

MARCH 2020

Vashon Presbyterian Church



March 2020 Newsletter

“Love One Another”

Lenten Taize Services

Join us in the sanctuary on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm for our Lenten Taize services. It's a time of prayer and silence, of singing, of reading, of listening. The 30 minute service is followed by our continued Bible study of Abraham and his descendants exploring the Old Testament historical foundation of our faith.

Faith Formation Class for Lent

Faith Formation class Sunday mornings will be focusing on the Lenten sermon series theme of Creation Care. The first three weeks will be a prayerful yet practical look at plastic pollution, zero waste and PCUSA's proposed sustainability resolutions to be presented at this year's general assembly. The last 2 weeks will be a more traditional guidance and personal discovery view of waiting and

Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!

**Pi Is Like God's Love –
Irrational, Real and Never Ending**

$\Pi\pi$

Bring a pie to share! VPC wants to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 – 3.14) by inviting all islanders to stop by for a piece of pie! Saturday 9-3 pm.

Save These Dates!

March 3rd

Lenten Taize Service 6 pm
Bible Study 6:30 pm

March 6th

First Friday Fire and S'Mores 5-7 pm

March 8th 15th 22nd

Lenten Faith Formation Classes 9 am

March 10th 17th 24th 31st

Lenten Taize Services 6 pm
Bible Study 6:30 pm

March 14th

“PI” Day 10-3 pm

March 19th

Theology Pub – Camp Colvos 5:30 pm

March 20th

VPC Book Club 6 pm

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday April 5th 10 am

Sunday –Wed Evening Taize Service 6 pm

Maundy Thursday Service VUMC 7pm

Good Friday Service at VPC 7 pm

Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 am

Dear Ones of VPC,

Someone recently asked me if my commute ever gets old. I shared that waiting at Fauntleroy on Fridays borders on old but only occasionally. What people who commute by ferry and all islanders learn is there is a public library ready to fill your waiting. And so, thanks to my commute, I'm better read than I've been in years and I'm grateful for times of waiting.

Lent is a time of waiting, of preparing. It's a time of waiting for a story to unfold that we all know, hope, love, betrayal, suffering, fear, abandonment, death and eventually resurrection. One of the books I've been reading lately is by theologian Shelly Rambo. Her book Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining has a quotation that I value:

“The pressure to get over, to forget, to wipe away the past, is often reinforced by one particular way of reading Christian redemption. The narrative of triumphant resurrection can often operate in such a way as to promise a radically new beginning to those who have experienced a devastating event. A linear reading of cross and resurrection places death and life in a continuum; death is behind, and life is ahead; life emerges victoriously from death. This way of reading can, at its best, provide a sense of hope and promise for the future. But it can also gloss over the realities of pain and loss, glorify suffering and justify violence.”

I've been wrestling with her statement for a while now, largely because I hear its truth. I suspect many of us look forward to Easter Sunday. It's a joyous time of triumph and proclamation that death has no hold on us any longer. And while that is true, I wonder if it isn't also important to honor this season of waiting and the week that we, in the Church, call Holy. Jesus lived through all of that and it hurt. In the garden he pleaded for another way, on the cross he cried out in pain. He spoke truth to power and stood by those on the margins even when he could see where it was leading and the people around him, his friends, fell asleep.

Lent and this season of Easter Sunday offer each of us an opportunity not only to take on some kind of spiritual discipline but also to acknowledge that life offers both difficult times of trauma as well as hope and resurrection. We experience both as human beings. Jesus experienced both. What Jesus also offers us is the reminder that God is always with us and life eternal is ours through him. God knows what we carry deep in our hearts and God holds that with us. So, as we walk through this season together, let us honor both, the promise and hope of resurrection and the presence of the Holy in all that we experience.

I thank God for each of you every day and cherish our shared journey.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh

Invitation and Outreach Team News

Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation

Celebrate Pi Day with a Piece of Pie!

**Pi Is like God's Love –
Real, Irrational and Never Ending**

$\Pi\pi$

Bring a pie to share! VPC wants to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 – 3.14) by inviting all islanders to stop by for a piece of pie!

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. The earliest known official or large-scale celebration of Pi Day was organized by Larry Shaw in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium, where Shaw worked as a physicist. While it has generated a lot of interest in the study of Mathematics, it has also become an excuse for eating a lot of pie! Please join in this informal outreach to the community by bringing a pie to share.

Join us in celebrating Pi day 3.14 from 10 - 3 in the east room. Looking for volunteers to work 2 hour shifts - 9-11; 11-1; and 1-3; first shift will cut & prepare; last shift will clean up. Please bring your pies at 9am.

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder



Purposeful Service News

Area of Responsibility

Scholarship, Mary Magdalene weekend/partnership, IFCH dinners, mission partner relations

Creation Care: Purposeful Service Team has purchased recycling containers for placement at several locations in the building. They are designed for multiuse, and at least one will be for compost. Please ensure that you and building visitors take advantage of these containers.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Session approved participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. This PCUSA special offering is used for hunger programs, disaster assistance and development. More information will be provided in worship bulletin inserts, and we will have the “fish” coin boxes. The offering will be collected on Palm Sunday.

Purposeful Service team has identified coordinators for the next two regular mission activities: the award of the **Heindsmann scholarship and the Festival parking/chairs fundraiser**. More information about these will be provided in the next months.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Hospitality/Fellowship

Areas Responsibility:

Hospitality, Fellowship

Easter Brunch Our first Hospitality event will be the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt. Be sure and plan to stay after Easter worship for wonderful baked goods and the fun of watching the little ones hunt for eggs!

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility

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

Taize services begin on March 3rd at 6:00, followed by a Bible Study. Taize will be held each Tuesday during Lent.

The worship service on Fifth Sunday on March 29th will be held at VUMC.

Palm Sunday is April 5th which begins Holy Week. Members from the Island Chorale will present our offertory music.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Faith Exploration

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

VPC Book Club The VPC Book Club will meet March 20th this month at Doug and Nancy Johnson's. There will be a potluck at 6 with a discussion of the book Pilgrimage to Eternity by Timothy Eagan to follow.

Faith Formation Class The adult Sunday morning will be focused on the Lenten theme of Creation Care. 9 am Sundays through Palm Sunday, April 5th.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Mission Resource

Team News

Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship, Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds It's been said that Rome wasn't built in a day. With that in mind, we're making progress toward opening the door from the courtyard/playground entrance to Creative Preschool and our newly named "**Family Hospitality Room**". We hope to complete the installation by the end of March.

Thanks to all who showed up at our work party February 8th. We picked up a load of recyclable material and trash around the parking lot. Of course, the parking lot can use another clean up already, so feel free to stop by the church on your own and pick up a bag or two. Recyclables and trash can be placed in the receptacles within the fenced collection area in the parking lot. Please wear rubber gloves!

Weather permitting, I'd like to plan another **work party Saturday, March 21st** to fill in potholes in the parking lot. Just driving through there in my "low-rider" Chevy S-10 is crazy. I bottom out everywhere! Hopefully Elizabeth Loveness and Doug Johnson (and others?) will have their much more practical pickups available to haul gravel. **The carpets were cleaned Feb 21st**, while CarpeDiem was on break. Thanks to the hearty souls who moved furniture and tables into the classrooms Thursday, and back out on Sunday. The Mission Resources Facilities Team usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Colvos Creek Pub from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. With all the Lenten activities scheduled for Tuesdays this month, I'd like to **reschedule our meeting to Thursday, March 12th at 6:30pm.** Prayers are on me, and beers or soft drinks too!

*Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington*

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting February 28th with all Elders present. An opening meditation and prayer was led by Ruling Elder, Elizabeth Loveness. Elders submitted written reports for their teams' activities. E-mails received from a member about financial support of some organizations was referred to the Purposeful Service Elder for further investigation. A motion to amend the correspondence policy such that all correspondence addressed to the session will be forwarded to the Clerk of Session and the Pastor was approved. Session also approved a motion to participate in the PCUSA "One Great Hour of Sharing" collection on Palm Sunday. Outreach plans were finalized for continuing 1st Friday S'mores and Pi Day celebrations. Lenten activities and Mental Health Ministry activities were discussed and authorized.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Church Leadership

Pastor Rev Leigh Weber

Clerk of Session Jacq Skeffington

Session Members Brownie Carver, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob Spangler, Al Ross Weston.

Deacons Susan Commeree, Lindsay Hofman, Sheryl Lehman, Claudia Ross Weston, Nancy Tucker, Sue Weston

February Presbytery Meeting Report

I attended the stated meeting of Seattle Presbytery February 25th at Northminster PC in Ballard, actually hosted by Coastland Commons, a new worshipping community utilizing Northminster PC space. As Eliana Maxim, Co-Executive Presbyter put it "We're attempting a new way in doing our meetings as a presbytery." It was truly the most unique Presbytery meeting that I've attended. **Rather than repeat what's available on line I'll note highlights only. The entire meeting was videotaped and portions are now available on the Presbytery of Seattle website.** We spent the entire first hour of the meeting in guided meditation, song and prayer.

In the business session after dinner: Seattle First Presbyterian Church Updates Property Update:

The property is under contract with a buyer and we are hopeful this will result in a sale by sometime mid 2020 or later. Plans are underway to find new homes for some of Seattle First's physical assets (organs, pianos, chairs, books, etc).

Legal Update:

On October 7, 2019, the Washington Court of Appeals issued a decision in favor of Seattle Presbytery and First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, rejecting all arguments made by the former co-pastors and ruling elders of First Pres.

[General Assembly Overture \(Fossil Free PCUSA Divestment\)](#) - from the session of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church: *Resolved*, that the presbytery concur with overture 13.

[General Assembly Overture](#) – *Resolved*, that the Presbytery of Seattle overture the 223 General Assembly to continue supporting the work promoting peace and justice with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia.

Details of all reports are available online at www.seattlepresbytery.org/reports/

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington

Deacons News

Forty Acts of Kindness

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Aesop

The rainy, dreary days of “Februweary” are (finally!) over. Enter March, with its eagerly-awaited promise of spring, regeneration, and renewal. March also contains a highly spiritual essence, comprising the vast majority of days in the Lenten season.

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, we symbolically emulate Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Very few of us actually retreat into a desert and give up food for 40 days, but typically we do focus on some sort of sacrifice. During Lent we might give up certain foods or beverages, activities, or bad habits.

Typically we concentrate on things we *won't* do, pleasures we will forego or tendencies we will strive to curb. But what about if we also focus on positive things we *will* do? This is hardly a new idea, and it is a Yang to the Yin of self-sacrifice.

How about engaging in a deliberate act of kindness each day during Lent? There is no size limit to kindness—any benevolence, even just a deliberate smile to a stranger, can make a difference to a struggling soul. And this is one of the most exciting aspects of kindly acts: only God will know how many seeds of hope and joy they will plant in the lives of others and those around them. This represents the essence of selfless giving – to do so without expectation of recognition or reward.

A dentistry in Charlotte composed a blog that encourages readers to engage in at least one act of kindness during each day of Lent and has suggested several activities that families can work on together:

<https://www.charlottedentistry.com/blogpatients/2017/03/01/lent-40-days-40-acts-of-kindness/>

Regardless of how, or if, you observe Lent, may the season touch your spirit in a profound way and help prepare you for the joy of Easter.

Deacon Nancy Tucker

Growing through Grief

Providence Hospice of Seattle Grief Support Services is offering a 5-week support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one in the last year. This group will meet on Vashon on Wednesday afternoons, March 4 through April 1 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This is a closed group and registration is required. Please contact Grief Support Services at 206.749.7702 for more information and to register. Space is limited.

GREEN TIP FOR MARCH:

We are all very excited about getting on board and making changers to the way we consume. However, please don't go on a sweep of your home and throw everything into the land fill at once. As things wear out, make a smarter purchase. For instance, when your plastic broom and dustpan break, replace with a wooden handle straw broom and metal dust pan. When you are ready to replace the plastic scrubber you use around the sink or that double edged sponge, purchase wooden handled brush with natural bristles or if you can't find the natural bristles, when it is no longer good, cut the bristles and store them in a small container and when you have filled that container with microfiber items such as these, put it in the trash that is headed for the transfer station. It is important to keep those items of microfibers or microtrash fully contained as they can easily be airborne and make their way to our waters.

Beverly Skeffington



Calendar March 2020

March

- 1 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 1 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 1 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service; Food Bank)
- 3 Lenten Taize Service 6 PM
- 3 Bible Study 6:30 PM
- 5 NAMI Support Group 7 PM
- 6 First Friday Fire and S'Mores 5-7 PM
- 8 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 8 Creation Care Lenten Study 9 AM
- 8 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 10 Lenten Taize Service 6 PM
- 10 Bible Study 6:30 PM
- 14 Pi Day 9 AM - 3 PM
- 15 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 15 Creation Care Lenten Study 9 AM
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 17 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 17 Lenten Taize Service 6 PM
- 17 Bible Study 6:30 PM
- 19 Theology Pub Camp Colvos 5:30 PM
- 20 VPC Book Club at the Johnson's 6:00 PM
- 21 Work Party 9 – Noon
- 22 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 22 Lenten Study 9 AM
- 22 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Communion Service)
- 24 Lenten Taize Service 6 PM
- 24 Bible Study 6:30 PM
- 26 VPC IFCH Dinner 5:30 PM
- 28 Mental Health Forum - Film "Crazywise" at VPC 9-Noon
- 29 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 29 Sunday Worship Service at VUMC 10 AM
- 31 Lenten Taize Service 6 PM
- 31 Bible Study 6:30 PM

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group meets Mondays at noon.

Fellowship Breakfast meets at Sporty's at 9 AM on Tuesdays.

Tool Belts 9-Noon Tuesdays.

Leigh at Luna's Tuesdays at 2 PM

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