

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 8

Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Listening to God, embracing all, living in joy



December 2018 Newsletter

Advent and Christmas

Vashon Christmas Tree Lighting

Right Here at VPC!

Saturday, December 1st 5-7 PM

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 2nd after Worship

Cookies, Cocoa and Carols

Sunday, December 2nd 3 PM

Mary's Place Giving Tree

Deadline is Sunday, December 9th

Book Club Christmas Gathering

Supper, Gift Book Exchange

Friday, December 14th 6:30 PM

Holiday Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 16th after Worship

Christmas Coffee Hour

Sunday, December 23rd after Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday Dec 24th 6 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday Dec 24th 11 PM

"Cookies, Cocoa and Carols"

Join with VUMC and other neighboring congregations to start off the advent season in fellowship and singing! We will have all the Christmas carols you want to sing, Christmas cookies and cocoa. Make a beautiful ornament for your tree. We'll meet in the VPC social hall at 3 PM.

Advent Faith Formation Class

On Sunday morning December 2nd at 9 am the adult class will start discussing the book Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Henri J. Nouwen. If you have the book start reading ahead. Day 1 is December 1st. If you don't have one, there are more copies in the office. The recommended cost is \$8.

Advent Services – "Emmanuel - God With Us"

Church family and friends please join us for our **Advent Services** during morning worship at 10:00 am on **December 2nd, 9th, and 16th**. There will be more information in our enews each week to prepare you for the upcoming Sunday.

Two VPC Services on December 24th

This Christmas Eve there will be two candlelight services. One at 6 PM and a later service at 11 PM. There will be special music and candlelight for both services. A special collection will be taken for the Hurricane Relief Fund.

Congregational Meeting
to Elect Elder/Deacon,
and Pastor's Terms of Call
December 2, 2018 after worship

Dear Ones of VPC,

I share with you this incredible poem about Light by Jan Richardson:

*I cannot tell you how the light comes.
What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining.
That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us.
That it loves searching out what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten or in peril or in pain.
That it has a fondness for the body
for finding its way toward flesh
for tracing the edges of form
for shining forth through the eye,
the hand, the heart.
I cannot tell you how the light comes, but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way into the deepest dark that enfolds you,
though it may seem long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape you did not foresee.
And so, may we this day turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.
May we open and open more and open still
to the blessed light that comes.*

Sisters and brothers of VPC, people of God...welcome to Advent, the season of waiting for the Light to pierce the darkness and proclaim again for us...EMMANUEL!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh

Purposeful Service

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary's Place weekend/partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations.

Mary's Place Giving Tree There are only a few gift tags for the Mary's Place Giving Tree left. Take a tag and return it with money for shoes or gift. Fulfilled tags should be turned in by December 9th.

Christmas Eve Offering The combined offering received from the Christmas Eve services will be sent to the Presbyterian Hurricane Relief Fund.

December IFCH Dinner The VPC IFCH meal is December 20th. Please sign up at coffee hour. The dinner lasts from 4:30-6:30 PM. Let's make this meal a real holiday treat!

Worship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Sacraments celebration, music program, readers, bulletin, ecumenical worship, church décor.

Celebrate This Joyful Season at VPC!

We will be having Communion every Sunday of Advent

Advent begins December 2nd. Celebrate the season at VPC and take time during this busy month to worship, sing carols, and enjoy this beautiful time of the year. This year we will have two Christmas Eve candlelight services, at 6:00 and 11:00.

On December 30th, we will have a combined service with our Methodist friends at VPC.

Our next choir practice will be on December 26th at 7:00 at VPC. This will be a combined choir with the Methodist. Barry Cooper will be directing with Beth on the piano.

Elder Brownie Carver

Hospitality/Fellowship

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship.

Celebrate This Joyful Season at VPC!

Decorating the Church

Join us on Saturday the 1st at 11 AM if decorating is your kind of fun. We will serve a chili and cornbread lunch while we're working.

Vashon Christmas Tree Lighting

The Vashon Chamber of Commerce is once again stringing Christmas lights around the large spruce tree in front of VPC. An Island wide lighting of the tree with caroling is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, Dec 1st from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Cookies, Cocoa and Carols

Start off the season with your favorite Christmas carols and fellowship on Sunday Dec 2, 3 PM.

Winter Small Group Outings

If you would like to join a small group from VPC that is going to one of the following events, put your name on the signup sheet on the hostess table during coffee hour.

1. Heritage Museum Exhibit, Sun, Dec 16 1 PM
2. Vashon Chorale Winter Concert, Dec 9, 3 PM
3. VIVA Studio Tour, December 8, 10 AM

Special Holiday Coffee Hours

Throughout the month of December coffee hours will feature Christmas cookies and breads, hot cider or cocoa and a lots of good cheer.

Elder Elizabeth Loveness

VPC Book Club Christmas Gathering Book club will meet at Spangler's home (17304 137th Ave. SW 206 567-5302) to discuss works by or about Maya Angelou on Friday December 14th at 6:30. Bring a wrapped up book for holiday gift exchange game if you'd like to. There will be a festive, holiday potluck.

Elder Al Ross Weston

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds

The Vashon Chamber of Commerce is once again stringing **Christmas lights** around the large spruce tree in front of VPC. An Island wide celebratory lighting of the tree with caroling is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, Dec 1st from 5:00-7:00 PM. VPC will be providing hot cider and cocoa and cookies. Join in the winter fun!

While Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool were on Thanksgiving break, all **fire extinguishers, sprinklers and alarms** were satisfactorily tested.

See **Carpe Diem's "Winter Celebration" program** December 13th, 7 pm in the sanctuary. It's always a joyous occasion!

Blessings,

Jacq Skeffington, Mission Resource Elder



Faith Exploration

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Adult Faith Exploration class for Advent

On Sunday morning December 2nd at 9 am the adult class will start discussing the book Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Henri J. Nouwen. If you have the book start reading ahead. Day 1 is December 1st.

Suggested questions to ask yourself: What strikes you about his words? How does he challenge your life style, faith journey, practices and service to the community? Where do you take issue with him? How would you express your wisdom? If you don't have one, there are more copies in the office. The recommended cost is \$8.

Blessings,
Al

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Invitation and Outreach

Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Annual Vashon Tree Lighting and Parade

Christmas lights are decorating large spruce tree in front of VPC. **An Island wide celebratory lighting of the tree** with caroling is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, Dec 1st from 5:00-7:00 PM. VPC will be providing hot cider and cocoa and cookies. We will also keep our building open for use of the bathrooms and to provide a quiet warm place away from crowds or inclement weather. Come along and help us greet our neighbors. If you would like to help, contact Nancy Tucker.

Elizabeth Loveness for Elder Larry Commeree

Deacon's News

Take a deep breath. Hold it for a few seconds and then let it out slowly. Now, do that again. Now say this to yourself. "I have done as much as I can; now it is in God's hands." It seems like I have been breathing deeply and saying that a lot lately.

For me, and I am sure for you, this Fall and Holiday season has been busy, busy, busy. Most meditations, no matter what the faith, usually start with breathing. It helps. And God will be there to help with the burnout that so many of us experience this time of year. So we can relax, and let God take over. He may take us in unexpected, unplanned directions if we let go but he will always be there. My favorite Christmas card, one that I received years ago, was a simple Nativity scene that was being cradled in a giant pair of hands. Arthur Ashe, the famous tennis player, said "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." And then just step back and let God take over. He will always be there just waiting to be asked.

Sue Weston, Deacon

Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

**Feed the hungry,
clothe the naked,
forgive the guilty,
welcome the stranger
and the unwanted child,
care for the ill,
love your enemies.**

Clerk's Corner

Session held its scheduled monthly meeting on November 13. Session removed two members from the roll because they had joined another church. Session also reported on conversations with members as to how they believe VPC is doing, and decided to contact several members about their apparent inactivity. Jim Lilje stated that the audit of 2017 operations has been completed, and a report is being prepared. It was decided that a special congregational meeting will be held December 2, 2018 to elect officers for the class of 2020, and the annual congregational meeting will be held on January 27, 2019. Session authorized the Chamber of Commerce to light the tree on VPC property as part of the Christmas decorations. Jacq reported on the proceedings of the Seattle Presbytery meeting. Finally, session reviewed the preliminary 2019 budget that Jim distributed, discussed several options prepared by the Personnel Committee as to the pastor's 2019 terms of call and recommended an amount subject to assurance that it fit within the budget. A special session meeting was held on November 18 to consider whether to present the proposed terms of call to the congregation at the previously-approved December 2 special congregational meeting. It was agreed to add that matter to the December 2 agenda so as to have a congregational vote before the Seattle Committee on Ministry's December meeting, where the terms could be approved.

*Bob Spangler
Clerk of Session*

Calendar December 2018

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



Dec

- 1 Bible Study 10 AM
- 1 Decorate the Church 11 AM
- 1 Vashon Tree Lighting 5-7 PM
- 2 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 2 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 2 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion
- 2 Congregational Meeting after worship
- 2 Cookies, Cocoa and Carols 3 PM at VPC
- 9 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 9 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion
- 14 VPC Book Club Christmas Supper 6:30 PM at Spangler's
- 15 Bible Study 10 AM
- 16 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 16 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion
- 23 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 23 Advent Christian Formation 9 AM
- 23 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM Communion
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11 PM
- 30 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 30 Ecumenical Worship with VUMC 10 AM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group meets at noon on Mondays

Fellowship breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9:00 AM on Tuesdays

Bible Study meets 10 AM 1st and 3rd Saturdays

Please note: Dates, times and events may change after publication. Refer to the weekly e-News or Sunday bulletin for confirmation of details.