



Vashon Presbyterian Church

April 2021 Newsletter

"Love One Another"

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/442169680>



Save These Dates!

M W F Happy Hours – 5:00 PM

April 5th – 30th

Work Party – 10:00 - Noon

April 10th

Faith Formation Class – 7:00 PM

April 13, 20, 27

VPC Book Club – 7:00 PM

April 16th

VPC Congregational Meeting – 9:55 AM

April 18th

Holy Week Schedule

Maunday Thursday
Service with VUMC
April 1st - 6:30 PM

Good Friday Service
with VUMC
April 2nd – 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday
Worship Service
April 4th – 6:30 and
10:00 AM



Pastor's Message

Dear Ones of VPC,

Recently as I was in the office early one morning, I got the privilege and joy of hearing the voice of little people coming back to class at Carpe Diem. It was delightful. I wasn't alone in the building! The teachers and I did our best to keep masked distance in the office, and I stayed mostly in my office with the door shut but the sound of joy just felt so good that I sat there just taking it in for a bit.

It's been a long year. We are in the second Holy Week of this pandemic and, as of this writing, just days away from our second Easter Sunday. As the sun shines increasingly and rainy northwest skies are replaced by drier days, the impulse to come right back together is not lost on me. I miss being together in person, as I know you do.

These are hard days, so ready to be together and needing to move slowly and with intention. Your session and office volunteers have begun the discussion of reopening the church office with limited hours early this summer. We're not quite ready yet the conversation has begun. And it's first step.

Patience is the one gift, a gift of the spirit, we can all bring during this time. As a congregation we are blessed by a healthy and mature Session that will help us move forward. We are not yet able to tell you when we will return to in person worship or what that worship will look like at this time. But we will get there, and we will get there together.

I'd invite you to keep your Elders in prayer as they listen and discern and discuss the first steps that we will need to take. I'd also invite you to sign up for some of the summer small group gatherings that you will begin hearing about as things slowly warm up.

We are still the church. God is still God. And we are still God's beloved children. And once again we will proclaim, The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



**Purposeful Service
Team News
Areas of Responsibility**

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

We have distributed publicity for the award of the Heindsmann scholarship -- see separate article. Please let potential candidates know of this opportunity.

Bev Skeffington is in contact with a member of the Methodist congregation as to the possibility of an event with Mary's Place if late summer COVID restrictions permit and the congregations approve.

Thanks to all who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. We will announce the amount raised for this annual PCUSA appeal in the e-news.

Our IFCH Representative Brownie Carver reports: This has been a very busy year for the IFCH. Since last March, Toni and Mary VanGemert have been purchasing the food for the evening meals. Toni has been in charge of preparing and distributing the food. Hilary Emmer has been in charge of the virus relief fund. We received \$327,000 in donations and paid out \$283,000 in rent and utility assistance during the past year for workers who lost employment. I been delivering hand warmers, mini hand sanitizers and face masks to the evening meals.

Liz Loveness continues to publicize the recycling effort. Because the first Sunday styrofoam recycling line is long, we will encourage a separate Sunday drop-off for the VPC community and have a combined collection for those who so desire. Details will appear in the e-news.

Although the church building is closed, we encourage our congregation to continue two programs that were previously held inside. First Sunday is still a collection for the Food Bank, using the bins at the local supermarkets. And please send or give to an office volunteer IGA and Thriftway receipts (signed with a phone number) for the reimbursement VPC receives.

Elder Bob Spangler

**Mission Resource
Team News
Area of Responsibility**

Financial Stewardship

This is being written on March 31st and so the month hasn't been closed out yet in our books. It is safe to say though that we will be running a surplus for both the month and the first quarter of the year.

Donations for January and February were both slightly below the budgeted amount. March, however, came in like the proverbial lion. Donations were \$17735.10 which is 60% above what we had budgeted! That brought donations for the entire first quarter in to \$37,845.49 which is 14% above budget. In addition to the donations to the General Fund we received \$990 for One Great Hour of Sharing and a \$500 donation to the Memorial Fund for maintaining the Organ. Once again, the congregation has shown that they are willing to support missions of our small church.

Meanwhile our expenses are coming in at about the expected level. That means that we will be showing a surplus for the quarter where we had budgeted a modest loss.

Jim Lilje, Financial Elder



Faith Formation Classes – I Want to Hear from You

I have been surveying our congregation for thoughts on classes you'd like. The requests seem to fall into three major categories: 1) Bible study 2) current issues and 3) fun hands-on activities just for relaxation. We will try to have at least two of these areas covered at any given time. Below are some ideas that have been advanced. **Look them over but more importantly add some of your own. Let me know what you are thinking.** Once I've closed the selection period for April and May, I will announce the slate and schedule. Some tentative ideas for classes are:

1) The cancellation culture 2) Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today 3) The meaning of ritual in our faith and in our daily lives 4) Why did Jesus teach in parables? 5) History of the early church from Jesus to Council of Nicaea 6) How Christianity is portrayed in popular modern movies 7) Five of the most controversial passages in the new testament 8) The "Seven Deadly Sins 9) Conversations with young professionals and their walk of faith 10) Grandparents and their grandkids share simple faith.

The faith formation team is planning a full slate of classes in the coming months. For now, most of the classes will be on Zoom. This is for two good reasons. The first, of course, is the Covid restrictions for group gatherings will still be in effect, or at least indefinite, for a while longer. The second is that it's easy to attend on Zoom. You can just pause what you are doing at home and tune into the class. People have even tuned in from the ferry or wherever they happen to be if their phone has that capacity. It will be exciting to re-enter some activities together in person, perhaps a small group outside. But for now and for flexibility of scheduling, many of our classes will remain on Zoom.

Elizabeth Loveness, Faith Formation Elder



Update: On-Line Giving

There are now a few more people donating on-line. Donations can be made either by using your credit card or by creating an on-line profile to make ACH donations. ACH is strongly preferred. Please consider using your checking account for donations.

ACH payments are simply the electronic transfer of money between two bank accounts, such as the transfer of funds from your checking account into the bank account of the church. You likely have some familiarity with this concept, whether your paycheck or Social Security is direct deposited into your checking account or you pay some monthly bills by auto-pay.

We accept (and encourage!) ACH payments for donations for several important reasons:

- * Lower processing costs or no costs for ACH means VPC ends up receiving a higher percentage of each donation
- * ACH payments are fast and secure

Mission Resource Team News

Building and Grounds

A re-entry taskforce is working on some concerns about outside user groups as Session tries to make our spaces more accessible to the general public. Session also authorized use of the sanctuary for Deacons and some other small group meetings. Major re-entry concerns to address include monitoring group size and following posted guidelines, setting and posting room occupancy limits, and providing specific air purification equipment. Please contact me if you have any concerns or suggestions.

An industrious work party of Kate Smith, Barb and Jim Huff, Leslie Hauck and I removed one storm-damaged tree and cleared five truckloads of brush from the northeast corner of the parking lot. Relaxing afterwards at the Colvos Creek Campground, we agreed that these “Second Saturday” work parties are starting to make a noticeable improvement in the lot’s appearance. We noticed many new buds on the previously pruned shrubbery. All are invited to join us every Second Saturday from 10-12 (or so).

Cintas Fire Protection Service will remove four random dry heads in the fire sprinkler system for 10-year testing while Carpe Diem is on Spring Break. Danny Newcomb has replaced trim around the opening windows in the Social Hall, classrooms and offices. I’m eager to see the improvement in comfort in those rooms when (if) we sort Yard Sale material there in August.

Carpe Diem has resumed morning and afternoon sessions, Monday through Thursday, 9-3. They plan to install a ceiling mounted projector and screen for classes and shared usage with us and user groups. Both they and Creative Preschool have big plans for resuming classes in the fall.

If you care to take on the task of mowing the lawn at your leisure, please contact me. We have a self-propelled rotary mower at the church, or you can use your own if it’s more comfortable. For the next couple of months the lawn will need trimming at least every other week.

Jacq Skeffington



Clearing the brush



Five truckloads later

From the Deacons

Holy Week and Spring have arrived!

Christ the Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed.

Holy Week has arrived, as has Spring. And for most of us over the past dark and troubling year, they are welcome and hopeful. While our congregation continues to worship virtually, things are opening up and some of us have been able to gather with friends and family.

Our island has an almost unmatched record of vaccinations for 65+ in King County thanks to so many dedicated volunteers. And the Deacons continue to reach out to members and friends of our church as we all welcome the feeling of our congregation as family. Please contact any of the Deacons with needs, concerns, or ways we can help.

Blessings to you all.

Deacon Susan Commeree



Purposeful Service Team News

Heindsmann Family Endowment Scholarship

Vashon Presbyterian Church is accepting applications for the 2021 Heindsmann Family Endowment Scholarship award. This award is granted from an endowment created by Virginia and Ted Heindsmann to a deserving student based on financial need, academic promise, and dependability. Consideration will be given only to students who have completed two or more years of higher education or who are seeking special training or retraining. This award is not intended for high school seniors.

Application packets can be obtained by emailing the church at vashonpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com or leaving a message at (206.463.2010). Because of Covid 19 restrictions the church building is not currently open. Completed applications must be returned in the mail (P.O. Box 435) or to the church email address by Monday, April 26, 2021. As part of the selection process, finalists will be scheduled to meet virtually with the church's Scholarship Committee in early May.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Clerk's Corner

Session held its monthly meeting March 16th via Zoom with all Elders present.

The re-entry taskforce is drafting guidelines for outside groups. Reduced occupancy limits will be posted on all rooms, and air purification equipment will be purchased for some spaces.

The worship re-entry group continues working on the format and equipment needed for hybrid worship services. Session authorized nightly worship during Holy Week, combined services with Methodist for Maunday Thursday and Good Friday, and an Easter Sunrise as well as regular 10:00 Service, all on Zoom.

Financial donations were behind anticipated levels, but expenses are still less than budgeted. The Presbytery waived per capita fees for the first three months of the year.

A work party on March 13 removed one storm-damaged tree and cleared five more truckloads of brush from the northeast corner of the parking lot. These "Second Saturday" work parties are making a big difference in the landscape. Carpe Diem students are now meeting in school four days a week and plan to return in the fall. Session responded to a request from them to install a ceiling mounted projector and screen in the Social Hall, allowing installation of the equipment by them for shared usage by the school, VPC and other building users. Creative Preschool also plans to return in the fall.

The Heindsmann scholarship publicity has been circulated and a link for information posted on the VPC website. Deadline for applications is April 26. Planning for some summer event with Mary's Place has begun. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering was received Palm Sunday.

The Faith Formation Team presented a class on white privilege and racism in January and February to provide members of our congregation another lens with which to view racism in America. A New Member's class, led by Jacq Skeffington, Bob Spangler and Pastor Leigh, was attended by several are interested in joining the church. Session held a special meeting on March 28th following the final class to interview the attendees wishing to join the church. We plan to receive three new members into the congregation during the 10 AM Worship Service on Easter Sunday.

Session also passed a resolution at a special meeting on March 28th to call a Congregational Meeting before Worship on April 18th for the congregation to vote on a candidate the Nominating Committee will present to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons in the class of 2022.

After heartfelt discussion, Session moved to inform Randi and Davin to vacate the parking lot by the end of April. If anyone knows of a location where they can set up a tent, please contact the church.

Session's next scheduled meeting will be April 20th at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session



Coffee Fellowship Resumes at Sporty's



After having Zoomed our way this past year through countless cups of coffee and virtual chitchat, on March 16 we reunited in person at Sporty's to resume our Tuesday coffee fellowship on an alternating week basis. The government's eased gathering restrictions allowed for six people per table, and our turnout, at 11, was almost double that. The time flew as friends, old and new, caught up on the past year's events, current goings on, and future plans.

Gathering restrictions have eased further since then, and on the March 30 get-together, all eight attendees shared one table. While we are grateful for Zoom technology that allowed us to gather via computer, there is no substitute for face-to-face interactions, even if those faces are wearing masks. So unless and until we are given contradictory instructions from the government, ***we have discontinued coffee fellowship on Zoom and will resume meeting at Sporty's on Tuesdays at 9 AM.*** Everyone is welcome!



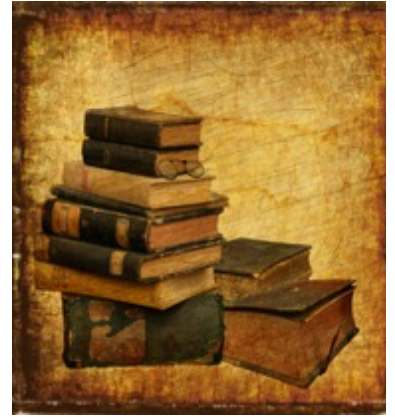
VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club will meet April 16th at 6 PM. April's book selection is Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy by Donald B. Kraybill, PhD.

Upcoming Book Selections

May: Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill by Mark Bittner

June: The Tender Land by William K. Krueger



April Birthdays

Join us in wishing happy birthday this month to:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st | Al Ross Weston |
| 2nd | John Neal |
| 8th | Jacq Skeffington, Phil Yunker |
| 15th | Dave Rogers |
| 24th | Mike Fisher |

Church Leadership

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Pastor | <i>Reverend Leigh Weber</i> |
| Clerk of Session | <i>Jacq Skeffington</i> |
| Session Members | <i>Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Kate Smith, Bob Spangler, Al Ross Weston</i> |
| Deacons | <i>Claudia Ross Weston, Moderator Susan Commeree, Sheryl Lehman, Nancy Tucker, Sue Weston</i> |

Calendar April 2021

April

- 1 Maunday Thursday Service with VUMC 6:30 PM
- 2 Good Friday Service with VUMC 7:00 PM
- 4 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 AM
- 4 Easter Worship Service 10:00 AM (Communion Service)
- 7 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 10 Work Party 10 AM - Noon
- 11 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM (Rev. Dr. Bruce Baker preaching)
- 13 Faith Formation Class – 7:00 PM
- 16 VPC Book Club 7:00 PM
- 20 Deacons Meeting 3:30 PM
- 20 Session Meeting 4:30 PM
- 20 Faith Formation Class – 7:00 PM
- 19 VPC Book Club 7 PM
- 18 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 PM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 25 Morning Prayer Service 8:30 AM
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10 AM
- 27 Faith Formation Class – 7:00 PM

Please Note

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

Ongoing Activities

- Mondays** Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 pm
- MWF** Happy Hour 5 pm
- Tuesdays** Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9 -10 am
- Tuesdays** Text Study Noon - 1 pm
- Tuesdays** Faith Formation Class 7 pm
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8 am
- Fridays** Game Night 7 pm