



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### April 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.



#### Easter Moments

The Lenten season was a busy one for us, with lots of activities from Pi Day to special Faith Formations, weekly Communion, Taizé, Stone Brunch, sunrise service, Easter hot cross buns, the Easter egg hunt, and extra-special music. **A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who participated and/or attended these events.

#### A Little Prayer

Robert W. Service

Let us be thankful, Lord, for little things –  
The song of birds; the rapture of the rose;  
Cloud-dappled skies, the laugh of limpid springs,  
Drowned sunbeams and perfume that April blows;  
Bronze wheat a-shimmer, purple shade of trees –  
Let us be thankful, Lord of Life, for these!

Let us be praiseful, Sire, for simple sights –  
The blue smoke curling from a fire of peat;  
Keen stars a-frolicking on frosty nights,  
Prismatic pigeons strutting in a street;  
Daisies dew-diamonded in smiling sward –  
For simple sights let us be praiseful, Lord!

Let us be grateful, God, for health serene –  
The hope to do a kindly deed each day;  
The faith of fellowship, a conscience clean,  
The will to worship and the gift to pray;  
For all of worth in us, of You a part,  
Let us be grateful, God, with humble heart.



#### Just Another Day?

You might think it's just another day in your life. But it's not. Take only a few minutes to enjoy "A Grateful Day" with Brother David Steindl-Rast:

[https://youtu.be/zSt7k\\_q\\_qRU](https://youtu.be/zSt7k_q_qRU)

## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

As I am writing this, I am reflecting on the wonderful job you all did hosting so many visitors on Easter Sunday. One person said to me, "This was delightful; the congregation is so friendly." So often, as a pastor, I get to listen to the stories of how churches have wounded people. At VPC, there is definitely a sweet spirit in the air.

In this season of Eastertide, you might be asking, "Now what?" We stayed with the story of Jesus' life to the point of his death and resurrection. So, now what?

Over the next couple of months, as we look at the book of Acts, we'll be looking at that very question. What were the disciples called to do? What are we called to do today?

The answer to those questions is found in the Gospel we've been studying for a while now. "Go back to Galilee." Go back to where Jesus did his work. Be with the people Jesus helped. Stand with those with whom Jesus stood. Love in the ways Jesus loved.

As we move through the next few months, I would like to encourage you to try one new thing that you haven't tried before. Try out Text Study on Tuesdays, check out Theology Pub, come to Book Club, volunteer to usher or set up Communion or serve a meal with IFCH. Try one new thing and see where you might be being called.

I'd also like to invite you into a larger conversation about new things VPC might try. These are the conversations I hope will take place over late spring and summer gatherings. Would you be willing to host one? Would you go to one?

Eastertide is the season of answering the "now what" questions, and I'm grateful to be in conversation with you as we do just that.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meeting, held March 5 at the Tucker home, are available upon request.

Highlights from the March meeting include:

- Linda, Sean, and Amanda Burns and Burns were reinstated as members of our church.
- A bid from Roggenbuck Construction was approved to repair the parking lot in June after the schools are out for the summer.
- The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the visioning of our church. We touched on the following:
  - \* How do we have healthy conversations within the structures of our small church?
  - \* Some concerns about the use of the space as it currently is being used.
  - \* Importance of expressing gratitude to committee members.
  - \* Other reflections for our February retreat

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled on April 9 at 4:00 PM at the church.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session*

## VPC is Here for You

Occasionally we all need a helping hand, be it physical, spiritual, or emotional. Our Deacons are charged with identifying where this help is most needed and coordinating that assistance. Here are just a few things to think about:

- Need an extra meal or even a weeks' worth of groceries?
- Need a ride to an appointment, to the grocery store, to church, or to the pharmacy?
- Do you see someone in our church family who is struggling and needs help?
- Do you hold people in your heart and would like prayers for them?
- Or would you simply just like someone to extend a listening ear?

Don't hesitate to contact a Deacon (listed on page 8 of this newsletter) with any of these requests, or other ones. We are here for you.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator*

## Worship

This month has been very busy serving Communion every Sunday in Lent, plus on Maundy Thursday. Thank you to Kathy O'Laughlin, Debbie Finch, Chris Coldeen, Brownie Carver and Susan Commeree for all the Communion preparations and clean-up.

Music has been provided by several people including Marsha Morse, Lisa Peretti, Beverly Skeffington, Chris Coldeen, Thomas Abraham, Jan van Roessel and Barb Huff.

The piano was tuned on March 27; many thanks to Brownie Carver for coordinating that effort.

A Worship Committee meeting will be announced for April in the e-News.

*Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder*

## Deacon's Message

We distributed pansies to our immediate church family on Palm Sunday. We have a few left to give out this coming week. We hope this little bit of color cheered you during Easter and carries over into an enjoyable Spring.



In April we are hoping to begin "**Wednesday Wanderings.**" We are proposing to meet at VPC on Wednesdays at 3:00 in the afternoon and go for a walk together. **We expect to begin these walks on April 17.** Please come and join us!

You are frequently in our prayers. If you have any other ways we can support our church community, please do not hesitate to share your ideas. The Deacons wish you all HAPPY SPRING and hope you feel surrounded with love and the confidence that you are held in the warm embrace of God.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator*

## Faith Formation

Throughout March, Pastor Leigh led a lively discussion of the book Meeting Jesus at the Table. Discussions threads included customs related to food, religion, and community, and how Jesus taught about all three.

In April, other Faith Formation activities will be announced. I am interested in sharing some sermons from other churches, in particular the international speakers from the series running the past few months at Vashon Island Community Church (VICC). I recently attended a most interesting sermon given by a minister from Kenya. Most of these have been recorded and are on VICC's website.

I also have a copy of a sermon given at Veteran's Day by a high school classmate of mine who was a chaplain in Vietnam. I am thinking it is appropriate Memorial Day also.

In the summer Pastor Leigh will be offering a study of the book of Job.

Let me know of interests you have and any talks, essays or books you would like to share and discuss with others.

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder*

## **Community Service Areas of Responsibility**

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

April 7 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. Paper goods are also accepted, as are cooking supplies such as oil and boxed mixes. 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.

We will be accepting applications for the Heindsmann Scholarship in April. The scholarship was funded by a grant from long time VPC members Ted and Virginia Heindsmann, and will be awarded in May. The primary criterion for award of the scholarship is that it does not go to a graduating high school senior but rather to someone with more academic experience or a person seeking a new employment area. If you would like to serve on the review committee, please contact Bob Spangler (206-773-7676).

Thank you for your outstanding support of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing collection. At the time of this writing, OGH contributions totaled over \$3,300.

The VPC committee reviewing the notebooks submitted by Vashon High School seniors for the Vashon Presbyterian Church scholarship met on March 24. The committee will make a recommendation to Session and the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation, and the award will be announced near graduation.

Pi Day, March 14 ( $3/14 = 3.14$ ) was enjoyed by about 200 people eating pie at VPC. And many celebrated Liz Loveness's birthday with her at a table in the Narthex. Many VPCers were present to help. Sue Weston greeted people at the door, while Russ Dorr encouraged those walking by to join us. Héré Thieme and Kathy O'Laughlin cut pies and served people throughout the event. They were assisted by others during the day. Pastor Leigh brought games to familiarize people with many aspects of Pi, and Lindsay Hofman ran a contest for who could write the most decimal places for the number Pi from memory. The winner had 26 correct digits. Science and treats combined for a delightful afternoon! Many thanks to Lindsay Hofman, who organized the event, and to all who brought pies to make this possible.

*Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder*

## Building and Grounds

The flower beds and grounds in general reflect the hope of springtime. There is new life popping up everywhere! Thanks so much to you who have taken such great care throughout the winter.

A new Little Poetry Library was installed on the front lawn of the church on March 21. The Island's Poet Laureate, Margaret Roncone, hosted the first of many poetry readings there with about 20 Island Poets and friends reading and listening. Feel free to take a book or poem and leave a book or poem there. Plans are already in the works for another poetry reading on First Fridays or other summertime events.



Readying the Ground



Street View



In the Poet's Words



Island Poets inaugurate the library

Island Poet Laureate Margaret Roncone shown at the rear, with brown hair

Trace Hyde has been busy illuminating the staircase leading to the basement. Here the Island Explorers Preschool has been enjoying the warm and cozy classrooms since we resolved the drainage issue in the courtyard. Both these preschoolers and the toddlers and infants of the Co-op Preschool are enjoying the use of the courtyard and new patio in the warmer weather.

Session also entered into an agreement with Vashon Custom Homes, the contractor who solved our perennial basement flooding issues, to overhaul the porches on the south side of the Social Hall once Carpe Diem classes end mid-June.

Following that we have contracted with Bob Roggenbuck to completely overhaul the parking lot, filling potholes, removing all organic material, regrading and compacting the gravel to facilitate drainage to the catch basins.

There are still many other projects for handypersons. Please contact the church with suggestions or to schedule.

*Jacq Skeffington*

## VPC Book Club

Book Club will meet on April 19 at 6:00 at the Ross-Weston home. We'll be discussing The Wager by David Grann. As usual, this is a potluck dinner. Come one, come all!!

A Best Book of the Year: *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, *TIME*, *Smithsonian*, *NPR*, *Vulture*, *Kirkus Reviews*

"Riveting...Reads like a thriller, tackling a multilayered history—and imperialism—with gusto."—*Time*

"A tour de force of narrative nonfiction."—*The Wall Street Journal*

May's selection is The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese.

## Hospitality

After several hospitality/community service activities which overlapped with the busy Lenten season, there are no special events planned for April.

Our first ever "Stone Brunch" (potluck) held after Worship on March 24 was a great success, with a wide variety of food supplied by church members, and plenty of setup and cleanup help on hand. We'll continue this occasionally throughout the year.

### ***SAVE THE DATE! VPC BARBECUE/CINCO DE MAYO LUNCH SUNDAY, 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. A signup sheet will be available through April.

### ***ON THE SUMMER HORIZON: SMALL GATHERINGS ARE BACK!***

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*

## April Birthdays

*Please wish a happy April birthday to:*

- 1 Al Ross-Weston  
Paul Blake
- 2 John Neal
- 8 Jacq Skeffington  
Phil Yunker
- 24 Mike Fisher



## 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

### April 2024

- 2 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 5 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 9 Session Meeting 4:00 VPC  
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 12 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 13 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 16 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 17 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
- 19 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM, Ross-Weston home
- 21 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 23 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 25 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 26 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 28 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 30 Faith Formation 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

- 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