

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

June 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.



Opportunities for Stewardship

Throughout this newsletter, you'll find many opportunities to socialize with fellow VPCers while also serving the church and its community.

Just a few:

June 3 and 10 Help remove floor tiles in the hallways and main restrooms in preparation for new flooring.

June 3 Drop off your Styrofoam and other hard-to-recycle materials

June and July Share your musical talents in worship

Throughout Summer Host a small gathering

A Blessed Event

Elsie Margaret Hohnhaus, daughter of Charlotte (Skeffington) and Nick Hohnhaus, was born Tuesday, May 9 in Seattle. She and her parents are settling in nicely.

Please join us in congratulating the proud grandparents, Jacq and Beverly Skeffington.



A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

At our May Theology Pub, we discussed experiences with the Holy Spirit. Have you had one? Would you name experiences you've had in that language? Is it hard to explain or talk about? Or do you just wonder about the Spirit?

The Spirit part of the Trinity is often hard to explain. As I've shared before, when I read the book, *The Shack*, I was taken by the image of the Holy Spirit carrying a vial to collect our tears. "She loves to collect tears," the author writes.

Another image that sticks with me is from Romans 8 where the apostle reminds us that the Spirit "intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." That's of great comfort to me when I'm praying for others especially. As a human being, I don't always have the words and the Spirit groans for me at those moments. It's raw and deep and real.

Pentecost, this season we are now entering, is another experience with the Holy Spirit but it's focus is less individual and more corporate. The Spirit came over the whole assembly, they spoke in languages they hadn't known before, and they spread the Word of God exponentially after that experience.

While attending the scholarship awards ceremony at Vashon High School, I heard languages that were new to me, languages about compassion being expressed in new ways. I heard young people speak about a care for the planet that was not part of my vocabulary when I was their age. I heard the expressions of the hearts of young adults that honestly give me hope for our future.

As a congregation, I believe we have that same ability to listen to the Spirit's leadership and hear and learn in new ways. The Spirit has not changed, God's intention for the world is still to live in harmony with God and one another.

The Good News of Jesus' life is still as relevant and important as ever and we are those now gathered together. Will we allow the Spirit to ignite us to listen? To speak? To spread the Word of God?

Pentecost is not just something that happened long ago, but something into which we are invited today. It gives me chills to think of what God might call from us, what God might want from us. Are you open to it? Will you embrace it? Those are the questions of this season. The Spirit of God is at work in the world, that's a given! How we respond is the real work of being the church today.

As the Spirit blows through our gatherings, I pray we jump on board with excitement, looking toward the unknown future with the known God. The best is yet to come!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh

Clerk's Corner

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

- Considering recent national news, a group was formed to study additional security measures and responses which will be coordinated with school tenants.
- Pastor Leigh will take vacations in late June and August. Rev Dr. Bruce Baker will fill the pulpit.
- VPC remains financially sound and continues closely monitoring expenses and income.
- We will offer parking and chair rentals (by donation) during the Strawberry Festival Parade.
- An automated external defibrillator (AED) will be installed in the East Room.
- New flooring for the kitchen and hallways has been ordered and installation scheduled.
- Presbytery will meet in person June 16 at 5:00 PM at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church.
- The next scheduled Session meeting will be June 13 at 4:00 PM at VPC.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

VCP Building Supports our Island Community

There's a lot going on at VPC that might not have caught your eye. Our building is used by a growing number of groups and organizations. Some are Mission Partners, others are friends, some are tenants and others just want to get together. All are welcome.

As a charitable nonprofit organization, we cannot make the spaces available to "for profit" organizations or individuals. We also stay away from political organizations. We do, however, try to extend hospitality to all. A recent check of our building use calendar identified three nonprofit schools, three Scouting groups, the Vashon Chorale and Opera company, the Vashon Healthcare District, the IFCH meals program, the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation, and nine addiction support groups. That's a total of 20 groups requesting scheduled meeting space in addition to our Session and Deacons. We also recently had the pleasure of hosting two baby showers!

It sometimes gets hectic coordinating all requests, but it's wonderful knowing that we are making this resource available to so many people in need. Please contact the church office at 206-463-2010 if you would like to plan an event on site.

Jacq Skeffington

Purposeful Service Team

Areas of Responsibility

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

The review teams have completed the review of applicants for the VPC scholarships and have selected the candidates to receive the awards. For the Heindsmann Scholarship two applicants were selected: Taegan Kicinski, who is studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Pacific Lutheran University, and Landon Summers, who will enroll at Carnegie Mellon University in a Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Management. Each will receive \$1,800 (sent directly to the schools). The Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation scholarship of \$1,500 was awarded to graduating VHS senior Bea Church. Bea plans to get a degree in counseling or psychology and become a therapist, preferably for troubled teens. We plan to present the scholarships in person in June.

We will collect plastic bags, Styrofoam, plastic mailer envelopes, foam food trays etc in the VPC parking lot on Saturday, June 3 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. A committee member will then take the collection to the island-wide event on Sunday. Help us keep this non-degradable material out of the landfill!

June 4 is Food Bank Sunday. We last received 261 pounds of food items, and hope to continue at this generous level of support. 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 volunteers from VIPP will break down and repackage for individual distribution.

Plans are underway for the festival parking and chairs program in July. We need volunteers to help in areas that both do and do not require physical labor. More information will be in the e-news and the July newsletter. Contact me if you would like to help.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Share Your Musical Talents in Worship

With Summer schedules and travel, we are finding a few gaps in our music offerings. I am looking for musicians to fill in these places. Specifically, we need offertory music **June 4 and 11**, and **July 2, 9, 23, and 30**. We also need Communion music **July 2**.

Perhaps you have guests coming to visit who could share their musical talents with you and your church family, or maybe you have a musician neighbor who would welcome the opportunity to play on a Sunday morning. ***It does not have to be sacred music.*** Variety is the spice of life!

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

Worship

We had a worship meeting late in April to plan for the coming months. We will have Communion on Pentecost Sunday as well as our regular first Sunday of each month.

1. Prayer cards will continue to be used. Claudia will print and replace each week.
2. Leigh will compose a Zoom Etiquette page to be shown at the beginning of each service.
3. Claudia will print signage and place in/on the cabinet holding the Communion cups. It will detail the cleaning process to reassure all that the Communion service items are ready to use.
4. We decided as a congregation that we are not ready to resume Communion by intinction at this time.

Discussion

In looking at the placement of the Doxology (or other musical expression of praise) in the service we see that our order of worship is somewhat different than what is standard at other churches. That is, the offertory and offering come before the sermon at VPC whereas the offering usually comes after the sermon. Our current order leaves a pause between two prayers led by the lay leader. Some leaders have solved this by combining the two prayers. The smooth transition of this time is dependent on how well the lay leader manages the situation. Both ways of ordering the service were discussed. There were strengths and weaknesses given for both ways. In June, we will be looking at three choices. 1) whether we want to return to the more standard order of worship with the offering after the sermon, 2) identify a third hymn with a praise theme to replace the doxology keeping the offering before the sermon as we have it now, or 3) reinsert a traditional doxology with the order as we have it now. This might sound confusing and seemingly a minor detail, but this is the thought given to all parts of the service to create the most cohesive, inspirational experience for the worshiper. Let us hear from you if you have an opinion. Bev is going to research alternative hymns of praise.

New Sermon Series

Leigh is starting a five-week sermon series on the book of Hebrews the Sunday after Pentecost. We will also have combined worship with Vashon Island Community Church on Strawberry Festival weekend.

Outdoor Worship?

Warm weather is coming. I would like to hear from those who would like a separate or additional outdoor worship time. Even starting here on Vashon, we have many beautiful locations for such a service. Let me know what you are thinking.

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder

Deacon's Message

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others,

Even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

by Max Ehrmann

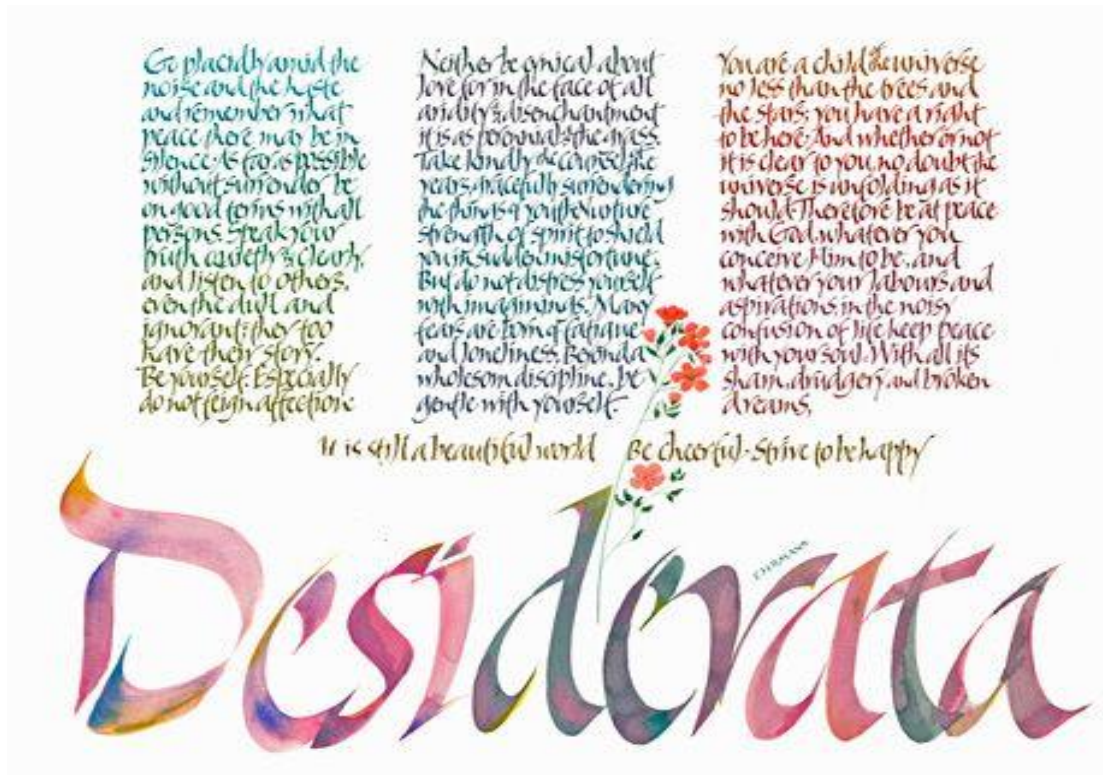
I came upon this poem again after all these years. When I was in college it was always on my bulletin board in my dorm room. Even now, it still causes me to stop and think.

This poem encourages us to stop and take time to find peace and seek silence in our lives. It suggests we treat anyone we meet with value and interest. It also causes me to ask myself many questions.

Am I on good terms with my acquaintances as well as with people I may randomly meet on the Street? Do I still speak my truth as honestly and clearly as I did when I was 22? Am I better at it now? Do I truly listen to everyone I meet? Do I seek to hear individual life stories and encourage others to share their dreams and passions?

I share this with you as I think about care and compassion for each and every member of our church family. Please know that you are valued and prayed for regularly by many people in our church. I hope you feel that love and concern.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon



Hospitality

VPC Cookout

We hosted our annual VPC cookout on Sunday, May 7, immediately following worship. About 35 people attended the luncheon, which was held in the Social Hall. We grilled burgers (beef and Beyond), hot dogs, and chicken sandwiches. Attendees brought the side dishes and desserts. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.



Mark your calendar for our Harvest Dinner on Saturday, November 11. Details to follow as the event nears.

Summer Gatherings – Looking for Hosts!

It's time to revive our popular "Summer Suppers" and other small gatherings. These have proven to be tremendously popular, even during the pandemic when events were hosted outside. Now we have a lot more latitude.

We need hosts for gatherings throughout the Summer. These get-togethers, 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.

A signup sheet is posted in the East Room. Claim your date!

Sign Up for After-Worship Coffee Hour

If you'd like to host the Sunday coffee hour, a signup sheet for June and July 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!

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

Building and Grounds

Lee Van Valkenburg brought his grading machine to the church on May 6 and regraded the parking lot as arranged when he filled potholes in April. Lee is also one of the contractors bidding on installing a concrete patio in the courtyard between the sanctuary and social hall.

During our Second Saturday work party on May 13 Barb Huff and I used string trimmers to trim around the edges of the parking lot and between the shrubs bordering the lot. Barb also cleaned up a large amount of trash and junk left in the northeast corner of the lot. Once the shrubs stop blooming, we need to trim them to keep them manageable.

Claudia Ross-Weston fabricated a curtain to finish off the area beneath the kitchen sink and hide the grease trap. Vinyl plank flooring has been ordered for the kitchen and back hallway surrounding it and vinyl sheeting for the two bathrooms near the church office. Installation will begin in the middle of June.

Prior to installation we will have to remove the existing vinyl tiles in the hallway and bathrooms. To make sure we remove all the tiles and trim, and touch up the flower beds, let's plan for work parties on both June 3 and June 10 from 9:00-noon. If you can make either or both days, your help will be greatly appreciated. Carpe Diem volunteers will be there June 3 and 4, Spring cleaning the classrooms, so it will be an opportunity to meet some parents and children.

Session approved a resolution to permit the serving of alcoholic beverages at events held on VPC premises providing that:

- The event has been approved by both the Building and Grounds coordinator and the respective Elder
- The event is intended primarily for adult guests, with limited presence of children, and
- At least one VPC leadership representative (Pastor, Elder, past Elder) will attend and ensure
- that the guests are served responsibly.

Co-Op Preschool Toddlers and Infants class will have their last session on Wednesday June 7 .

Carpe Diem will end this term on June 15, with early dismissal at noon.

Remember to mark your calendar and come to the work parties or party. It's a great opportunity to meet people and spend time with friends.

Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator

Faith Formation

Faith Formation will discuss two more movies this Spring. The first is *Father Stu* on Tuesday, May 30. The second is *Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom* on June 13, both at 7:00 PM. All are welcome. Join us on Zoom.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Outreach

Carpe Diem's last day of classes is Thursday, June 15. We have started a tradition of greeting the kids, their parents, and teachers with a treat as they leave for the Summer. This is always fun, and gives us a chance to interact and offer well wishes to those who have graduated and won't return in the Fall. Watch the upcoming e-News for more details.

Our annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, August 5. Details will follow in future newsletters as well as the weekly e-news. For now, please save your gently-used-and-no-longer-needed household items. As the date approaches, we'll set aside space within the church for storage. This is my first time overseeing the Yard Sale, and I welcome insight and instruction from those of you who are experienced in its preparation.

If you attended the church cookout on May 7, you probably noticed the T-balls as table decorations. These were donated to the park district.

The weather looks promising for S'mores on the lawn on June 2. Come and join the fun!

Vashon Cemetery Cleanup

Our planned May cemetery cleanup was postponed due to conflicts surrounding Memorial Day. The Cemetery Board agrees that a historically-focused cleanup in late August or September is a better idea. There is enthusiasm for dedicating this cleanup to the memory of longtime Cemetery District secretary Barbara Steen, pending approval from her family.

There are about 30 Steen-related graves in the cemetery. For years, Barbara would annually clean them herself, so honoring her with this cleanup seems quite fitting.

Lindsay Hofman, Outreach Elder

VPC Book Club

This month, we are reading the New York Times bestseller [One Italian Summer](#) by Rebecca Serle.

"In this 'magical trip worth taking' (Associated Press), the *New York Times* bestselling author of *In Five Years* returns with a powerful novel about the transformational love between mothers and daughters set on the breathtaking Amalfi Coast. - Amazon

We will meet Friday June 16 at 6:00 PM and enjoy a potluck dinner at the home of Beverly and Jacq Skeffington.

Upcoming Summer selections:

July [How Beautiful We Were](#) by Imbolo Mbue

August [Horse](#) by Geraldine Brooks

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

June Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy June birthday to:

- 2 Brownie Carver
- 4 Skip Carver
- 15 Nancy van Roessel
- 28 Doug Johnson



Calendar

June 2023

- 2 First Friday S'mores on the lawn 6:00
Game Night 7:00 Zoom
- 3 Styrofoam and More collection, VPC parking lot 10:00 – 11:30
- 4 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
- 6 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 9 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10 Second Saturday VPC Work Party 10:00 - Noon
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 13 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 16 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 18 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 20 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 22 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 23 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 25 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion
- 27 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 30 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom

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

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| 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