

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

# Vashon Presbyterian Church

Vashon Island, Washington 98070

Love One Another

## December 2020 Newsletter



### Advent and Christmas

#### **Advent Faith Formation Class**

##### **Light of the World**

Tuesdays, 7 PM

#### **Congregational Meeting**

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> after Worship

#### **Congregational Photo Montage**

December 6<sup>th</sup> after worship

#### **Cookie and Puzzle Exchange**

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> - 10 AM Drop Off - Noon Pick Up

#### **Holiday "Bizarre" Bazaar**

December 13<sup>th</sup> after Worship

#### **Mary's Place Giving Tree**

Deadline is Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>

#### **Book Club Christmas Party**

Gift Book Exchange

Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> 7 PM

#### **Christmas Tree Happy Hour**

Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> 5 PM

#### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup> 5 and 11 PM

#### **Christmas Day Dessert**

Friday December 25<sup>th</sup> 6 PM

#### **New Year's Game Night**

Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup> 10 PM

#### **Congregational Meeting**

The Session would like to announce a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing elders and deacons on December 6<sup>th</sup> immediately at the conclusion of worship on Zoom. All are welcome to attend. Only members of VPC are eligible to vote.

#### **Advent Faith Formation Class**

On Tuesday evenings December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm Leigh will be leading a class entitled "Light of the World." The class will focus on material from the book **Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent** by Amy-Jill Levine.

#### **Bizarre Holiday Bazaar**

We've been making some fun holiday keepsakes and sweet treats as part of the Monday night Happy Holiday Hour. Some of these items as well as other interesting gifts or tasty treats will be available to everyone at the "Bizarre Holiday Bazaar" on Zoom right after the December 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship Service and right before the Sunday Seahawks game...from 11:30 to 12:30. (the Bizarre refers to our unusual Covid restrictions not the items themselves!) See p 4 more detail including a list of what is available.

#### **Christmas Tree Happy Hour**

Our Friday Happy Hour on December 18 will be a Zoom tour of people's Christmas trees. Each person can relate a brief description of one of your favorite ornaments. Where and how did you get it; special stories about it. More detail p 4.

Dear Ones of VPC,

And here we are...waiting. It is December in a quite difficult and challenging year. We wait to gather again in person. We wait for a vaccine. We wait to see our families and friends. We wait to move freely in public without worry. We wait. And yet we wait together, in hope and in confidence that our waiting is not in vain.

I suspect this a time in history when the Church just might be able to lead a bit more. This just might be one of our finest hours. We know how to do this...how to wait, how to point to a hope and a promise that we can't always articulate fully and for which we do not know the timeline. We know how to wait with confidence.

So, I wonder where you might be called in these days, in this time of waiting. Where might you be called to point to hope? Who needs to hear from you? Who needs your encouragement? Who needs to know they are not alone? Who needs to be asked, "Are you ok?"

What Advent teaches us is that waiting is not something passive. There IS work to be done, love to be shared. We wait with intention. We wait because we know that the One for whom we wait is worth our waiting. You and I know that this is a season that cannot be rushed, it's a Kairos (God's timing) moment and, by leaning in to it, we learn to sit with our discomfort and name it for what it is while still lighting those candles together.

This has been a terribly hard calendar year for the entire world. We cannot know what 2021 will hold for any of us but we know Who holds it. And beloved, that is the One for whom we wait. The Reign of Christ just might look like this...human beings pointing toward hope in confidence, encouraging and loving one another. I imagine it's at least one step closer to that being done on earth as it is in heaven.

May the One who calls us beloved continue to tether us one to the other.

Your sister in Christ,  
Leigh

## Purposeful Service Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Scholarships, Mary's Place partnership,  
IFCH, Mission Partner Relations.

**VPC is participating in the virtual Mary's Place Giving Tree program this season.** Bev Skeffington is heading the effort at VPC; please see the information in the weekly e-news for how to donate an item. Because of the pandemic, we will be sending, not delivering, the items. Deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Another way to provide gifts for those in need is via the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.** This is the brochure prepared by the Presbyterian Mission Agency that facilitates donations that are used, primarily worldwide, to buy items or support programs where the agency has identified a need. Uncertain about what to buy that hard to please relative for Christmas? How about donating a latrine, a flock of chickens or a piglet for a needy family? Or go big with a fishing boat. There is a colorful catalog which you can access at <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/> If you want a hard copy, I have a half dozen and will send you one on request. Each purchase will come with a gift card.

**The session has approved a donation of \$1000 to DOVE.** This Vashon non-profit assists those experiencing domestic abuse, and provides related educational programs. The session recognized that the need for these services has increased during the pandemic.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Worship Team News

### Area of Responsibility

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

**Advent Candle** As we enter the season of Advent, we would like to encourage everyone to light a candle each Sunday.

**On Christmas Eve** our traditional service will be on zoom at 5:00 pm. The deacons will be delivering candles for each household.

**Late Christmas Eve Service** Another service will take place at 11:00 pm Christmas Eve. This will be a joint service with the Methodist.

**On December 27th** the Methodist will join us for worship. Pastor Paul Mitchell will be giving the sermon.

Many thanks for the original and beautiful artwork provided for the bulletin cover each week by artist **Caran-marie Weston Dunbar.**

*Brownie Carver, Worship Elder*

### Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness

Each month the IFCH has given assistance to families who have been impacted by the pandemic. In November 27 households were given help with rent. **The Seattle Presbytery just awarded us a grant of \$2500** to be given for rent assistance. This will be a big help in the new year.

The IFCH is also continuing to help other needy Vashon residents with utilities, rent, medical needs, and meals. The IFCH relies totally on donations. **Please remember this charitable organization during this season of giving.**

*Brownie Carver, IFCH Representative*

## Mission Resource

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Financials, Building and Grounds

## Hospitality/Fellowship

### Team News

#### Area of Responsibility

Hospitality, Fellowship.

**Buildings and Grounds** Winter is upon us! The Chamber of Commerce decided not to string Christmas lights around the large spruce tree out front or celebrate the community wide Open House this year due to the continuing spread of the COVID 19 virus. We have however put up **our star and will light our lights around the front of the church** remembering The Light entering the world at Christmas.

We had another very **productive, socially distanced, work party November 14<sup>th</sup>** with only 6 people. Barb had the great idea to shape the shrubs around the northeast side of the parking area and I wanted to remove some low hanging tree branches. We ended up taking 3 pickup truck loads of clippings to the transfer station and left a good-sized pile to haul at the next party. The mature shrubbery beneath those trees are now getting more sunlight and have room for new growth.

We now have **opening windows in Leigh's office, the social hall, and classrooms** so that Leigh, CarpeDiem students and teachers can meet and work safely indoors during the winter months. All fire extinguishers, alarms and the sprinkler system were also inspected during the Thanksgiving break.

Let's plan to **continue work parties on the second Saturday of each month**, weather permitting. Bring hedge trimmers and lopping shears if you have them Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-noon.

*Blessings and Grace,  
Jacq Skeffington*

### **Bizarre Holiday Bazaar**

We've been making some fun holiday keepsakes and sweet treats as part of the Monday night Happy Holiday Hour. Some of these items as well as other interesting gifts or tasty treats will be available to everyone at the "Bizarre Holiday Bazaar" on Zoom right after the December 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship Service and right before the Sunday Seahawks game...from 11:30 to 12:30. (bizarre refers to our unusual Covid restrictions not the items themselves!) There will be soaps, holiday cookies, lemon curd, needlepoint tree ornaments, custom bows for Christmas wrapping, mini holiday breads, fresh swags of local evergreens, our signature little gnomes, Christmas and advent candles and much more. All available with free delivery to your front door. Mark your calendars for this spectacular holiday event. Exotic fragrances, mouthwatering, scrumptious treats.... All at our Bizarre Holiday Bazaar!

**Christmas Tree Happy Hour** Our Friday Happy Hour on December 18 will be a Zoom tour of people's Christmas trees. Each person can relate a brief description of one of your favorite ornaments. Where and how did you get it; special stories about it.

*Elizabeth Loveness, Hospitality Elder*

## Faith Exploration Team News

### Area of Responsibility

Bible study, Christian formation (all ages)

**Light of the World** the faith formation class for advent will be taken from the book Light of the World: A Beginners Guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine. Pastor Leigh will lead the discussions. We will meet for 4 Tuesdays in December at 7 pm on Zoom. Tuesdays December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>. Always good to get together, always good to learn more about God's love. Join us!

### **VPC Book Club Christmas Zoom Gathering**

Book Club will meet on Zoom 7 pm, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please email the title and author of the book you are providing for the Christmas book exchange game to Claudia beforehand:

[rosswest88fam@gmail.com](mailto:rosswest88fam@gmail.com)

Claudia will organize the virtual, but real, book exchange game! The book we will be discussing that evening is Wally Lamb's Wishin' and Hopin': A Christmas Story.

*Al Ross Weston, Faith Formation Elder*



## Invitation and Outreach Team News

### Area of Responsibility

**New Members and Discipleship,  
Evangelism and Invitation**

**Game Nights** - Friday the 4th, and 18th - there will be lots of fun with Christmas themed games - come join us at 7 pm via Zoom.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange** - Saturday, December 12th - time to coincide with cookie drop off and pickup.

**Are jigsaw puzzles a tradition at your home during the holidays?**

**Needing a new puzzle to do over the holidays or during this pandemic?**

**Bring your jigsaw puzzles to the church and you can exchange one for someone else's. Or, there will be extras if you are wanting one and don't have one to share. All social distanced and wear your mask. One person entry at a time. Bring your puzzle the same time you drop off your cookies, and pick up a puzzle when you return to get your cookie variety plate.**

**On New Year's Eve Happy Hour we can share a picture of the progress we've made on our puzzle.**

Refer to the weekly enews for details and updates.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*



## Reflections on my first six years of being a deacon

In the Presbyterian Book of Order the section about deacons is headed “The Ministry of Compassion and Services”. This had a strong appeal for me as my career as a clinical chemistry had exhausted my desire to make decisions and be in charge of running things. I had much to learn and was happy to join a board of experienced deacons.

My first responsibility was to continue helping Old John with his service at Vashon Community Care (VCC) and later take over full responsibility for it. The last few years have seen lots of changes at VCC and it was necessary to be flexible. We could no longer come after COVID became a problem but hope the service will continue when we are able to get together again.

In my first three years I learned a lot from the other deacons about the regular duties of the position including assisting with communion, how to learn about needs of members of the congregation and what help we can supply, preparation of gifts for homebound members at Easter and Christmas (which became the whole congregation last Easter and still is this Christmas), communication and collaboration with Session and other church committees and a monthly report for the newsletter. This was a good thing as at the end of three years, I was the only deacon continuing so had to become the leader. However, most of the new deacons had previously been deacons and understood better than I what needed to be done.

Personally, it has not been an easy 6 years. I was diagnosed with colon cancer and had surgery and 5 months of chemotherapy, all of which I tolerated well. A year later I received an all clear report from the doctor. Then my sister died of aggressive lung cancer and my husband of 52 years, Dana, had heart problems which, in spite of lots of medications led to his decline and death in 2019. I miss him very much. I suppose these are the kind of things one should expect as one gets older but the previous generations of my family had these experiences much later in life if at all.

I am so grateful for the prayers and support of my fellow deacons, Rev. Leigh, members of Session and so many others. It’s a wonderful to be a part of this congregation. I think being a deacon has contributed more to me than anything I can contribute to others. I recommend it to all.

*Lindsay Hofman*

## Working Hard at the Work Party





**Hi! We're available at the Bizarre Holiday Bazaar!**  
**"You can take one or two of us home from the Bazaar"**



How to make cute Christmas Gnomes in 15min!!!

Come to the Holiday Bazaar! There will be soaps, holiday cookies, lemon curd, needlepoint tree ornaments, custom bows for Christmas wrapping, mini holiday breads, fresh swags of local evergreens, our signature little gnomes, Christmas and advent candles and much more.



# Calendar December 2020

(all events on Zoom unless otherwise stated)



Dec

- 1 Faith Formation Class 7 pm
- 6 Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 6 Sunday Worship 10 am Communion
- 6 Congregational Meeting Immediately after Worship
- 12 Cookie Exchange 10 – Noon
- 12 Puzzle Exchange 10 – Noon
- 13 Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 13 Sunday Worship 10 am Communion
- 13 Bizarre Holiday Bazaar 11:30 – 12:30
- 15 Deacon Meeting 3 pm
- 15 Session Meeting 4:30 pm
- 18 Special Christmas Tree happy hour 5 pm
- 18 VPC Book Club Holiday Party 7 pm
- 20 Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 20 Sunday Worship 10 am Communion
- 24 Candlelight Service 5 pm Pastor Leigh Weber
- 24 Candlelight Service 11 pm Pastor Paul Mitchell
- 25 Christmas Dessert 6 pm
- 27 Early Morning Prayer 8:30 am
- 27 Sunday Worship 10 am Communion with VUMC

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Sermon Reflection/Text Study** Mondays Noon

**ZOOM Coffee at Sporty's** Tuesday 9

**Text Study** Tuesdays Noon

**Movement Prayer** Wednesdays 8 am

**Happy Hours** Mon Wed Fri 5 pm

**Games Nights** Fridays 7 pm

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