



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### September 2022

Sermons posted on church website:

[vashonpreschurch.org](http://vashonpreschurch.org)

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

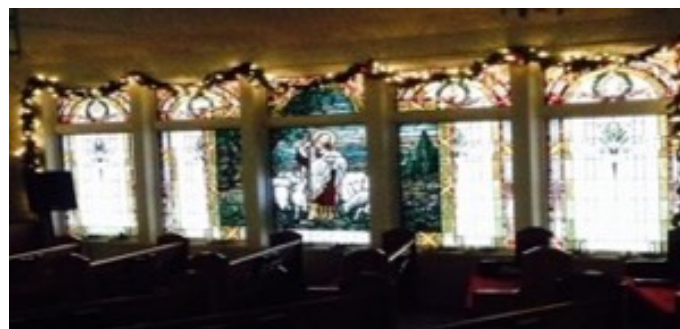
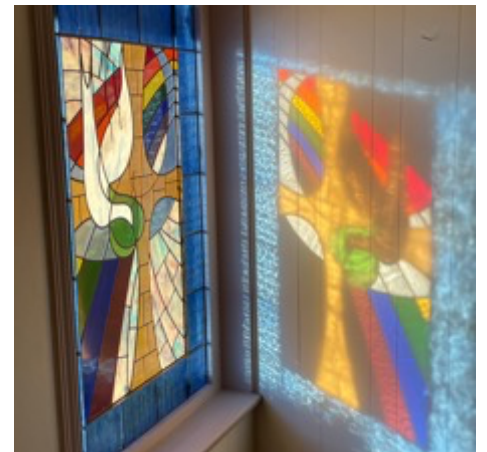
Love One Another

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.



#### In This Issue:

- A Message from Pastor Leigh
- A Message to VPC from Laura Jean Walls-Fisher
- Deacons' Message
- VPC Book Club



## A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

Recently, as I was working at the Food Bank, I had a conversation with another volunteer about what all VPC does and is doing. The conversation started because of the flyers we were putting in the bags of the food we were packing. It listed the meals available to the community with the church's name on them. I shared that it was a community effort, but she wanted me to express her appreciation to the congregation for "showing up."

Showing up is something you do so well. I frequently hear about it in the community. Paying attention to need, responding to need, and addressing the needs you see with compassion and intention. It's not only appreciated by those you serve but by others.

As we move into the cooler weather of fall and winter, I have no doubt that you'll respond to calls for blankets and hand warmers and sleeping bags and meals. That's who you are and, in my sixth year at VPC, I continue to stand in witness to your grace.

One of the big takeaways for me in our study of I Peter this past month was how our actions are more indicative of our faith than our beliefs. Our actions are what defines us as the tangible representations of faith that is fully embodied. I appreciate what your actions tell this community about what you know about Jesus' life and ministry and the call on your lives as a result.

Psalm 23 tells us that no matter where life calls us, goodness and mercy shall follow us for all our days. When we live out that belief of the abundance of God, we spread abundant love to those around us. That's the gift of our call, the Source of the love we have is infinite, walking with us always. And choosing to commit acts of love is the greatest witness we offer to the great act of love we know through Jesus.

I thank God for you each and every day and for your commitment to acts of love.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting August 16<sup>th</sup> at Elizabeth Loveness' home and via Zoom. Spouses were invited to socialize on the patio while the Elders took care of business and then joined together for dinner and rousing games of ping-pong afterwards.

Pastor Leigh reported an increase in requests for Pastoral Care and positive inquiries following the yard sale about the fact that we obviously worked very hard to organize and conduct the sale, yet proceeds were being forwarded to other nonprofit organizations rather than to simply support VPC.

The treasurer reported donations are now catching up to projections. Jim will address the congregation about our financial position.

Session approved installation of an iron handrail in the center of the steps approaching the main (west) entrance to the church. The handrail will be removable to facilitate carrying large objects like chairs or tables out to the front lawn but sturdy, when secured in place, to assist individuals utilizing that entrance.

Session also authorized service of wine and beer at a churchwide Harvest Dinner planned for October at VPC and approved forwarding donations received for providing coffee and treats before worship to participants and spectators at "Motorcycle Sunday" (if /when it should occur) to the Vashon Youth Scholarship Foundation.

More details of all mission activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter. The next regular session meeting will be September 20th at 4:30 pm, in person at VPC.

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party planned for August 13<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to a memorial service for Myrtle Walls that day. We do hope to meet together at VPC on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and again on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> at Sue Weston's house to trim shrubbery. Please bring clippers and rakes (and a pickup truck if you have one).

Following through on earlier plans the sandbox in the courtyard play area was removed and sand redistributed under the slide and swings. Future plans include seeding a lawn area there in the fall.

A bid to install a handrail in the middle of the concrete steps approaching the west entrance has been approved. The railing will be removable when necessary for bringing large objects like tables or lots of chairs into the building. The design includes permanently installed base plates on the top and bottom levels into which the railing will be installed and pinned in place. A temporary connecting tube will also be provided for safety when the railing is removed to minimize injury by tripping over the base plates. The same contractor is also formulating a bid to replace the rotted wooden posts and structure supporting the roofs over the back entrances to the social hall and kitchen hallway.

Carpets in the Social Hall, offices, Great Hall, East Room and Narthex were cleaned by Robin Lewis once again on August 18th. Carpe Diem has started to repaint the hallways in the new building.

If you are interested in helping with gardening, maintenance, clerical work or repairs please feel free to contact me at 206-354-8917.

*Jacq Skeffington*

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

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

Please remember that the first Sunday (September 4) is Food Bank Sunday. Bring your non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for all ages to the worship service or drop them off during office hours. One in seven Vashon households relies on the Food Bank. We're pleased that Nancy and Jan van Roessel have assumed responsibility for taking the donated items to the Food Bank, and we thank Sue Weston for her many years of service in managing VPC's participation as a Food Bank supporter.

On August 6 about eight VPC members brought plastic and Styrofoam products to the parking lot, and we took a stuffed carload the next day to the island-wide recycling event. These are products that cannot be recycled at the county facility but can be recycled at an off-island place rather than winding up in the county landfill. Our next collection will be October 1.

The 2022 budget provides for donations of \$1,000 each to six non-profits that provide services consistent with our mission to serve those in need. Featured this month is Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest, based in Tacoma. AIDNW is a volunteer-driven organization that assists immigrants held in and released from detention at the federal processing center located in the Tacoma industrial area. For immigrants in the facility, AIDNW provides phone cards so detainees can stay connected to family and friends. AIDNW volunteers also visit detainees and provide craft materials. For detainees released each day, volunteers offer travel planning assistance and rides to the airport and bus station, along with backpacks, clothing and food. Those individuals unable to travel immediately are provided short-term accommodation and meals at a local rental house. In 2021, AIDNW served 1,196 immigrants from 91 countries. More recently, as COVID restrictions eased, volunteers in July assisted 218 released immigrants and provided 200 rides. Thanks to VPC members whose contributions allow us to provide financial assistance to AIDNW and our other Mission Partners.

After much consideration, we have decided to postpone the Mental Health summit originally scheduled for September 24. The mental health care system is totally overwhelmed at this time and there is much burnout among clinicians, therapists, etc. It was impossible for us to obtain speakers. We hope that in time, things will settle down a bit and it will be a better season to organize this event.

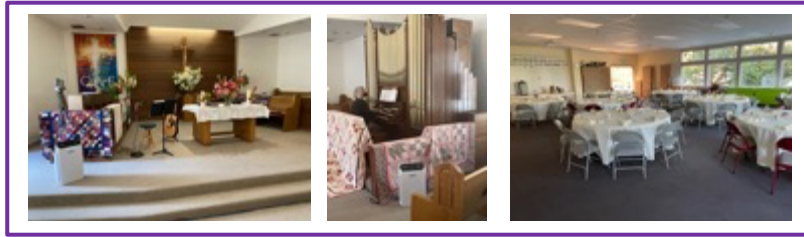
The Vashon Care Network is hosting a free interactive session for caregivers and all of us who will receive or give care sometime in our lives. Jonathan Prescott, chaplain, pastoral counselor and founder of Wise Caregiving will present "A Wise Conversation about Balance and Boundaries" on Sunday, September 11th from 2-4 pm at the Puget Sound Zen Center, 18005 Vashon Highway. The session will provide practical suggestions for reconnecting with your innate wisdom, compassion and joy. For further information: [www.vashoncarenetwork.org](http://www.vashoncarenetwork.org)

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

## Hospitality

### The Life of Myrtle Walls Celebrated With High Tea

Family and friends joined in a high tea service on August 13 to celebrate the life of our sister Myrtle Walls, who passed away on July 25. This was a lovely and loving tribute to a member who faithfully served VPC for decades. Her daughter has written a touching note (on the following page) to the VPC community.



### Coffee Hour Hosts

Our after-worship coffee fellowship in September will continue to be served in the Social Hall.

Hosts for the month:

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Debbie Finch and Barbara Zue
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Debbie Finch
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Sue Weston
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Nancy and Doug Johnson

Coffee hour hosts do more than simply provide refreshments. They arrive early to prepare the coffee and set out the treats. Then they stay later to clean up. Thank you, Hosts; your work is greatly appreciated!

### On October's Horizon: Annual Harvest Dinner

After a two-year hiatus, our annual Harvest Dinner will be held on a Saturday evening in October—date to be confirmed. The entire VPC family, and their friends and families are invited. Check the weekly E-News as details emerge.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*

## A Daughter's Remembrances

### *Message from Laura Jean Walls-Fisher to VPC*

Thank you, VPC family, for helping Amanda, Mike and me in the days following my mother's passing. Kindnesses that included holding my hand the night Mom died, cleaning out her apartment, preparing delicious dinners for us, and holding her touching memorial service and ensuing high tea—all these things and more—please know that we are so grateful.

In thinking of my mother and especially her involvement with our church, here are a few memories that I wanted to share at her memorial but was too teary and emotional to do them justice at the time:

My mother was the spark that ignited our Tuesday coffee get-together at Sporty's. Although Mom was a slow reader, and she'd sometimes need to revisit parts of a text before she could continue, when she found a book that grabbed her attention, she didn't put it down until she'd finished the last page. One of these books, which I brought to her from the library, was Thursdays at Eight by Debbie Macomber. It told of three women of varying ages, family situations and social status, who while taking a class together, would meet afterwards at the local coffee shop just to talk. They continued these get-togethers years beyond the class's completion. This story inspired Mom, who wanted to meet everyone who visited VPC, to suggest to our previous pastor the idea of meeting weekly over coffee at Sporty's. He assumed Mom wanted to start a church women's club, but she quickly set him straight. She told him it was to be nothing of the sort; just a time where people could get to know each other outside of church. Over ten years later, we still meet weekly at Sporty's. The time has changed, and some of the original attendees have been replaced by newcomers, but her legacy of fellowship lives on. Someone once asked Mom what we talk about at Sporty's. She smiled and replied, "We talk about everything and nothing, and one dog story."

Mom always enjoyed helping with the yearly yard sale, and many of the items for the sale came from her. I think she planned it that way; a chance to give those items a new home where they would be useful and appreciated for years to come.

No doubt you've noticed that my mom rarely sat in the same place with the same people in church or during after-worship coffee hour. Friends would ask, "Why didn't you sit with Laura Jean?" Mom would reply, "I know her. But I don't know everyone else, and I want to." Of course, family was very important to her, and she expanded the word "family" beyond the one you're related to by blood or marriage, but the family you make outside of all that. Family is the person you're sitting next to. Family is the baby in the bassinet in the hospital nursery who was born shortly after your own daughter. Family is the gentleman you walked over to say how sorry you were to hear of his mother's passing. This was one of the most important lessons I learned from my mother.

So, the next time you come to VPC or go to another gathering, remember the example Mom set. Don't sit where you always do, or with the same people at coffee. Do what Myrtle Walls always did—expand your family!

*Laura Jean Walls-Fisher*



## Deacon's Message

At Theology Pub we were asked the question, "Where do we find worship beyond the Sunday morning service?"

This question generated several responses:

- Where I am on my walks.
- At the ocean.
- Outdoors in my garden.
- Surrounded by the glory of nature, especially Mount Rainier.
- In the quiet, peacefulness of the outside.
- At my small alter in our home.

As I have continued to think about worship, I have come to realize that the quiet times I spend in nature and outdoors are life affirming and sacred. What we do in that time is also important. I frequently spend my time thinking about and praying for my family, especially those far away whom we don't get to see very often. I also hold all our church family in my heart and ask for guidance on how I can continue to have positive impacts on our island community.

So as we go into Fall and begin a new season, know that we are praying for each other and bask in the comfort of God's hand on each of us. That comfort is found in each of us. I intend to try and cultivate that comfort and caring in the coming months and I appreciate how each of you hold me up, too.

*Claudia Ross-Weston*  
*Deacon Moderator*



## VPC Book Club

The Book Club selection for September is Deep River, an epic American saga by Karl Marlantes. We will meet at Liz Loveness's home on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00.

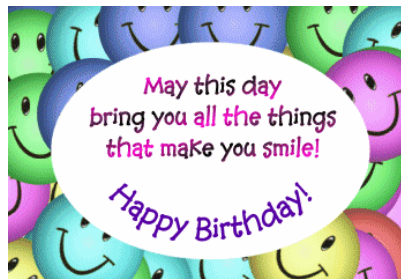
At around 700 pages, this book will require more time devoted to its reading, so get an early start!



## September Birthdays

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

- 8 Diana Lilje
- 18 Mary Jacobs
- 27 Laura Jean Walls Fisher



### Church Leadership

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



## Calendar

### September 2022

- 2 First Fridays S'mores on the lawn 6:00 PM  
Game Night on Zoom 7:00 PM
- 3 Styrofoam and More collection 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- 4 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 6 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 9 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 11 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 12 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 13 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 16 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 18 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 20 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 22 Theology Pub 5:00 PM
- 23 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 25 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 26 Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 30 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom

#### 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