



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

June 2024

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.



VPC Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday

If you are wondering about the life jacket, you can solve that mystery by listening to Leigh's Pentecost sermon, which is available on our website (listed above).

Some "National" June Dates Not on the Church Calendar

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 National Say Something Nice Day | 16 Father's Day |
| 2 National Cancer Survivor's Day | 17 National Root Beer Day |
| 6 D Day | 18 National Go Fishing Day |
| 7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day | 19 Juneteenth |
| 8 National Upsy Daisy Day | 20 First Day of Summer |
| 14 Flag Day | 27 National PTSD Awareness Day |

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

I suspect that humankind has always needed the skill of bridge building. Physically they help us cross bodies of water and deep valleys. I remember when each of my kids was in high school, they had to take a turn building a suspension bridge out of toothpicks. Never had I realized just what engineering it took to build one.

On May 23, a few of us gathered to learn how to tell our own stories of bridge building. Many of these stories were about two groups of people who focused more on what they didn't have in common than what they did. That's how chasms form in any relationship. When we look at what divides us as opposed to what brings us to one another, we feed the chasm.

This is an image Jesus knew all too well. "Don't eat with THEM." "Don't touch him." In each case where Jesus crossed a boundary line in his culture there were others there to point out not what the other had in common with Jesus but what separated them.

I wonder if part of our call as people of faith is also to be people who focus on the common bond instead of the differences. How might that simple change in our lifestyle reflect the Kingdom of God on Earth? I wonder sometimes if we overthink our faith if we miss what's right in front of us. God created all human beings in God's own image. Scripture tells us that. So, when you and I interact with other people, we are interacting with those who share in God's own image, just like us.

One of my favorite places to visit is the Peace Arch Park at the border north of Blaine. There is that beautiful park, often filled with picnicking U. S. citizens and Canadians alike, sharing a border that honors commonality and peace. In that space, it feels to me that our citizenship is less important than our shared humanity.

How might you be called to be a bridge builder? How might our congregation be similarly called? And what might the world look like if that call took off and started to spread? I imagine that's part of what Jesus wanted people around him to see. I imagine that's what he wants us to see as well. Let's both create and look for it together, in his name.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



A Tribute to John Williams



John Mark Williams

October 12, 1961 – May 13, 2024

John was born in Minneapolis to Cliff and Mildred Williams. He grew up as the youngest of three children in a close-knit family. Challenges were not unfamiliar to the Williams family. His parents were both disabled due to illnesses suffered during childhood, and they referred to their healthy children as “miracles.” Facing the hardships presented by growing up in this background creates character, and John had character, indeed.

Immediately after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1983 with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, John moved to Seattle where he became a Boeing engineer. Thirty-five years later he retired, having worked in multiple departments and positions with many interesting people. His favorite job had him travelling all over the globe, helping airlines maintain aircraft engines.

John met his wife, Nancy Lewis, through the Seattle Mountaineers in 1991. Their shared love of travel, outside adventuring, and projects led to a loving lifelong partnership. Their only child, Natalia, was born in 1996 and immediately became part of the adventure. The three of them travelled, backpacked, skied, sailed, and canoed whenever John’s vacation leave from Boeing would allow. John never allowed vacation time to roll over, always living life to the fullest!

Though John was first diagnosed with cancer at age 32, his strength, courage, and determination meant he never gave up through the years and the three rounds of cancer. He dealt with it each time, then moved on and continued living a full and challenging life until the fourth and final round of cancer this year.

He and Nancy and Natalia moved to Vashon Island in 2003 after being “stuck” in Dockton on their sailboat multiple times and falling in love with the island and the people they met whilst waiting for the weather to improve!

John’s passion for woodworking became fully engaged and resulted in a beautiful and unique home (and gardens) they loved to share with friends and family. The move to Vashon led to years of active community engagement including the Free Range Folk Choir, Vashon Presbyterian Church, Quartermaster Yacht Club, and Scout Troop 294, among others. John loved living on Vashon and attended as many Strawberry Festivals and musical events as possible!

John leaves a legacy of love and wisdom, and the many projects he constructed (including furniture, built in home improvement projects and many sheds). He is survived by his wife Nancy, daughter Natalia, sister Barbara Williams, brother Clifford Williams (Kara) and nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on July 13 at 2:00 at Vashon Presbyterian Church.

Clerk's Corner

Session held its bi-monthly visioning meeting on May 21 at the Spangler. We walked the labyrinth in their yard, meditating on the question, "If someone who is not associated with any church on Vashon Island were to hear about our church, what is the first thing you hope they hear about us?"

Here are some of the feelings and experiences we wish for VPC visitors:

- ◆ Unconditional acceptance
- ◆ Welcoming
- ◆ Drawn by the Spirit
- ◆ Service to the community
- ◆ Wonderful message
- ◆ Meals for the homeless
- ◆ We are a safe place
- ◆ A fun environment
- ◆ We are a light on Vashon



These aspirations are intended to guide future discussions and shape immediate and long-term church decisions.

Session approved the motion to distribute the Heindsmann Scholarship money to two people this year: Natalie VanDevanter and Rain Freman-Sheehan.

The next regular session meeting is scheduled for June 18 at at 4:00 PM at VPC.

The next visioning meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 4 PM Ross-Weston home.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session

Worship

The worship committee met on May 7. We talked about having a special summer service, an outdoor service and a service at a different location.

Bruce Baker will preach on June 30 while Leigh is at General Assembly.

There will be a combined service with other churches on Festival Sunday at our church on July 16.

We decided to try having the announcements before the final hymns to promote a smoother flow at the end of our Sunday services.

We are planning to hold a one-day all church retreat in September. Location and date to be announced.

A huge thank you everyone who brings flowers for the church services.

Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder

Deacon's Message

Wednesday Wanderings

We have organized weekly walks, starting at the church each Wednesday at 3:00. Wednesday Wanderers so far have included Kathy O'Laughlin, Laura Jean Fisher, Odie Hendershot and John Datin, Lindsay Hofman, and Claudia Ross-Weston. We encourage you to join us on our strolls and participate in some great conversations. Just show up and we'll see where the Spirit leads us!

Notes

Kathy Olsen has volunteered to write notes for the Deacons and our church family. Please let Claudia, Brownie, Chris or Kathy know if you think of someone who could use a boost. We can also write each other notes anytime! Many thanks to you, Kathy!

Spreading Tenderness

Tenderness: That has been my word this month. Tenderness is defined as gentleness and kindness. Treat each other and ourselves with tenderness. We all need a bit of tenderness as we each travel along our journey of life. Please remember to spread gentleness and kindness throughout the month of June. We can all use some.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator

A Night of Story Telling



About a dozen people joined Laretta Hyde on May 23 in the VPC Social Hall to share personal reflections on bridge building in relationships.

With plenty of delicately spiced artisan tea at hand and several varieties of homemade cookies from Claudia Ross-Weston, the setting was relaxed and congenial. Laretta, our own professional storyteller, kicked off the meeting with a humorous yet poignant story about building bridges. Participants at each table were then given some guidelines encouraged to share their own stories with those around their table. The evening concluded with a discussion centered around active, positive listening traits.

Many thanks to Laretta Hyde for putting together this fun and instructive event.

Community Service Areas of Responsibility

Scholarships, Outreach to the Public, IFCH, Mission Partner Relations

June 2 is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring items to the Sunday service, take them directly to the Food Bank, or deliver them to the VPC office and we will follow up. There is a continuing need for staples such as spaghetti and other pastas, canned tuna fish, peanut butter and broth. Personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste are always appreciated. Given that the Food Bank is currently raising funds for a new building, it is especially important that the community generously provide food items.

Session approved the award of two scholarships from the Heindsmann Family Endowment. Rain Freeman-Sheehan is a student at Tacoma Community College studying for an Associate Degree in Nursing. She plans to continue her studies to be a Registered Nurse, working on Vashon. Natalie VanDevanter is a University of Washington graduate who has been accepted into the Master of Occupational Therapy program at UW. Both Rain and Natalie grew up on Vashon and both have high grades and positive recommendations from educators and employers. We will award the scholarships at a worship service in June.

The Vashon Senior Center and Vashon Care Network are planning to launch an adult social respite program, providing social engagement and supervised care for islanders with dementia, chronic illness, or mental decline. The program would offer much-needed support and community as well as respite time for caregivers. The goal is to begin this program in late 2024 or early 2025 pending grant funding. Input from islanders, especially those involved in caregiving at some level, will help design a program that best fits Vashon needs. You are invited to participate in a brief 10-minute survey. Responses will be kept confidential. Either stop by the Senior Center or visit vashoncenter.org to complete the survey.

Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder

VPC Book Club

We will discuss the book Table for Two by Amor Towles at Barb Huff's home on June 21 at 6:00 PM.

Amor Towles is the critically acclaimed author of A Gentleman in Moscow and The Lincoln Highway, both of which are previous VPC Book Club selections.

This will be a potluck dinner, so bring a favorite dish.

In July we will be hosted by MJ and Mac McCulloch. Normally, we would meet on the 19th (third Friday), but since the 19th coincides with Strawberry Festival, we might need to change it to the 26th. (Stay tuned!) Our July subject is Sir Richard Burton, and rather than select one book, we encourage you to read one of your choosing. In addition to The Devil Drives by Fawn N. Brodie, there are other autobiographies and biographies available in the library. Another biography of Burton is the well-written best seller Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton by Edward Rice. It's available in paperback on Amazon. Well written and was a best seller. Please find something you would like to read about him and come ready to share.

Building and Grounds

May Completed Projects

The half-walls on the altar in the sanctuary were removed and the floor underneath the west wall was rebuilt. This cleared room to place the grand piano that was donated to the church.

The piano has been tuned and was used for the first time for the service on May 26.

The church received a \$20,000 grant from Presbytery. This can be used for either the parking lot or the porch repairs.

June Building Repairs Planned

Session approved a bid from Roggenbuck Construction for the grading and reconstruction of the parking lot. This work will be done in June after the schools are out.

An agreement was made with a contractor to repair the two porches and steps on the south side of the new building. The project will be done this summer when school is out.

The carpeting needs to be replaced under the areas that the half-walls covered.

Planning Committee Update

Planning Committee Members: Barb Huff, Trace Hyde, Diana Lilje, Elizabeth Loveness, Claudia Ross-Weston, Jacq Skeffington, Nancy Tucker

AED training — training for CPR and use of the AED is being planned with the Fire Department but a time is yet to be determined.

A screen to be mounted for projection in the Sanctuary has been purchased and should be in place soon.

The church received a \$20,000 grant from Presbytery. This will be used for either the parking lot or the porch repairs.

Diana Lilje, Building and Planning Committee Chair



Faith Formation

Faith Formation is a work in progress. We met on Zoom mid-May with sparse attendance. There is a general feeling that Tuesdays are not the ideal time, nor Zoom the best forum for these discussions. We're considering resuming the in-person meetings on Sunday at 9:00 AM. Liz Loveness and I met to discuss possible subjects and other approaches to Faith Formation. Our summer schedules are also a consideration. Watch for further notices, and feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me.

In July, Pastor Leigh will lead an in-person study of the book of Job on Wednesdays at noon.

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

Hospitality

Summer Small Gatherings are Back: Open House at the Tuckers' on June 2

We're continuing this tradition and hoping everyone can participate over the course of the summer. Progressive dinners, fireworks watching, light refreshments and a movie at the church, and anything else fun you can think of—all are on the table as part of summer entertainment. Last year, several of them were potlucks. The point is to enjoy each other's company with the backdrop of our beautiful PNW summer. A signup sheet is in the East Room so that you can select the date(s) you wish to host. If you have questions or need some help in coordinating a small get-together, contact Nancy Tucker (818-259-1770).

We're kicking off this season with an Open House at the home of Ben and Nancy Tucker on **Sunday, June 2, from 3:00 - 6:00**. You are invited to drop in anytime during that window and visit for a spell--no need to bring anything but yourself. **Carpooling is encouraged!** Please let Nancy (818-259-1770) know if you can make it so that she and Ben can get an idea of how many people to plan for. Join them in ushering in the Summer Gathering Season!

Hosts Needed for Coffee Hour

June 2 Liz Loveness
June 9 Beverly Skeffington
June 16 Open
June 23 Open
June 30 Open

If you can help host a coffee hour, please sign up! The signup sheet is on the table in the East Room. Or contact Nancy Tucker directly.

And of course, please join us at **Sporty's every Tuesday at 9:00** for coffee and/or breakfast!

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

June Birthdays

Please wish a happy June birthday to:

2 Brownie Carver
4 Skip Carver
7 Kate Carner
15 Nancy van Roessel
21 Quinn Carner
28 Doug Johnson



Calendar

June 2024

- 2 Open House at Tucker home 3:00 – 6:00
- 3 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 7 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 14 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 15 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00
- 16 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 18 Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
- 19 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
- 21 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM,
- 23 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 27 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 28 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 30 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM

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

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 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 | Anything Goes (Grief Group) 11:00 AM (Call Leigh for details)
Game Night 7:00 PM |

Church Leadership

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Pastor | Leigh Weber |
| Clerk of Session | Claudia Ross-Weston |
| Session Members | Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Bob Spangler, Al Ross-Weston, Nancy Tucker |
| Deacons | Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Brownie Carver, Chris Coldeen, Larry Commeree, Debbie Finch |