



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### February 2024

Sermons and service posted on church website: [vashonpreschurch.org](http://vashonpreschurch.org)

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>

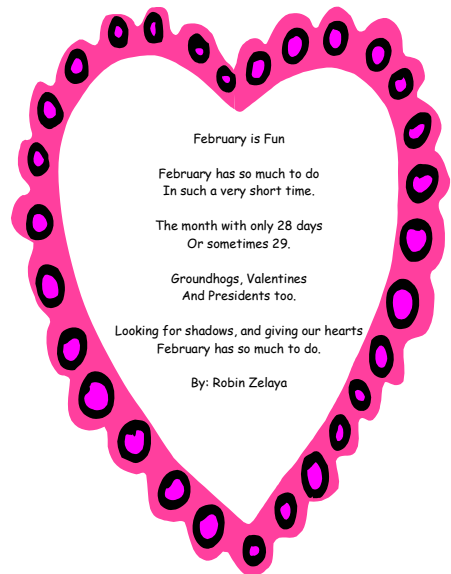
Love One Another

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.



#### February Tidbits (Details Within)

- \* Food Bank Sunday February 4
- \* Author will attend Book Club on February 9
- \* Ash Wednesday service February 14 at noon
- \* Lenten Faith Formation series begins February 20
- \* Lend a hand on a small project in the church
- \* Need some help? Ask a Deacon!



## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

For most years of my life, each February, I've received a Valentine's Day card from my dad. Even while my husband was giving them to me, my dad was too. When we first had our own children, my husband and I began to give them to our children as well. It's a tradition I continue still. I share this memory with you because, despite it being a romantic love kind of day, I've learned to think of it as a special day to feel that we are loved. So, I find it meaningful that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It marks the beginning of Jesus' time in the wilderness, facing hunger and loneliness and the temptations to abuse the power entrusted to him by God. It is a season where we remember the depth of love Jesus had and has for humankind. While we can never fully grasp the vastness of his love for us, I suspect each of us catches enough glimpses to be reminded that it is a love greater than we can find anywhere else. It fills us with a capacity to love in amazing ways.

The other day, something delightful happened as I was standing in line at the Department of Licensing. The line was LONG, and I felt impatient. But there was a woman ahead of me who caught my attention. She held a baby who looked quite tired and overwhelmed. The woman was bouncing her little girl, trying to keep her entertained. As she turned around at one point, another woman in front of me made a heart sign with her hands. I leaned over and asked if that was her daughter and granddaughter ahead of us in line. She said, "No, just someone who could use some love."

It took her only a moment to offer a glimpse of love. That glimpse of kindness to another person made the whole room feel much nicer.

I believe that part of Jesus' call on our lives is to offer glimpses of love to one another and to tell about the glimpses of love we experience ourselves. Some folks choose to give something up for Lent, which is a great discipline. Some add a special prayer time. You will know what is best for you, and I suggest that as a congregation we might also share in one together.

Why not use this season of Lent to offer a glimpse of love to at one least one person each day? I wonder how much it might help us see more glimpses of Jesus.

Lenten blessings to you all,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner



Minutes of the monthly Session meeting and a Special Congregational meeting are available upon request. Highlights from the January meetings include:

- \* Officers of the corporation were elected: President: Nancy Tucker, Secretary/Treasurer: Barb Huff, Financial Secretary: Diana Lilje; Commissioners to Presbytery: Barb Huff and Jacq Skeffington
- \* Regularly scheduled meetings for Session will change from the third to the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00
- \* Core Team chairs were agreed: Worship: Al-Ross Weston, Purposeful Service: Bob Spangler, Faith Formation: Lindsay Hoffman, Finance (includes Building and Grounds): Barb Huff, Hospitality: Nancy Tucker, and Outreach: Shared responsibility with people assigned to lead specific events
- \* The Capital Reserve Fund will be replenished by the amount necessary to maintain a balance of \$40,000
- \* Session will hold a visioning retreat at Camp Sealth on Friday, February 9, from 9:00- 3:00

The next Session meeting will be held Tuesday, February 13 at 4:00 in the VPC library.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 28, 2024**

The Annual Congregational Meeting held following worship service was attended by members in person and on Zoom.

Prior to the meeting, the Annual Report was emailed to all members, with printed versions available for those who attended in person. During the meeting, members were given opportunities for input and to ask questions.

The 2024 Nominating Committee was approved as presented: Nancy Tucker (Session member), Sheryl Lehman, Doug Johnson and John Williams.

The budget was approved as presented, with Barb Huff answering questions and clarifying information contained in the financial report.

The meeting concluded with a slide show of 2023's improvements, events and celebrations.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session*

## Worship

Let's recognize and thank Liz Loveness for doing such a wonderful job with Worship over the last few years. She planted the seeds for outdoor worship and has created space for a variety of voices as lay leader. The Worship Committee will continue to benefit from her wisdom.

Please join me in welcoming Al Ross-Weston back to the role of Worship Elder. Al brings his own gifts and strengths to this role, and I look forward to working with him and the whole committee. Al and I will be focusing on Holy Week worship in the next few weeks, talking about Lent as a whole. We'll continue with our Lenten tradition of a minute of silence during worship that will increase each week throughout this season.

We'll begin the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at noon for our informal worship service. This service will also be accessible on Zoom. If you are unable to attend in person and would like to have ashes for the service, you may either stop by the church and pick them up, or Al or I can deliver them to your home in advance. Please let either of us know by Sunday, February 11 if you would like us to bring you ashes for the service.

Starting next month, Al will be writing this article and keeping you updated on all things Worship, including a more detailed look at Holy Week and Easter.

I'm excited for this coming year of working together.

*Pastor Leigh*

## Deacon's Message

### Note from a New Deacon

Greetings! I've recently become a first-time Deacon, and the seasoned Deacons are familiarizing me with the ways in which we serve our church community. I was unaware of all they do, and thought this might be a good chance to remind everyone, so that we can be of better support to you. For instance, did you know

Deacons provide:

- \* Rides to appointments, on and off island
- \* Meal support
- \* General support with visits
- \* Emergency financial support

Please, do not hesitate to ask for help. That's our purpose!

I look forward to being of assistance, and becoming better acquainted with everyone.

*Debbie Finch, Deacon*

## **Purposeful Service Team**

### **Areas of Responsibility**

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

February 4 is Food Bank Sunday. There is always a need for staples such as spaghetti and other pastas, canned tuna, peanut butter, broth and personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. You can bring items to the Sunday service, take them directly to the Food Bank, or deliver them to the VPC office and we will follow up. Please support this organization that serves so many islanders who are food-insecure. Remember, the Food Bank started at VPC and we are committed to its ministry!

The Purposeful Service Committee has assembled a review team, co-chaired by Bev Skeffington and Claudia Ross-Weston, to review the notebooks prepared by Vashon High School seniors and to recommend a candidate for the Vashon Presbyterian Church scholarship. This scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500, will be awarded through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. The community awards will be announced in May.

#### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Lent begins early this year – February 14. This period is when VPC, and Presbyterian churches (PCUSA) throughout the country, participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. The collection is used for three PCUSA programs:

- \* Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%). These funds are designated for communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.
- \* Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%). These funds are used to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so that all may be fed.
- \* Self-development of People (32%). This program invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these social ills.

OGHS is the only one of the four national offerings in which VPC participates. In the past our community has been very generous, and we hope to continue that. Please mark checks or cash envelopes "OGHS" or use the dedicated on-line button on the VPC web page.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

#### **Faith Formation**

After completing our Advent Study at the end of last year, we have taken a small break from our adult classes. We will start our next study for Lent on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Pastor Leigh will lead this study, which will take us to Holy Week. Books will be available starting on Sunday, February 11.

Look for more details about what we will be doing after Easter in next month's newsletter. If you have a specific subject you'd like to discuss, please let me know.

Please remember that participating in our Faith Formation classes does not require you to "have all the answers." Some of our most robust conversations take place when we share more questions with one another than answers. So, bring your curiosity, your openness, and your questions to any of our studies. We'll be the richer for your attendance.

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder*

## Building and Grounds

The big news is that despite heavy rains recently, the Preschool basement has remained dry.

The new water fountain and bottle filling station installation was finished January 1, just in time for the students returning from winter break. There have been many complimentary remarks about it.

Trace Hyde is continuing conversion of the belfry into to a studio for podcasts with a dedicated WIFI connection and improved lighting.

Carpets in the Social Hall, East Room, Narthex, Youth Room, and Library are scheduled to be cleaned by Robin Lewis on February 21 while Carpe Diem students are on Spring Break. We will need help moving furniture out of the Social Hall into Classrooms A and B.

There remains some work to be done; work with which we hope volunteers can assist. For example, we need to:

- \* Install baseboards in the kitchen and hallways
- \* Stain Pastor Leigh's office door
- \* Sand and stain the front door, library table, and Communion table
- \* Replace the wooden fence separating VPC's front lawn from Zamorano's' dining area

If you are experienced in carpentry or in sanding and staining (or have a friend who is and is willing to help), please contact me and we will work out a plan for you to work at your leisure. You do not need to tackle all of these projects; if you can handle any one of them, that will be a big help while also containing our repair costs.

*Barb Huff*

**Our new water fountain and filing station**



## Outreach

### First Friday

January First Friday S'mores were cancelled due to bad weather. With a forecast for multiple atmospheric rivers coming the week following January 29, February's First Friday S'mores will probably be cancelled also. Check the weather, and check your email as we get closer to the day.

### Pi Day

We will continue our Pi Day tradition on March 14, serving pie in the East Room from noon until 4:00. Outreach plans to raise community awareness with posters and an article in the Beachcomber in early March. Let your friends know! Nothing like word of mouth to catch people's attention. In the meantime, be thinking about what type of pie you'd like to bring, and if you are willing to help serve pies in a 90-minute shift.

### Making Outreach More Inclusive

Our Outreach ministry is being run in a slightly different way this year. Rather than assigning a specific Elder to oversee this area, we are sharing its oversight among all Session members. If you are interested in co-chairing VPC's participation in a specific event (Strawberry Festival, Motorcycle Sunday, Yard Sale, Halloween, WinterFest) or if you have other ideas for Outreach opportunities, please let one of us know.

*Lindsay Hofman and Barb Huff*

## Hospitality

### Save these 2024 Dates!

#### May 5: VPC Barbecue

This after-worship luncheon has become a VPC tradition. It's a potluck, with Hospitality supplying the main course, and attendees bringing the sides. Family and friends are welcome!

#### November 16: VPC Harvest Dinner

While being held before Thanksgiving, our Harvest Dinner focuses on gratitude. Hospitality provides the entrée (fresh grilled turkey) and attendees bring their favorite holiday side dishes. Some form of in-house entertainment is part of the fun. This is a time to bring family and friends, and take time to relax and enjoy the upcoming season.

Details about these events will be shared as the dates approach.

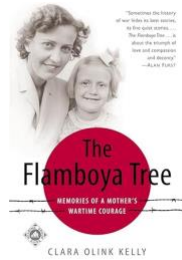
In the meantime, we have our ongoing activities: after worship coffee hour each Sunday, and Coffee at Sporty's each Tuesday at 9:00 AM.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*

## VPC Book Club

This month, the Book Club meets a week earlier than usual; on Friday, February 9 at 6:00. We'll meet for a potluck dinner at the home of Inge and Michael King, at 18427 Ridge Road SW.

We are discussing The Flamboya Tree by Clara Olink Kelly.



**Ms. Kelly will attend the Book Club meeting** and is bringing the painting of the flamboya tree that is featured in her book.

Unfortunately, the book is not available at a King County library, and the Vashon Bookshop is closed (on vacation) until February 6. The author doesn't have spare copies, either, but books are available on Amazon; used ones at a lower price.

<https://www.amazon.com/Flamboya-Tree-Memories-Mothers-Wartime/dp/0812966856>

If you have already read the book and are willing to lend it, please let me know.

*Claudia Ross-Weston*

## February Birthdays



Join us in wishing a happy February birthday to:

- 10 Debbie Finch
- 23 Beverly Skeffington

## Church Leadership

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Pastor</b>           | Leigh Weber  |
| <b>Clerk of Session</b> | Claudia Ross-Weston  |
| <b>Session Members</b>  | Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, , Bob Spangler, Al Ross-Weston, Nancy Tucker                      |
| <b>Deacons</b>          | Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Brownie Carver, Chris Coldeen, Larry Commeree, Debbie Finch |



## Calendar

### February 2024

- 2 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30 (Weather dependent!)
- 4 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 6 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 9 Session Retreat 9:00 – 3:00 Camp Sealth  
VPC Book Club 6:00 PM, Inge and Michael King's home 18427 Ridge Road SW
- 10 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon VPC
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 13 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 14 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC  
Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 VPC/Zoom
- 16 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 18 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 20 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 23 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10:00
- 27 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 29 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos

### 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>         | Anything Goes (Grief Group) 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)<br>Game Night 7:00 PM |