

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

May 2023



Sermons and service 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.



COME ONE, COME ALL!

VPC ANNUAL COOKOUT ON MAY 7

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NEED A CHUCKLE?

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...And Much More!

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

I heard someone recently say, "If April showers bring May flowers, we are in for a treat." It has been a LONG, rainy winter. While I personally don't suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder, I have been feeling the dreariness of the weather this year. When the sun popped out at the end of April, I took to my garden to rejoice and be glad.

I suspect many of you might have had similar reactions to the sunny days coming along. It feels like an all-star summer coming up for us. Not only are the Mariners hosting this summer's MLB All-Star Game, but we are finally really coming back to a normal post pandemic life. You will see the return of summer gatherings and I would encourage you to contact Hospitality Elder, Nancy Tucker, to host one of your own. Remember, the pastor loves to join you for those events. You'll also hear how VPC will be participating in Strawberry Festival. From putting our chairs for the parade to hosting a kids' play area, we are embracing this post-pandemic festival in July!

Our experience with Covid and with a long and rainy dark winter has reminded me of the journey of faith. There are seasons in our lives when it feels hard to trust that God is in control. Recently someone shared with me that there are seasons where faith comes easy and seasons where it is just much harder. Isn't that the reality we all experience? I so appreciated this person naming that feeling and recognizing that this Christian walk we are each on isn't always without twists and turns and rocks that cause us to stumble or get tired. And still, God is God and God is faithful even when we don't always feel it.

Perhaps, the glimpse of the sun onto our PNW hearts and bodies is analogous to those moments when we "feel" that connection, when we experience the presence of God in our lives even when life is hard. As we gravitate outside eager to soak up some natural Vitamin D I pray we also gravitate to those practices that ground and encourage our faith. I pray we spend time in God's Word both together and individually and that we encourage one another and build each other up as siblings in Christ.

I pray that you experience the blossoms of this spring and summer both in the physical season and in your own hearts. I also pray that you share what you see! Together, we continue forward, in Christ, through Christ and with Christ. Let the blossoming begin!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Worship

Holy Week and Easter services were very successful. There was a good turnout for all of the VPC services, especially Easter Sunday, with the Sanctuary feeling "full" for the first time in a while. The evening prayer services were available only on Zoom. This was happily accepted as our congregation grows older and is reluctant to come out too often at night. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were hybrid services. Many attended these as well as the Sunrise and Easter Sunday service in person, but especially important to overall attendance was the Zoom capability. Inclement weather and services being after dark discouraged some of our congregation from attending in person but were present via Zoom.

I am calling a Worship Committee meeting Monday May 1 at 7:00 PM on Zoom to discuss plans for the upcoming season. We'll review some of the practices we tried during Lent to decide whether to extend or replace them. Examples are having a lay leader read for several weeks at a time, replacing the Doxology with other praise expressions, just saying the name of the those to pray for, and using the cards provided in the pews to write down your full prayer request and turn them in for Leigh and the Deacons.

The Worship Committee places a high priority on finishing a modern, well-planned media capability. That includes an effective, user-friendly website, updated equipment for Zoom, and podcast capability, with a permanent, ready-to-use storage system. Implementing this system will take place over the next several months. If you have comments or ideas, see me or Jacq Skeffington.

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder

Can You Share Some Music in May, June, or July?

We've received an outpouring of appreciation for the worship music we offer each Sunday. We are blessed to have talented people in our congregation who are also willing to share their talent as part of our worship service. Looking ahead, we will need offertory music for offertory for the next few months and invite you to volunteer. Break out those old recital books, dust off that instrument! We are so grateful for the folks who have been providing music, but I am sure there are more at VPC who could also share a little something. The offertory can be short, and it doesn't necessarily have to be sacred music. Just make "a joyful noise"!

If you know someone (relative, friend, neighbor) who would play music some Sunday, that would be great too.

We need music on these specific dates:

May: 7, 28

June 4, 11, 25

July 2, 9



Please text me 206-354-8921 or email me: beverlyskeffington@gmail.com, and we can get it set up. Hoping to hear from you all soon!

Beverly Skeffington, Music Coordinator

VPC COOKOUT LUNCHEON SUNDAY, MAY 7, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Come join us as we usher in a belated Spring with a good old-fashioned barbecue cookout! We'll offer traditional burgers, plant-based patties, grilled chicken sandwiches, and much more! Weather permitting, we'll have seating both inside and out.

You, your family, and your friends are invited. You're also invited to bring a side dish (salad, veggies, dessert, chips, etc.) as you are moved. If you can help set up the day before or help clean up, that's welcome, too!

Please contact Nancy Tucker (818-259-1770) or fill out the signup sheet to indicate the number of people in your party and if you are bringing a side dish to the cookout.



HOSPITALITY UPDATES

Summer Gatherings – Looking for Hosts!

With Summer just around the corner, we're reviving our popular "Summer Suppers" and other small gatherings. We need people willing to host a gathering, which can be held anywhere! As the host, you call the shots. Want to have a few people over but don't want to cook? Make it a potluck! Want to meet outside of your home? Meet at the Labyrinth or go to a VCA performance together. Feeling adventurous? Find two other like-minded friends and organize a progressive lunch or dinner. If you are interested, or merely curious, contact Nancy Tucker, who can help coordinate your gathering.

Sign Up for After-Worship Coffee Hour

If you'd like to host the Sunday coffee hour, a signup sheet for May and June is on the table in the East Room. Remember, you don't have to do all the work yourself! If you can bring treats but aren't able to assist in setup or cleanup, no worries—just let me know, and I'll arrange the rest.

Tuesday's at Sporty's

Join us at 9:00 AM every Tuesday at Sporty's for great congenial coffee, beatific breakfast, and fantastic fellowship!

Clerk's Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meetings are available upon request. Highlights from April's meeting include:

- Pastor Leigh has received much positive feedback from visitors who attended services during Holy Week. The overarching sentiment was one of feeling welcomed and included.
- A Confirmation class has met twice with six youths participating. A couple of adults have asked to attend a new members class. We anticipate welcoming more than six new members this Spring.
- VPC remains financially sound and continues closely monitoring expenses and income.
- An automated external defibrillator (AED) will be installed in the East Room with convenient access for all. Other approved upcoming short-term building improvements include installing new flooring in the kitchen and hallways (replacing the linoleum), adding additional electrical outlets in the East Room, and repairing the office doors that were damaged in the January break-in.
- The next scheduled Session meeting will be May 16 at 4:00 PM at VPC.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Purposeful Service Team

Areas of Responsibility

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

Several students have requested applications for the Heindsmann scholarship, and we are awaiting receipt so that the review committee can recommend a recipient in May.

The VPC scholarship for a graduating Vashon High School senior through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation will be announced in May, also. We are grateful that VPC has the resources to help aspiring students.

There will not be a plastics and Styrofoam collection at VPC in May; a collection will be held on June 3. Please save your items or take them to the main collection on the first or third Sunday. The organizers prefer that groups bring a combined collection to reduce traffic at the event.

The One Great Hour of Sharing collection during Lent was \$2,126. Thanks to all who contributed to this annual national appeal for Presbyterian churches!

May 7 is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and paper products to the worship service on Sunday or drop them off during the week during office hours. Canned tuna, peanut butter, any type of pasta, and chicken or vegetable broth are always appreciated. There is also a need for pet food. For donations of bulk pet food, VIPP volunteers will break down and repackage for individual distribution.

Purposeful Service Committee will be meeting to discuss summer activities. If you wish to join us, please contact me (rwspang@centurytel.net).

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

VPC Joins Other Islanders in Supporting the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation

Vashon churches, non-profits, individuals and businesses have been supporting the Vashon Scholarship Foundation for 34 years; giving over \$2.5 million to deserving Vashon Island School District seniors as they graduate and go out into the world. For the first time, this year VPC is also giving a scholarship. Unlike the Heindsmann Scholarship that is meant for those returning to higher education after an absence, the Vashon Presbyterian Church Scholarship is for a graduating senior in the Vashon Island School District who aspires to a career in the field of mental health. The student can be from Vashon High School, the Running Start program, Family Link, or Student Link programs. The recipient's scholarship money will go directly to the higher education program in which the student is enrolled. Bob Spangler, as Purposeful Service Elder, oversaw a committee of four who reviewed candidates' notebooks to select our 2023 recipient. All of the winners are kept confidential until the May 25 ceremony. We are excited about the recipient we have chosen and can't wait for you to meet at a service in June.

VCSF'S annual journey begins in early Fall when seniors are invited to participate in the community scholarship program. Early in January the students turn in the notebooks which include their personal essay, letters of recommendation, transcript information and a visual representation of their lives in the four-page collage. By March and April, notebooks are sorted and delivered to donors who will make their selections based on the interests and goals expressed in student notebooks. Supporting our graduating seniors and their future plans are at the heart of our work.

So as an all-volunteer board, why do we do this? It's more than about the money. Recent graduate Joel Wiegner looks back to the moment he received the *Making a Difference Now* Scholarship. He expresses feelings of pride in knowing that others recognized his potential. "Receiving this award fueled my momentum to be more and do more." Joel is currently pursuing a degree in biochemistry, planning to apply his knowledge to monitoring environmental changes that will influence future policy. We believe in our youth, and we value their education.

Donors make it all possible. Every year they step forward to support graduates with scholarships. Every student who completes a notebook is awarded a scholarship. Every donation makes a difference.

Those who have sponsored scholarships since our beginning in 1987 include Granny's Attic, Rotary and Thriftway. The Beardsley, Helsby, and Aspiri families are among the many who have invested in the education of our graduates for many decades.

Each year several memorial scholarships are presented to selected applicants to honor the legacy of a beloved family member. I'm proud and happy to see VPC support this important local organization. As a scholarship donor myself and as a 15-year veteran of the hardworking volunteer VCSF Board, I can assure our congregation that it's money "well given"!

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder



Building and Grounds

Our Second Saturday work party on April 1 was not well attended. No foolin!!! But, although there were only three of us there, we each and all had a great morning. Kathy O'Laughlin continued to trim shrubbery in the parking area along the east side of the building, finishing a major area overhaul. Barb Huff and I pressure washed the sidewalks and memorial patio on the north side of the building. Barb simply would not leave until she finished her area. **It would really be nice to see some more faces on May 13!** With the weather warming up it will be great fun to spend a couple of hours outdoors at the church, looking at all that has been done and making improvements. The flower beds are coming alive!

Our new Sanctuary doors were stained and hung just in time for Easter. The light stain complements the color of the pews in the Sanctuary as well as the wood in the Narthex. We have received many compliments on the doors' lovely appearance.

A parent of a Carpe Diem student with persistent allergies raised a concern about mold in the building. This parent offered to facilitate an inspection and pay for the service. An Environix technician performed the inspection on March 31. The results were mostly satisfactory with some concern raised about mold and moisture found in the preschool basement and in the crawlspace beneath the Social Hall. Their recommendation stated, "Although your indoor mold spore count is elevated, the levels are not high enough to warrant professional remediation.

By following the recommendations listed in the report and implementing regular cleaning, the mold spore levels should return to normal." The recommendations listed cleaning up the crawlspace of debris, disinfecting some wood that had signs of water intrusion, repositioning some areas of the vapor barrier (which covers the dirt floor of the crawl space), and installing some new vapor barriers in places that were not initially covered. Much of the debris has been removed already from the crawlspace and much of the vapor barrier has been spread out where it had been moved. The filters on the HVAC system have been changed, although they were in good condition but were due for replacement. We have not yet been able to clean out the HVAC ducts since weekends have been busy and we have not wanted to disturb classroom activity during the week. *That would be an easy job on a Second Saturday morning!* During the week, we have been working in the preschool basement in the older part of the church, removing the moldy sheet rock and baseboard trim. There is still work to do there.

Mark your calendars for May 13!

Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator



Faith Formation

On April 25 the Faith Formation Committee met via Zoom to discuss future topics. This was a productive discussion that included studies about Sabbath, reconciliation, justice without politics, peacemaking, prayer, and forgiveness. Next, we will explore resources. I plan to begin a new series of classes beginning Tuesday, May 9. If you have additional topics you would like to explore, please share them with me.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

VPC Book Club

May's book club selection is Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich by Annie Boochever and Roy Peratrovich, Jr. (Elizabeth's eldest son). The book tells the story of Elizabeth Peratrovich, an activist and civil rights promoter in Alaska. We are encouraged to read more about her by other people, as the book itself is rather short.

We will meet Friday May 19 at 6:00 PM and enjoy a potluck dinner at the home of Claudia and Al Ross-Weston.

For more information, contact Al or Claudia Ross-Weston rosswest88@gmail.com

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Many of us know firsthand, either personally or through a family member, the struggles and stigma that accompany living with mental illness. During the month of May, each Sunday we will share testimony related to mental illness. I'm seeking volunteers to read a brief testimony (one to three minutes) each week. If you are interested, please let me know, and I can provide this testimony for you.

Beverly Skeffington

May Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy May birthday to:

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



Deacons' Message

SPRING HAS SPRUNG. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

- If you want to bring up my past, you should know, Jesus dropped the charges.
- As we all know, give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach a man to fish, he needs rods and reels and a full tacklebox and bait and a cooler and a boat and a truck to pull it and....
- I took a DNA test and God is my Father.
- The fact that there is a "Highway to Hell" but only a "Stairway to Heaven" says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.
- I'm going to let God fix it, because if I fix it, I'm going to jail.

On a more secular level

- Duct tape: It can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
- In my defense, I was left unsupervised.
- It's really strange, being the same age as old people.
- At my age, "getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why I'm there.
- No, I can't do Snapchat or TikTok, but I can write in cursive, do math without a calculator, and tell time on a clock with hands.
- And finally, a piece of sage advice: If you don't know where you're going, you can't get there.



Chris Coldeen, Deacon

Outreach

Easter Sunday was rainy, so we set up the Easter "bunny chute" in the Sanctuary, where we also held the Easter Egg Hunt after worship. Despite the weather, we enjoyed good attendance, and there were plenty of eggs and treats to go around. The Easter Bunny had been very generous with the candy for coffee hour; enough so that we had enough cookies and other treats to spare for the following week!

Mark your calendar for First Friday S'mores on the church lawn on May 5. We're hoping for some clear, or at least non-rainy weather!

The Vashon Cemetery cleanup, originally proposed to be held May 20, has been postponed indefinitely due to conflicting events. Our plan had been to clean up the most neglected gravesites in time for Memorial Day, but other activities are taking place at the cemetery during that timeframe. You might want to visit the cemetery over the Memorial Day weekend and take in the sight of the 600 flags set out by the Boy Scouts. We'll discuss this community outreach endeavor later in the year.

Lindsay Hofman, Outreach Elder

Celebrations at VPC

Social Hall Hosts Showers, Lunches, Other Activities

Our Social Hall, which in most recent years has hosted many a memorial reception, is now becoming the venue for happier occasions. In March, the Social Hall facilitated an elaborate baby shower for a Casa Bonita employee. About 60 people attended this event, which was beautifully decorated and cleaned up by the shower organizers.

On April 22, VPC held a celebration closer to home—a baby shower for Charlotte (Skeffington) and Nick Hohnhaus, who are expecting their first child (a girl! in May.

Beverly observed, “Delightful gathering with all the sweetest touches of love. The room was a splash of Spring color and PINK!!!

“Since the kids grew up on the other side of the country from their relatives, the church truly became an extended family to them. Some of those in attendance over the years had helped with Christmas pageants, church retreats, Sunday School, Vacation Bible school, etc. In addition, many had prayed often for her, especially when in the Peace Corps or during her health crisis several years ago, as well as being truly joyful at her recent marriage and pregnancy. The baby’s due date is May 21 and we all pray for safety for them in the delivery of this child.”



We are delighted that VPC is becoming a venue of choice for social and celebratory events



Char’s Facebook post tells the story.

Calendar

May 2023

- 2 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 5 First Friday S'mores on the lawn 6:00
Game Night 7:00 Zoom
- 6 Styrofoam and More collection, VPC parking lot 10:00 – 11:30
- 7 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
VPC Barbecue Luncheon Immediately Following Worship
- 9 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 12 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 13 Second Saturday VPC Work Party 10:00 - Noon
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 16 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 19 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 21 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 23 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 25 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 26 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 28 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion

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 |
| 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 |
| Last Thursdays | Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos |
| 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 (Outreach), Jim Lilje (Finance), Elizabeth Loveness (Worship), Bob Spangler (Purposeful Service), Nancy Tucker (Hospitality), Al Ross-Weston (Faith Formation)
Deacons	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Chris Coldeen, Larry Commeree, Susan Commeree, Caran-marie Weston Dunbar, Sheryl Lehman