



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

May 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.



- Key May Dates – Don't Miss!**
- 5 VPC Barbecue immediately following Worship
 - 17 VPC Book Club, 6:00 at the Skeffingtons'
 - 23 A Night of Storytelling 6:30 at VPC
 - 30 Theology Pub 5:00 at Camp Colvos

A New Look for our Sanctuary

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, VPC is receiving a grand piano for an even richer musical worship experience. To accommodate this piano, we have removed the mini walls on the altar that bordered the choir section and the existing spinet piano. When we're finished, we'll have two pianos, vastly expanding the array of music we can perform. Duets, anyone? The Sanctuary "facelift" is a work in progress that will be performed in stages. Here's a peek at the first phase:



A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

Madeleine L'Engle wrote, "Stories make us more alive, more human, more courageous, more loving." The power of story is not one to be underestimated. For those of us in the church, we engage in the power of story every time we open the Bible. It's the story of God's love for humankind, the story of how Jesus lived his human life and the story of how humankind received it all.

Recently, I've found myself spending more time at the tea shop, listening to the stories of others.

There is something about a pot of tea that slows us down and invites deep listening. Lauretta Hyde and I have been doing some deep listening together. One of the things we keep hearing is the need to honor stories and the need to name and celebrate goodness.

We will be working on a podcast about the power of goodness in the world this summer but in the meantime, we have realized how important it is to create space for stories. On Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall, we would like you to come and tell your stories. There will be a prompt to get you started and some guidelines for gracious listening. There will also be a pot of warm tea on every table. It is our hope this will be the first of several story telling events.

It is my suspicion that the community around us will also appreciate this type of event.

As always, if you would like someone to stand in witness to your story or something about your life, I welcome the conversation. Just reach out. And if you want to share in a pot of tea, I welcome that as well. My prayer is that we continue to widen the margins of grace for each one of us and all those around us and do the good and holy work of God's beloved community.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meeting, held April 23 at VPC, are available upon request.

Highlights from the April meeting include:

- Approval of the motion to accept the donation of a grand piano and to remove the small wall in the Sanctuary to make space for the new piano
- Donating proceeds from the Yard Sale to Vashon Youth and Family Services
- Donating proceeds from the Festival seating and parking to Journeymen Institute

Our church has received a grant from the Presbytery to be used to help with building improvements. These will include replacing our back porches as well as grading and graveling the parking lot.

We are looking at sponsoring a cemetery clean-up day; date and time TBD.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session

A Night of Story Telling

You are invited to something new! To something wonderful! To something fun! You are invited to be yourself and share your own story and listen to the stories of others.

Lauretta Hyde, our own professional storyteller, will lead us through an evening of telling stories about building bridges. You'll hear a story, be given some guidelines and listen and share with those around your table.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 PM in the VPC Social Hall.

This is an incredible opportunity to slow down, enjoy a cup of warm tea, and share and learn.

Please invite anyone you know to join in the evening. All you need to do is to show up.

"You're both the fire and the water that extinguishes it. You're the narrator, the protagonist, and the sidekick. You're the storyteller and the story told. You are somebody's something, but you are also your you." –John Green [Turtles All the Way Down](#)



Deacon's Message

The Deacons are the church's caregivers. We are here to give assistance to those in need, and to offer friendship and comfort to our congregation and community. Let us know how we can serve you.

Also, we would love to pray for you. Prayer requests can be placed in the offering plate, or contact a Deacon directly. You may also place your prayer requests in the Deacon mailboxes located in the church office.

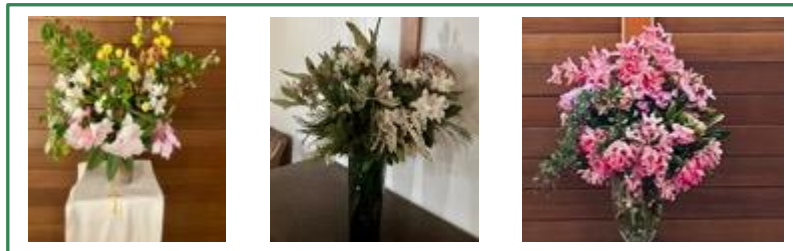
Brownie Carver, Deacon

Check out our Blooms!

One of our many blessings at VPC is the many people who have green thumbs and luscious gardens, and regularly share their floral bounty with us to adorn the altar. The arrangements they painstakingly assemble outshine those of most florists.

One Sunday each month, we invite everyone to bring in a small offering of flowers to be incorporated into a "Stone Bouquet," reminiscent of the old story about Stone Soup (Google it!). The results are always breathtaking, and we often have enough flowers and leaves to make two large bouquets.

The next time you come to worship service, take a few moments to take in the beauty of these floral arrangements. A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributes flowers to enhance our worship experience.



Worship

On May 7 at 7:00 PM we will hold a Zoom meeting of the Worship Committee. The purpose of the meeting is to gather your thoughts about our worship experience, both inside the Sanctuary and outside. If you have opinions you would like to share, please attend—we'd love to hear from you.

Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder

Faith Formation

After a busy Lenten season and Easter Sunday, (as well as my 10 days in Cancun), now is the time to start planning for future Faith Formation themes. I would welcome your views on topics you would like us to explore. To this end, in May we will hold a Faith Formation committee meeting.

Also during May I will bring my book Praying with the Body to church for anyone potentially interested in body prayer. We can also consider a Zoom gathering in addition to the Wednesday 8:30 group.

I am also working on obtaining the video of the international talks at Vashon Island Community Church. I heard that the speaker from Iran was very interesting.

Our summer curriculum will be a study of the book of Job, led by Pastor Leigh.

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

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

Hospitality

VPC Barbecue Sunday, May 5

This year, our barbecue lunch falls on Cinco de Mayo. We'll grill burgers (beef and bean) and will also offer up some Mexican-themed foods such as tacos, nachos, and guacamole. We'll hold the luncheon in the Social Hall, as the weather forecast calls for a cloudy, chilly day.

This is always a fun event. Please come and bring your friends and family!



Summer 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

Community Service Areas of Responsibility

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

May 5 is Food Bank Sunday. The web page notes the continuing need for staples such as spaghetti and other pastas, canned tuna fish, peanut butter and broth. Personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste are always appreciated, 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. Given that the Food Bank is currently raising funds for a new building, it is especially important that the community generously provide food items rather than have them purchased.

The Community Service committee met on April 19 to discuss summer activities. The committee recommended to Session that the proceeds from the festival parking and chairs be donated to the Vashon-based Journeymen Institute and that the proceeds from the Yard Sale be donated to Vashon Youth and Family Services. Session approved those recommendations at the April 23 monthly business meeting.

We are looking for a volunteer to receive and keep a record of requests for parking and chairs on festival Saturday (July 20). Most requests will come via e-mail, so this can be done from home. Another volunteer will make reserved signs for the seats to be placed on the chairs Saturday morning. If you would like to do either of these, please contact me at rwspang@centurytel.net.

The VPC committee reviewing the notebooks submitted by Vashon High School seniors for the Vashon Presbyterian Church scholarship has made a recommendation to the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. The award will be announced near graduation. Thanks to the group who volunteered to do the review.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Heindsmann scholarship was April 25. We received two applications, and will be interviewing the applicants via Zoom. The award will be announced in May after the Session meeting.

Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder

VPC Book Club

Book Club will meet on May 19 at 6:00 at the Skeffington home. We'll be discussing [The Covenant of Water](#) by Abraham Verghese. As usual, this is a potluck dinner. Come one, come all!!

Amazon posts: "From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone* comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret."

"One of the best books I've read in my entire life. It's epic. It's transportive . . . It was unputdownable!"—
Oprah Winfrey, OprahDaily.com

This is a lengthy book, so start reading early!

Building and Grounds

We continue to make improvements to our building and grounds so that VPC can remain a safe and inviting venue for our congregation, for the school and preschool who call VPC home, and for the Vashon community which uses our building for meetings, meals, rehearsals, and more.

Most recently, we have made Sanctuary improvements (outlined on the front page), we've replaced the baseboard behind the kitchen, reimagined and painted the door leading to the downstairs preschool, added more lighting for the preschool, and filled in the potholes and leveled the parking lot.

We also continue with our Second Saturdays work party and are grateful for those who help maintain the grounds with weeding, pruning, planting, and cleaning.

Jacq Skeffington

May Birthdays

Please wish a happy May birthday to:

- 10 George Lee
- 14 Jo Goforth
- 26 Carol Spangler
- 27 Tom Lehman
- Wendy-jo Weston
- 29 Sue Weston



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

May 2024

- 3 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
VPC Barbecue Lunch immediately follows service
- 7 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 11 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 14 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 15 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
- 17 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM, Skeffington home
- 19 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 21 Session Meeting 4:00 Spangler home
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 23 A Night of Storytelling 6:30 PM VPC Social Hall
- 24 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 26 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 28 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 30 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 31 Game Night 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