

Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

April 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.



He is Risen

Palm Sunday and Holy Week Schedule

- April 2 Palm Sunday Service - 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom
- April 2 - 5 Evening Worship - 5:00 PM on Zoom
- April 6 Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 PM VPC/Zoom
- April 6 Vigil - Thursday 9:00 PM – 5:00 PM Friday VPC/Zoom
- April 7 Good Friday Service - 7:00 PM VPC/Zoom
- April 9 Sunrise Service Camp Burton - 6:30 AM
- April 9 Easter Sunday Service - 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom
- April 9 Easter egg hunt after worship VPC

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

Holy Week is almost upon us. Lent often seems like a long season for me until it nears its end and then I'm left with a lot of feelings. Part of the pastoral call is working through scripture, listening for what it has to say, teaching the context and unpacking it all. Yet when Holy Week arrives, I simply lean in. It's so much to take in. Jesus rode into town knowing who he was and what he was about and humankind wanted a different kind of king. The people wanted a king who would demolish the Roman Empire and leave the Jewish people victorious. Jesus had another way.

Going through the week as those of us who know how it all turns out, I find tears near the surface for me. His love is beyond our comprehension, showing care for others even until the very end. Jesus' full humanness on display, feeling pain, feeling hurt and watching disciples who not only didn't get it but fell asleep on him.

Holy Week is one that is simply felt.

Knowing this, there are a variety of options for you this year in this season. Starting on the evening of Palm Sunday, April 2, we will hold a Taize prayer service (Zoom only) at 5:00 PM on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This Taize service will last about thirty minutes. I invite you to come to that time.

Feel free to leave your video off if that's best for you. Engage, it however you need. Just let it be felt.

On Maundy Thursday, we will have an extended liturgy of communion and include a healing service time at the end of our time together. It will begin at 7:00 PM and is hybrid (Zoom and in person). If you want to be anointed with oil for healing and you need to participate on Zoom, please call me and I will come to you that day. This is not an imposition. It is a gift to me as well. Remember, Holy Week is best just felt.

After that service we will open the church for an all-night prayer vigil. You can participate in person at the church or at home via Zoom. If that calls to you, let me or Liz know.

And then on Friday, we will read the story. Our Tenebrae service is a quiet one with music and the scripture story of those last hours of Jesus' life. It's a powerful service and will be hybrid in nature, at 7:00 PM.

I love Easter Sunday and especially sunrise but between now and then, there will be the holiest of weeks. It truly needs to be felt and we need to remember that Jesus felt every moment of it. So, lean in and feel and be and let yourself be. This is the week that defines us, that leads up to the day that tells us and all the world that death has no victory over us.

Through it all, I am here for you, here for your questions, your doubts, your presence, just you. Please reach out to me if there is anything I can do to be with you during this season.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Schedule of Services

Palm Sunday, April 2

Holy Week, April 3 – Easter, April 9

Palm Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 AM VPC/Zoom, with communion and waving of palm branches to acknowledge Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Sunday-Wednesday Evening 5:00 PM prayer services on Zoom. Leigh will lead these will be short services.

Maundy Thursday

We will gather at VPC with our neighbors from the Episcopal and Lutheran churches for a service at 7:00 PM (also on Zoom). Worship will include an extended communion and liturgy with the service of healing oil at the end . The Deacons will pray with the people and help with the healing oil.

Thursday - Friday Vigil

Jesus said to his disciples, "Stay awake and pray with me." Our Vigil will begin at 9:00 PM and will end on Friday at 5:00 PM. The Vigil will be both in person at the church and on Zoom. If you wish to participate, please arrive at the church or check in on Zoom on the hour. When you check in, you will be given a sheet of prayer ideas, but feel free to pray on your own as the Spirit moves you.

Good Friday

Joining with our neighboring churches at VPC (also on Zoom), we will hold a traditional Tenebrae service at 7:00 PM with candles and readings.

Easter Sunday

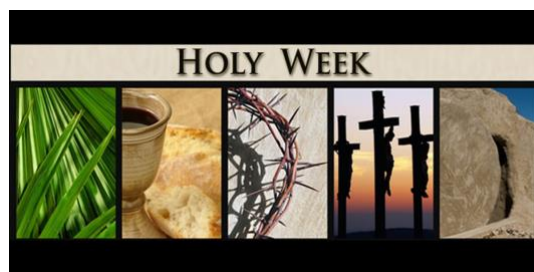
We will begin this holy day with our traditional campfire service at sunrise, held at Camp Burton at 6:30 AM. Other Vashon churches will participate as well.

Our Easter worship service will be held both at the church and on Zoom at 10:00. We will include special music to help us celebrate the good news, "He is Risen!".

Following the service, we are hosting a special Easter coffee hour outside the Sanctuary. We will also host an Easter egg hunt for the kids, featuring our "Bunny Chute," from which we dispense Easter goodies.

More information will be forthcoming in the weekly e-News.

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder



The Importance of Vigils

Vigils have been part of church since the early Christians. It has always meant some or all of the vigil takes place during the night or the time when people are usually sleeping. In the early church it was a time of prayer, some chants or verses recited alone or with a small group. After the third century, the Catholic church institutionalized the vigil with a comprehensive liturgy, and it became part of a monk's regular routine. More recently, many non-church sponsored vigils have been large public gatherings to commemorate the passing of a famous person. These vigils usually are crowds quietly gathered in an attitude of respect, candlelight and perhaps with a song or words spoken by someone close to the honored one. Smaller vigils can be for a deceased friend or beloved family member.

Many contemporary churches have developed vigils into a nighttime service with singing, praying and reciting verses to prepare for an upcoming feast day or holiday. For Presbyterians the official Easter Vigil has four movements:

1. *Service of Light*, a celebration of the light of Christ at which a new fire is kindled from which the Paschal Candle is lit,
2. *Service of Readings*, which includes as many as nine readings from the grand story of salvation of the Old and New Testaments interspersed with psalms and canticles, silence and prayers,
3. *Service of Baptism*, the primary annual occasion for baptisms (particularly in the early church) and a time for the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant, and
4. *Service of the Eucharist*, a joyous feast in the presence of the risen Christ and an anticipation of the eschatological banquet of the realm of God. This service occurs on the night of Maundy Thursday.

Our vigil at VPC is meant to be a time of individual prayer in the spirit of Jesus saying to his disciples, "Stay awake and pray with me" the night before he was betrayed and arrested. The vigil will begin Thursday night at 9:00 PM. We will set out a sign-up sheet this Sunday for one person to fill each time slot from 9:00 PM Thursday until 5:00 AM Friday. This will be held in the VPC sanctuary. There will be candles lit and selections of prayer suggestions will be available. You can also pray whatever God has put on your heart. Our prayers are given in the hope and good news of Easter for healing, peace, and God's enduring love for his people.

There will be a doorman at VPC all night long for security.

If you prefer to attend the vigil via Zoom, please check in on the hour with our Zoom host. That will let us know you are dedicating that hour to prayer in your own home. If you plan to participate on Zoom, we recommend that you download links to prayer suggestions from our website beforehand, and we also invite you to light a candle in your home as well.

Elizabeth Loveness, Worship Elder



Clerk's Corner

The Session held its regular monthly meeting March 21 at VPC. Pastor Leigh opened the meeting after a devotional reading and prayer by Nancy Tucker.

Session discussed a request from a member to consider purchasing a lawn sign from Vashon Maury Land Trust acknowledging the indigenous people who originally inhabited the property we call "ours" and a request to replace the water fountain in the Great Hall with a combination water fountain and water bottle filling station. Pastor Leigh will follow up with the congregant after more information is gathered.

Diana Lilje reported that the Planning Committee has prioritized short and long-term projects and improvements needed in the church. The highest priority has been assigned to technology upgrades for Worship, including purchasing a cabinet for secure storage of tech equipment and two more cordless microphones. Also listed as high priorities are installing a grease trap, replacing the vinyl tiles of the kitchen floor, replacing doors damaged by the office break-in and installing new sanctuary doors. The grease trap has since been installed and the Sanctuary doors are in the Narthex awaiting staining before installation before Easter (fingers crossed!).

Outreach reported Pi Day was a great success, with enough pie to share, but none left over.

Purposeful Service proposed that the Session "Authorize award of the Vashon Presbyterian Church Scholarship to a designated student in the amount of \$1,500." The motion was approved. This will be a scholarship awarded to a 2023 High School graduate through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. More about this and the Heindsmann Scholarship in pages 6 and 9 in this newsletter.

The next scheduled session meeting will be April 18 at 4:00 PM at VPC.

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

Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (IFCH) continues to provide meals five days a week at VPC, with the Wednesday meal dine-in. There has been an increase in the number of meals served. VPC volunteers provide the meal on the fourth Monday and Tuesday. Please use the sign-up sheet in the East Room or contact Brownie Carver, our IFCH representative.

Lent is the period when we support the national One Great Hour of Sharing collection. OGHS funds are relatively equally distributed among three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. PDA's focus is on emergency and refugee assistance, caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. The other programs are designed to address the root causes of hunger, poverty and injustice. We invite you to contribute generously to our only PCUSA-sponsored offering.

April 2 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. We saw a drop in donations over the winter, but the March collection was large and greatly appreciated. Please help us continue our long-standing support of our local Food Bank (which started at VPC)! Especially needed are canned tuna, peanut butter, any type of pasta, and chicken or vegetable broth. Personal hygiene products are also appreciated. In addition to supporting the Food Bank with these items, VPC makes a cash donation as a "Mission Partner." In April our donation will be \$1,000.

On April 1 we will collect plastic bags, Styrofoam, padded shipping bags and hard plastic items in VPC's parking lot from 10:00 to 11:00 am. The next day a Purposeful Service committee member will deliver them to the island-wide event. Please sort the items by those categories, and do not bring plastic items such as beverage bottles and food clamshells that are recyclable at the county transfer station.

Our scholarship programs are underway! Applications for the Heindsmann Scholarship, to be awarded to a student several years out of high school who is pursuing a college degree or trade school certification, are being accepted from April 3-April 27. Please let potential candidates know about this opportunity. We had no applicants last year and want someone to benefit from the Heindsmanns' generosity. Please see Beverly Skeffington's detailed article about the Heindsmann Scholarship on page 9 of this newsletter. This year we are also awarding a scholarship to a graduating Vashon high school senior as part of the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. This scholarship will be funded from the VPC budget and some designated collections. At its March meeting, Session recommended that a \$1,500 scholarship be awarded to an individual, who will be honored in May, planning a career in a mental health or counseling field.

The Vashon Care Network is sponsoring a time for family caregivers to share concerns, make connections and find inspiration. The group meets Thursday evenings in April from 6:30 to 7:30 at Vashon Lutheran Church.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Faith Formation

We will continue to read and discuss [A Just Passion](#) for Lent. We will study a new topic after Easter that is yet to be determined. Please check the weekly e-News for upcoming announcements.

If you would like to join the Faith Formation committee, please contact Al Ross-Weston. We are looking for new members and input on upcoming topics. Come join us!

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Deacons' Message

Each year we remember the miracle of the resurrection. As we absorb all that came to pass these past few years, we find ourselves working to regain a "rebirth" of our island community, our church and our place in the world. I find myself reevaluating where I fit in locally and globally. Do I shift where I spend my energy, time and resources? Has my prayer life been strengthened, or do I find myself drifting along day to day without as much purpose? As we revisit the resurrection, how does it give our lives meaning and direction?

We get to begin again with renewed gratitude, love and caring for one another. May you find new meaning and direction as we journey through the coming weeks and feel revived with the blessings and sacrifices of Jesus Christ.

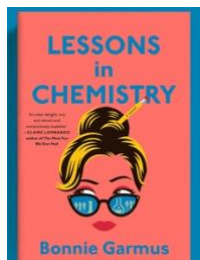
Happy Easter and renewal to you all,

Claudia Ross-Weston, Moderator

VPC Book Club

In April, our Book Club selection is [Lessons in Chemistry](#) by Bonnie Garmus. Lindsay Hofman will host the meeting, which will meet at her house on April 21 at 6:00. The dinner will be potluck.

"Meet Elizabeth Zott: a 'formidable, unapologetic and inspiring' (*PARADE*) scientist in 1960s California whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a beloved TV cooking show in this novel that is "irresistible, satisfying and full of fuel. It reminds you that change takes time and always requires heat" (*The New York Times Book Review*).



Outreach and Hospitality

There are several upcoming events sponsored by Outreach and Hospitality, each of which needs a bit of help from VPC volunteers. Take a peek at these and let us know which ones you can support. Signup sheets will be available in the East Room, or you can contact Lindsay Hofman or Nancy Tucker directly.

Easter Sunday, April 9 – Hot Cross Buns and Easter Egg Hunt, following worship: Bring your homemade (or bakery purchased) hot cross buns or other Easter goodies for after-worship coffee fellowship. For the Easter egg hunt, we'll set up the Bunny Chute to dispense treats, and we'll host an Easter egg hunt for kids of various ages. Looking for candy and treats that appeal to different age groups, plastic eggs, and people to stuff them. Contact Lindsay Hofman or Nancy Tucker.

Annual VPC Barbecue Lunch, Sunday, May 7: Still in the planning stages, but we anticipate a shindig like last year's, with burgers—real and impossible-- freshly grilled outdoors. More info forthcoming in future weekly E-News blasts.

Island-wide Cemetery Cleanup, Saturday, May 20: We are exploring the idea of sponsoring cleanup of Vashon Cemetery the weekend before Memorial Day. This will include the entire Vashon community.

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.

Lindsay Hofman
Outreach Elder
206-434-5439

Nancy Tucker
Hospitality Elder
818-259-1770



Heidsmann Family Endowment Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Vashon Presbyterian Church of Vashon, Washington, annually awards the Heidsmann Family Endowment Scholarship. The scholarship is funded by an endowment created by the late Ted and Virginia Heidsmann and is awarded to a deserving student, based on financial need, academic promise, and dependability, who has **completed two or more years** of higher education or is seeking special training or retraining.

The following rules govern the award of the Heidsmann Family Endowment Scholarship:

1. The Scholarship is not limited to applicants attending any one college, university, or technical school nor those pursuing a particular course of study.
2. The Scholarship will usually be offered to a student affiliated with Vashon Presbyterian Church, but this rule is not binding.
3. The Scholarship Committee will determine annually the number of Scholarships awarded and the amount of each award.
4. Consideration will be given only to
 - a. students currently enrolled in a school of higher education who have completed two years and are planning to return to school in the Fall or
 - b. an individual who has the desire to return to a college, university, or technical school after an absence.

The scholarship is not open to high school seniors!

5. The decision of naming the recipient of the Scholarship rests with the Scholarship Committee.
6. The Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the following items:
 - a. Financial need
 - b. Academic promise
 - c. Dependability
 - d. Intent of the student to continue an education at a college, university, or technical school.
7. **Completed application packets must be returned in person, via email, or USPS (PO Box 435) to the church by Monday, April 27, 2023.** Finalists will be scheduled to meet with the church's Scholarship Committee in May. The presentation of the award will be made during a Zoom Worship Service that will be announced in the future. Application forms are available at Vashon Presbyterian Church, 17708 Vashon Highway SW or upon request will be sent by email.

Beverly Skeffington

Island Support Opportunities

The Vashon Care Network: Caregivers Together: The Vashon Care Network is inviting caregivers to join other family caregivers in a safe, supportive space to share concerns, make connections, and find inspiration. This is a time to leave responsibilities behind and make time for oneself. Help is available if a loved one can't be left alone.

Dates: April 6, 13, 20, and 27, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Location: Vashon Lutheran Church
18623 Vashon Highway Southwest

Contacts: Kathy Shafel, 206.718.1468, kshafel@comcast.net
Tory Hayes, 206-304-4544 victoriansmith@comcast.net



If you are a caregiver, consider this opportunity. If you know a caregiver, spread the word!

A Home Share Program for Vashon: As part of a comprehensive effort to meet current demand while building for the future, Vashon HouseHold is launching a home sharing program, based on a similar and very successful program run by the Associated Ministries in Tacoma. Vashon HouseHold has teamed up with partner organizations in the Vashon Social Service Network to develop this creative housing model for Vashon.

For more information about providing space in your home or finding a space to live, contact Osha Christianson, who is coordinating the Home Share Program. She can be reached at (206) 463-6454 ext. 104 or Osha@VashonHousehold.org

April Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy April birthday to:

- 1 Al Ross-Weston
- 1 Paul Blake
- 2 John Neal
- 8 Jacq Skeffington
- 15 Dave Rogers
- 24 Mike Fisher



Building and Grounds

Our Second Saturday work party on March 11 was again well attended and productive. Kathy O'Laughlin and Sheryl Lehman continued to trim shrubbery in the parking area along the east side of the building. Beverly Skeffington cleaned trash and dug up invasive holly starts around the perimeter of the lot.

The kitchen is undergoing some needed upgrades. Steve Radic and I installed the new grease trap beneath the kitchen sink. Since the trap is slightly wider than the space beneath the sinks, the cabinet doors cannot be reinstalled there. Claudia Ross-Weston and I are working on fabricating and installing a decorative curtain to finish off the area. Diana Lilje and the Planning Committee have received some flooring samples and are working with contractors to get a bid on installation of new flooring.

Have you noticed how fresh and colorful the flowerbeds around the church are looking? Now ,this is no joke! Since the second Saturday of April will fall between Good Friday and Easter, **we're moving April's work party to April 1, from 9:00 AM – Noon.** the First Saturday of the month. We plan to pressure wash the sidewalk and steps while weeding around all the early blooming Spring flowers. The result will be a beautiful setting for the Easter events the Hospitality and Outreach committees have planned. As always, there will be work to do inside, also. I've noticed many of the folding chairs need a good cleaning!

Remember to mark your calendar for April Fool's Day and come to the work party. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and spend time with old friends. No foolin'!

Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator



Presbytery Report

Reverend Leigh Weber, Bob Spangler, and I attended the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery held via Zoom on February 21. The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Moderator Emeritus, Reverend Heidi Husted Armstrong, who then presided over several installations: Reverend Dr. J.P. Kang, Teaching Elder at Japanese Presbyterian Church, as Seattle Presbytery Moderator and Reverend Eyde Mabanglo, Teaching Elder at Calvary Presbyterian Church, as Seattle Presbytery Vice-Moderator. She read from Ephesians 4 and asked the installation questions. Reverend Scott Lumsden, Co-Executive Presbyter, welcomed the newly-installed moderators and offered the installation prayer.

Thanks of the presbytery were offered for the service of our outgoing Presbytery Moderator, Reverend Doug Early. Thanks were also extended to everyone who recognizes that service to the church goes beyond their own church.

Following a reading of the Presbytery's Land Acknowledgement and Commitment to One Another (which can be found on the Presbytery's website), the attendees broke out into small chatgroups for Holy Conversations.

Co-Executive Presbyter, Reverend Eliana Maxim, explained the evolution of covenant relationship with the Presbytery of the Coast in Barranquilla, Colombia and of Presbytery representatives' recent visit to San Basilio de Palenque, which is outside of Cartagena. San Basilio de Palenque is a self-governing group made up of descendants of runaway slaves. They have been there for centuries, have their own language, and consider themselves independent of all external political structures.

The question posed for discussion in breakout groups was, "Given the reality of our global world, how might learning activities like this one become a spiritual discipline and a more regular part of our spiritual formation as leaders?".

Reverend Dr. Tali Hariston closed the conversations with a question to the assembly: What if Pentecost is the place we keep being brought to? That is, a place of diverse languages and experiences coming together for one moment in time.

Reports were received from the Co-Executive Presbyters. Both discussed their involvement with the national level of the denomination. Reverend Maxim serves as Vice-Moderator of COGA (Committee on the Office of the General Assembly), which represents the national denomination and ensures that the general assembly happens every two years. Reverend Lumsden serves on the Commission working on the merger of PMA (Presbyterian Mission Agency) and OGA (Office of the General Assembly).

Reports were also received from the Stated Clerk, the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS) Administrative Commission, the Commission on Ministry (COM), and from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). I once again encourage all of you to visit the Presbytery website (www.seattlepresbytery.org) for detailed reports and to stay informed of all the good work going on in this presbytery, the General Assembly and the world. All are invited to attend all meetings although only Pastor Leigh and two commissioners appointed by our Session are allowed to vote.

The next Stated Meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, in person at 5:00 PM, at a location to be determined.

Jacq Skeffington

Calendar

April 2023

- 1 Styrofoam and More collection, VPC parking lot 10:00 – 11:30
- 2 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 3 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 6 Maundy Thursday service 6:00 PM VPC/Zoom Communion
- 7 Good Friday service 7:00 VPC/Zoom
- 8 Second Saturday VPC Work Party 9:00 – Noon
- 9 Easter Sunrise Service 6:45 AM Camp Burton
Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt and special coffee hour Immediately following Easter worship service
- 11 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 14 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 18 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 21 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 23 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 25 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 27 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 28 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 30 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion

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 |
| Last Thursdays | Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos |
| Fridays | Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)
Game Night 7:00 PM |