



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

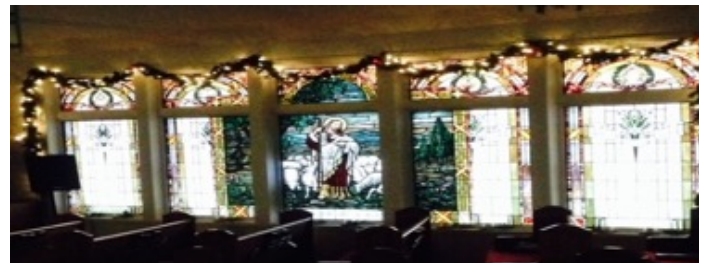
### November 2022

Sermons and service posted on church website: [vashonpreschurch.org](http://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.



**Advent Begins November 27**  
**Help Welcome in the Season!**  
**Tree Trimming November 22, 11:00 AM**

In preparation for Advent, we will decorate the tree in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, November 22, at 11:00 AM. Please join us in this always-fun activity. Even if you don't climb ladders, come celebrate the upcoming season with us and share in some refreshments.

**All Saints' Sunday**

**November 6**

On November 6 we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday in worship. You are invited to bring symbols and pictures of those in your life who have completed their baptism and live in God's Immediate Presence.

If you would like to update or add to the slideshow that we have used for the past few years, please let Pastor Leigh know and send a digital picture to her Comcast email: [PastorLeigh@comcast.net](mailto:PastorLeigh@comcast.net)

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**



**Sunday, November 6, 2 AM**

## A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

There's a poster on the wall in the hall of the cardiac fitness area at Valley Medical Center that reads, "Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." It's a quotation by the tennis player, Arthur Ashe. Since the first time I saw that poster, I've thought about that quotation regularly.

Almost six years ago, I came to VPC and began to hear the stories of some hard times for the church. As you all reflected on those harder days, I was in awe of your faithfulness. You kept going, doing what you could with what you had, and God was at work through it all.

Each day we get a new chance to start where we are, use what we have and do what we can. That's all that we all called to do, and I believe remaining faithful to that each day is what changes the world. I see you do that; I have stood in witness to you at work in the community, offering what you have time and again.

In this month where we more openly acknowledge gratitude as a culture, I want to express my gratitude for your constant witness to me of what the kingdom of God looks like. It looks like showing up, it looks like offering what you have and doing what you can to the best of your ability. It looks like making space for others to do the same and recognizing that there is enough for everyone when we all give our best.

I want to encourage you to keep showing up and I want to encourage you to take time to notice where God is showing up for us. As we have worked through this fall sermon series about the covenantal love of God, we have been reminded that God take our messy lives and still works in and through us and all God's people.

There is nothing that can separate from God's love, nothing we have done or nothing we have failed to do. There is no litmus test that God uses to judge good people from bad people. God loves human beings; all human beings and God will work with us and through us as we allow ourselves to be open.

This is an exciting time to be the church and the call on us today is to start where we are, use what we have and do what we can. When what we have is the love of God, there is nothing we can't do.

Thanks be to God for you and all that God is doing in you!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting October 16 in the Social Hall at the church. Nancy Tucker opened the meeting with a reading by Thomas Merton and a prayer

Pastor Leigh applied for and received a grant from Seattle Presbytery for professional leadership coaching with Reverend Becki Barrett. Leigh has been interested in the program for a while but thought the cost was prohibitive. With the grant there will be no cost to her or to the congregation. Leigh continues to experience more conversations with periphery people, those who consider VPC their church but do not attend worship, especially following the memorial service for Jadzia Stevens. A bench is being installed next to the patio near the ramp in memory of Rande and Jadzia, with labor and funds provided by their friends.

Leigh and Jim Lilje began a conversation with Andi Lucas of Hummingbird Marketing Services about website redesign and maintenance. Barb Huff will join Jim and Leigh in reviewing a proposal from the group and crafting a new look for the website.

Worship Elder Elizabeth Loveness is planning a congregational survey for personalizing our worship services, both corporate (as a group) and individual. She's hopeful for some fresh ideas. Since Christmas will fall on a Sunday this year, Session has decided to accentuate emphasis on an in-person Christmas Eve service and on Zoom only for Christmas Day.

The Hospitality and Outreach groups are planning a front porch Halloween celebration and Christmas singalong. Barb Huff will coordinate Christmas Tree Lighting with the Chamber of Commerce. A local artists' Christmas Bazaar will also be hosted December 3 and 4 at VPC.

Income now covers about 96% of budgeted expenses and we are blessed with a surplus of cash, according to Finance Elder Jim Lilje. Session is continuing to craft a budget for 2023.

More details of all mission activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter.

The next regular session meeting will be Tuesday, November 15 at 4:30 pm, at VPC.

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## **Building and Grounds**

October was a beautiful dry month involving lots of preparations for the wetter months.

The Second Saturday work party on October 8 cleaned trash and restored dispersal trenches around the north settling pond. Additional work on both ponds and the parking lot continued when time allowed. Both ponds and all catch basins in the parking area require annual checking and some maintenance according to a checklist provided by King County Surface Water Management Guidelines. Making all necessary checks and repairs by the end of November enables us to continue receiving discounted KC land taxes the following year.

Work parties will continue through the wetter months and will concentrate on interior repairs and deep cleaning. (Feel free to block out your calendar before finishing reading this report!) First up will be removing the old carpet in the basement hallway and disposing of it and dusting and washing windowsills in the sanctuary. That will be 10:00 -noon on the second Saturday, November 12.

If the weather happens to be dry on the second Saturday we will also need to trim back shrubbery and haul away garden waste to the transfer station. Kathy O'Laughlin, Sheryl Lehman, Skip and Brownie Carver and Nancy van Roessel have been busy maintaining our landscape, but it takes a village (or congregation) to keep up with the blackberries and weeds!

Other upcoming projects include replacing the fence between the front lawn and Zamorana's restaurant and installing interior electrical outlets in the youth room and exterior electrical outlets near the front porch.

All fire alarms and equipment will be inspected Wednesday, November 23. It's a good day to avoid being in the building unless necessary due to all the soundings of alarms.

If you are interested in helping with gardening, maintenance, clerical work or repairs please feel free to contact me at 206-354-8917. We can work out a day, time, or project that will suit you.

*Jacq Skeffington*

## **Faith Formation**

We continue to meet on alternate Mondays to discuss the Biblical readings in One Year Through the Bible. These have been fun and interesting discussions, particularly as we look at the scriptures through a modern lens. We're now well into the New Testament, having completed the Gospels. These Monday discussion topics range widely, often building on information learned from previous readings this year.

On Tuesdays we discuss various articles from a myriad of authors in the book Following the Call. These meetings when well attended generate lively discussions. We will continue with this book until the start of Advent when Pastor Leigh hosts the discussions with a different text.

In considering the direction we should take for Faith Formation discussions in 2023, I would appreciate your input as to topics and/or readings we could consider. I'd like to put a small committee in place to help make these decisions so that we are assured that our discussions are relevant and interesting. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of this group. And please give me your ideas regarding topics and texts we could draw from going forward. I'd like to make our Faith Formation meetings a source of interesting, enlightening and diverse perspectives that serve to strengthen our faith.

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder*



## Worship in Many Forms

Congregational Worship Survey November 14-18, 2022

To ensure that our VPC worship experience is well-rounded, rich and meaningful to each of us, in 2023 I plan expand worship activities beyond our traditional church services. These activities will be based on ideas and suggestions I receive from you as part of a survey you will receive the week of November 14.

Below are some sample questions to kickstart your thinking. Not all of these will be included in the final survey, and I encourage you to share with me [Elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com) your ideas, comments, and suggestions for survey topics. Remember, this survey is only for developing our worship experience; worship briefly defined as:

*Homage or grateful submission to God; service to God; and reverence or respect for God either in corporate (acting together in a group) or personal (your own) experience.*

**Scoring: Write 5 - very likely to attend; 4 - would attend sometimes; 3 – mildly interested; 2 - would have to be coaxed; 1 - not likely to attend at all:**

### **Weekday Evening Meditation Prayer Service (in person in the sanctuary)**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

### **Weekday evening Meditation prayer service (online led by Pastor Leigh or guest Meditation Leader)**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

### **Special Meditation Prayer Service celebrated to prepare us for certain Holy Days: Easter, Christmas, a wedding or a memorial for a friend or loved one.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

### **Weekly Devotional Service (Online) Led by Pastor Leigh and geared to similar age; interest groups.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

### **Outdoor Church – Once a month have worship service (separate and different from Sunday Service) at Forest Center Trail, Camp Burton, Pt. Robinson or points beyond.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Partners where two are chosen at random and share concerns and needs or wishes. Then they pray for their partner during the week. Meet online, by phone or in-person once a week to share thoughts, inspiration and give thanks to God.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Body Prayer – Wednesday Morning devotional with basic yoga following various passages from the Book of Psalms. Led by Pastor Leigh.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Praise singing or “sing along” around campfire some evenings other than outreach First Friday fire and s’mores.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**“Praise Singing Sunday” or “Gospel Music Sunday” where our regular service features this kind of music once a month or once a quarter.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Vigils on Holy occasions such as night before Easter.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Visits to other churches services to connect and share our faith.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Keep a journal of times of personal worship. Note times when you have really been impacted and by God’s love or creation.**

1. How likely are you to participate? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**These are only a few ideas. I would appreciate hearing especially about your personal worship time.**

*Liz Loveness, Worship Elder*

## Worship in Music

For most of us, music is an integral component of our worship experience. It has been a blessing to have Marsha playing the organ and piano, and we are further blessed to have a musical church community. I hope in recent weeks you have noticed some musical variety on piano with Jan van Roessel and me.

I am coordinating shared music these days and would love for others join in the fun. If you played piano or any other instrument as a child or adult, please share one of your favorite pieces. It does not have to be sacred music. God blesses all the joyful noises!! Maybe you have a neighbor or grandchild who would be willing to share some music with us.

Perhaps you would like to sing a favorite hymn. This can be done as a solo or with interested others, who need not be from the VPC congregation.

As we approach Advent and Christmastide, there is so much music out there. Bring us your favorites!

Let me know how I may assist you.

*Beverly Skeffington, Music Coordinator*



## Hospitality

The Harvest Dinner held on Saturday, October 15 turned out to be a wonderful event, bringing our church family together for an evening of great food, fun fellowship, and lively entertainment.

Fare included a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixin's—including cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, roasted autumn vegetables, pumpkin pie, and a myriad of other delicacies lovingly prepared by church members.

The high point of the evening was the entertainment. Chris Coldeen led the group in a singalong, featuring familiar songs most of us knew from childhood. In a surprise appearance, Chris's granddaughter Mirabai Reeves joined him in a rendition of "Rockin' Robin."

Special thanks to the Hospitality Committee for the time, work, and culinary contributions they put in to make the dinner lots of fun.

There are no Hospitality events scheduled for this month but stay tuned for December activities!

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

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

We will not have a plastics and Styrofoam collection at VPC in November. Next collection will be December 3. If you are planning to take items yourself in November, note that there will be two collections (November 6 and 20). The organizers ask that people partner with others to reduce the wait time at the event.

Purposeful Service is recommending that the final 2022 Mission Partner donation be to Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH). REACH is a Renton-area community-based organization that provides shelter and navigation services for families transitioning into permanent housing. Through a partnership with Lakeridge Lutheran Church, REACH is renovating facilities to provide dignified sleeping spaces, showers, laundry, and counseling services space, and enhanced space for congregational and partner ministries use.

Following Session's approval of VPC providing a scholarship through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation, Purposeful Service committee will be developing proposed criteria for the candidates to be considered for the new award. This program will be a highly visible demonstration of VPC's commitment to the community, and any thoughts or suggestions are invited. The scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2023.

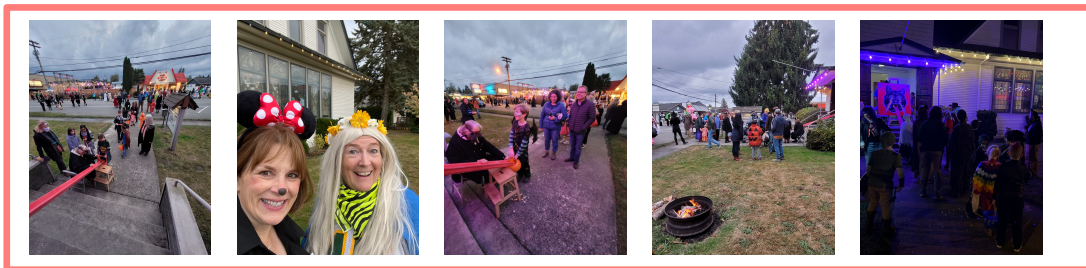
November 6 is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to the sanctuary or church office. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are especially needed.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Outreach

**Halloween:** Halloween was a scary good time this year, with the weather cooperating, the fire pit blazing, and hundreds of trick-or-treaters hitting the street.

We relaunched our Cat-a-pult, and used it to dispense candy and treats—over 1,500 pieces!—to kids of all ages.



### Holiday Market – December 3 and 4

Last year was such a success that we are reprising the Holiday market the first weekend in December. We are still working on details, but anticipate we'll have various vendors selling their wares, a kids' corner, Santa Claus, music, and the church community bringing items for a candy and bake sale. We'll see if we can organize another craft day. Contact me if you have ideas for crafts to make and sell. It is still up in the air as to whether we have a two-day event or scale it down to one day—please let me know your preference.

Watch the weekly E-news or announcements in church as we progress on this idea. The money we raise will go towards funding a scholarship for the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

## Deacon's Message

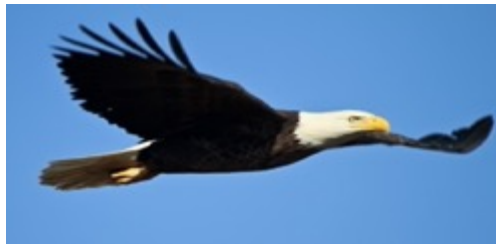
*"I want to fly like an eagle  
Let my spirit carry me"*

We didn't fly like an eagle last week, but we were up close and personal as a Sharp-shinned Hawk and an Aplomado Falcon brushed over our heads. The handler brought out these birds and they were in flight right above us and we had the privilege of seeing these magnificent birds in action. We visited one of the most magical places, The World Center for Birds of Prey, just outside of Boise, Idaho. It is an educational center that works to prevent extinction, protect habitat and address the threats for all raptor species. This is the organization that has raised and reintroduced back into the wild Peregrine falcons, California condors and Harpy eagles, just to name a few.

For me it is like being transported to another world. Truly, the spirit does carry you on the wings of these splendid creatures. As I reflected upon our visit, once again I marvel at the complexity of all creation and the part we can play in protecting and ensuring the balance of nature has a chance to thrive and play out in the world around us.

My hope is that we can look for those magical moments that God provides for each of us in our daily lives and find the opportunities to truly let our spirits fly.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator*



## VPC Book Club

November's book club selection is [Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II](#) by Daniel James Brown. According to Wall Street Journal: "Masterly. An epic story of four Japanese-American families and their sons who volunteered for military service and displayed uncommon heroism... Propulsive and gripping, in part because of Mr. Brown's ability to make us care deeply about the fates of these individual soldiers...a page-turner."

We are meeting on November 18 at 6:00 at the home of Al and Claudia Ross-Weston. We are happy to resume our potluck dinner tradition. Al and Claudia are preparing a main dish and dessert, so please bring salads and other dishes to share.

In December we will read and discuss Fannie Flagg's delightful book, [A Redbird Christmas](#).

## November Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy November birthday to:

8<sup>th</sup> Caran-marie Weston Dunbar  
15<sup>th</sup> Claudia Ross-Weston  
17<sup>th</sup> Chris Lee



### Coffee Hour Hosts

Our after-worship coffee fellowship in November will continue to be served in the Social Hall.



Hosts for the month:

6<sup>th</sup> : Nancy Johnson  
13<sup>th</sup> : Beverly Skeffington  
20<sup>th</sup> : Open  
27<sup>th</sup> : Claudia Ross-Weston

Please let me know if you are available to host after-worship coffee hour.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*

### Church Leadership

<b>Pastor</b>	Leigh Weber
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Jacq Skeffington
<b>Session Members</b>	Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob Spangler, Nancy Tucker
<b>Deacons</b>	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Thomas Abraham, Chris Coldeen, Susan Commeree, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman

## Calendar

### November 2022

- 4 First Fridays S'mores on the lawn 6:00 PM  
Game Night on Zoom 7:00 PM
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends. Don't forget to set your clock back one hour!  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM All Saint's Day and Communion
- 7 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 8 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 11 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 12 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon VPC
- 13 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 15 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC  
Session Meeting 4:30 PM VPC  
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 17 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 18 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Potluck dinner at the Ross-Weston home
- 20 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 21 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 22 Christmas Tree Decorating in the Sanctuary 11:00 AM  
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 27 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 29 Faith Formation Advent Selection 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

<b>Mondays</b>	Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 PM
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM Text Study Noon
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Body Prayer 8:00 AM
<b>First Thursdays</b>	Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
<b>Fridays</b>	Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details) Game Night 7:00 PM