

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

February 2023



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.



February Promises

By Lenore Hetrick

I like February for the
Hints that winter is going away.
He seems to whisper in my ear
That soon the birds will sing and play!
He tells me to get ready
For warmer days are on the way.

Key Lenten Dates/Notes

February 23 – Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes Noon – 1:00 PM VPC
Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 PM VPC/Zoom

Communion Each Sunday Through Lent

Holy Week Services

April 2 – Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday worship 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom

April 2 – 5

Evening worship 6:00 PM Zoom

April 6

Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM VPC

April 7

Good Friday 7:00 PM VPC

April 9 – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service Camp Burton
Easter Sunday worship 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom
Easter egg hunt after worship VPC

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

As of this writing, I am midway through a class I am taking on balance. We are exploring the balance between self and others, between competence and compassion, between giving and receiving and other forms of balance in the art of caregiving. I have been meeting with another soul in the balance journey each week. As we continue to discuss the idea of balance, I am struck by what it means for the kingdom of God.

What is balance to you? Do you feel that you lead a balanced life? Do you feel steady on your feet in how you interact with the world around you? One of the challenges of caring deeply is getting caught up in such a way that we lose ourselves, that we fail to experience self-care. When that happens, we are out of balance, and we struggle to stay upright.

Later this month, we enter the season of Lent. You may want to add something to your spiritual routine or perhaps you appreciate that act of giving sometime up. I would like to encourage you, around what you already may have planned, to spend some time thinking about what it means to be balanced. Are you providing care for others at the expense of your own self care? Are you wondering how giving and receiving work together?

God created us to be whole and complete humans who care and share compassion with one another.

Giving and receiving are reciprocal in God's kingdom. When we feel our own lack of balance, it can be a strong signal that we need to do some soul tending. Sustainable compassion arises from a tended soul.

You'll be receiving some devotional material the week of Ash Wednesday to help you do this kind of self-work in your own time and space. Until then, perhaps thinking about balance is a good place to start.

As always, I am grateful for you!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh

Clerk's Corner

Session held its regular monthly meeting January 17th at VPC and Zoom. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed Al Ross-Weston back to service on the Session after an absence of a year.

Much of the meeting dealt with annual administrative matters. Session will plan hold regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM and elected the following corporate officers for 2023: President- Al Ross-Weston, Secretary- Lindsay Hofman, Treasurer- Jim Lilje, Financial Secretary- Diana Lilje, Commissioners to Presbytery- Bob Spangler and Jacq Skeffington, Registered Agent/Clerk of Session- Jacq Skeffington.

Al Ross Weston will lead the Faith Formation Committee. Lindsay Hofman will lead the Outreach Committee which Barb Huff will continue to serve on. Nancy Tucker will continue to lead the Hospitality Committee and Chair the Personnel Committee. Liz Loveness will continue to lead the Worship Committee and Bob Spangler will continue to lead the Purposeful Service Committee. Jim Lilje will continue to serve as Mission Resources Finance Elder with Jacq Skeffington serving as building and grounds coordinator and Clerk of Session. Jim Lilje was pleased to report that VPC operated with a surplus of income for the year. Session had adopted a budget for 2022 that had income and expenses basically even. However, income for the year was much higher than budgeted, due primarily to faithful support of the congregation and unanticipated gifts. Total expenses came in at about the budgeted amount.

Session approved a resolution that IFCH be allowed to serve 1 sit down meal per week in VPC. IFCH will continue to provide take-out meals 4 other nights per week as was authorized last month.

A request for additional funding to install a larger patio in the courtyard was withdrawn during discussion. Session approved a resolution to request Diana Lilje lead a planning committee to recommend to Session a prioritized plan for best usage of excess funds. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation was held January 29th following Worship. 23 of our 40 members attended either in person or via Zoom.

Beverly Skeffington, Lindsay Hofman, Bob Spangler, Diana Lilje and Nancy van Roessell were elected to the 2023 Nominating Committee which will be chaired by Bob Spangler. Finance Elder Jim Lilje gave a summary of the church's financial position and called for any questions about any of the reports contained in the Annual Report which had been distributed the prior Sunday. There were no questions.

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he next regular Session meeting will be Tuesday, February 21st at VPC at 3:30 PM due to Presbytery meeting that same day at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Church Leadership

Pastor	Leigh Weber
Clerk of Session	Jacq Skeffington
Session Members	Lindsay Hofman (Outreach), Jim Lilje (Finance), Elizabeth Loveness (Worship), Bob Spangler (Purposeful Service), Nancy Tucker (Hospitality), Al Ross-Weston (Faith Formation)
Deacons	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Chris Coldeen, Larry Commeree, Susan Commeree, Caran-marie Weston Dunbar, Sheryl Lehman

Purposeful Service Team Areas of Responsibility

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

Purposeful Service Committee submitted the information needed for award of a Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation scholarship to a Vashon graduating high school senior. The preferred criterion for award is an interest in a career in mental health or geriatrics, possibly as a nurse or therapist. The Foundation will select several candidates for us to consider and the Session will then make a selection. If you would like to be part of the review process, please notify me at rwpang@centurytel.net.

We are also planning for award of the Heindsmann Scholarship, which is for students with at least two years of college or people several years out of high school changing careers. Bev Skeffington will lead the review committee. The award will be made in May.

We will collect plastic bags, Styrofoam, foam meat trays, plastic packing material, plastic mailing envelopes etc. on Saturday, February 4th from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the VPC parking lot. We will then take these items to the island-wide event on Sunday. Please do not bring plastic bottles or clamshell food containers, as these can be recycled at the county facility on Westside Highway.

February 5th is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring non-perishable food, personal hygiene items and paper products to the worship service on Sunday, or drop them off during the week during office hours. If it is more convenient, items can be placed in the blue cupboard which is easily found in the Food Bank parking lot. We have seen a drop in donations over the winter; please help us continue our long-standing support of the Food Bank! Especially needed are canned tuna, peanut butter, any type of pasta (especially spaghetti), and in particular chicken broth and vegetable broth. Other items in short supply are canned beans and canned corn, soap bars and cooking oil.

The weekday distribution of means by IFCH at VPC is going well, with a sit-down meal planned for Wednesdays starting February 8th. Meals on the other days are takeout, from 5:00 to 5:30 PM.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Faith Formation

Faith Formation will hold a four-week class starting on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 on Zoom. We will discuss some selections from the writings of Brian Doyle. Following this series, Leigh will lead a weekly Lenten study.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Building and Grounds

Plumbers are in great demand now! Steve Radic has ordered a grease trap for our kitchen sinks and expects to install it in late February or early March. Many of the worn-out kitchen tiles come up easily so I'm planning on removing them during our Second Saturday work party and having waterproof flooring installed professionally. That Second Saturday will be Feb 11th and we'll start a little earlier, at 9:00 AM.

The doors to the church office, Pastor's and teachers' offices were severely damaged during a break in on the night of January 7th. The sliding window lock was also broken, but not the window. The lock has been replaced. John Williams and Chris Coldeen made temporary repairs to the doors, sufficient to lock them, but all three doors and the molding around them need to be replaced. Danny Newcomb, the contractor who in 2021 installed sliding windows in the offices, classrooms, and Social Hall has agreed to do the installation and has ordered new doors.

The contractor who submitted a bid to install a concrete patio beneath the gazebo in the courtyard submitted an improved design for the patio which would cover most of the area between the steps from the Sanctuary to the existing sidewalk, leaving room for flower beds along the south and east Sanctuary walls. The cost of the expanded patio exceeded the limit approved by Session last month, so I returned to Session with the revised bid. Concern was raised about the cost and design. Session has asked Diana Lilje to lead a planning committee to recommend to Session a prioritized plan for best usage of excess Funds, including building and grounds upgrades. I envision this as an outdoor meeting space or classroom, and maybe a barbeque area or even an outdoor worship space during summer months. I'll mount a copy of the design sketch in the East Room at VPC, and I welcome your questions and comments.

On January 27th Connor Olsen (grandson of Kathy and John Olsen) and I mounted a new sculpture on the east wall of the Sanctuary. This is the second sculpture commissioned and donated to the church by Kathy Olsen. The sculpture is a beautiful piece of art created using waterjet technology. Please take the opportunity to view it next time you are in the Sanctuary.

Jacq Skeffington



Hospitality

The potluck luncheon we hosted on January 29th was both well attended and well catered. It was not organized by food course; folks just brought in a favorite dish of their own. This turned out to provide than enough food for everyone, with plenty of leftovers. The potluck followed our annual congregational meeting and featured a slideshow with highlights of VPC in 2022. We're working on making this slideshow available either on the VPC website or via email.

Thanks to all who helped set up, clean up, and provide home-prepared treats for this event.



Coffee at Sporty's continues on Tuesdays at 9:00 AM.

We are looking for volunteers to host after-worship coffee fellowship for these dates in February:

5th: Nancy Tucker
12th: Beverly Skeffington
19th: Open
26th: Open

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

If you are available and willing to host a coffee hour after service, contact Nancy Tucker at 818-259-1770

February Birthdays



Join us in wishing a happy February birthday to:

10th Debbie Finch
23rd Beverly Skeffington

Deacon's Message

With the new year came change with the Deacons. We thank Thomas Abraham and Nancy Johnson for their service this last year and welcome two new Deacons, Larry Commeree and Caran-marie Weston Dunbar.

Remember that we Deacons are here to support the congregation, our church family, and people in need on Vashon. Please don't hesitate to allow us to come alongside you and help in any way we can. We can assist with meals and transportation, and also are available to come by your home and visit. We realize that it isn't always easy to ask for help, especially since we so value our independence. Please know we are here to help, care and hold you up when you need a boost.

Also, know that we hold our church family in our prayers. We keep you in our prayers for specific requests for healing, grief, sorrow, or joy. We also think of each one of you as you go about your daily lives. As we stand by each other, we strengthen our church family and allow the great gift of our Lord to hold all of us in loving hands.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Moderator

VPC Book Club

Our Book Club selection for February is Ishmael by Daniel Quinn.

As described in Amazon, "One of the most beloved and best-selling novels of spiritual adventure ever published, *Ishmael* has earned a passionate following.

It is the story of a man who embarks on a highly provocative intellectual adventure with a gorilla - a journey of the mind and spirit that changes forever the way he sees the world and humankind's place in it."

We will meet on Friday, February 19th at the home of Bob and Carol Spangler. This will be a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite dish.



Calendar

February 2023

- 3** First Friday S'mores at the firepit 6:00 PM
Game Night 7:00 Zoom
- 4** Styrofoam and More collection, VPC parking lot 10:00 – 11:30
- 5** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
- 7** Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10** Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 11** Second Saturday VPC Work Party 9:00 – Noon
- 12** Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 13** Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 17** VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 19** Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 21** Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Session Meeting 3:30 PM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 23** Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 24** Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 26** Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 28** Faith Formation 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
- 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