



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### August 2022

Sermons posted on church website:

[vashonpreschurch.org](http://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.



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#### Honoring the Life of Myrtle Walls

On Saturday, August 13, we will celebrate the life of our beloved friend Myrtle. The memorial service, which will be held both in person and via Zoom, will commence at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in the Social Hall.

## A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

As I write this to you, I am in my last few days of a “staycation.” Nothing about this week went according to plan. It was just too hot to accomplish the list of tasks I had planned out. Early on I had to switch gears. I am lucky to have an air-conditioned home, so I went to work on a few inside projects, but I mostly read, rested, and made nutritious meals for myself and it was just what I needed. The spirit has been willing, but the body was tired. I needed sabbath.

Author Wayne Mueller writes, “Sabbath requires surrender. If we only stop when we are finished with all our work, we will never stop, because our work is never completely done. With every accomplishment there arises a new responsibility... Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because it liberates us from the need to be finished.”

His book, Sabbath, is a favorite of mine. Sabbath “liberates us from the need to be finished.” Isn’t that an interesting statement? Human beings naturally resist the finishing of our physical lives. We work hard to put it off; in fact, yet we work hard to “finish” our work all the time. When we “finish” this work of being human is only known to God and in the meantime, God offers us sabbath. It’s core to our health as God’s people.

Someone recently told me that they needed to back off a bit of the work they were doing at the church. They expressed feeling a bit burned out by how there is always something more. As a similarly driven person myself, I said to this person, “It’s okay to back up, it’s actually good to back up and to enjoy some God given and God ordained sabbath rest.”

You and I will not finish the work. In time, we will hand the work off to others and they won’t finish it either. This work of being the church is ongoing. I don’t say that to overwhelm you but to remind you that get to enjoy sabbath, too. If you are tired, rest. If you are frustrated, rest. If you feel like it never ends, rest. God rested. God invites us to rest. Part of being the church together is making the space to rest and to allow others the space to do the same. It’s critical to loving one another and being an intentional community together.

You matter. You have sacred worth. You are a child of the Holy. And you get to rest when you need it. As we move through the rest of this summer and into the fall, I encourage you to take the space you need and speak your truth when you need it. I care about you and I’m here and I am reminded once again that I only CAN be because I experience sabbath.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## YARD SALE AUGUST 6

Plan to be part of our annual Summer Yard Sale, scheduled for **Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. The items you contribute will find a new home while supporting church ministries.

*Please Contribute:*

- Kitchen and household goods
- Books
- Games and toys
- Tools and gardening items
- Holiday items

*We Do Not Accept:*

- Clothing
- Electronics
- Computers
- Printers

If you have furniture, we will coordinate delivery the day of the sale.

We are storing Yard Sale items at the church in Classroom A. Come by Monday, August 1 – Thursday, August 4 from 10:00 – Noon to drop off your donations or contact me for an appointment.

In addition to donations, there is ample opportunity to participate prior to and during the Sale:

- Advance promotion
- Sorting and pricing
- Setup
- Providing snacks
- Cashiers
- Table oversight
- Takedown, cleanup, and taking what's left to Granny's

Working together we create a great yard sale for the community, while also meeting and greeting our neighbors. Join the fun! Please contact me at [Barb.huff@comcast.net](mailto:Barb.huff@comcast.net) or 206-713-6232 if you can help.

*Barb Huff, Outreach Elder*



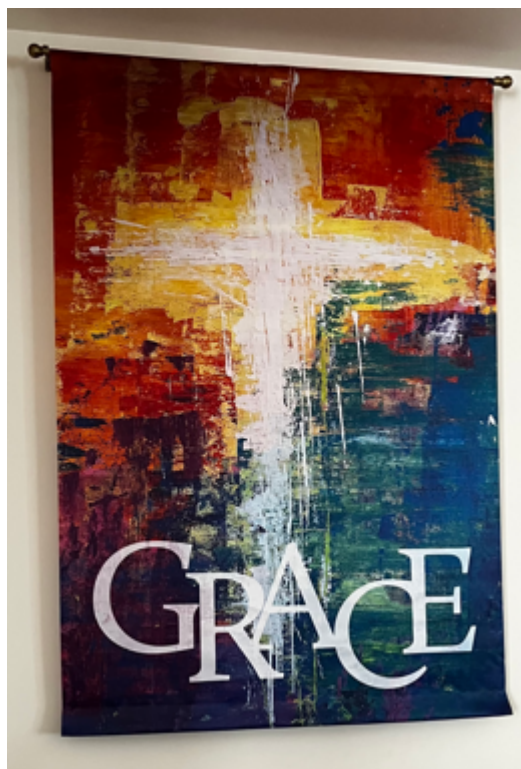
## Worship

We highlight our new banner and want to thank Brownie Carver for doing the research to find one we all liked and finished the job of hanging it beautifully "down front" in the sanctuary. She had a little help hanging it from Jacq Skeffington, I think. Brownie is one of the many volunteers who work hard to make our worship service meaningful and engaging.

Take a look at the back page of your bulletin each Sunday and see the seven or eight people who are listed as "Worship Helpers." From the Lay Leader each week to the coffee hour hosts, those providing flowers, greeters and ushers, and the ever-present tech crew working silently behind the scenes to keep us all together whether here in the sanctuary or 1,000 miles away vacationing.

If you have been overlooked or underused by this worship elder, I apologize. I would appreciate your offer to help. We can see where you might be best suited. We each have unique gifts. We need inspiration from every corner. I look forward to working together to find the right Holy fit!

*Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder*



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting July 19<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Pastor Leigh planned to take vacation from July 25 – July 31. Reverend Dr. Bruce Baker filled the pulpit on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Any requests for Pastoral care during that period were to be made via Elder Barb Huff.

The treasurer reported a donation of \$60,000 was received from Kate Smith's brother following the sale of her house. Liz Loveness, Barb Huff, and Diana Lilje will form a committee to disburse the unrestricted funds. Two new pan, tilt, zoom cameras have been purchased and installed to enhance Zoom broadcasting out of funds previously approved by Session.

Vashon Opera and Vashon Chorale have both expressed interest in rehearsing in the sanctuary.

Since fundraising during the Strawberry Festival parade was cancelled, Barb Huff moved and Session approved donating proceeds from the August Yard Sale to Vashon Youth and Family Services and The DOVE Project, split 50/50.

Details of all committee activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter. The next regular session meeting will be August 9th at 4:30 PM, at the home of Elizabeth Loveness.

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Faith Formation

A number of people started reading the book The One Year Through the Bible Devotional at the beginning to year. There is a suggested reading and short discussion for each day of the year. Readers have been faithfully following the old testament and will start the new testament in early September. Kathryn O'Laughlin is one of these readers and writes the following:

*"The One Year Through the Bible study group meets every other Monday at 7:00 PM on Zoom. We reflect on what we have learned from our daily readings that follow the book's progression through the Bible. These are lively discussions that look at the passages from historical and current perspectives. The old stories of the Patriarchs come alive with new understanding of God's care for His people, and David's relationship with God makes him a person to admire. My favorite book, so far is Proverbs. Words of wisdom that inspire 'AHA' moments. We are now in Isaiah, so join us. You will find the Bible a book of God's love, hope, and nourishing truth."*

The Following the Call study group will restart in September. For those unfamiliar with the book, Following the Call brings together "prophetic voices from every era and a range of traditions to consider the repercussions of the words of The Sermon on the Mount." Essays by Leo Tolstoy, Martin Luther King Jr, E. Stanley Jones, Mother Teresa, Thomas Merton, Wendell Berry, Soren Kierkegaard are included among many others. If you would like to join either group and don't have a book, text or call me at (206) 434-5439 and I can get you one.

*Lindsay Hofmann  
Faith Formation Elder*

## Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on July 9<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. However, Pastor Leigh, Thomas Abraham, Kathy O’Laughlin and Aldo Flores showed up for an impromptu work party on July 7<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the Strawberry Festival. They did a wonderful job, and the grounds were prepared for lawn games and activities. We also plan to remove the sandbox in the play yard since it has fallen into disrepair, and we will start maintaining the flower bed along the walkway behind the sanctuary. It’s an excellent spot for gardening if you are interested. Session approved contracting with Aldo Flores and his crew to keep up with the lawn care. Liz Loveness will monitor their work.

A group of four youths, Pastor Leigh and I painted the new youth room on July 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a fun-filled afternoon, with most of the paint ending up on the ceiling and walls! A few other volunteers showed up on the following Saturday to touch up the few missed spots. I have heard many favorable comments about how bright and inviting the room has become. Drop in to check it out next time you are in church.

New video cameras for broadcasting via Zoom were purchased and installed. A camera mounted near the piano now offers the option of viewing the faces of those attending worship in the sanctuary while being operated remotely.

Carpe Diem has had timbers installed around the gravel area where their large play structure is located. They have also planned to upgrade or replace that structure and make other improvements to the south end of the parking lot before classes resume. Carpe Diem also plans to repaint the hallways in the new building in August.

The Vashon Healthcare District has resumed in person community meetings in the Social Hall on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6:00-8:00 PM. Vashon Opera will resume rehearsals in the sanctuary in mid-August, and the Vashon Chorale will resume rehearsals there in September.

If you are interested in helping with gardening, maintenance, clerical work or repairs please feel free to contact me.

*Jacq Skeffington*



## **Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility**

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

The two summer activities that the Purposeful Service Committee planned for were again unfortunately cancelled. We had arranged to offer reserved parking and seats for the Saturday morning Festival parade, but as with other VPC events we had to cancel because of the COVID outbreak. Thanks to those who volunteered to help.

We invited Rev. Smith and Mary's Place staff and guests for an outside worship service and picnic in late August or early September, but they were unable to commit due to staffing issues and COVID concerns. Perhaps next year!

We will collect plastic bags and Styrofoam products in the VPC parking lot on Saturday, August 6, 9:00-11:00 AM and take them to the island-wide event the next day. Although this is the date of the Yard Sale, we will be collecting in the back parking lot and there should be no conflict. Please separate plastic bags from Styrofoam and bubble mailers. The event sponsors also collect certain hard plastic items such as medicine containers, outdoor furniture, coat hangers etc. Check the website [www.zerowastevashon.org](http://www.zerowastevashon.org) for more information.

Please remember that the first Sunday (August 7) is Food Bank Sunday Bring your non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to the worship service, or drop them off during office hours.

Planning continues for the Mental Health Forum to be presented at VPC on September 24. Details will be provided in the September newsletter and via weekly E-news.

IFCH volunteers are furnishing outdoor meals this summer. These dinners will be served on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. Sack meals will be served on the remaining days. Our church's dinner dates for August are the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to participate, please contact Brownie Carver at [bc2vashon@centurytel.net](mailto:bc2vashon@centurytel.net).

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Hospitality

Despite a brief social setback in July caused by a COVID infection spike, we continue to gather in accordance with our individual comfort levels.

On Sunday, August 7, our coffee hour will honor longtime VPC member Mary Jacobs, who has moved off the island.

Lindsay Hofman's all-church potluck dinner was unfortunately a casualty of the COVID spike and was rescheduled for August 14, and subsequently has been postponed indefinitely due to Myrtle Walls's memorial service and reception being held on August 13. However, thanks to Book Club, after worship coffee fellowship, Theology Pub, and Coffee at Sporty's, we still find ways to connect in person. Check out the ping pong tournament details below!

### Double Elimination Table Tennis Tournament

**Where?** Outside, on Liz Loveness's front patio: 14130 SW 22nd Street

**When?** August 3, 10, and maybe 17, from 6:00 – 8:00 ish

**Who's invited?** Everyone who will participate in play plus one guest (to reduce chances of COVID spreading)

**Qualifications Required?** NO previous experience needed. Handicaps for those who can't hear, see, hit the ball less than 5% of the time, or don't know how to score a game.

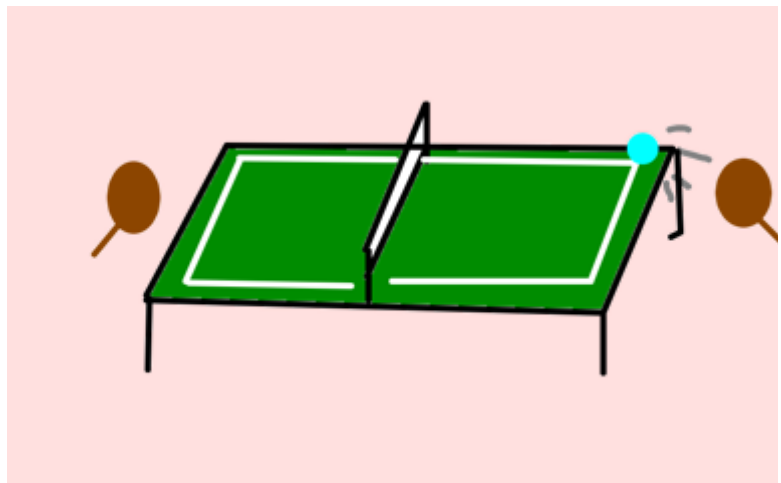
**Rules?** Singles, best 2 of 3 short games (15pts) . Double elimination tournament (so you are guaranteed 2 appearances)

**Refreshments?** Homemade strawberry ice cream, made with fresh strawberries

**Prizes?** Garden bouquets Fresh picked (by you), and free wine to take home from the infamous "Wall Street Journal Wine Club"

Please call Liz Loveness at 206-409-5741 if you would like to play.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*





## VPC Book Club

The Book Club selection for August is Coming Into the Country by John McPhee.. Publisher's Summary:

"Those who have traveled into America's only remaining frontier rarely come back out the same. Only in Alaska can we come close to understanding what our forefathers must have felt upon their arrival in the New World. McPhee brings to this narrative the qualities that have distinguished him in the field of travel literature—tolerance, brisk, and entertaining prose, and a fascination with things most of us never bother to notice."

The Book Club will meet at the home of Jacq and Beverly Skeffington on August 19 at 7:00 PM.

**Note:** September's selected book is Deep River by Karl Marlantes. At around 700 pages, this epic American saga will require more time devoted to its reading, so get an early start!



## August Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy August birthday  
this month to:

- 4 Larry Commeree
- 12 Leigh Weber
- 31 Kathy O'Laughlin



## Paraprosdokians

A **paraprosdokian** is a sentence or statement with an unexpected ending. Such as:

***Will glass coffins be a success?***

Remains to be seen.

***What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?***

One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter.

***Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?***

There's no menu - you get what you deserve.

***What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?***

A maybe.

***Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today?***

I don't know and don't really care.

***Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population?***

Ireland. Every day it's Dublin

***Need an ark?***

I Noah guy.

***Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda?***

He was lucky it was a soft drink.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday but couldn't find any.

I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.

I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought: "That's the last thing I need!"

I broke my finger last week. On the other hand, I'm okay.

Don't spell part backwards. It's a trap.

To the mathematician who thought of the idea of zero, thanks for nothing!

### 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

## Calendar

### August 2022

- 5 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 6 Yard Sale 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Styrofoam and More collection 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion  
After worship coffee fellowship honoring Mary Jacobs
- 8 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 9 Session meeting 4:30 Liz Loveness's home
- 12 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 13 Memorial service and reception for Myrtle Walls 1:00
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 19 VPC Book Club 7:00 PM
- 21 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 22 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 25 Theology Pub 5:00 PM
- 26 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 28 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

#### **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