

Vashon Presbyterian Church News and Concerns September 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.



In this issue, check out:

- Leigh's tribute to Deacons
- Mary's Place luncheon
- Understanding Dementia and Alzheimer's Presentation
- Outside worship musings
- A touch of humor: Kids explain marriage

September Days by Helen L. Smith

O month of fairer, rarer days
Than Summer's best have been;
When skies at noon are burnished blue,
And winds at evening keen;
When tangled, tardy-blooming things
From wild waste places peer,
And drooping golden grain-heads tell
That harvest-time is near.

Though Autumn tints amid the green
Are gleaming, here and there,
And spicy Autumn odors float
Like incense on the air,
And sounds we mark as Autumn's own
Her nearing steps betray,
In gracious mood she seems to stand
And bid the Summer stay.

Though 'neath the trees, with fallen leaves
The sward be lightly strown,
And nests deserted tell the tale
Of summer bird-folk flown;
Though white with frost the lowlands lie
When lifts the morning haze,
Still there's a charm in every hour
Of sweet September days.

A Message from Pastor Leigh



I recently had a conversation with the Headmaster for Harbor School/Carpe Diem. Teri is a lovely woman, and we find it easy to talk with one another.

One thing in our conversation that we both echoed each other in saying is that we all love kids. We want kids to feel safe at school, to know they are loved, and to have a wonderful school year.

Less than a day later, I spoke with one of the volunteers preparing food for the IFCH meal. Again, we echoed each other's thoughts. We love our diners and want them to feel safe, to be fed, to know they matter, that they are loved.

One thing that you and I share with all building users is that we all want human beings to know how they matter, to flourish in doing good in the world and to claim their sacred worth. And I think that's something we need to recognize as a binding tie.

Over the summer, we have talked at different times about doing love in the world. Our church sign reflected that conversation when we put "Love is a verb" on it. Love IS a verb, and we are called to do love. Jesus DID love.

You will find on the bulletin board in the East Room a new shared space opportunity during September. It simply says in hearts: "Doing Love." There are instructions for what to do. If you see someone doing love, tell about it.

Write it down on one of the hearts and pin it to the board. After I set it up this week, IFCH diners got right to work, naming where they see love being done. It's a space that I hope all the people who come into VPC for any event or group will notice and share in.

You and I are called, as Christians, to be like Jesus. We are called to do love. And we are called to name love when we see it. Together, with all those who find a home at VPC, let's tell about love!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

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

- Pastor Leigh and Diana Lilje are formulating youth activities for September.
- Finances are in good shape. Session will begin work on the 2024 budget at their next meeting.
- The Planning Committee has been actively working their way through repairs and improvements.
- An AED defibrillator has been mounted in the East Room.
- Carpe Diem will return after Labor Day.
- The basement classrooms have been renewed with a lot of work by teachers and friends of Vashon Explorers' Preschool.
- A second hybrid Candidates' forum will be held by the Chamber of Commerce and Community Council at VPC September 21 st .

Jacq Skeffington, Clerk of Session

Purposeful Service Team

Areas of Responsibility

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

September 3 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. Also needed are donations of cooking oil and condiments such as ketchup, salsa, A-1 or other "steak" sauce, mustards, etc., and 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, volunteers from VIPP will break down and repackage for individual distribution.

A group of women from Mary's Place will be visiting VPC on Sunday, September 17 for the worship service and a luncheon afterward. There will be many opportunities for helping; Purposeful Service is seeking volunteers to meet the group at the Vashon ferry dock and bring individuals to the church. Also needed are drivers to return the women to the dock after lunch. Please contact Bob Spangler (rwsfang@centurytel.net) if you can drive either way (or better yet, both ways).

There will be no further collections of Styrofoam and plastics at VPC, because the local group organizing the island-wide event has discontinued the program. A full explanation of the reasons for the decision, and alternative ways of keeping these products out of the landfill, was published in the August 24 Beachcomber. That decision does not affect the recycling program at the Vashon transfer station, which hopefully will expand its collection categories to include Styrofoam and some plastics not currently accepted.

Bob Spangler, Purposeful Service Elder

Building and Grounds

It's been another 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. The baseboard trim will still have to be replaced.

Robin Lewis cleaned the Sanctuary, Social Hall, Great Hall, and East Room carpets. Many thanks to those who moved pews into the Social Hall and Great Hall after worship August 6 and then back into the Sanctuary so that the East Room and Social Hall carpets could be cleaned on August 14.

Many thanks also to all who helped a little and a lot painting the Social Hall, Great Hall, Back Hall and bathrooms in between and after the carpet cleanings. I've heard nothing but positive feedback about the brightening up of the church.

Additional electrical outlets have been installed in the Social Hall, Great Hall, and East Room. We have also installed electrical outlets outside to make our front lawn more serviceable in hosting outdoor events.

The windows will be cleaned inside and out by First Glass Window Cleaners before classes start.

The preschool classrooms in the basement have been totally repainted. Concrete walls have been wire-brushed, patched, and refinished. The bathrooms and art room floors have been sealed with epoxy coating, and laminated planking has been installed on the hallway and classrooms floors.

Teachers in Carpe Diem Primary School, Vashon Maury Cooperative Preschool, and the Vashon Explorers' Preschool will welcome their students in the Social Hall, nursery, and basement respectively shortly after Labor Day.

Nancy van Roessel, Kathy O'Laughlin, and Claudia Ross-Weston have diligently thinned, transplanted, weeded, and mulched the flowerbeds surrounding the Sanctuary and into the courtyard. They will certainly appreciate helping hands even if only to water plants in this heat.

Jacq Skeffington, Building Use Coordinator

Our freshly-painted Social Hall is ready to welcome Carpe Diem students and teachers.



Love Those Deacons!

I love Deacons! I love the work they do so much that I asked them to let me write their newsletter article this month. I asked for this privilege so that I could tell you why they are invaluable to me as a pastor.

Deacons are the loving arms of any healthy Presbyterian Church. They are called to their work because the Spirit has gifted them with compassion and care in unique ways. As such, they pay attention to the little things as well as the big things in a congregation. Cards, meals, phone calls are part of an overall expression of their care. Deacons see us, they see us when we're hurt or tired or grieving and they let us know we aren't alone. They support me by being there when I can't. They check in on me when they get concerned that I'm carrying too much. It makes a huge difference.

Years ago, when I did my own pastoral internship at St. Andrew Presbyterian in Renton, I was "seen" by their Deacons. Years later, they still remember my birthday, sending me a card to express what they know about Vashon, the work they see us doing and how they still "see" me. I value that greatly because it also reminds me that how we move through the world is not an invisible thing.

I hope you know that no matter what is going on in your life, your Deacons join me in seeing you and wanting to walk alongside you in whatever ways are helpful. I am encouraged by these called ones and find their gifts of compassion and caring as something that fills my heart.

We are a lucky congregation to have them.

Leigh Weber, Pastor

All-Island Free Presentation: Understanding Dementia and Alzheimer's

Where did I put the keys? What is that person's first name? Most of us experience occasional moments of memory loss. But when should we be concerned about a decline in memory or thinking skills?

The Vashon Care Network is hosting the Christine Jovanovich Memorial Seminar on Sunday, September 17, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm at Saint John Vianney Roman Catholic Church, 16100 115th Avenue SW, Vashon Island. The guest speaker is Robin VanHying, MSN, RN, CEO, Cornerstone Healthcare Training Company, LLC. Topic: "Speaking of Your Mind" . . . Understand the Many Manifestations of Dementia and Alzheimer's.

Whether you're a caregiver, a health professional, a spouse, friend or family member, this interactive session will provide insights, information and resources to help understand early signs of dementia and tips on staying healthy and active as you age. Session is free and all are welcome. For more information: www.vashoncarenetwork.org

Worship

Considering Outdoor Church

I've been wanting to look into a viable way we could support ongoing worship outside the sanctuary walls, at a different time and day of the week, with different protocols and vocabulary, to extend our ministry to 1) those determined to avoid Sunday morning service "at all costs," or perhaps 2) someone who does attend on Sunday but enjoys being in nature and who feels blessed by God's abundance.

We've been calling it outside church, wild church or wilderness worship just to see who might really be interested in meeting to define what that means for our congregation or extended church family.

Some preliminary questions I have follow:

The sanctuary is a "sanctified" space that has been preapproved for worship. Can we assume that any spot in nature is somehow automatically sanctified because we plan to worship there? "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20. That should meet the requirement.

What if you are alone ? (which many of nature seekers value). What is worship? Is it enough to be full of praise for the beauty of nature and have a joyful heart when surrounded by natural beauty? Do you specifically have to name and praise God from whom all blessings flow?

When you dip into the research about wilderness experiences in the Bible it was a place where the Jewish nation was tested. The wilderness in the New Testament is where Jesus was tested and tempted by the devil. It is described often as barren and dry not the inspiring "out of doors" we seek today.

Can we consider jargon commonly used among nature seekers as interchangeable with Christian praise and worship? Consider meditation, being one with nature, spiritual experience, creation, and peace that comes from being close to nature. Try to cross-reference these terms to traditional worship - the Apostle's Creed, the Doxology, or the peace of Christ who died for our sins?

My initial thought is that we should stay with a group format. The idea with the most potential is a once a month, island-wide, ecumenical worship in a beautiful setting. Parts of Camp Burton or Camp Sealth or places along the Center Forest Trail could be considered. There could be a time for leader-led meditation. It should include music that suits those attending. Weather is a major factor. These services would be scheduled in the late spring to early fall. Accessibility is another consideration.

I have informally talked to John and Nancy Williams, Al Ross Weston, Jacq Skeffington, Pastor Leigh, Aglaia Olsen and Thomas Abraham but I've not actually even held a meeting. So if I've piqued your interest, contact me. I have included several links below to articles about already established programs that gave me ideas.

We will have a meeting soon and to adequately prepare, we'll be planning for 2024.

<https://www.wildernessfellowship.com/mission/>

<https://outdoorleaders.com/tag/vision-outdoor-inductive-bible-studies/>

<https://outdoorleaders.com/category/adventure-theology/>

Liz Loveness, Worship Elder

Hospitality

Hospitality Committee Meeting

On Wednesday, September 6 at 10:00 AM, the Hospitality Committee is meeting via Zoom to discuss/gather ideas for the remaining events of the year.

Who can join the Hospitality Committee? Everyone is invited! All that is needed is the interest in promoting Christ's teachings through Christian fellowship. I hope to see you on Zoom for our meeting!

Mary's Place Luncheon September 17

On Sunday, September 17, immediately following worship, VPC is hosting a luncheon for the women of Mary's Place. We expect about 25 attendees. The entrée will be provided by Hospitality. Volunteers are needed for side dishes and dessert and for cleanup. If you can help, please contact me at 818-259-1770.

Summer Gatherings

This summer has been a very social one for the VPC community, with lots of fellowship opportunities.

Liz Loveness hosted a small get-together on August 3, Al and Claudia Ross-Weston held a summer supper on August 13, and on August 24 Lindsay Hofman and Larry and Susan Commeree hosted a cioppino dinner with homemade ice cream at Lindsay's home.

Summer is not yet over, and there is still time to host a small gathering before the weather turns. If you are interested, please contact me and I'll help you coordinate.

Sunday 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.

Upcoming Events – Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 11, when we'll hold our annual Harvest Dinner. Details to follow as the date draws nearer.

Hospitality and Outreach partner each year to support the island's Halloween and Winter Fest celebrations. This year Halloween falls on a Tuesday, so there are no weekend conflicts. Winter Fest and our VPC tree lighting will be held on Saturday, December 2.

Tuesdays at Sporty's

Join us each Tuesday at 9:00 AM for coffee and breakfast at Sporty's. Everyone is invited!

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

Faith Formation

Faith formation classes will resume on Zoom beginning on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 PM. We are launching a 9 -week study of the book The Good Ancestor by Roman Krznaric. We will read and discuss individual chapters, so you don't need to attend each class to benefit from the teachings of this book. Come as you can! Books will be available from the office in the near future.

Al Ross-Weston, Faith Formation Elder

Outreach

First Friday was reinvented for the summer. Led by Pastor Leigh and Barb Huff, an enthusiastic group assembled ice cream makers and served homemade ice cream to over 50 people. Children enjoyed the bubbles from Mike Fisher's bubble machine. All participants said it was a lot of fun. Based on suggestions received, when we make ice cream, we will prepare it ahead of time so it will be firm. We'll also demonstrate ice cream making at the event, using the freshly-made ice cream for milkshakes.

The Yard Sale was a great success. For the first time, we did not price any item but asked only for heart-felt donations. The notice about the Yard Sale appeared in the Beachcomber twice, on July 27 and August 3 under Happenings. The donation system worked very well and saved a lot of work. We also took in more than \$2,500 in donations—more than in previous auctions.

This month we will offer cookies and try our hands (and hips!) with glow-in-the-dark hula hoops. We'll also help with the Sunday September 17 service and lunch with Mary's Place.

An Outreach Committee (Barb Huff, Laura Jean and Mike Fisher, Jacq Skeffington, and Lindsay Hofman) meets on Zoom as needed to plan first Fridays and other Outreach activities. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome. We are looking for ideas for the first Friday in October as it may still not be appropriate to have a fire and too cool for ice cream.

Lindsay Hofman, Outreach Elder

September Birthdays

Please wish a happy September birthday to:

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



Kids' Views on Marriage

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. (Alan, 10)

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. (Kristen, 10)

What is the best age to get married?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person forever by then. (Camille, 10)

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. (Derrick, 8)

What do you think your mom and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. (Lori, 8)

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. (Lynnette, 8)

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. (Martin, 10)

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. (Pam, 7)

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. (Curt, 7)

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. (Howard, 8)

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. (Anita, 9)

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? (Kelvin, 8)

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. (Ricky, 10)

Calendar

September 2023

- 1 First Friday – Ice Cream Social on the Lawn 6:00 PM
Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 3 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
- 6 Hospitality Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Zoom
- 8 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 12 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 15 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Lindsay Hofman’s home
- 17 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Mary’s Place luncheon immediately following worship
- 19 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
Faith Formation 7:00 Zoom
- 22 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 24 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 26 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom
- 28 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 29 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom

Ongoing Activities

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Mondays | Sermon After Talk Noon – 1:00 |
| 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 | <i>Anything Goes!</i> Grief Group 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details) Game Night 7:00 PM |

Church Leadership

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|-------------------------|---|
| 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 |