



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

March 2024

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.



He is Risen!



Lenten Worship and Activity Schedule	
Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom	Lenten discussion based on the book Meeting Jesus at the Table
Wednesdays at 5:00 on Zoom	Brief Taizé service (a simple, yet rich and meditative form of music)
Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM VPC and Zoom	Ecumenical worship with Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians
Good Friday Service 7:00 PM VPC and Zoom	Ecumenical worship with Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians
Easter Sunday 6:45 AM	Sunrise Service at Camp Burton
Easter Sunday 10:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service at VPC/Zoom
Easter Sunday 11:15 AM	Easter egg hunt and coffee hour outside Sanctuary

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

Someone recently asked me how the date of Easter is determined. As I listened to myself answering the person, "It's based on a full moon date," I realized that felt a bit unexciting. Thinking about it later in the day, I remembered the reference to Easter as a "moveable feast."

It's the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21, the Spring Equinox. That full moon is called the "Paschal Moon."

That might be more than you wanted to hear about Easter but the idea of a "moveable feast" has been sitting heavily in my heart as I think about it during the season of Lent. What is a moveable feast? It's a date that moves but what is a moveable feast in your heart? Does Easter move with you? Do you experience Easter moments throughout your life?

One thing I have been asking myself is what does it mean to LIVE the resurrection? Am I a resurrection person? Does my life reflect a belief in the resurrection daily not just on one Sunday after a full moon?

These are questions that I'd like to invite you to sit with as we finish these last weeks of Lent and prepare to proclaim our faith in a Risen Messiah. What does the resurrection mean to us in how we live and move and have our being individually and together?

Where is resurrection happening in your life? Where is it happening in our community? Where is it happening in our congregation? Does this moveable feast move with you? A professor in seminary used to say, with some frequency, "Resurrection is the realization that something has to die in order for something new to be born, for something new to be risen up."

Theologian and preacher Eugene Peterson wrote this, "It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It's the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can't be packaged, and it can't be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement."

What do you think it means to convey the wonder of the resurrection? Do we allow ourselves to get lost in it, to simply dwell in it? To engage it, we must live it together. We must let this moveable feast move us, move with us and move in us.

My prayer for us this Easter season is to engage resurrection wonder, to get lost in it, to savor it and to allow the proclamation of a Risen Lord to change our daily lives, not just on one Sunday.

Easter is coming! Easter is also here. You and I are Easter people! May our lives show that Jesus is alive and at work always.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner



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

Session Vision Retreat

A Session Vision retreat was held at Camp Sealth on February 9. The discussion centered on how the church could/should be positioned to anticipate and respond to community/congregation needs in the near and long-term future.

Session members also evaluated the current core teams and committee structures regarding their relevance and effectiveness in today's environment. Recognizing that the Purposeful Service and Outreach ministries intersect and sometimes overlap, it was agreed to combine these into one team entitled "Community Service." (More on this on page 5 of this newsletter.)

Session has restructured their 2024 meeting schedule to hold the traditional business meetings bi-monthly, with strategic discussions on how to advance our vision being the focus in the other months. Specific business/church matters needing attention will also be included in the vision meetings.

Session Business Meeting

Session met at VPC on February 13.

Lauretta Hyde, Jim "Trace" Hyde, and Marcy Rice were reinstated as members.

A Community Service motion was approved to allow the church building to be used as an overnight shelter during times of extreme cold. This is subject to the supervision of a certified non-profit organization with trained staff and volunteers.

The next Session Vision meeting will be held on March 5 at 4:00 at the Tucker home.

The next Session Business meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 4:00 at VPC.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session

Worship

This month includes our Lenten observations and celebrations. Join us on Zoom each Tuesday during Lent for a special Faith Formation discussion led by Leigh. On Wednesdays, also on Zoom, Leigh hosts a short, introspective Taizé service. On Maundy Thursday, March 28, VPC will host an ecumenical event that includes our neighbors the Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Methodists. This is a hybrid (Zoom and in-person) service which begins at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday will be another ecumenical service, also at 7:00 PM, at VPC and on Zoom.

Easter celebrations will begin with a Sunrise Service at 6:45 at Camp Burton around the outdoor firepit. Please plan to arrive by 6:30, and come prepared with a flashlight. (It is always darkest before the dawn.) We will hold our traditional Easter Sunday service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary, followed by traditional Easter treats and an Easter egg hunt for the kids. All are invited!

There are special flower displays in the Sanctuary during the Lenten Sunday services. **March 10** will be a Stone Bouquet. You're invited to bring flowers/greenery from your own garden to incorporate into a communal arrangement. To ensure your flowers are included in this bouquet, **please bring them to the church by 9:30 that morning.** **March 24** is Palm Sunday. Palms will be provided for the service. On **March 31, Easter Sunday**, flowers will be provided by the Worship Committee.



Deacon's Message

I am very happy to be serving as a Deacon. I have been interested in caregiving and this is a good fit for me. My interests as a Deacon include working with individuals as a friend and in giving assistance. I am currently the coordinator for the IFCH meals program, and I believe that this is a powerful outreach for our church. As a longtime volunteer, I have seen amazing things happen when people come together to work in God's name. I look forward to serving our church community.

Brownie Carver, Deacon

Community Service Areas of Responsibility

Scholarships, Outreach to the Public, IFCH, Mission Partner Relations

Purposeful Service and Outreach Committees Combined and Streamlined

The committee formerly known as Purposeful Service now has a new name: Community Service. With that change we have taken on additional responsibilities. At their February 9 retreat, the Session decided to combine the Outreach and Purposeful Service committees, recognizing that their missions and programs often overlap. The new committee will be responsible for organizing all VPC activities designed to reach people and groups beyond the VPC congregation. The Community Service team will not be doing all the work, however. As always, we will need volunteers from our congregation so that we can provide these programs to our neighbors (both local and beyond). You will be hearing from us!

Food Bank Sunday: March 3

March 3 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. Also, please consider donating cooking supplies such as oil and boxed mixes. Bring your donated items to the Sunday service, take them directly to the Food Bank, or deliver them to the VPC office and we will follow up.

One Great Hour of Sharing

With Presbyterian churches (PCUSA) throughout the country, we are participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. The collection is used in almost equal amounts for three PCUSA programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-development of People. 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. Additional information about OGHS is in the bulletin inserts or online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs>.

Pi Day

March 14 is Pi Day, and pie will be the focus of our outreach to the community that day. We will be donating pie slices to people who stop by the church building from noon to 4:00 pm. Other details will be in the weekly e-news; please contact Lindsay Hofman (206-434-5439) if you can provide a pie (home-made or purchased) or help with the distribution and cleanup.

Easter Sunday

March 31 is Easter Sunday. Along with the Holy Week services that lead up to this most sacred of Christian days, we will have Easter egg events either inside or outside, depending on the weather. More information as to time and needed donations will be in the weekly e-News.

Community Service (Continued)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Lent began 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, Community Service Elder



Faith Formation

Pastor Leigh will continue leading Faith Formation on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM on Zoom, discussing the book Meeting Jesus at the Table. This Lenten study will conclude on March 26.

We discussed the meaning of Faith Formation in Session and realized there are differences in topics people find compelling. We are considering branching into small groups, led by people who share an interest in a particular topic. We will explore beginning these smaller groups in April. One area that has consistent interest is focusing on the Bible, separately from other topics we explore. In addition, I will be talking with individuals about subjects they may be interested in. Please contact me if you have an idea and want some help exploring its possibilities. For example, a classmate of mine wrote a sermon that I'd like to share around Memorial Day; it offers interesting and perhaps controversial thoughts from someone who was a chaplain in Vietnam. Do you have books, articles, or lectures you'd like to discuss? There is plenty of room for “out of the box” thinking. Feel free to call or text me on my cell phone at 206-434-5439.

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

Building and Grounds

Trash Cleanup March 23, 9:00 AM

As we prepare the church grounds for Easter Sunday, and in anticipation of Spring, please join us on Saturday, March 23 at 9:00 to pick up trash in the yard and the perimeter. No need for special equipment; just bring your gloves and a bucket/bag for collecting trash. **This cleanup effort replaces "Second Saturday" this month.** Contact Jacq Skeffington if you have questions.

Groundskeeping

When you look at our church grounds and notice all the lovely blooms and greenery, please take a minute to reflect on the work that goes on behind the scenes to achieve and sustain this beauty. Please remember to thank all our gardeners who continue to work on their own to contribute to our church's lovely grounds. It's a lot of effort, but it is so rewarding. There is plenty of room for more volunteers (with both green and brown thumbs!) to help. Maybe you're a seasoned gardener who in addition to planting (or in lieu of) can help direct gardening efforts. Or maybe you're someone like me who isn't handy in the yard but can take direction from experienced gardeners. Whatever your skill level, we can use your help. And we always have a great time chatting and enjoying the outdoors!

Thank You

A BIG shout out to those who helped move furniture so the carpets in the Sanctuary, East Room, Social Hall, and Great Hall could be cleaned in February. Once the carpets were cleaned, then all the furniture had to be moved back into its original places. This was a great group effort which went very quickly. THANK YOU!

After several months of needing finishing, the hallway baseboards have been painted and are being installed. What a difference—be sure to take a look. THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped in this painstaking effort!

Barb Huff, Building and Grounds Coordinator

VPC Book Club



VPC Book Club will meet on Friday, March 15 at Lindsay Hofman's home. Enjoy a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00, with discussion to follow. This month's selection is The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. "In an enthralling new historical novel from national best-selling author Kate Quinn, two women - a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 - are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption." – Amazon

In April we will be reading The Wager by David Grann, followed in May with The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese.

Hospitality

There are plenty of occasions to join in church fellowship, some already scheduled and some in the works.

Already planned:

Easter Sunday, March 31 – Hot Cross Buns and Easter Egg Hunt, following Worship Bring your homemade (or bakery purchased) hot cross buns or other Easter goodies for after-worship coffee fellowship. This will be held in the Narthex, just outside the Sanctuary. For the Easter egg hunt, we'll set up the Bunny Chute to dispense treats, and we'll host an Easter egg hunt for kids of various ages. We're looking for candy and treats that appeal to different age groups, plastic eggs, and people to stuff them; please contact Leigh if you can help.

VPC Barbecue Lunch, May 5 This year, our barbecue lunch falls on Cinco de Mayo, so let's include some south-of-the-border inspired dishes to accompany our traditional burgers and grilled chicken. More details will be shared in the e-News starting in April.

Working on:

After Worship "Stone Brunch" Occasionally, let's have a potluck brunch following Sunday worship. If you feel like bringing something—anything (homemade or store bought), drop it off before church service and stay afterwards to share it with others. No setup or cleanup involved—just show up! (Also, if you can't contribute a dish, no worries—there will always be plenty to go around.) Your presence is the important thing.

Summer Small Gatherings We're continuing this tradition and hoping everyone can participate over the course of the summer. Progressive dinners, fireworks watching, light refreshments and a movie at the church, and anything else fun you can think of—all are on the table as part of summer entertainment. If you are interested in hosting (or co-hosting) a gathering, please let me know.

And of course, please join us at Sporty's every Tuesday at 9:00 for coffee and/or breakfast!

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

March Birthdays



Please join us in wishing a happy March birthday to:

- 13 Aglaia Olsen
- 14 Liz Loveness
- 17 Barbara Zue

Church Leadership

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

Calendar

March 2024

- 1 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30 (Weather dependent!)
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 5 Session Meeting 4:00 Tucker home
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 6 Taizé Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 8 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 12 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 13 Taizé Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 14 Pi Day 12:00 – 4:00 VPC
- 15 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM, Lindsay Hofman's home
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 19 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 20 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Taizé Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 22 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 23 Trash Cleanup 9:00 AM VPC
- 24 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 26 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 27 Taizé Service 5:00 PM Zoom
- 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM VPC/Zoom
Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 29 Good Friday Service 7:00 PM VPC/Zoom
Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 31 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 6:45 Camp Burton
Easter Worship Service 10:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt immediately following Easter Worship Service

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
Fridays	Anything Goes (Grief Group) 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details) Game Night 7:00 PM