



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### December 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.



#### Congregational Meeting and Singalong December 11

We will hold a congregational meeting immediately following worship on December 11 to elect Elders and Deacons and to approve the Terms of Call for Pastor Leigh. Immediately following, we will have an old-fashioned Christmas carol (traditional and contemporary) singalong coffee hour in the Sanctuary. Bring your family and friends to join in the caroling!



#### Advent Worship Services

##### December

- 4** 10:00 AM; Communion; Hybrid service; Coffee Fellowship in Social Hall
- 11** 10:00 AM; Communion; Hybrid service Congregational Meeting; Singalong During Coffee Fellowship in Sanctuary
- 18** 10:00 AM; Communion; Hybrid service Christmas Pageant following worship; Coffee Fellowship in Social Hall
- 24** 4:15 PM Coffee Fellowship in Social Hall  
5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
- 25** 10:00 AM, Communion; **Zoom only**

##### January

- 1** 10:00 AM, Communion; **Zoom only**

#### In This Newsletter

There's a lot going on at VPC this month! Check out the articles to get more details:

Pastor Leigh's message	2
Worship	3
Giving opportunities	5
Advent Faith Formation	5
First Friday, Holiday Market, Christmas Pageant	7
VPC Book Club	8
Coffee Fellowship	9
Presbytery Report	11-12

## A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

Like lots of people, I grew up with the trusty Sears catalog that arrived in the mail each fall. It would always be wrapped in plastic and my mother would have to go around to the front desk at the post office because it didn't fit in our post office box. I couldn't wait to get home and start pouring over the pages, circling those things that I wanted to make sure Santa knew were of the highest priority to me. And then the waiting would begin. What would it be? Which ones would be under the tree? How many more days?

Waiting and Christmas go hand in hand and when I was little, I'll admit it was largely focused on the treasures I saw in that catalog and my hope that some of them would find their way to our tree. Back then the season seemed to move too slowly and now it often moves far too quickly. I find my own desire to slow it down, to lean into the waiting, to experience a preparation of my heart to engage this miracle of love.

There are lots of opportunities for you to engage in activities during this season, at church, in the community and among your friends and family. While many of those moments are life giving and special, I'd like to invite you to be choosy this year. Choose what speaks most to you and don't feel compelled to do what doesn't. This isn't a season to exhaust ourselves and over function. Advent is the season of preparing.

What might you need to prepare for this year? What might God be asking you to receive in a new way? Where is your spirit in need of some mending or attending? What might you be called to hear?

As I think back to those days with my ink pen and Sears catalog filled with treasure for the circling, I find myself wanting to spend time in God's word with that same youthful desire. What treasures might I discover in my Advent devotional time, which ones will I circle, and which ones will find their way into my heart on Christmas Eve in a new way? That's part of the waiting for me.

I don't know what you might be waiting for this season, but I would encourage you to grab a pen and spend some time in God's Word beholding the treasures within its covers. I suspect that's the best place to start the journey.

Grace, Peace, and Advent blessings!

Leigh



## Worship and Advent

Sunday, November 27 was the official beginning of Advent 2022. In this season of waiting and anticipation we observe some traditional and sometimes unique worship devotions to wait for and welcome the birth of Jesus on Christmas. As we come together for the Sunday service we are asking the young people of the church to light the Advent candles, embellished by their accompanying readings. Also we will celebrate Communion each Sunday of Advent with our members as well as people of faith throughout the world.

Pastor Leigh has emailed the Advent daily devotional, *Kindling the Flame of Love – A Celtic Advent Devotional*, and each one is encouraged to set aside some time to read, pray and absorb the feelings and full meaning of the of the season. The Tuesday Faith Formation class will focus on the Advent lessons taken from [The Heart That Grew Three Sizes](#) by Matt Rawle. More will be said about this in the article from the Faith Formation committee.

There will be a Christmas Eve Service for the whole community on the 24th. Our Hospitality Committee will begin serving holiday treats and hot beverages at 4:15 to welcome anyone who wishes to join us at VPC. The service begins at 5:00 PM. There will be a shortened Christmas Day Zoom-Only service at 10:00 AM on the 25th. It will last about 40 minutes. There will be a full Zoom-Only service on New Year's Day at 10:00 AM.

### ***To summarize Advent Dates/Times:***

Advent readings/candles - Sunday Service 10:00 AM from 11/27 – 12/18

Communion - every Sunday service 10:00 AM from 11/27 – 12/18

Personal daily devotional - *Kindling the Flame of Love, A Celtic Advent Devotional*

[The Heart That Grew Three Sizes](#) – Faith Formation Tuesdays 7:00 PM through 12/20

### ***To summarize Christmas Date/Times:***

Community Wide Christmas refreshment served at VPC 4:15 – 5:00 PM 12/24

Communitywide Christmas Eve Service 5:00 PM 12/24

Shortened Christmas Day ZOOM ONLY service 10:00 AM 12/25

*Liz Loveness, Worship Elder*



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting November 15<sup>th</sup> in the Social Hall at VPC. Lindsay Hofman opened the meeting with a reading from Praying with the Body by Roy DeLeon and a prayer.

A Congregational meeting has been called by Session to elect church officers and vote on revised Terms of Call for Pastor Leigh Weber following Worship on December 11, 2022. All are invited to attend but only members will be allowed to vote.

Pastor Leigh has made significant improvements to our webpage. Session also approved contracting with Hummingbird Marketing Services for website redesign and maintenance. Pastor Leigh will lead the Faith Formation class during Advent using The Heart That Grew Three Sizes, finding faith in the story of The Grinch, by Matt Rawle.

Worship Elder Elizabeth Loveness circulated a congregational survey for personalizing Advent Worship services. Session approved a motion to conduct hybrid (in-person and Zoom) worship at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve. Worship service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be held via Zoom only.

Outreach Elder Barb Huff is coordinating the First Friday S'mores with the VPC outdoor tree lighting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is also working with local artists to host a Christmas Bazaar on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and is also working on our annual Christmas Pageant, which will be performed on December 18<sup>th</sup> following worship.

Hospitality Elder Nancy Tucker proposed a Christmas music singalong for the congregation.

Finance Elder Jim Lilje provided electronic statements of cash on hand, year-to-date vs budget as of November 30th and a revised draft budget for 2023 which was discussed and amended. Session expects to finalize the budget in December after the Congregation votes on the proposed changes to Pastor's Terms of Call.

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

The next regular session meeting will be Tuesday, December 20th at 4:30 pm, at Elizabeth Loveness' home.

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

### 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

## **Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility**

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

The Session has approved a donation of \$1,000 from the general fund to Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH). As described in the November newsletter, REACH is a Renton-area community-based organization that provides shelter and navigation services for families transitioning into permanent housing. This is the last of our Mission Partner donations for 2022; we will describe the 2023 program when the budget is presented at the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Purposeful Service committee will collect plastic bags, Styrofoam, bubble mailers and other plastic items in the VPC parking lot on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. The collection will be taken to the island-wide event the next day. Please save and bring this non-degradable material so that we can keep it out of the island landfill and have it put to good use. Plastic beverage bottles and clam shell food containers are accepted at the landfill and should be recycled there.

During the year you may have seen copies of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog in the East Room. December is an opportune month to take a copy and buy an item selected by our parent denomination for distribution where there is a need. The options are many (piglet, chickens etc.) and the gift amount range is wide. E-cards or regular gift cards can be requested if you buy the item as a gift for someone.

Closer to home is another gifting opportunity for the holiday season. The Vashon Care Network will be delivering boxes of items directly to our adult housing communities, and requests that VPC and other churches help them to bring comfort and care to our adult island neighbors. Please consider a donation of new socks, gloves, hats, scarves, coffee, tea, cookies, candy, and comfort items by using the box in the East Room.

Food Bank Sunday is December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please bring non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to the sanctuary and leave in the back pew or bring items to the church office during office hours.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

### **Faith Formation**

Our Advent readings, led by Pastor Leigh, began on November 29<sup>th</sup>, and will continue on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, with the final discussion to be held on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

We are reading and discussing [The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch](#), by Matt Rawle. Each week will be devoted to one chapter. If you don't have a book, printed copies of each chapter will be made available as we await more books.

This is an interesting read, and discussions that Leigh leads are always lively. Come join us on Zoom!

We are prayerfully considering selections to read and discuss in 2023. Stay tuned to the weekly e-News for updates.

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder*

## Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on November 12<sup>th</sup> cleaned trash around the parking lot and removed the worn-out carpet in the basement hallway. Plans are to sand down the glue remnants and coat the floor with waterproof epoxy.

Hilary Emmers and I installed a concrete slab on the north side of the church adjacent to the memorial patio on October 27<sup>th</sup> in preparation for installing a bench in memory of Rande and Jadzia Stevens.

Also, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Artisen Electric replaced a failed Inverter on the solar system under warranty at no cost. I'm scheduling an inspection and bid from them for installing additional interior electrical outlets in various locations and exterior electrical outlets near the front porch.

All fire alarms and equipment were inspected Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As the lawn growth slows down, Aldo Flores and his crew are taking on other tasks that volunteers have not been able to keep up with. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, they dug up a couple of the dead rhododendrons on the north side of the church and trimmed back the shrubs bordering that flower bed. Their next project will be removing moss from the roof and installing zinc strips along the ridge line to inhibit future moss growth.

Other upcoming volunteer projects include continuing to pick up trash around the parking lot and replacing the fence between the front lawn and Zamorana's restaurant.

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

*Jacq Skeffington*



## Outreach

### ***Fabulous First Friday!***

We're planning a fun-filled First Friday on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 6:00 PM. Come for the fire and S'mores as usual, but we'll also light our majestic VPC tree. Rounding out this event, Chris Coldeen will lead us in a Christmas carol songfest.



### ***Holiday Market***

We will host the annual Holiday Market at VPC on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Come view and buy holiday-themed crafts and other homemade items. Bring the kids or your dogs to visit Santa and to get your photo taken. Music will be provided by Marcia Morse on the organ, Jan van Roessel on piano, and Chris Coldeen on the guitar. Volunteer help in the afternoon is still needed; contact Barb at 206-713-6232. A portion of all sales receipts will be donated to Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation.

After the close of the Market we'll dispense candy canes from our reindeer chute, supporting the Vashon Winterfest uptown. Volunteers young and old welcomed.

Barb Huff is hosting a crafts workshop at her home on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM. We'll make fudge and other Christmas-themed items to sell at the Holiday Market.

### ***Christmas Pageant December 18<sup>th</sup> – Mark Your Calendars***

Our traditional Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. Sign up your kids and grandkids to be part of this fun and joyous reenactment of Christ's birth. This year, we'll try a hybrid version of the pageant, both in person and on Zoom. We'll distribute costumes Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> for local cast members, whether participating in person or on Zoom. We need angels, Mary and Joseph, an innkeeper, shepherds, and wise men! Contact me at 206-713-6232 and let me know what character you would like to portray.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*



## Deacon's Message

### Advent: A time of waiting and anticipation

*But if we learn to think of it as anticipation, as learning, as growing, if we think of the time we spend waiting for the big things of life as an opportunity instead of a passing of time, what wonderful horizons open out!*

*By Anna Neagle*

I have been thinking about the word anticipation lately. In the past I have anticipated special things that will happen; a marriage of a good friend, reunions with friends I have not seen for a long time, a celebratory meal, Christmas morning with our nieces, or taking a trip to explore a place I have never been. Frequently I get excited and can't wait for the occasion to come or occur. When I have specific expectations ahead of time, I can be disappointed, but if I go into the event without any expectations and let what will happen unfold, then I get to experience many new things I didn't anticipate.

So, as we wait and let the Advent season unfold, I am trying to go into this December with the idea that I will be open to new possibilities and look for the unexpected. Where will I find the signs of faith and love as I look into the faces around me? What acts of kindness will reverberate throughout the season and maybe into the coming year? Will I be blessed by someone's choice, decision or action?

Look for the special gifts that can come your way when you least expect it.

My hope is that each one of us has a grace-filled holiday season and that you feel the joy of a tiny baby being born for all of us.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator*

## VPC Book Club

The Book Club meets this month at Barb and Jim Huff's home on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 PM. We are reading [A Redbird Christmas](#), a delightful story by Fannie Flagg. It is also our annual book exchange! Bring a wrapped book for the exchange.

This is a potluck dinner, with the Huffs providing the main course and dessert.

In January we will discuss [The Personal Librarian](#) by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray.





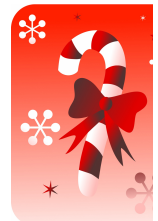
## Hospitality

*During the Advent season, there are many opportunities to give—of your time, your talents, your money. And in December, time is usually our scarcest commodity. As Leigh reminds us in her message this month, please be choosy about what you volunteer to do so that you can enjoy the peace of Advent and prepare for Christ's birth.*

We're making a few changes to our serving schedule and location during December to accommodate special services and events, as follows:

- December 4** After worship coffee hour to be held in the Social Hall, as usual. Nancy Tucker hosts.
- December 11** Immediately following worship, we will hold a congregational meeting to elect Elders and Deacons and to approve Pastor Leigh's Terms of Call. Immediately following the congregational meeting, we'll break briefly to grab refreshments and return to the Sanctuary, where we will sing both traditional and contemporary Christmas music. Refreshments will be served directly outside the Sanctuary. Lindsay Hofman hosts.
- December 18** The Christmas Pageant will begin after our worship service. Refreshments will be served directly outside the Sanctuary. Grab your beverage and snack and enjoy it during the Pageant. Brownie Carver hosts.
- December 24** This is a Saturday, and our Christmas Eve service begins at 5:00. We will serve refreshments in the Social Hall from 4:15 until shortly before the service. We plan to provide traditional beverages such as hot cocoa, hot cider, and eggnog as well as Christmas-themed treats. As we expect a much larger attendance for this service, we need several volunteers to provide goodies and to help serve and clean up. Please contact me at 818-259-1770 if you feel moved to help.
- December 25** The Christmas service is held via Zoom only.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*



## December Birthdays



Join us in wishing a happy December birthday to:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Susan Commeree  
6<sup>th</sup> Nancy Johnson  
25<sup>th</sup> Leslie Hauck  
31<sup>st</sup> Bob Spangler

## Calendar

### December 2022

- 2 First Fridays S'mores on the lawn 6:00 PM  
VPC Outdoor Tree Lighting
- 3 Holiday Market
- 4 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 6 Faith Formation 7:00 PM The Heart That Grew Three Sizes
- 9 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 10 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon VPC
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Congregational Meeting Immediately Following Worship  
Coffee Fellowship and Singalong in Sanctuary 11:30
- 13 Faith Formation 7:00 PM The Heart That Grew Three Sizes
- 16 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 17 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Potluck dinner at the Huff home
- 18 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion  
Christmas Pageant Immediately Following Service
- 20 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC  
Session Meeting 4:30 PM VPC at the home of Liz Loveness  
Faith Formation 7:00 PM The Heart That Grew Three Sizes
- 22 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion **Zoom Only**

### January 2023

- 1 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion **Zoom Only**

#### 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<br>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)<br>Game Night 7:00 PM |

## Presbytery Report

Pastor Leigh and I attended the in-person Presbytery meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church. This was the first in-person meeting of the Presbytery in over two years due to COVID restrictions. It was truly a joyous reunion and celebration of new initiatives. New commissioners and guests were welcomed and the following Land Acknowledgement and Commitment to One Another were read into the record by Vice Moderator, Reverend Dr. J.P. Kang.

### Land Acknowledgement

The Presbytery of Seattle recognizes that we are on stolen land. As an organization with dozens of properties, we occupy the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people. This includes the Duwamish People, past, present, and future, whom we recognize as the original stewards of the land.

Chief Si'ahl and Native leaders reluctantly signed the Treaty of Point Elliott on January 22, 1855. All tribes represented at the signing were guaranteed services, hunting and fishing rights, and reservations in exchange for over 54,000 acres of the Duwamish Tribe's homeland. To this day, Treaty promises made by the U.S. government to the Duwamish have not been honored. As we acknowledge the city of Seattle's true history, it is our responsibility to continue to:

- Understand our position in relation to the lands we occupy;
- Disrupt Indigenous erasure, colonization, and oppression;
- And honor the cultural heritages of Indigenous community members.

In remembering and truth telling, we are committed to honoring indigenous peoples and their stories across the U.S. and seek ways to engage in authentic relationship building and community collaborations as part of our witness to the Gospel.

### Presbytery Commitment to One Another

As Ruling and Teaching Elder members of the Presbytery of Seattle and the wider PC(USA), we accept Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the leadership of the church, and with God's help, commit ourselves to expected standards of ethical conduct:

- Show respect and provide encouragement for colleagues in ministry.
- Honor the sacred trust of relationships within the covenant community and observe appropriate boundaries.
- Be judicious in the exercise of the power and privileges of my office and positions of responsibility.

Together as the body of Christ we will work, discern, and lead honoring one another and the will of God.

The Annual Necrology Report followed, listing all Elders and Deacons who had passed away in 2021. This was followed with a period of silence and a prayer by the moderator.

## Holy Conversations

Reverends. Maggie Breen and Paul Kim spoke to the idea that no congregation exists in isolation, but are instead a part of a community, and that we should take advantage of that relationship. The commissioners, discussed the following questions:

1. How does your congregation practice understanding its social and cultural context?
2. Is it central to the worship life of the church or decentralized?
3. Describe the time and/or resources put into learning the social and cultural context of its communities?
4. Consider the impact on a congregation that has integrated the social and cultural context into its worship life.

Following the Holy Conversations, reports were received from the Nominating Committee, Co-Executive Presbyters, the Executive Board, the Stated Clerk, the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS) Administrative Commission, the Commission on Ministry (COM), and finally from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). Both Pastor Leigh and I presented reports from our respective Commissions.

I encourage all of you to visit the Presbytery website ([www.seattlepresbytery.org](http://www.seattlepresbytery.org)) for detailed reports and to stay informed of all the good work going on in this presbytery and the General Assembly. All are invited to attend all meetings, although only the pastor and two commissioners appointed by our Session are allowed to vote.

There was also a Special Called Meeting via Zoom only on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> to consider approval of the proposed constitutional changes from the 225th General Assembly. Pastor Leigh and Barb Huff attended virtually. Results of the virtual vote have not been released yet.

*Jacq Skeffington*