

# Vashon Presbyterian Church News and Concerns October 2023



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.



## October Highlights:

- **Food Bank Sunday, October 1**
- **Faith Formation** meets each Tuesday on Zoom at 7:00 PM. Discussions based on book The Good Ancestor by Roman Krznaric
- **VPC Book Club** October 20; 6:00 Potluck at Ross-Weston Home. Book is The Chancellor by Kati Martan
- **VPC Celebrates Halloween** on the island October 31, 4:30 – 7:00
- **Save the Date: Saturday, November 11**  
Harvest Dinner at VPC

## October Gave a Party

*by George Cooper*

October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came—  
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,  
And leaves of every name.  
The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
And everything was grand,  
Miss Weather led the dancing,  
Professor Wind the band.

The Chestnuts came in yellow,  
The Oaks in crimson dressed;  
The lovely Misses Maple  
In scarlet looked their best;  
All balanced to their partners,  
And gaily fluttered by;  
The sight was like a rainbow  
New fallen from the sky.

Then, in the rustic hollow,  
At hide-and-seek they played,  
The party closed at sundown,  
And everybody stayed.  
Professor Wind played louder;  
They flew along the ground;  
And then the party ended  
In jolly "hands around."

## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC:

An article this past week, in The Seattle Times, referred to Seattle as "entering The Great Dark." I've lived in the area for thirty years and each September there is usually some equally epic line heralding Fall. I suspect it sells newspapers better than the titles I might choose. "Seattle Enters Bulb Planting Season," "Seattle Edges Closer to Hosting Monday Night Football," "Seattle Entering Cozy Nights of Fireplace Time and Chili."

Seasons are not only marked by the changes they usher in but the way in which we describe and tell their stories. Those descriptive names and phrases have power, too. "The Great Dark" is much less appealing than "Cozy Night of Fireplace Time and Chili." Names and phrases elicit emotion from us, from hopeful and relaxed to tense and anxious; and the more attention-grabbing ones definitely sell newspapers.

What headlines do you think should be written about the church today? "Mainline Christianity enters the Great Dark" or "Small Congregations are Changing our Understanding of how to Follow Jesus"? The steady decline of folks who identify as Christian in this county has continued and yet God is at work; Jesus' message is still relevant, and more than ever the world needs the hope only God can give.

How we name ourselves affects the attitude we take and how others see us! As the church, you and I help write the headlines that point to some of God's work in the world today. My prayer is that we both write and reflect ones that say, "God is at Work and so are We and the Future is Bright!" Anything less is not an option.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

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

- Elders will meet with Officer Matt Lilje of the Seattle Police Department Oct 8 to review safety and security concerns.
- Finances are tracking well. Session began work on the 2024 budget.
- First Friday in September witnessed the Stupid Bike Parade. Ringing the church bell and Glow-in-the-Dark hula hoops attracted a large crowd.
- The Planning committee continues working their way through repairs and improvements.
- The Worship committee is exploring "outside worship" options.
- Hospitality will host the annual Harvest Dinner November 11

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Building and Grounds

Suddenly, Summer ended and we're into Fall! Classrooms are filled with teachers and young students. Community groups are requesting space for gathering. Indoor meals are being provided five nights each week, and yes, we still have many repairs to complete when time allows.

We still need to install baseboards in the bathrooms, kitchen and hallways, but can do that only on the weekends to avoid disrupting classes. October's second Saturday will be a busy one with these indoor projects. Outdoors, the flower beds and shrubbery need to be thinned, weeded, and mulched. Please plan on joining us October 14 at 9:00.

There are other opportunities for finish carpentry and painting repairs in areas that will not impact students, and can be done at your convenience. Pastor Leigh's office door needs to be stained. The front door, library table, and communion table needs to be sanded and stained, and the wooden fence separating VPC's front lawn from Zamorana's dining area needs to be replaced. If you are experienced in carpentry or in sanding and staining, please contact me and we'll work out a plan.

I have had a request to ask people to avoid coming into the East Room on Tuesdays due to the Co-Op Preschool toddlers and infants class being held there from 9:00 – 2:30. The children are very easily distracted when people pass through the room. If possible, please plan your meetings or rehearsals on any other day of the week, or enter from the side door. In consideration of this, Pastor Leigh has amended her office schedule to be there on Wednesdays and Thursdays and most Tuesdays. If you need to meet with her on Tuesday, please let her know in advance.

*Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator*

## Purposeful Service Team

### Areas of Responsibility

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

October 1 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. Also needed are donations of cooking oil and condiments such as ketchup, salsa, A-1 or other "steak" sauce, mustards, etc. People may also bring personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. In addition, there is a need for pet food. For donations of bulk pet food, volunteers from VIPP will break down and repackage for individual distribution.

Our IFCH representative, Brownie Carver, reports that besides giving rent and utility assistance, the IFCH served over 250 meals in August. We appreciate the support that we are getting from VPC!

Thanks to those who volunteered to provide transportation for the service and picnic with guests from Mary's Place that was to happen on September 17 (but didn't). Purposeful Service Committee will be considering other ways that we can engage with this organization, as we miss the company and music.

For at least two decades one of VPC's Mission Partners has been Vietnam Ministries. Mercer Island is the contact church which oversees our financial assistance. The program there is headed by Rev. Binh Nguyen, who also has led groups to Vietnam (which have included VPC members) to see the impact of our contributions. The ministries include scholarships for students who need assistance (especially in the rural highlands), support of a health center operated by a Catholic order, and financial assistance to the United Presbyterian Church of Vietnam. Binh recently sent pictures of a UPCV July summer camp attended by 180 youth and young adults. We are pleased that we can assist our fellow Christians in a country where religious groups do not have the freedoms that we take for granted.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*



*United Presbyterian Church of Vietnam Summer Camp 2023*

## Hospitality

### Thank You!

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to assist with the luncheon to be held for the women of Mary's Place. Although the event was cancelled, we hope it was merely postponed, and we look forward to hosting this group in the near future.

Thanks also to everyone who hosted a small gathering at their home this past summer, and to those who helped out with them. These informal get-togethers have been a wonderful way to stay engaged with each other outside the church building. With Fall weather upon us, we're looking for fun ways to bolster each other through the greyer days approaching—let me know your ideas, please.

And finally, thank you to everyone who contributes to after-worship coffee hour. Whether you drop off cookies, or clear a few coffee cups from the table, or put a few in the dishwasher—everything you do matters and is appreciated! As we set out signup sheets for the rest of the year, we hope you will consider volunteering for even a small part of coffee hour.

### Upcoming Events – Save the Date!

Halloween is fast approaching—Hospitality supports Outreach in celebrating this festive event island style. Check your weekly e-news for details.

*Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 11*, when we'll hold our annual Harvest Dinner. Details to follow as the date draws nearer.

Hospitality and Outreach partner each year to support the island's Winter Fest celebration. Winter Fest and our VPC tree lighting will be held on Saturday, December 2.

### Tuesdays at Sporty's

Join us each Tuesday at 9:00 AM for coffee and breakfast at Sporty's. Everyone is invited!

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*

## Faith Formation

Faith formation classes will continue on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00. **We will have Faith Formation on Halloween** so that we can support our island community and enjoy the trick-or-treaters. , We are studying the book The Good Ancestor by Roman Krznaric. We read and discuss individual chapters, so you don't need to attend each class to benefit from the teachings of this book. Come as you can!

*Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder*

## Outreach

Our September First Friday on the Lawn was a great success. Because it was Stupid Bike Friday (a very colorful event), we added to the color with lighted hula hoops. We served cookies and offered crayon four-packs as a back-to-school acknowledgement. We also set up the corn hole game and bubbles, which attracted lots of kids. Since the bike parade didn't start until dark, there were many people waiting around. We distributed the hula hoops at dusk and monitored their use so all of the many children had a turn. The bikes were spectacular and went by several times. Altogether it was a very festive evening.

Motorcycle Sunday (September 10) caught us by surprise, but we reacted quickly. With Laura Jean and Mike Fisher serving as the face of VPC, we set up tables laden with coffee and treats to serve the bikers on their way through town.

Now that the weather has turned cool, we're planning on reopening the fire pit for s'mores on October 6. The hula hoops were such a hit that we are bringing them back. Join us at 6:00 on the lawn!

**Please join us as we celebrate** Halloween on Tuesday, October 31. We'll set up our (in)famous "Cat-a-pult" as a treat dispenser, and we'll open the church restrooms to the public. In early October we'll have a meeting of the Outreach Committee (You are invited!) to finalize the details around this festive event.

*Lindsay Hofman, Outreach Elder*

## October Birthdays

Please wish a happy October birthday to:

7      Kathy Olsen  
13     Barb Huff



## Calendar

### October 2023

1	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
3	Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
6	First Friday on the Lawn 6:00 PM Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
8	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
10	Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
13	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
15	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
17	Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC Faith Formation 7:00 Zoom
20	VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Potluck at Ross-Weston home
22	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
24	Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
26	Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
27	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
29	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
31	Halloween on the lawn 4:30 – 7:00

### Ongoing Activities

<b>Mondays</b>	Sermon After Talk Noon – 1:00
<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>Last Thursdays</b>	Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
<b>Fridays</b>	<i>Anything Goes!</i> Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details) Game Night 7:00 PM

### Church Leadership

<b>Pastor</b>	Leigh Weber
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Jacq Skeffington
<b>Session Members</b>	Lindsay Hofman (Outreach), Jim Lilje (Finance), Elizabeth Loveness (Worship), Bob Spangler (Purposeful Service), Nancy Tucker (Hospitality), Al Ross-Weston (Faith Formation)
<b>Deacons</b>	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Chris Coldeen, Larry Commeree, Susan Commeree, Caran-marie Weston Dunbar, Sheryl Lehman