



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

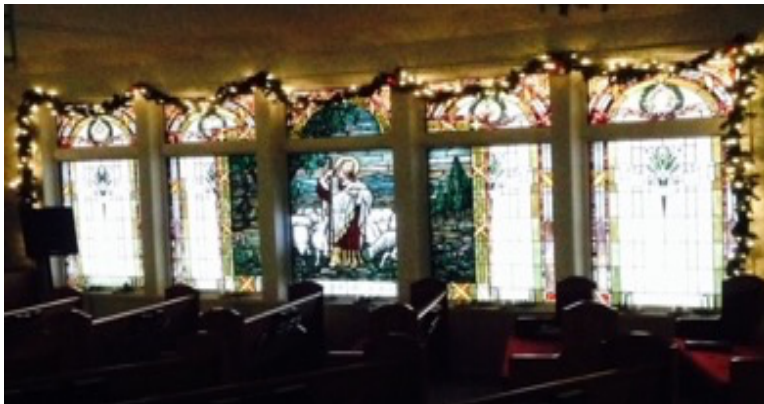
October 2022

Sermons and service 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.



Upcoming Events

Harvest Dinner Saturday, October 15th, 6:00

Vashon Halloween Monday, October 31st, 4:30 – 7:00

A Message from Pastor Leigh

Dear Ones of VPC,

It's been 21 years since the Mariners went to the post season. As I was reflecting and reveling in the first playoff bid since my youngest was a five-year-old, I thought about the number of friends and family that I'd spent time with watching baseball through the years...first in the Kingdome, then at T Mobile.

You might be wondering what that could possibly have to do with anything related to my role as pastor or our relationship as the church, but I think there's a lot. The memories I've created, with my family, with some of you and others sitting there cheering on those Mariners are part of what adds to the wholeness of my life. Most of those memories have happened over the last 21 years of less than stellar records.

My point is those relationships have been and continue to be fostered out of a shared passion. It's a good lens for me to think about this good and holy work of being the church, how we stick together through good times and bad, how we experience moments of closeness in the ordinary and how our shared passion for the love of God is the binding tie and what we have to offer others.

I'm especially grateful to Elder Nancy Tucker for giving us the space to share in the Harvest Dinner again this fall. Sometimes sharing a meal and singing a fun song together is exactly what's needed to do that binding work that creates those memories and that sense of family that enables us to experience an energy renewal for what it is that we are called to do and to be. It also allows others an entry point that feels safe and fun.

I hope you'll make it a priority to share in this evening and deepen those relationships around the table, to simply be together. VPC has a much better history than our dear M's and years never go by without exciting and wonderful things happening in our midst, but I do think we can learn a lesson from the ballpark. It's the being together, it's the shared passion that creates a family.

The passion you and I share most of all is living lives as much like Jesus as we possibly can in this world, it's making space for everyone to feel safe and it's sharing our physical space with others who want to do good and share joy in this world of ours or who simply need to experience those things.

Join me there on October 15th at 6 pm. Let's be together and remember Whose we are.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting September 20th via Zoom due to air quality issues. Jim Lilje offered a reading by Henri Nouwen from Bread for Life.

Pastor Leigh would like Session to develop a forward-looking plan around increasing outreach to people on the periphery, noting the impact of our reader board and our hybrid capabilities for gathering. Lindsay Hofman will also look for Faith Formation topics that may be of interest to this periphery community. Theology Pub would also benefit from additional advertisement to the community.

Since Christmas will fall on a Sunday this year, Session will plan on accentuating Christmas Eve service in person and plans on a Zoom- only service on Christmas Day.

The treasurer reported donations are now at almost 100% of budgeted income, and we are in a stable financial position. The church has also received another large donation from Kate Smith's family. Website and continued technological and sanctuary improvements are investment priorities in the short term. Session received a preliminary budget worksheet for 2023 and will refine it during the next two months.

Co-Op Preschool now holds a toddlers and infants (and parents) class Wednesdays from 9am – 2pm in the East room. The children are adorable, but please try to refrain from passing through the East Room on Wednesdays unless essential. Pastor Leigh will be happy to meet for pastoral visits around Vashon that day. Please call in advance to arrange a meeting or visit.

A Harvest Dinner planned for October 22nd at VPC was rescheduled for October 15th.

A local artists' Christmas Bazaar will be hosted December 3rd and 4th at VPC.

More details of all mission activities are listed in each committee's section of this newsletter.

The next regular session meeting will be Sunday, October 16th at 4:30 pm, in person at VPC to avoid conflicting with the Presbytery meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 18th at Mercer Island Presbyterian Church.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Building and Grounds

The Second Saturday work party on September 10th trimmed shrubbery by the ramp and parking area, cleaned trash around the parking lot and north settling pond. On Saturday September 17th another party trimmed shrubbery and cleared the boardwalk in front of Sue Weston's Sylvan Beach home. Work parties are again planned for 10:00 AM—noon on October 1st at Sue's and October 8th at VPC. Please bring clippers and rakes and a pickup truck if you have one.

A removable handrail was installed in the middle of the concrete steps approaching the west entrance. The design allows the railing to be bolted directly into the concrete steps such that when removed there will be no raised tripping hazard.

Aldo Flores continues routine lawn care. His group also removed a couple of large sagging branches of the plum tree extending over the fence between the courtyard playground and Zamorana's restaurant. As the weather begins to cool, we intend to revitalize the flower beds behind the sanctuary and courtyard. Nancy van Roessel will lead this effort.

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

Worship in Many Forms

I've been thinking about different ways we worship. Most theologians divide worship into two major categories: Corporate or worshipping in a group of like-minded followers and Personal worship, where we either plan our own time for a devotional or when we acknowledge an isolated event or setting for which you recognize God's creation and express thanks and wonderment for the gift you've been given. An example of the former would be our Sunday morning service. These times usually carry meaning in the traditions, hymns and established but meaningful rituals for those included in corporate worship.

An experience on a hike at sunrise where nature hurls its grandeur into the orange-pink, day-break sky - has more emotional, and certainly personal, meaning for an individual. If they spontaneously stop and praise and thank God for this, they are certainly participating in personal worship. A more consistent form of personal worship is the daily devotional.

Some of us find being on walks, working in our gardens, hiking in the mountains, generally being away from others - encourages personal worship. It's interesting to me that so many seek separation from other people to find God. Nature seems absolutely to be God's creation. All too often when people are surrounded by other people and "people created" things ie the Rivian, art, or beautiful piece of music we forget Who's at the center of the Universe. Well, with these thoughts as background, **I am preparing a survey, which will be available this month**, for our congregation on avenues that would grow our personal and corporate worship. I will make suggestions for activities and each person should respond from their own perspective. Example:

Weekday Evening Meditation Service (in person in the sanctuary)

- 1 How likely are you to participate?
- 2 Would you classify this as personal or corporate worship?

Answers would vary, of course, but an example would be 1. Not likely and 2. Corporate, or maybe personal.

So, without following the format of question-and-answer that I would have to use, I'll just list possible activities and you can think through what your answers would be.

Weekday Evening Meditation Service (online led by Pastor Leigh or Guest Meditation Leader)

Weekly Devotional Service (Online; Led by Pastor Leigh)

Outdoor Church – Once a month have worship service (separate and different from Sunday Service) at Forest Center Trail, Camp Burton, Pt. Robinson or points beyond.

Have prayer partners dedicating prayer and worship time separately but meeting (by phone, Zoom or in person) weekly to share thoughts and inspiration.

Body Prayer – Wednesday Morning devotional with basic yoga following various passages from the Book of Psalms. Led by Leigh.

Praise singing or "sing along" around campfire some evening other than outreach First Friday fire and s'mores.

"Praise Singing Sunday" where our regular service features this kind of music once a month or once a quarter.

Vigils on holy occasions.

These are only a few ideas. I would appreciate hearing especially about your personal worship time.

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder

Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

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

We will have the bi-monthly collection of plastic bags, Styrofoam, foam food trays, bubble mailers etc. on Saturday, October 1st in the VPC parking lot from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Please sort your items, and we will combine the items for delivery to the October 2nd island-wide event. Thanks for keeping these non-degradable products out of our landfill so they can be recycled at an off-island facility.

October 2nd is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring your contributions of non-perishable food and personal hygienic items to the sanctuary or church office.

Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness is again serving meals. Our IFCH representative, Brownie Carver, reports that beginning on September 26th, meals will be served Monday-Friday at the Methodist church. The meals will be takeout using to-go boxes, prepared by volunteers with coordinator Toni preparing Friday's food. VPC will continue to host the fourth Monday and Tuesday. The volunteers will prepare enough food for two evenings. Since this is an easier meal plan, only one or two people will be needed.

At the September 20th meeting, Session approved Purposeful Service Committee's request that the \$1,000 budgeted for Mental Health programs in 2022 be reallocated as a \$1,000 contribution to the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. Funds needed for mental health programs and other uses are available in the Memorial Fund if required this year. We hope to have the Mental Health Forum in 2023.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder



Faith Formation

In October the two discussion groups on alternate Mondays and every Tuesday (watch for time changes or cancellations when conflicts arise) will continue. Mondays are continuing with One Year Through the Bible and on Tuesdays, Following the Call.

Several topics have brought up issues that suggest interesting further discussion to a wider group, including from outside the church. I am going to be trying to find out what concerns are out there and what people are interested in. Feedback via the Worship survey designed by Liz Loveness will also provide insight into discussion of broad interest. I'm especially interested in learning about experiences that you are willing to share from your own personal faith journey.

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

Hospitality

Harvest Dinner: Saturday, October 15, 6:00 PM

Come one, come all to our annual Harvest Dinner!

Enjoy an evening of fine food, first-rate fellowship, and an all-around good time.

Bring your family and friends, and enjoy an early Thanksgiving meal along with a singalong led by Chris Coldeen..

Volunteer signup sheets are at the church or call me directly to let me know how you can support this event.



Coffee Hour Hosts

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



Hosts for the month:

2nd: Nancy Tucker
9th: Beverly Skeffington
16th: Diana and Jim Lilje
23rd: Lindsay Hofman
30th: Open

Please let me know if you are available to host after-worship coffee hour.

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

Outreach

Vashon Halloween Monday, October 31, 5:00 – 7:00

Come and support our community while having a scary good time! We're dispensing the treats using the "cat-apult" designed last year by Caran-Marie.

We'll set up at 4:30 and continue until the festivities conclude at 7:00 (or when the candy runs out).

I'm looking for volunteers to donate candy and help distribute it in one-hour shifts.

It's always fun to see the kids in their costumes and chat with their parents, so I encourage you to join us!

Barb Huff, Outreach Elder

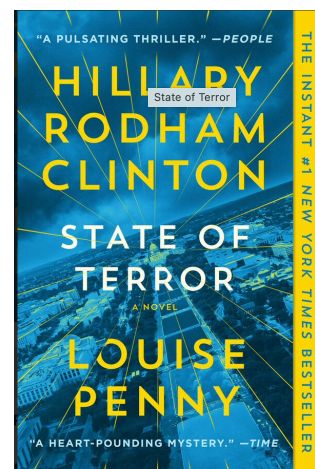


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VPC Book Club

The Book Club selection for October is State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny, acclaimed author of the Inspector Gamache series.

Lindsay Hofman is hosting this month's meeting at her home on Friday, October 21 at 7:00 PM.



Deacon's Message

An Abundant Attitude

By Catherine Pulsifer

Be thankful for the little things
The more contentment it will bring.
Focus on a thankful attitude.
You will find blessings in multitude.

With this attitude, your life will be
Abundant and full because you will see
That everyday blessings mean so much
That material things you'll no longer clutch.

You enter this world with nothing
And, in your passing
You will leave without a thing
Even if you're rich or even a king.

So look around and appreciate
That material things do depreciate.
Be abundant in relationships.
Spend the time in fellowship.

You have more abundance than you realize.
Look around and it will materialize.
If you could see every blessing you have
You would be more than glad!

I am having a hard time believing it is October already. First, except for the shorter days, it feels like the middle of August, secondly our tomatoes are still producing like it is the middle of August and it is very warm these days. All the chrysanthemums are profusely blooming in our yard and the lavender pink fall crocuses are showing off their finery.

With all these surroundings I am feeling blessed with abundance. I am grateful for all the profusion of flowers, birds, friends, family and support gained from our church family and in our neighborhood. I walked outdoors yesterday morning and was amazed at how many different birdcalls I heard. So, I urge all of us to take the time to stop and be aware of all that surrounds us and enjoy it!

Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator



October Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy October birthday to:

- 1 Jim Lilje
- 7 Kathy Olsen
- 13 Barb Huff



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

October 2022

- 1** Styrofoam and More collection 10:00 – 11:30
Work Party at Sue Weston’s house 10:00-Noon
- 2** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM World Communion Sunday with VUMC
- 4** Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 7** First Fridays S’mores on the lawn 6:00 PM
Game Night on Zoom 7:00 PM
- 8** Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon VPC
- 9** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 10** Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 11** Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 14** Game Night 7:00 PM
- 15** Harvest Dinner 6:00 PM
- 16** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
Session Meeting 4:30 PM VPC
- 18** Deacons Meeting 10:00 VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Following the Call
- 21** VPC Book Club 7:00 PM Lindsay Hofman’s home
- 23** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 24** Faith Formation 7:00 PM - The One Year Through the Bible Devotional
- 27** Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 28** Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 30** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 31** Halloween on the Porch 5:00 – 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