

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

## "Love One Another"



## April 2020 Newsletter

### Zooming Through the Easter Holidays!

Here are the links for the events that start with First Friday Game Night this week. All other events begin starting next Sunday for Holy Week. You will note there are two Coffee Check In times, Monday and Thursday. These are just open events for anyone who wants to check in with others. We can add more as needed.

Starting on Sunday (for Holy Week), we will have Evening Prayer at 6 pm, Sunday-Wednesday evening followed by Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services both at 7 pm.

Daily (M-F) Morning Prayer (roughly 20 min) starts on Monday, April 6th.

Save this page as it contains all of your Zoom links. Unfortunately, I was not able to create one URL for everything so these are important. Contact me at any time if you need them sent to you again.



### Upcoming Events on Zoom

First Friday Game Night - Friday, April 3, 6:30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/949574669>

Morning Prayer for Holy Week – Mon-Fri starting April 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am

<https://zoom.us/j/913892453>

Evening Prayer – Starting Palm Sunday – Wednesday at 6 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/848146007>

Maundy Thursday – April 9<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/658245884>

Good Friday – April 10<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/740140123>

Coffee Check In – Mondays at 11 am

<https://zoom.us/j/694918763>

Coffee Check In – Thursdays at 4 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/108763980>

Dear Ones of VPC,

Of all the things I have read lately, my favorite was “This is the Lentiest Lent I have ever Lented.” It’s funny and true and rich with meaning. As someone who professes to enjoy Lent, which I do, I have realized that I enjoy controlling it a bit too. Every year I find my new discipline that I want to start, I start on Ash Wednesday and then I end it on Easter Sunday. It’s controlled, it’s predictable, it’s defined. And what Covid-19 has taught me is that I both shouldn’t “define” Lent nor can I. This, my friends, is true wilderness. And I would like to offer you some things I have been learning or relearning in this time.

Wilderness isn’t fun. It’s there when you go to bed and it’s there when you wake up and you can’t run away from it because there is nowhere else to go...it’s everywhere. I suspect the Israelites felt the same way, wandering for forty years. Wilderness isn’t fun.

Wilderness calls for creativity. When you can’t depend on your definition of “normal,” you start having to think outside of the box. After a couple of years of thinking we should get more technologically savvy about outreach and worship and other things, this wilderness has forced that lesson on us. I can’t wait to be back in our sanctuary together, but I imagine some of what we are doing online will stay online or at least offer an option to folks when they are sick or traveling. Wilderness calls for creativity and creativity is good.

Wilderness makes you depend on one another. Everyone is in a foreign place. What has forced us apart physically has drawn us closer together in other ways. The wilderness of this Lent is something that we are experiencing together. No one can escape being impacted by this virus. Wilderness causes us to reach for one another, helping one another, cheering one another. Wilderness makes you depend on one another.

God is in the wilderness. And daily bread comes. We still worship together and God is there. We still study scripture together and God is there. We meet and we gather, and we call, and we check in and, in all those moments, God is very much present. And I continue to hear from you how God is giving you gracious space during this time of isolation, to rest, to enjoy nature, to simply be. God is in the wilderness with us.

This is definitely the Lentiest Lent any of us have ever Lented. We have absolutely no control over it and that’s okay because God is still God and resurrection will come! Until then, I’m grateful for your companionship in this undefined time of wilderness. I suspect its lessons will teach us for years to come.

Grace and Peace,  
Leigh



## Mission Resource Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Financial stewardship,  
Building and Grounds.

### Building and Grounds

I pray you are all safe and adjusting to being the church without being **in** the church. The building is now closed to all outside user groups as we worship, study and gather virtually. IFCH meals are being served “take out style” from the Methodist church. AA, NA and other support groups have discontinued face to face meetings with some groups meeting by ZOOM. **Our office staff and Pastor Leigh still make short visits to the building answering phone and email inquiries, sorting snail mail and processing donations received through PO BOX 435.**

Just before Governor Inslee announced his “Stay Home, Stay Healthy plan”, contractors completed installing the new door from the courtyard/playground to our newly named **Family Hospitality Room**. There is a little painting to do around the trim but the door is finished and all trim woodwork primed to resist the weather for a few weeks until we can apply the finish coats. It would be wonderful to use that door for an Easter egg hunt in the play yard if we are allowed to gather together again by then.

Too bad we can't have a **ZOOM work party!** The flowerbeds are bursting with new life, just waiting for you good stewards to guide them in their growth. The parking lot can use another clean up and the potholes need filling. But for now stay home, stay healthy and know that you are loved and needed. 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. Obviously we can't do that but, if you're interested, I can set up a ZOOM meeting!!! Send me an email ([skeffiewa@yahoo.com](mailto:skeffiewa@yahoo.com)) with your email address and I'll send you an invitation.

Blessings and Grace,  
*Jacq Skeffington*

## Faith Formation Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages).

**VPC Book Club** Book Club meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> with Zoom. We will begin at 6:00 pm. The book selection is Pilgrimage to Eternity by Timothy Egan. The upcoming selections are listed below.

May	<u>The Great Gatsby</u>	F. Scott Fitzgerald
June	<u>The Kingdom</u>	Emmanuel Carrère
July	<u>Town Kid</u>	Gary Potter
August	<u>Love and Other Consolation Prizes</u>	

Jamie Ford

September The Nightingale Kristin Hannah

*Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder*

### Mission Resource - Finance

Offering for 3/29/2020: \$2276

Total Offering for March: \$11,200

Budgeted Offering for March: \$11,155

**Thank you to everyone for being willing to mail in checks so that we could actually make (and slightly) beat our targeted offering for the month! Keep up the good work.**

*Jim Lilje, Mission Resource Finance Elder*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Sunday Worship** We hope that all of you have been able to follow our Sunday services either on zoom or by using the worship guide. It is so important to stay connected. Let us know if you are having trouble receiving worship information.

**Music for Worship** We would love to have our musicians offer worship music from their homes. Please contact either Pastor Leigh or Brownie if this is something that you are able to do. It would enhance our services. Thank you.

**Stay tuned for Holy Week and Easter.** Pastor Leigh will be sending out a study guide and text study.

**Don't forget Taize** on Tuesday at 6:00 on zoom.

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

## Invitation and Outreach Team News

### Area of Responsibility

New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation

**VPC Website** we are working on redoing the website for a new look, and hopefully more appealing to our community. We continue to update Facebook during this time of the pandemic.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Food Bank** Until normal church operations are resumed, we will not be collecting items for the Food Bank on the first Sunday of the month. Consider making a financial contribution directly to the bank, or contact them for donation procedures.

**The One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is still being collected. You are invited to send a check to the office marked OGHS. This special PCUSA offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People programs.

**Heindsmann Scholarship** Purposeful Service team will start preparations for the Heindsmann scholarship award. Because of meeting restrictions this annual event may be delayed.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship

Prayers and wishes for relief from the restraints of social distancing and thanks for all Pastor Leigh and our congregation are doing to stay connected to God and to each other.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder*

**A Word from Presbytery**

Dear friends,  
 The reality of being “virtual” church is now in its 4th week for many of our churches with all the blessings and challenges that it brings. It’s been wonderful to be able to “drop in” on so many of your worship services online and enjoy a vast variety of worship expressions. Most of our churches are now streaming from homes. It is evident that the more we socially isolate, the better chance we have in flattening the curve as well as limiting the spread of Covid-19.  
 In grace and peace,

Rev. Eliana Maxim and Rev. Scott Lumsden  
 Co-Executive Presbyters



**Daffodills Planted by the Cub Scouts**  
**Beautify the Church Grounds!**

**Clerk’s Corner**

Session held its monthly meeting March 17th via ZOOM with all Elders present. An opening meditation and prayer was led by Ruling Elder, Al Ross-Weston. Elders submitted written reports for their teams’ activities. Pastor Leigh reported verbally on the plans of the Deacons to divide up the congregation and provide weekly check-ins, etc. Finance Elder Jim Lilje reported that heading into this corona virus season we are in pretty reasonable financial condition but efforts to remind the congregation and community of methods to maintain financial support of church need to be explored. Information about the One Great Hour of Sharing collection will be mailed since we are not gathering in worship and probably won’t be by Palm Sunday. The collection will still be held Palm Sunday. Session held discussion about continuing building use by IFCH meals service and support groups usage of the upper room. Discussion also centered on continuing to support Hospitality, Faith Exploration and Outreach in new ways, beyond the confines of the building and in smaller groups.

Blessings and Grace,  
*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*





## Deacon's Letter

### Unintended Sacrifices and Astonishing Blessings

As we contemplate our temporary new world of self-isolation and social distancing, it's easy to feel at least slightly overwhelmed at the enormity of this COVID-19 pandemic and its potential life-changing aftermath.

Last month at this time we were considering what we might give up for Lent. Those of us who chose to forego something, be it alcohol, chocolate, or a bad habit, made that decision knowing it wouldn't be easy and would be something of a personal sacrifice. Then almost overnight the world changed and our lives with it. With our government-imposed and self-enforced quarantine have come sacrifices we had not considered and amazing revelations we otherwise would have missed.

Some of us have had to cancel long-anticipated travel—trips to visit children, friends or foreign lands. Some have had to reschedule weddings, long in the planning, to some uncertain future date. Sadly, some of our friends must delay memorial services for their spouse or other loved ones. And some of us have lost our jobs and our paychecks. None of these would have made our list of Lenten sacrifices last month. Yet here we are.

Words that we might have given lip service to before now emerge with resonance and clarity: solidarity, empathy, compassion, faith, love. We see these in the giving sacrifices of doctors, nurses, medical practitioners of all kinds, and sanitation staff in medical facilities as they put their health at risk daily. And there are a host of others who live out these ideals and give their services to their communities.

We are in this together, and we are all making unplanned sacrifices. Through it all, we are also seeing God's grace and mercy, and we are learning. Many of us who considered ourselves technological Luddites are now connecting with our families through FaceTime and Zoom, seeing more of them than before. We are taking time to be amazed and astonished at the beauty the world holds, be it hyacinths in our garden, hummingbirds at the feeder, or simply viewing our majestic landscapes as if for the first time. And we are becoming demonstrably more caring, finding creative ways to show love and concern for others via technology and safe distancing. Truly, we have been given a wonderful opportunity to experience God's love as never before. This month let's reflect not on what we have sacrificed but instead on what we have been given, borrowing from a familiar hymn, "Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside."

*Deacon Nancy Tucker*

## Calendar for April 2020

(all events at VPC unless otherwise stated)



### April

- 3 First Friday Game Night with Zoom 6:30 pm
- 5 Palm Sunday Worship Service with Zoom 10 pm
- 5 Art in Worship! with Zoom 2 pm
- 5 Evening Prayer with Zoom 6 pm
- 6 Morning Prayer with Zoom 8 am
- 6 Evening Prayer with Zoom 6 pm
- 7 Morning Prayer with Zoom 8 am
- 7 Evening Prayer with Zoom 6 pm
- 8 Morning Prayer with Zoom 8 am
- 8 Evening Prayer with Zoom 6 pm
- 9 Maundy Thursday Service with Zoom 7 pm
- 10 Good Friday Service with Zoom 7 pm
- 12 Easter Sunday Service with Zoom 10 am
- 17 VPC Book Club with Zoom 6 pm
- 19 Sunday Worship Service with Zoom 10 am
- 21 Session Meeting with Zoom 4:30 pm
- 26 Sunday Worship Service with Zoom 10 am

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

*Text Study Group meets via Zoom noon on Mondays.*

*Women's informal breakfast will resume when we can gather again*

*Tool Belts 9-noon on Tuesdays (as needed)*

*Leigh at Luna's will resume when we can gather again*

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