



Vashon Presbyterian Church News and Concerns March 2022

Sermons Posted on Church Website
Vashonpreschurch.org

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

Love One Another

Whoever you are and wherever your life's journey has taken you, you are welcome here. We hope that you will find VPC to be a people of warmth, acceptance, and commitment to the calling of Jesus Christ. We are honored to have you worship with us.



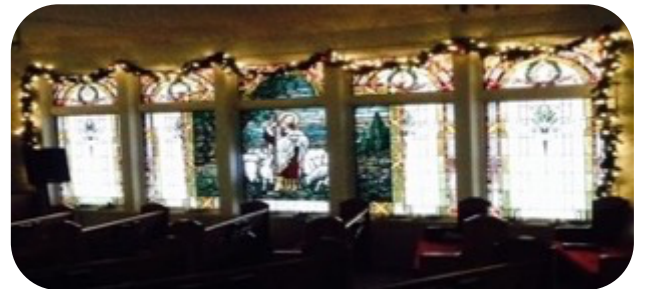
Important Dates!

- **March 2** Ash Wednesday Service 11:00
- **March 5** Diana Spaulding Service 3:00
- **March 14** Pi Day 10:00 – 3:00
- **March 18** VPC Book Club 7:00
- **March 24** Theology Pub 5:00
- **April 10** Palm Sunday Lunch @VPC
- **April 14** Maundy Thursday Communion 7:00
- **April 15** Good Friday Tenebrae 7:00
- **April 17** Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteer Opportunities

With Spring approaching and COVID restrictions easing, we are planning plenty of in-person gatherings and opportunities for fellowship. Take a moment to review the Hospitality/Outreach article inside this newsletter, and let us know if you are available to help.

Need a chuckle? Check out Page 9 for a little church humor



A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

Like many of you, I walk through my yard in these days noticing the daffodils and tulips and other bulbs pushed up through the dirt. They seem ready to pop open in color and the promise of it is exciting to me. It has been a long journey through winter and more Covid and I'm ready for spring, ready for summer, ready to be with you in it all.

In the midst of the springtime excitement, we find ourselves equally poised on the threshold of Lent, a season that is quieter and more reflective. As I hold these two realities together, for me they co-inform. The almost and the not yet of wanting all of those bulbs to burst open and herald spring and summer and blue skies in this season of gray grabs my attention. It makes me impatient for it all to arrive and yet Lent invites me to wonder and slow down, to search my own spirit for what I should let go.

As we hold these two seasons together, I wonder where you might be. Are you tired or excited or both at the same time? Do you carry things with you that you want to set down? Do you welcome a season of reflection and quiet or does that feel oppressive after two years of Covid life?

Whatever you may feel I want to remind you that it's okay. We are in this journey together each with our own feelings and discoveries. Honoring one another is perhaps the most important discipline of all because it honors God and God's created little ones.

Poet Jan Richardson suggests in her poem "Blessing the Dust," that we should remember what the Holy One can do with dust? Nothing is outside of God's work in our lives. What might the Holy One be doing in your dust in this season, what might the Holy One grow from something that seems unable to grow anything to you?

This is the work of Lent and I hold it with my daffodils, cheering on the ones that dare to pop open first and being patient with the ones not ready to unfold their flowers. Perhaps that's the call for us as well.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



In-Person Worship Guidelines

Due to the current guidelines from the King County Health Department, the concern over the variants and our need to create the safest possible space for everyone, we will follow these guidelines:

- We strongly recommend vaccination for Covid-19.
- Everyone attending in-person worship must wear a mask, in keeping with Washington State requirements (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/Articles/ID/2901/Updated-statewide-masking-order>).
- We will sing together.
- Pews will be clearly marked to allow safe distancing.
- Offerings will continue to be received online and by mail, but we will also have an offering plate in the back middle pew for those who wish to contribute in person.
- We will share in communion. Bread will be placed on trays in individual paper holders and juice will be in little cups. We will not pass plates but come forward to receive the elements. If you prefer to bring your own elements you are welcome to do so.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned before and after worship by custodial staff.
- There will be a screen in the sanctuary to allow those in person to see who is worshipping with us on Zoom and to hear their prayer requests when possible.
- We will use the pew hymnals
- Bulletins will be placed on the table outside the sanctuary doors. We will continue to email them on Saturdays

The guidelines we have agreed upon as a Session are not meant to further divide or challenge anyone. They are simply our collective prayerful discernment about what is best for now. We will continue to strive to make the safest possible place for all to worship, in our sanctuary or in your home. And we look forward, with you and the whole world, to the end of this pandemic.

We are delighted to be able to worship together in person again as you are ready. Feel free to reach out to us, via the church's or Pastor Leigh's email if you have any questions or concerns.

Elders Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Liz Loveness, , Bob Spangler, Nancy Tucker

Leigh Weber, Moderator

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk

Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting February 15 via Zoom. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with prayer following a devotional reading by Elder Elizabeth Loveness. Pastor Leigh has been asked to coordinate an ecumenical sunrise service Easter morning at the Burton Retreat Center. Planning is in progress for additional Holy Week and Easter Vigil services. Leigh also plans to resume office hours for pastoral care as COVID restrictions ease. Session also approved a motion authorizing Pastor Leigh to conduct a communitywide Ash Wednesday service at noon on March 2. Following the resumption of in-person hybrid worship February 6' the Hospitality group resumed hosting a coffee fellowship time immediately following the service. A small luncheon honoring Myrtle Walls was planned for February 15 and a reception is being planned for March 5, following a celebration of life service for Diana Spalding.

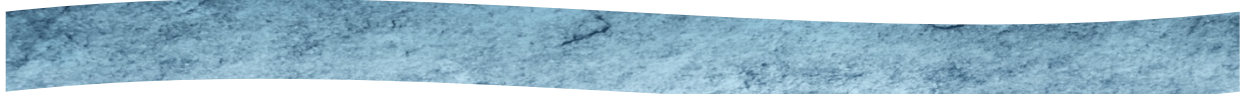
About six families contributed to the plastic recycling collection on February 5. Purposeful Service members plan to continue collections on the first Saturday of each month. They will also start distributing promotional material after Ash Wednesday. Outreach activities approved included planning for Pi Day celebration and resuming First Friday bonfire outreach. Faith Formation groups continue reading the One Year Through the Bible devotional and Following the Call.

Finance Elder Jim Lilje reported that expenditures exceeded income for February, but Jim expressed optimism that donors were probably setting up annual automatic charitable donations for the new year. The Mission Resources committee will meet early in March to discuss increasing audio/visual improvements, upgrading electrical outlets in the building and changing the door locking system. All are invited to contact Jim if you are interested in joining the committee.

Details of all committee activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter

The next regular session meeting will be March 15 via Zoom.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session



Worship Committee

Ash Wednesday is March 2. VPC will host a communitywide Ash Wednesday hybrid service at 11:00 AM. Those who want to worship can do so in person or on Zoom. The first Sunday in Lent is March 6; we will celebrate Communion this day and each subsequent Sunday in Lent.

It would be nice to have some special music for Palm Sunday and Easter. It's difficult to have groups singing together with distancing restrictions, but perhaps a duet or trio with accompaniment would be a special addition. We will be scouting around for such music. Couples in the congregation – heads up!

VPC has committed to having the Easter sunrise service at Camp Burton by the campfire once again this year. Last year this included a dramatic Easter piece lead by Deb McCane. If anyone is interested in participating contact me, elizabeth.loveness@gmail.com.

Our very own artist Caran-marie Weston Dunbar who has designed the original artwork for our weekly Sunday bulletins has some of her favorites on display at the Senior Center through March. A special reception for Caran will be given there on first Friday, March 4. Don't miss seeing these beautifully framed examples of her Holy art.

There will be complete details about Palm Sunday and Holy Week in the April issue of this newsletter.

Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder



Faith Formation Report

The discussion group guided by the text The One Year Through the Bible Devotional every other Monday at 7:00 pm will continue. The next meeting will be March 7.

On Tuesday, March 1 the class reading Following the Call; Living the Sermon on the Mount will meet at 7:00 pm, then take a break until after Easter. If anyone is wanting a book, we have a few more from the last order still available. Contact Liz or Lindsay. (Lindsay's cell phone: 206 434-5439. Text is welcome.)

Starting on Tuesday, March 9, we will be participating in a Lenten Study that focuses on the acts of Holy Week. Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine will be our study guide. Pastor Leigh will lead on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM. Copies of the study will be available in the office starting Monday, March 1.

*Lindsay Hofmann and Elizabeth Loveness
Faith Formation Co-Elders*

Purposeful Service Team News Areas of Responsibility

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

About six families brought plastic bags and Styrofoam to the February VPC collection on February 5, and the next day we took a car full of non-degradable items to the island-wide event. Thanks to all who are keeping this material out of our landfill. We will have another collection in **April**.

One of our long-standing Mission Partners is Presbyterian Disaster Relief. PDA, operated by our parent denomination, "Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters." Recent relief efforts have included responding to wildfires in Colorado, tornadoes in Kentucky and resettlement of Afghan refugees. This month VPC contributed \$1000 from our to PDA.

Our parent denomination sponsors four annual nationwide special offerings. VPC has regularly participated in the first offering: One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering, collected during Lent, is distributed almost equally among three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (above), Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-development of People. For those in our community who attend worship in person, more information about these programs will be available in bulletin inserts. Those not attending may pick up copies in the east room during office hours or visit the PCUSA website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>. The "fish" containers for collecting coins and bills are also available. Please be sure to mark offerings "OGHS" to ensure the proper accounting. Last year VPC collected \$1,115 for this offering.

March 6 is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food and hygienic items to the back sanctuary pew.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Hospitality/Outreach News

Are you ready to get out of the house and start spending time with your Vashon friends? If so, here are several upcoming events sponsored by Outreach and Hospitality. To carry these off, we'll need your help! Take a look at these and let us know which ones you are available to support.

Pi Day, March 14, 10:00-3:00: Bring a pie to share! We will invite all islanders to stop by for a piece. We need volunteers to bake pies, to set up, to serve in two-hour shifts, and to clean up. Contact Barb Huff. barb.huff@comcast.net

Palm Sunday Lunch, April 10, following worship service: We are planning an all-church barbecue lunch. Hospitality will provide the burgers, hot dogs and chicken for grilling. Looking for people to provide side dishes, condiments and beverages, and to assist with setup and cleanup. Contact Nancy Tucker. 818-259-1770

Easter Egg Hunt, April 17, following worship: Need candy, plastic eggs, and people to stuff them. Contact Barb Huff.

Small Gatherings at Your Home: Interested in hosting a lunch or a dinner? You decide how many people you would like to host, indoors or outdoors, what you would like to serve (or if you prefer pot luck), and the date. Hospitality will help you coordinate. Contact Nancy Tucker. tuckernb@gmail.com or 818-259-1770

Other upcoming events through June include a reception following worship on May 22 for Mike and Laura Jean Fisher as they renew their wedding vows; a ladies' tea social on June 4 (looking for a host with outdoor space suitable for this event), and a Progressive Dinner on June 23. More details on these as we get closer to the dates.

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder and Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on Feb 12 took advantage of the springlike weather, concentrating on the most visible landscape. We cleaned trash from the flower beds and parking lot, raked and cleared the pine cones and mowed the front lawn. We trimmed the edges with a string trimmer and hauled a truckload of yard waste to the transfer station. If the weather is agreeable, we'll use pressure washers on the memorial patio, steps, ramp, and sidewalks in March. I'm amazed at how much was accomplished by six people.

With reservations about converting the "joyful noise" room to an audio/visual control room, the Mission Resources group has decided to meet by Zoom in early March and revisit that decision. Other topics to discuss include security concerns and upgrading electrical outlets in the older portion of the building. We are looking for more congregational input, so please contact the office if you would like to attend this meeting.

Robin Lewis cleaned the Great Hall, Social Hall and Basement carpets on February 22 while Carpe Diem students were on Spring Break. Special thanks to Jim Huff for moving furniture to make the cleaning possible, and to Jim and the group of people who stayed after worship Sunday restoring the furniture to the classrooms.

Please mark your calendar for work parties on the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 - noon. It's a good time to gather (socially distanced outside and masked inside) to keep up with maintaining the kitchen, building and grounds. And if you have suggestions, please let me know.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Before



After



Deacon's Message

One of my friends found this prayer in her mother's papers:

*Lord, you know I'm growing older,
keep me from becoming talkative and possessed
with the idea that I must express myself on every subject.
Relieve me from the craving to straighten everyone's affairs.*

*Keep me from recital of endless details.
Give me the strength to get to the point.*

*Seal my lips when I am inclined
to tell of my aches and pains.
They are increasing with the passing of years,
And the love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by.*

*Teach me the glorious lesson that
Occasionally I may be wrong.
Make me thoughtful, but not nosy,
Helpful but not bossy*

*With my vast store of wisdom and experience,
It seems a pity not to use it at all.*

*But you know, Lord, I want a few
Friends at the end.*

I share this with all of you because I find that this poem rings true with me. I sometimes am so sure that I have a better idea or thought that someone else may have. Or even better than God has for me. However, I find if I ask open ended questions or ask about someone's latest project or passion, I learn so much more about people and their hopes and dreams. Sitting back and listening to others and to answers to prayer frequently gives me more wisdom. I am so grateful for all the special people that God has granted me. I am blessed with many special friends and acquaintances. I do want to hold on to them for the rest of my life!

Deacon Claudia Ross-Weston



A Little Church Humor

To be human includes making mistakes, despite how hard we try to avoid them. In our written communication, these mistakes often include typos and awkward sentence construction, resulting in unintended humor. Such is the case in the following excerpts from various church publications across the country:

- The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM—prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."



March Birthdays

Let's wish a happy March birthday to:

- 14 Liz Loveness
- 16 Jim Huff
- 17 Barbara Zue

VPC Book Club

Our March book selection is Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce, author of The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry and The Music Shop.

"A hilarious jaunt into the wilderness of women's friendship and the triumph of outrageous dreams." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Amazon's description: *It is 1950. London is still reeling from World War II, and Margery Benson, a schoolteacher and spinster, is trying to get through life, surviving on scraps. One day, she reaches her breaking point, abandoning her job and small existence to set out on an expedition to the other side of the world in search of her childhood obsession: an insect that may or may not exist - the golden beetle of New Caledonia. When she advertises for an assistant to accompany her, the woman she ends up with is the last person she had in mind. Fun-loving Enid Pretty in her tight-fitting pink suit and pom-pom sandals seems to attract trouble wherever she goes. But together, these two British women find themselves drawn into a cross-ocean adventure that exceeds all expectations and delivers something neither of them expected to find: the transformative power of friendship.*

Currently we plan to meet on Zoom on March 18 at 7:00. As weather and Covid circumstances improve, we might meet in person. Check out your weekly E-News for updates.



Calendar

March 2022

2	Ash Wednesday service 11:00 - Noon
5	Memorial Service and Reception for Diana Spaulding 3:00 PM
6	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
8	Faith Formation 7:00 PM
11	Game Night 7:00 PM
12	Second Saturday Work Party
13	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
14	Pi Day 10:00 – 3:00
15	Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM Session Meeting 3:00 PM Faith Formation 7:00 PM
18	Book Club 7:00 PM on Zoom
20	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
22	Faith Formation 7:00 PM
24	Theology Pub 5:00 PM
25	Game Night, 7:00 PM
27	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
29	Faith Formation 7:00 PM

Please Note:

Dates, times, and events might change after the time of this publication. Refer to the church bulletin and the weekly E-News for up-to-date information.

Ongoing Activities

Mondays	Sermon After Talk Noon – 1 PM Free for All discussion 6:30 PM
Tuesdays	Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM Text Study Noon
Wednesdays	Body Prayer 8:00 AM
First Thursdays	Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
Fridays	Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details) Game Night 7:00 PM

Church Leadership

Pastor	Leigh Weber
Clerk of Session	Jacq Skeffington
Session Members	Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Jim Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Bob Spangler, Nancy Tucker
Deacons	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Thomas Abraham, Chris Coldeen, Susan Commeree, Nancy Johnson, Sheryl Lehman