

# Vashon Presbyterian Church News and Concerns August 2023



Sermons and service 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.



### Key August Dates:

Ice Cream Social on the Lawn	August 4 6:00
Annual Yard Sale	August 5 9:00 – 3:00
Food Bank Sunday	August 6
Styrofoam and More Collection	August 12 10:00 – 11:30

*...And more! Details within the newsletter...*

A promotional banner for the church website. It features the church's logo, the slogan "Love One Another", and the text "VASHON Presbyterian Church". Below this, it says "There is no fear in love. Join us and experience the love of our congregation." and provides contact information: "Learn More Here: [vashonpreschurch.org](http://vashonpreschurch.org)", phone number "(206) 463-2010", email "office@vashonpreschurch.org", and address "17708 Vashon Highway SW, Vashon, WA 98070". The banner also includes a photograph of the church building and a heart icon.

### Vashon Presbyterian Church - Worship on Sundays at 10 am – All Are Welcome

Vashon Presbyterian Church is a collection of people on a journey to live out their call and values as people of...

### Our Website is Live! Check Us Out!

After months of research, drafting, editing, and rewriting, the VPC website is officially up and running. Everything about VPC that you need to know, want to know, didn't know but glad to know...it's all there!

Take a few minutes to navigate around this professionally-designed and maintained website, and encourage your friends to do the same!

## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

Outside of my office window is a large butterfly bush filled with big purple blossoms. It's been filled with bumblebees darting from flower to flower lately. While drinking the nectar for nourishment, they gather pollen on their limbs and take it to the next flower.

Because plants are rooted in one place, they rely on pollinators to move the pollen. These little pollen gatherers are essential to flowers and budding trees, all sorts of fruits and vegetables. It's a reminder that creation has an intentional design, encouraging life.

As I watch the bumblebees drinking from the bush, I wonder how I scatter life around. Do I allow goodness to stick to me in such a way that I leave it wherever I go? For human beings this takes a bit more intentional work. In Philippians 4, Paul writes about the kinds of things with which we should fill our minds.

He talks about things that are good, trustworthy, lovely, excellent, and praiseworthy. Feed your brain with these things, he encourages us.

It makes me wonder if that's not the key to pollinating the world with goodness and kindness. It's far too easy to fall into scrolling on our smart phone through news feeds that are rarely too encouraging, or mindlessly sitting in front of the television. To encourage growth in the world around us we must be conscious of what we carry with us, what "sticks" to us. And like bees we must stick our heads into that which feeds the spirit and nourishes the whole being.

What gives you life? What feeds your spirit? What nourishes you with abundance? Spending some time with those questions, I suspect, might be an important part of this work of the kingdom of God right here on Earth. My prayer is that we are all healthy, good pollinators in this world.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meetings are available upon request. Highlights from July's meeting include:

- Pastor Leigh will take vacation July 31 -August 4.
- Strawberry Festival activities provided very positive outreach and feedback.
- First Friday activities in August will include homemade Ice cream instead of a fire pit.
- The new patio has been installed in the courtyard.
- The basement classrooms are being prepared for preschool use in September.
- An invitation to join in worship and a picnic in September has been extended to Mary's Place.
- A second hybrid King County Council Candidates' forum will be held at VPC September 21 .

*Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session*

## Planning Committee Update

In recent months, you might have observed a gradual positive change in our building's appearance. Earlier this year, the VPC Planning Committee (Diana Lilje, Jacq Skeffington, Liz Loveness, Claudia Ross-Weston, Barb Huff, Nancy Tucker) identified several needed repairs or upgrades to our property. They prioritized these suggestions in deciding how to proceed.

You have probably noticed our first items: the old, dented Sanctuary doors have been replaced with doors that let the light shine through. The kitchen floor (whose tiles were lifting) and the hallway floor have been replaced with new luxury vinyl planks. The two bathrooms in the newer section of the church have had their vinyl tile squares replaced with sheet vinyl. The East Room now has electrical outlets, and two additional microphones have been purchased for use in the Sanctuary. Outdoors, a concrete patio has been laid, giving us a useable outdoor courtyard. And as this article is being typed, the bathrooms are getting a new coat of paint.

More building upgrades are planned and expected to be completed by yearend: These include:

- Electrical outlets in the Social and Great Halls, as well as the church exterior
- Installation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the East Room
- A drinking fountain/water bottle refill station to be installed in the Great Hall
- A permanent cabinet to house the Sanctuary audio-visual equipment
- Purchase of a marker for Kate Smith's gravesite

Thanks to your generosity, combined with that of past members and specific bequests, we are making these deferred and much-needed improvements to our building and property.

*Diana Lilje, Planning Committee Chair*

***Unveiling of our new courtyard patio during coffee fellowship hour July 23***



## **Building and Grounds**

It's been a very busy month for maintenance and repairs around the church, and there are still many opportunities to help. New flooring has been installed in the kitchen, hallways, and bathrooms. We removed the baseboard trim to facilitate the installation, and we will have to replace it.

Robin Lewis is scheduled to clean the sanctuary carpet on August 8 and the Social Hall, Great Hall, and East Room carpets on August 14. For him to do that, the pews will need to be moved into the East Room and Narthex after worship August 6. Then the pews will need to be moved back into the sanctuary by Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> so that the East Room and Social Hall carpets can be cleaned August 14. We'll need only a few volunteers for those moves and we have dollies and a hand truck to make the job much easier.

In between moving the pews, we're planning to paint the Social Hall and Great Hall August 8 -11!

If you prefer gardening, Lee Van Valkenburg completed construction of the courtyard patio on July 21. Nancy van Roessel, Kathy O'Laughlin, and Claudia Ross-Weston have diligently thinned, transplanted, and mulched the flowerbeds surrounding the sanctuary and extended the bed alongside the patio. They will certainly appreciate helping hands even if only to water plants in this heat.

*In other news:*

While preparing preschool classrooms in the basement, we discovered badly deteriorated concrete walls which had been covered up with cardboard bulletin board panels. These panels have been removed and the concrete is being wire-brushed, patched, and refinished.

Jim Hyde has now rerouted the wiring for the camera in the back of the Sanctuary, installed additional outlets in the East Room, Social Hall, and Youth Room, and is installing locking exterior outlets in the front yard and courtyard.

If you have any desire to help or any suggestions for continuing improvements, please let me know.

*Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator*

## **Meandering Thoughts from a Deacon**

Remember to bring in any books you would like to contribute to our new Lending Library. Please let me know when you drop off books so I can sort them and put them on the library shelves. We have put out some books from the Book Club list, and there are more books available on the shelves to the right.

Leigh's sermon series on Sabbath has caused me to reflect on how as a caring community we can provide Sabbath for one another. Are there ways we can provide the gift of rest and delight in supporting our church family with the feeling of loving arms wrapped around each of us? We often are instruments of Sabbath for each other. First, I want to acknowledge that this already happens frequently in our community. We are a generous lot! Secondly, as we continue to lend support, share stories, learn about individual spiritual journeys, and write notes, we are filling each other with love and grace. Each of you is an instrument of God's love and grace and I am very grateful to all of you for that. May we continue to fill each other's cup and remember how important we all are to each other.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator*

## Worship

We held a brief worship meeting in July. There was consensus that our worship services have been inspiring and informative. They receive very positive feedback on our congregational survey. A majority of the congregation also approves of names being spoken during prayer, coupled with the prayer cards for more articulation of the prayer requests.

Incorporating new musicians and music into the service also gets wide approval. Thanks to Marsha Morse and Beverly Skeffington for the time they spend encouraging and helping talented musicians from our church family to integrate into our service. The VPC congregation also likes to host other churches and groups from the community. We enjoyed having Vashon Island Community Church visit during Strawberry Festival. We are looking forward to planning an ecumenical wilderness service with the Vashon Lutheran church and to hosting the group from Mary's Place in Seattle this coming September. In the spirit of "love your neighbor," we aim to continuously widen our awareness and improve our openness to all.

A goal our committee had concerns the worship and youth areas for which I am responsible. We want to plan and participate in one outdoor (wilderness) worship experience this summer. Ideas include sites right here on Vashon. The Camp Burton site we use for Easter sunrise service is one possibility. A stopping place along the Center Forest Trail is another. The service might be as simple as music, possibly meditation, or sharing, or just a time of soaking up the wonders of God's creation. I have hesitated because it's been a busy summer. But I will call a meeting **August 7, at 7:00 PM**. I invite those committee members who would enjoy creating a service of this kind. It is intended to supplement, not replace, the Sunday morning services, which will continue as usual. The "wilderness" service can be scheduled any time of the week. Hopefully we will include some of our youth in this worship adventure! We have only a month, possibly two, left of Pacific Northwest good weather. So let's try for the end of August as our target date for this wilderness service.

Once a month we are going to create a "Stone Bouquet" for the altar. It is based on the idea of the stone soup fable. Everyone will be invited to bring a flower or two from their yards. This bouquet will be assembled Sunday morning before the service by our own very talented flower arranger, Héré Thieme. We debuted our Stone Bouquet on July 23. It was truly gorgeous!

Don't forget to check out our new website! All of Pastor Leigh's sermons can be found there, as well as all the events and news at VPC.

*Liz Loveness, Worship Elder*



## Faith Formation

There will be a Faith Formation meeting on Zoom on Tuesday August 8, at 7:00 PM. In this call, we will discuss ideas for classes in the Fall. If you are interested, please join us, or call me at 206-369-1530.

*Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder*

## Purposeful Service Team

### Areas of Responsibility

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

August 6 is Food Bank Sunday. Bring your items to the worship service or to the church office. Canned tuna, peanut butter, any type of pasta, and chicken or vegetable broth are always appreciated. In addition to food items, people may bring personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. There is also a need for pet food. For donations of bulk pet food, VIPP volunteers will break down and repackage for individual distribution.

The Strawberry Festival seats, and parking program was successful. We were able to supply seating for 120 people, 97 of whom had made seat reservations in advance. The remaining 23 non-reserved chairs were filled by walkups, including five wheelchair slots. We also received 41 parking reservations. Donations amounted to \$1,003. A great group of helpers made this event possible, and comments from the community were very favorable.

With the approval of Session, we have invited the staff of Mary's Place to bring a group to Vashon on September 3 for a joint worship service, followed by an outdoor (weather permitting) lunch on the new VPC patio. We do not yet have confirmation of the date, and will place more information in the e-news.

The bi-monthly collection of plastics and Styrofoam at VPC will be **August 12** from 10:00 - 11:30 AM, not the usual first weekend of the month. Hard plastics and soiled plastic bags are no longer accepted, and we will be required to sort accepted items into six categories:

- Clean white Styrofoam
- Colored Styrofoam
- Styrofoam packing peanuts sealed in a bag
- Polyethylene foam
- Plastic film, such as bubble wrap, grocery bags, mailing envelopes and zip-lock bags
- Multi-layer plastic such as chip bags, food bags, clean soil and bark bags and produce netting

A poster displaying pictures of the accepted items is on the church bulletin board.

*Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder*

### VPC Book Club

Book Club this month is at Barb Huff's on August 18 at 6:00. The meeting is a potluck dinner, and all are welcome.

We are reading Horse by Geraldine Brooks. From Amazon's review, "Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism." "A thrilling story about humanity in all its ugliness and beauty . . . the evocative voices create a story so powerful, reading it feels like watching a neck-and-neck horse race, galloping to its conclusion—you just can't look away."—*Oprah Daily*

In September we are reading Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan.

For more information, contact Al or Claudia Ross-Weston. [rosswest88@gmail.com](mailto:rosswest88@gmail.com)

## Outreach

### First Friday on the Lawn

Hot weather made cooking S'mores less than desirable on July's first Friday. Very few people were interested in our offering or tempted by our campfire. So we've decided to host an ice cream social Friday, August 4. Using electric ice cream makers, we'll create our ice cream on the front lawn, and will distribute them in cups. Join us in this summertime fun and cool off!

### A Different Kind of Yard Sale

August 5 9:00 – 3:00

Our annual church yard sale will start on the front lawn. In a departure from the past, this year nothing will be priced. Smaller items will be sorted by category (kitchen, other household items, books, games and toys, tools and gardening items, collectibles and holiday items) on tables labelled, "Take what you want, donate from your heart." Larger and more valuable items will be part of a silent auction, which closes at 2:00 PM. *If you are bringing such an item. please note the minimum price for the auction.*

**Classroom A is still open to receive your smaller new or gently used items.** *If you are donating larger items, please deliver them to the front lawn on Saturday morning, August 5.*

*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 some time Tuesday – Friday between 10:00 – 1:00, join the group who are sorting in the VPC Social Hall. There's work and fun for everyone!

Questions? **Text** Lindsay Hofman 206 434-5439 .(text preferred)

*Lindsay Hofman, Outreach Elder*

## August Birthdays

Join us in wishing a happy August birthday to:

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



## Hospitality

### Summer Gatherings are in Full Swing

#### July

To celebrate Independence Day in style, Barbara Zue cohosted a fireworks watch party with Laura Jean and Mike Fisher. The weather was perfect, and those attending were treated to a front row seat of the locally sponsored fireworks.

Claudia and Al Ross-Weston also hosted a summer supper at their home on July 8. This was a fun event filled with the comfort of being around friends, both new and old.



#### August and Upcoming

Liz Loveness is hosting a small get-together on August 3, and is considering a larger, travel-themed event in September.

The Ross-Westons are hosting a summer supper on August 13 at 5:30. They will provide the entrée and dessert. If you are interested in attending, please contact Claudia at 206-369-9750.

During the latter part of the month, Lindsay Hofman and the Commerees are planning to co-host a luncheon. Details to follow.

#### After-Worship Coffee Hour

If you're interested in hosting coffee fellowship following worship, a signup sheet is on the table in the East Room. Remember, you don't have to handle everything to host a coffee hour. Let me know what you're comfortable contributing, and I'll arrange the rest.

*Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder*



## Calendar

### August 2023

- 4 First Friday – Ice Cream Social on the Lawn 6:00 PM  
Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 5 VPC Yard Sale 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- 6 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
- 7 Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom
- 8 Faith Formation Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 11 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 12 Styrofoam and More Collection 10:00 – 11:30 VPC parking lot
- 13 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM with VICC
- 15 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC  
Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
- 18 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Barb Huff's home
- 20 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 24 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 25 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 27 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

### Ongoing Activities

<b>Mondays</b>	Sermon After Talk Noon – 1:00
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM Text Study Noon
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Body Prayer 8:00 AM
<b>First Thursdays</b>	Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
<b>Last Thursdays</b>	Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
<b>Fridays</b>	<i>Anything Goes!</i> Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details) Game Night 7:00 PM

### Church Leadership

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