

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

July 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.



Remembering

Jim Huff

Tribute and
photos

Pages 6 & 7

First Friday S'mores, Strawberry Festival, Summer Gatherings, Yard Sale, and More!

Summer is a busy, festive time on the island and in our church community. Check inside this newsletter for all the details!

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

As I write this, I am having some mint tea from the mint in my garden. Thirty years ago, as we began our journey to Seattle, our little family stopped at Laurel Ridge Moravian Church Camp along the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is a place that had grounded us both and we wanted to bring a little of that grounding with us. The top of the mountain is covered in wild mint. We quickly pulled a few sprigs, wrapped them in a wet paper towel and spent the next five days driving, keeping that paper towel damp in the hope that it just might take root here, along with us. For years, I've had countless cups of tea from those few sprigs, and I've pulled many sprigs for others to have some of their own.

I share this with you because it reminds me how we are woven together not just as families or a church family, but as human beings connected as siblings in Christ. Countless kids and adults have no doubt walked across that mountain top, through those fields of wild mint and it brings joy to me to see it flourishing in my own yard. The look and smell of it still takes me back to those days as a teenager when my faith and my call were being formed.

This summer, as we gather in one another's homes and enjoy snacks or a meal together, my prayer is that we might listen deeply to those stories that formed each of us, the stories of how it is we came to be together in this time and place. Listening to your stories, seeing pictures and the occasional family bible are always a gift to me when I visit with you. It reminds me that God has been preparing you for this season we share now for all your lives, as God is still preparing us.

We are not only woven together as people but as journeys. Starting on Sunday, July 9, we will begin our second summer sermon series on sabbath. As we unpack God's Word together, I also pray we can share in sabbath rest with one another. Sharing in sabbath is a good way to slow down and honor the stories of our lives with one another.

I encourage you to reach out to Nancy Tucker and let her know if you would like to host one of our summer gatherings and do plan to attend one of more of them in person. Bring the stories of your journey as we sit around together and let us relax and trust in the Divine Weaving for such a time as this.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

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

- A combined worship service with Vashon Island Community Church at VPC is planned July 16 th .
- The Heindsmann scholarship awardees were honored during the June 5 worship service.
- Parking space and chair rentals will be available during the Strawberry Festival Parade.
- Additional electrical outlets have been installed in the East Room.
- WiFi and camera power cables will be rerouted out of sight in the sanctuary.
- New flooring has been installed in the kitchen, hallways and restrooms.

The next scheduled Session meeting will be July 18 at 4:00 PM at VPC.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Building and Grounds

Our two work parties this month were extremely productive. We focused on removing all the tiles and baseboards in the kitchen and hallways and the privacy dividers in the new building restrooms.

Vashon Floor Store installed the new flooring selected by the Planning Committee and volunteers reinstalled the privacy dividers prior to Jim Huff's memorial celebration.

I will be on vacation at the shore in New Jersey for the first two weeks in July, so there will be no Second Saturday work party on July 8. Feel free to pick up trash and trim shrubbery around the parking lot and grounds as the Spirit moves you. We want to look our best for the Strawberry Festival!

Lee Van Valkenburg was awarded a contract to install a concrete patio in the courtyard between the Sanctuary and Social Hall. Work is scheduled to commence in early July.

We have signed contracts for next school year with Carpe Diem and Cooperative Preschools. A proposed contract has been forwarded to Vashon Explorers Preschool to begin classes in the basement in September. Owners and operators Lisa Moe and Ashlea Olwell and friends have already begun removing the rest of the old carpet in the basement classrooms to seal the concrete floor and prep the walls for fresh paint.

Jim (Trace) Hyde was hired to install additional outlets in the East Room and to reroute wiring for the camera in the back of the sanctuary. Trace has also agreed to assist in additional renovations prioritized by the Planning Committee.

On June 19 the Vashon Chamber of Commerce and Vashon Community Council held a hybrid forum in VPC's Sanctuary for King County Council candidates. All the organizers, participants and attendees were extremely grateful for the hospitality extended by VPC in allowing and facilitating this forum. The organizers were also amazed at the quality of the production broadcast via the Chamber's Zoom account. A recording of the forum will soon be available via the Vashon Chamber of Commerce website.

I'm looking forward to working together with you all again after Festival.

Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator

Worship

Summer is a Time to Try New Things

Summer is a time to try new things, change routines, get out and meet new people, hear new ideas. To that end we will be inviting members of other congregations on the island to join us to worship and expand our ways of serving in the community. Vashon United Methodist Church members will visit July 2. They will join our musicians Marsha Morse and Thomas Abraham, with Methodists Barry Cooper and Ann Lansdon providing the Offertory. Several members of the Vashon Lutheran Church met with our Theology Pub crowd at Colvos at our monthly gathering (last Thursday of the month). Patti Wagoner and I discussed plans for the Lutherans to join us for First Friday s'mores. We also explored the idea of outdoor or "wilderness" church, with a promise to pursue this idea among a broader ecumenical group that includes people who don't attend traditional Sunday morning services.

On Strawberry Festival Sunday, July 16, Vashon Island Community Church will join us for worship, followed by Strawberry Festival activities on our front lawn after the service. VICC pastor Mike Ivaska will give the sermon, and music will be provided by VICC musicians.

Worship Committee Meeting: New and Old Business

Speaking of new ideas, we decided to try several different ways of varying the service during Lent; then evaluating the results to see if they should become permanent. I have called a brief meeting to finalize these findings on Monday July 10, at 7:00 PM. There seems to be a majority of those expressing preferences to

- 1) return to a more traditional doxology,
- 2) maintain the method of naming someone during prayer time rather than elaborating the details of the prayer request, and
- 3) maintain the prayer cards available in the pews to be specific about prayer requests.

Pastor Leigh's sermon series for July is on "Sabbath."

We will hold a hymn sing on the last Sunday in July. Mark your calendars!

I will continue to work on the idea of ecumenical "outdoor" church as the summer goes along, with a goal of actually holding one before summer weather is gone! If this idea interests you, contact me at elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com.

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder

Purposeful Service Team

Areas of Responsibility

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

July 2 is Food Bank Sunday. Bring your items to the worship service or to the church office. 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 repack for individual distribution.

Plans are underway for Festival parking and chairs program on July 15. We need volunteers that day to move chairs and monitor parking. Not up for moving chairs? We also need someone to make signs several days before the event, and several people to monitor the reserved chairs and parking. Contact Bob Spangler if you can help.

There will not be a plastics and Styrofoam collection at VPC in July; the next collection at VPC will be August 5. If you cannot wait until then, the island-wide event will be July 2. More information about this program can be found at www.zerowastevashon.org.

One of our 2023 Mission Partners is Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest. AIDNW is a Tacoma-based organization whose mission is assisting immigrants held in and released from the ICE Federal Processing Center in Tacoma. Services to those in detention include visitation and donation of books, craft materials and phone cards. In April, AIDNW volunteers wrote 40 letters and made 49 visits to detainees, provided \$2,300 worth of phone cards, and supplied 12 bags of clothing and other items to individuals being deported. For detainees who are released, AIDNW has a Welcome Center outside the ICE facility consisting of an RV and two heated tents. Released detainees are provided food, clothing, backpacks, cell phone usage, travel assistance and, if necessary, short-term housing at a rental house in Tacoma. In April, volunteers assisted 100 released immigrants and provide 50 coats, six stays at the rental house and 66 rides to the bus station and airport. VPC is donating \$1,000 to AIDNW this year to help the organization carry out this important mission.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

VPC Book Club

This month, we are reading [How Beautiful We Were](#) by Imbolo Mbue.

"A fearless young woman from a small African village starts a revolution against an American oil company in this sweeping, inspiring novel from the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Behold the Dreamers*.

One of the 10 Best Books of the Year: *The New York Times*, *People* One of the Best Books of the Year: *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Marie Claire*, *Ms. magazine*, *BookPage*, *Kirkus Reviews*" - Amazon

We will meet Friday July 21 at 6:00 PM at the Spanglers' home and enjoy a potluck dinner. Bob and Carol will provide the beverages.

Our August selection is [Horse](#) by Geraldine Brooks.

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

Hospitality

Jim Huff's Memorial Reception

Over 100 people attended the memorial service and reception for Jim Huff on June 22. As his obituary on the following page attests, Jim was an active and beloved member of the Vashon Island community.

In keeping with Jim's Midwest upbringing, Barb requested that the reception be in the form of a covered dish dinner. In addition to the many side dishes brought by the guests, Camp Colvos donated a keg of beer in Jim's honor and local band Loose Change supplied live music. Tables were moved aside to make space for dancing. Such a fitting and loving tribute to Jim!

Thanks to all who helped make this event so special to Barb and Jim's family, with special thanks to Leigh, Brownie, and Liz for their oversight and accompanying tireless contributions.

Summer Gatherings are Off and Running!

Grab a front-row seat to watch the fireworks on the 4th with Barbara Zue, along with Laura Jean and Mike (Walls) at Barbara's home. All are welcome! If you plan to attend, please either sign up or call Barbara and RSVP. Show up any time after 7:00, and bring your own beverage. Barbara, Laura Jean, and Mike will provide light snacks. Carpooling is encouraged.

On July 8, at 5:30, join Al and Claudia Ross-Weston at their home. They'll supply the main course and dessert; please bring a side dish. Sign up to be part of this fun gathering – they can host up to ten people. If you can't make this date, Al and Claudia plan a second get-together later in the summer.

Other hosts later in the summer include Lindsay Hofman, Liz Loveness, and Ben and Nancy Tucker. If you are interested and available to host, please sign up and claim your date!

After-Worship Coffee Hour

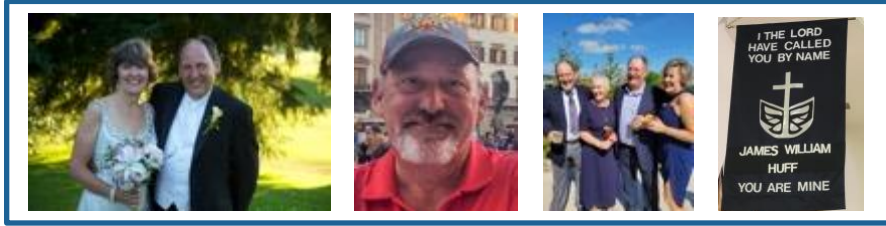
A big thank you to everyone who helps with the Sunday coffee hour. We have some opportunities in July and August—refer to the signup sheet on the table in the East Room. Remember, you don't have to do all the work yourself! If you can bring treats but aren't able to assist in setup or cleanup, no worries—just 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 coffee, breakfast, and conversation! Everyone is welcome.

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

Remembering Jim Huff



James "Jim" William Huff, beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away peacefully on May 27, 2023.

Born in Greenfield, Iowa on March 16, 1955, to Norma and William Huff, Jim was the oldest of four children, Rosanne, David, and Mary. While his parents have passed on, his three siblings remain, honoring his memory.

Jim took great pride in his education and was valedictorian of Greenfield H.S. class of 1973; graduated from Iowa State University in 1977 with a BS in Computer Science. He went on to get his Master's in Business Administration from Seattle University in 1984. Even though he moved to Seattle after graduating, Jim remained deeply connected to his Iowa roots and its influence shaped him throughout his life.

He embarked on a 36-year long career at Boeing Company, moving to corporate in 1990, ending in Global Staffing. According to coworkers, if you needed brainpower and honesty you went to Jim. As he dedicated himself to his work, he also devoted his time and energy to raising his daughter, Rachel, alongside her mother, Vicki. He instilled a deep love of learning and diligence in all aspects of Rachel's life.

Jim found great joy in music. From singing in several chorale groups, to serenading his wife Barb on their wedding night, to an iconic Elvis performance. His deep appreciation of music was woven throughout his life in beautiful ways. His love of music was matched only by his love of Christ. You could find him in church every Sunday, worshiping, and, if you got lucky, hear him playing the guitar, and singing.

Jim's passion for trivia led him to take a chance on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." Although he didn't advance past the preliminary rounds, participating in the show was a testament to his love for knowledge.

Jim caught the eye of a fellow ISU alumni one fateful summer day. After meeting Barb, they started to build a life together, getting married on August 14, 2010. Barb held a special place in Jim's heart; his love for her was a guiding light, and he cherished every moment spent by her side.

Retirement for Jim on February 28, 2014, led to travels and adventure with Barb, family, and friends, which included cruising down the Danube River, exploring the ancient Acropolis in Greece, and enjoying Cheekwood Gardens with his daughter Rachel. When baseball season rolled around, he could be found working at the ballpark for the Mariners. Jim spent countless hours on the golf course and was easily recognized by his ISU golf bag and quick play. Never one to sit idle, he also enjoyed a second career as a part-time bookkeeper working for Barb and a colleague of hers.

Jim will be remembered as a fiercely loyal, dedicated, knowledgeable, and loving individual. Jim's big heart and infectious smile touched the lives of many, and he will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Barb, his daughter Rachel, Rachel's mother Vicki, and his siblings: Rosanne (Dan), David (Kendalyn), and Mary (Brian). He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews along with Barbara's children: Kyle (Jill), Stephany (Geran), Stacia, and grandchildren: Ayla, Arya, Dominik, and Oscar.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation, where a scholarship has been set up in Jim's name to be awarded to a graduating senior next May.

Please visit <https://www.vashonscholarshipfoundation.org/> or mail a check to VCSF, PO Box 1413, Vashon, WA 98070 to donate and note the Jim Huff Scholarship.

Outreach

First Friday S'mores on the Lawn

In June, our weather was finally nice enough for us to celebrate first Friday. Jacq Skeffington set up the fire pit and kept our fire going from 5:30 to 9:00. Mike Fisher delighted children with his bubble machine and helped children with their marshmallows. Laura Jean Walls Fisher helped transfer the marshmallows to the graham crackers and chocolate with a finesse developed from much experience. Beverly Skeffington showed us how to put the whole operation together. It was a lovely evening.

Our next First Friday on the lawn is on July 7. The weather is beautiful – come and join the fun!

VPC Yard Sale August 5 9:00 – 3:00

The VPC Yard Sale, to be held on Saturday, August 5, approaches quickly. I hope you are gathering items to donate to this event. **Classroom A is already open to receive your gently used items.**

Please Contribute:

- Kitchen and household goods
- Books
- Games and toys
- Tools and gardening items
- Holiday items

We Do Not Accept:

- Clothing
- Electronics
- Computers
- Printers

In addition to donations, there's ample opportunity to participate in Yard Sale activities before, during, and after the event. More in each weekly e-News!

We want to approach pricing differently this year, specifically regarding large and/or valuable items. These we want to offer for sale in a silent auction. The thought is this: If you are donating a piece of furniture, or an item of significant value, please label the item(s) with a price to set as a minimum bid. We'll group everyday, less valuable items on tables labeled with a single price. This is still in the planning stage; I'd very much appreciate your thoughts and advice.

Lindsay Hofman, Outreach Elder

July Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy July birthday to:

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Ben Tucker |
| 5 | Lindsay Hofman |
| 8 | Chris Coldeen |
| 13 | Bonnie Nelson |
| 25 | Nancy Tucker |
| 27 | Jan van Roessel |



Calendar

July 2023

2	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM with VUMC Communion Sunday
4	Independence Day – Office Closed
7	First Friday S’mores on the Lawn 6:00 PM Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
9	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
14	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
15	Strawberry Festival
16	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM with VICC
18	Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
21	VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
23	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
27	Theology Pub 5:00 Vashon Brewing
28	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
30	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

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