

May 2020

Vashon Presbyterian Church



May 2020 Newsletter

"Love One Another"

To Zoom or not to Zoom

Many of our congregation have chosen to figure out how to get on a computer or smart phone and tune into the offerings VPC has provided to stay "connected" with Zoom. Among them are the Sunday Worship service, Art in Worship, Text study on Monday, Wednesday morning prayer service, Friday Game night as well as "happy hours" Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4. We also have had book club, Session, and deacons meetings in this same manner. For those of us that don't have access to a computer or choose not to, it's hard to feel a part of things. If we weren't social distancing we could make plans to share a computer with someone or make personal visits to "catch up". The deacons and Leigh as well as others among us are trying to make regular phone calls, leave little "heartfelt gifts" or distance visit to let "non Zoomers" know they are still very much a part of VPC. Everyone is saying zooming is ok but we're all feeling the need and looking forward to being able to gather together again. In the meantime lets dial that phone number or email someone we may be missing or been wanting to just wish them 'good health' and let them know you're thinking about them.

- * **Don't Miss the Deacon's Article p 6 with great YouTube link!**
- * **See special column on p 7 for community announcements pertaining to Covid 19 restrictions and special needs.**

Zoom Schedule Alerts!

There are a lot of things going on. Pastor Leigh sends out alerts via email announcing time and date of upcoming Zoom events which includes the link needed to sign in. Be watching for them!

HAVE SOME FUN

It's FIRST Friday and it's May Day. For us, that means **GAME NIGHT** with Outreach Elder Extraordinaire Barb Huff! Please join us on Zoom for games at 7 pm this Friday. You provide your own beverage and we'll provide some games and the laughs! I mean...how can this get any better given virus life...right?! So, join us and prepare to laugh. Last week was so much fun! Here's the link again!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420398917>

TACO TUESDAY MAY 5TH This coming Tuesday at 5 pm it becomes "**Cinco de Mayo Taco Tuesday**" for VPC. All are welcome to Taco Tuesday, provide your own dinner, beverage and I'll find some music from Colombia!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035055229>

(Note: See p 5 for a great Margarita recipe!)

Dear Ones of VPC,

One of the books I have been re-reading during the past month has been Resilience, by Linda Graham. (Highly recommend) Graham writes, “(Stuff) happens. You’re thrown off center briefly, or sometimes for longer, and your resilience is derailed for a time. But SHIFT can happen, too. You use many tools and techniques that allow you to receiver and respond capably. You choose to show up and use your skills to right yourself and regain your footing fairly quickly, fairly reliably.”

Stuff has been happening to us. We have been bombarded by news that is relentless, a vaccine that is, at best, a year away. Once again, we are reminded of our mortality. That makes us uncomfortable and anxious. This time it is happened to us corporately, but daily human beings live and are confronted with diagnoses and circumstances that create disequilibrium.

I am struck in Graham’s writing about the concept of “shift.” Shift is what happens when you and I use the skills we have learned to adapt and respond to circumstances. We learn to wash our hands and shift from previous poor handwashing. We learn to take seriously the importance of guarding our potential germs and we shift to being proactive, not going out when sick, covering our coughs and sneezes with masks. We learn we have high blood pressure or cholesterol and we adjust diets and exercise or take a medication to lower them. As human beings, you and I are remarkably skilled at “shift.” We practice it all of the time.

I also wonder, during this time, what we are learning about our need to “shift” in terms of our spiritual practices, regarding our faith. What are we all learning as we gather virtually instead of in person? What has changed about your daily practices as you have more time at home? I consistently hear from you that, like me, you are noticing creation, birds and flowers and nature more than when you were previously busier. Many of you are attending to things at home that have been neglected, like painting and organizing. Many of you are cooking and baking more, sharing with others. You and I are shifting into a more intentional way of being.

We’ve learned that we are not a building and gathering in worship and fellowship is important enough to learn new ways of doing so. Many of you have shared how you have taken more time to read scripture and be in prayer. The disequilibrium has caused us to shift and reassess our priorities. We’ve also been made aware of our privilege and the economic disparities in our world, how many live from paycheck to paycheck and now struggle. And you’ve responded by being more generous and prioritizing things like the Food Bank, One Great Hour of Sharing and IFCH.

Having been thrown off center by a global pandemic, humankind has the opportunity to shift and I see that happening in you and in our community. I’m grateful for our shifting abilities and I invite you to share what is changing in you and around you at this time. As always, I welcome conversation and together we will find a way to connect so reach out at any time.

And know that I continue to thank God for you each and every day.

Grace and Peace,
Leigh



Faith Exploration Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

Adult Faith Formation Class Remember “Giving Up Plastics for Lent”? That was the first of a three-part class about Christian commitment to sustainability. After getting off to a great start the class was put on hold for social distancing and tending to the priorities of Holy Week and Easter. We are ready to re”zoom” the class via Zoom on two Tuesday evenings, May 12th and 26th at 7 pm with a debriefing at the “happy hour” the day after at 4. The class on the 12th covers the topic of Zero Waste. The book 101 Ways to Go Zero Waste by Kathryn Kellogg is used as a resource for the class.

VPC Book Club – May 22nd This month the book club will be discussing The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. We begin the zoom discussion at 7 pm so people can have their dinner at 6 or so and then be ready for the discussion. See the upcoming book club selections below.

Al Ross Weston, Faith Exploration Elder

Worship Team News

Area of Responsibility:

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

Sunday Services Our services have looked very different since March. The Sunday morning services are going quite well on Zoom and the attendance has been good. We have been learning what works and what doesn’t. I think we have created an excellent worship service. It has been great having visitors from outside our community and across the country attending our services.

The sad part is that we miss seeing some of our members. It will be wonderful when we can all worship together again.

Please look for Sunday morning services either on Zoom or by a hard copy. Please let us know if you have not been able to access worship information. Leigh has been creating opportunities for people to come together and we hope that all of you are able to take advantage of the services that will help you the most during this challenging time.

Brownie Carver, Worship Elder

Upcoming Book Club Selections

May	The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald
June	The Kingdom	Emmanuel Carrere
July	Town Kid	Gary Porter
Aug	Love and Other Consolation Prizes	Jamie Ford
Sep	The Nightingale	Kristin Hannah

Mission Resource Team News

Area of Responsibility:

Financial stewardship,
Building and Grounds.

Buildings and Grounds

I pray you are all still safe and healthy. It seems we have adjusted fairly well to **virtual gatherings**, although I know many of us long for the day that we can **actually gather** again.

There's really not much to report about the building and grounds except that our office staff and Pastor Leigh still make short visits to the building answering phone and email inquiries, sorting mail and processing donations received through PO BOX 435.

Thanks to those who have anonymously maintained the flowerbeds and picked up trash and recyclables around the church and parking lot. We can't schedule a group effort but I do really appreciate those who have stopped by to show a little TLC. Remember, someone is always watching for signs of encouragement.

The Mission Resources Facilities Team This month we'll schedule a Zoom meeting for Tuesday, May 5th at 4 pm. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035055229>

Since our Zoom Worship is reaching out to a growing group all around the country, I'd like to discuss how to continue that outreach after we are allowed to return to gathering in the sanctuary. Check the weekly Zoom links and BYOB if you'd like a little atmosphere!

Blessings and Grace, Jacq Skeffington



Purposeful Service Team News

Area of Responsibility:

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

VPC's response to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** collection was a testament to our generosity in a time when so many needs must be met. We will be sending \$1,090 to PCUSA for use in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People.

Although we will not have a **Food Bank** collection in the sanctuary on Sunday, you are encouraged to donate money or nonperishable food and household goods. You may bring food donations to the Food Bank itself in the Sunrise Ridge Development on 210th St -top of the hill. Donating between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm is best, especially if the food is perishable. Other options are donation bins in Thriftway, IGA and the Chase Bank lobby.

Session briefly discussed the interviewing and awarding of the **Heindsmann scholarship** this year. Current restrictions preclude our normal interviewing process in May, but as restrictions are lifted we will assess how and when to begin the scholarship process.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

The flowers surrounding the VPC building are so beautiful this time of year. Thanks to our "secret" grounds keepers for their tenacity!

Hospitality/Fellowship Team News

Area of Responsibility:
Hospitality, Fellowship.

Hospitality Planning “The Unusual Spring of 2020” Cook Book There has been a lot good home cooked food being shared during this time of social distancing. The deacon’s especially have brought forth really delicious treats for those of us lucky enough to warrant their attention. Others confined to their homes have risen to the occasion by bringing out some of their favorite recipes to brighten up the time in Desserts, comfort food and a few special niche items like the one we share below. All will be collected in one little book – really a pamphlet – with recipes and memories of this unusual Spring of 2020! Look for it Mid May!

A Zoom meeting of Hospitality Team coming the 2nd week in may. Look for upcoming date and time.

Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder

Quarantine Margaritas

Makes one margarita (you won't need more than that!!)

1.5 oz tequila
1.5 oz triple sec
1 oz fresh squeezed lime juice

Place 4 ice cubes in a glass and add the above ingredients. stir briefly. Enjoy

Invitation and Outreach

Area of Responsibility:
New Members and Discipleship,
Evangelism and Invitation.

It's FIRST Friday and it's May Day. For us, that means **GAME NIGHT extraordinaire!!** Please join us on Zoom for games at 7 pm this Friday. You provide your own beverage and we'll provide some games and you and your friends will provide the laughs! I mean...how can this get any better given virus life...right?! So, join us and prepare to laugh. Last week was so much fun! Here's the link again!

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Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

Grieving

These are such hard times on us all even when life is going along somewhat easily. But if you are processing the grief of losing a family member recently, these are even more isolating times. Part of being in community together is coming alongside one another, offering a shoulder or tissue for those tears and grabbing coffee or tea or a beer to say I hear you...this is hard. Given our social distancing needs, I would like to offer the next best thing, or at least I hope it is. If you have lost someone close to you in the last five or so years, I'd like to invite you to a new group. We will gather to talk, check in, just be with one another, maybe even toast the good folks we have had to say goodbye to, sooner than we'd hoped. For now we will gather on Zoom, but eventually in person. (Fingers crossed that in person happens sooner than later.)

Are you interested? Is this something your spirit might be needing? Let's talk. Email or call me or even text me. We'll find a time that works best for everyone and we'll give it a try. Whatever you carry with you, you are not alone and even though you are isolated, you still belong to us and us to you. So let's give this a try together. Let me hear from you as you have time.

Love and Grace,
Leigh (425.221.1142) - PastorLeigh@comcast.net

From Your Deacons

Love Through Connectedness

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another. John 13:34

During this unprecedented period of COVID-19 quarantine, we struggle separately together to squash the threat of this virus. In doing so we're mindful of so many people who feel compass-less, not knowing how to direct their energies or how to use their time. How blessed we are at VPC to not suffer this ennui. We don't have to wonder what it is we are supposed to do. Jesus is explicit – love one another. Show care and concern for each other. If in these days love is synonymous with connecting, we have been loving one another with a vengeance.

To shine a brief spotlight on some of our efforts to enfold everyone with care and concern:

- Our Zoom worship services are widely attended, drawing increasing numbers of folks from across the country. If you haven't attended worship via Zoom yet, why not drop your toe in that water, at least once. You can choose if you want to join with a video connection or, if you have a case of the bedhead and would rather no one see you, opt to join by audio (you can still see the participants who have joined via video).
- We have stepped up our social events with get-togethers four nights a week – Happy Hour Monday/Wednesday/Friday, Book Club one Friday per month, and Game Night all other Fridays.
- A new group meets each Sunday at 2:00 to discuss the significance of art in our worship.
- It's a tradition for the deacons to deliver Easter baskets to those unable to physically attend worship service. This year we all fit into that category. Instead of Easter baskets, the deacons delivered flowers to each church member household. Accompanying these flowers was a beautiful notecard with a warm, personalized message handwritten from Leigh.
- The deacons contact each church member each week, connecting through emails, telephone calls, or personal visits (observing proper social distancing, of course). This includes cards to our members living in the Vashon Community Care Center who are unable to accept any visitors.

We are blessed to have the tools to stay in touch, really in touch. Had this quarantine occurred even a few years ago, it would have been costly and likely infeasible (if even possible) to connect at this granularity.

But while we have accomplished a lot with a little, we mustn't become complacent in the job we are called to do. As quarantine restrictions gradually relax, we become increasingly restless, weary of isolation and eager to resume our old routines. Let's resist the urge to move too quickly, remembering those whose health depends on distancing. And through our sustained outreach efforts, let us show and share the love that Jesus has so freely given.

Deacon Nancy Tucker

P.S. Sharing positive emails that inspire or amuse us is an important part of staying connected. Forwarding such messages require hardly any effort, but they say, "I'm thinking of you," when you don't have the time to write a message yourself. On that note, for your enjoyment is an adaptation of *Les Miserables'* "One Day More" by Matthew and Emily Woolever. Matthew is the Music Director at the Center for Performing Arts at New York's Rhinebach Bard College.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DwlnT3Wxrl

Clerk's Corner 5/1/20

Session held its monthly meeting April 21st via ZOOM with all Elders present. The Deacons were just finishing one of their meetings and joined us (virtually) for a brief period of meditation and prayer led by Claudia Ross-Weston and Brownie Carver. Pastor Leigh reported she continues Pastoral visits with social distancing as well as virtual visits. She hopes to continue ZOOM broadcasting of Worship and Outreach activities when isolation guidelines are eased allowing some to gather in the Sanctuary while others "gather with us" around the country. Finance Elder Jim Lilje reported that VPC is still in good financial condition. Session adjusted the timing of budgeted donations to IFCH and the Food Bank due to their present needs. Additionally, \$1,000.00 of unused funds donated to the IFCH Cold Weather Shelter will be transferred to the IFCH Corona Virus Fund. Bob Spangler reported that we had received \$830 by mail for OGHS. Jim mentioned that additional checks were still coming in and the total was near \$1,030 at the time of the meeting. Bob also reported that awarding of the Heindsmann Scholarship might need to be delayed until the fall due to social distancing requirements. He is investigating endowment restrictions. A committee was organized to renew contracts with both Carpe Diem and Creative Preschool for next year. Work to run cable providing high speed internet connections in the Sanctuary and Creative Preschool was authorized in anticipation of more internet activity. Barb recommended we investigate broadcasting worship services via Facebook and our website. Due to privacy concerns Session agreed to wider distribution of at least Pastor Leigh's sermon until other legal issues are addressed.

Blessings and Grace,
Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Community Announcements

Access Bus Please let all the people you come in contact with that Access can now be used by everyone on the island since we have no bus service. They just need to mention "Non-access rider".

Food Bank Needs Extra Donations During this time while not attending church in the church building the food bank donations have dwindled. Consider sending a check marked "Food Bank" along with your general donations.

The Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness is reaching out to help those who have lost jobs due to the Coronavirus. In April, the IFCH helped 27 families with rent and utilities. The IFCH is also purchasing and preparing food six days a week for the homeless. There are many needs at this time. If you would like to help, please make checks payable to the IFCH, PO Box 330 or online at www.ifchvashon.org. Be sure to note "virus" or "meals".

Housing Needed Our dear friends the Mustafa family have lost the lease to their current house because it has been sold. They are looking for a 3 to 4 bedroom house and need to move by May 31st. If you know of a rental contact (206) 463-0303 Erin Durrett.

Calendar for May 2020

(all events are Zoomed unless otherwise stated)



May

- 1 Happy Hour 4 pm
- 1 First Friday Game Night 7 pm
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Communion Service)
- 3 Art in Worship 2 pm
- 4 Text Study Noon
- 4 Happy Hour 4 pm
- 5 Mission Resource Meeting 4 pm
- 5 Taco Tuesday – Cinco de Mayo 5 pm
- 6 Morning Prayer Service 8 am
- 6 Happy Hour 4 pm
- 8 Happy Hour 4 pm
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 10 Art in Worship 2 pm

(Check below in ongoing activities for Text Study, Happy Hours, Morning Prayer Service and Game Nights)

- 12 Adult Faith Formation Class “Zero Waste” 7 pm
- 17 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 19 Deacons 3:00 pm
- 19 Session 4:30 pm
- 22 VPC Book Club 7 pm
- 24 Sunday Worship Service 10 am
- 26 Faith Formation Class: “Sustainability - General Assembly Level” 7 pm
- 31 Sunday Worship Service 10 am

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Text Study Group meets Mondays noon

Happy Hours Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 4 pm

Morning Prayer Service Wednesday 8 am

Game Night Friday 7 pm

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