots of positive feedback. We had stuffed over 200 plastic eggs with small candies, and each child was able to fill a basket with them. Our "Bunny Chute" proved to be popular with the kids—we also used it the day before Easter in the island-wide Easter egg hunt.

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder



Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

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

Our thanks to all who contributed to the PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The VPC family donated \$2,676 this year – more than double past year donations! We also received \$1,070 to support refugee relief for Ukraine, and this money will be deposited in a PCUSA restricted fund for that purpose.

Our featured Mission Partner in April was the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank. Not only does VPC collect food and personal hygiene items the first Sunday of the month, but we also donated \$1,000 in April to support the organization (which started at VPC in the 1970s). In 2021 about one out of seven Vashon households received Food Bank assistance. Over 200 volunteers, including some from VPC, offer their time to make this essential service possible.

Bev Skeffington and Pastor Leigh lead VPC's mental health support group. With the (hopeful) easing of COVID concerns, they are considering another Mental Health Forum. As some may recall, VPC previously held public forums at VPC, with speakers, films, and workshops. We are hoping to hold such an event this fall, and we are eager to bring to the community speakers and workshops that will be informative and helpful. They are seeking input for topics you would like to experience more in depth.

For Easter, VPC created little bags to keep kids entertained during worship. They had a few crayons, a picture to color, Playdoh and assorted other little things, including maybe a piece of wrapped chocolate. Thanks to Bev for taking the unused bags to the Mary's Place Burien Family Center.

We will not be receiving items for the May 1 styrofoam and plastics collection organized by Zero Waste Vashon. Look for information to be furnished later as to a collection for the June 5 event and keep saving those items for recycling rather than landfill disposal.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

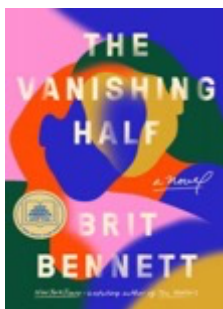
VPC Book Club

Our April book selection is [The Vanishing Half](#) by Britt Bennett, author of the New York Times best seller, [The Mothers](#).

Named a Best Book of 2020 by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, NPR, *People*, *Time Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Glamour*, [The Vanishing Half](#) is a "stunning new novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one Black and one White.

"Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Britt Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing." (Amazon)

The Book Club will meet in person on Friday, May 20 at 7:00 at the Ross-Weston home.



Hospitality

As noted on the front page, our all-church barbecue, our first congregational hospitality event since 2019, was a great success. The weather cooperated, we had seating both indoors and outside, and the atmosphere was joyful. Many thanks to everyone who made this event such a hit!

We'll celebrate a couple of special occasions in May, following worship service. On **May 15** we'll wish Jo Goforth the best on her 90th birthday during the coffee hour which will feature a birthday cake. (We probably will not put go candles on it.) On **May 22** we'll witness the renewal of wedding vows between Laura Jean Walls and Mike Fisher and will host a reception immediately afterwards.

With warmer, dryer weather come many opportunities to hold small gatherings at our homes or at parks on the island. If you are interested in hosting an informal event such as this, please let me know.

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder



May Birthdays

Let's wish a happy May birthday to:

10	George Lee
14	Jo Goforth
26	Carol Spangler
27	Tom Lehman
	Wendy-jo Weston
29	Sue Weston

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

May 2022

- 1** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
Church Barbecue Luncheon immediately following worship service
- 2** Faith Formation 5:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 3** Faith Formation 7:00 PM -Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount
- 6** First Friday S'Mores on VPC lawn 7:00 PM
Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 8** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 10** Faith Formation 7:00 PM -Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount
- 13** Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 14** Second Saturday Work Party
- 15** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 16** Faith Formation 5:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 17** Faith Formation 7:00 PM -Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount
- 19** Theology Pub 5:00 PM
- 20** VPC Book Club 7:00 PM at Ross-Weston home
- 22** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 24** Faith Formation 7:00 PM – Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount
- 27** Game Night 7:00 PM
- 29** 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