



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

July 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.



Key Upcoming Dates

July 5 First Friday on the VPC lawn 5:30

July 7 Food Bank Sunday

July 13 John Williams's memorial service
1:30 PM in the Sanctuary; reception follows
immediately in the Social Hall

July 18 Theology Pub Camp Colvos 5:00

July 21 Festival Sunday; combined worship
service

July 26 VPC Book Club at McCullough home
with potluck supper 6:00

August 3 VPC Yard Sale 9:00 – 3:00

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

As I write this article, I am sitting in my hotel room in Salt Lake City at PCUSA General Assembly. I realized on the plane ride how much I am looking forward to my return. It's not that I don't want to do the work, but it's the work WE do together that fills my heart the most.

Summer is a special time on Vashon, featuring the Strawberry Festival, our yard sale, the flowers in bloom in the garden beds, and the joy of just hanging out at the church with one another.

A few years ago, before the pandemic, I spent my Tuesday afternoons at Café Luna. I think we called it Luna with Leigh or something like that. I'd like to bring back something similar this year but at VPC. On Tuesdays at 2:00 PM, I'm going to make coffee and you can come by. We can sit in my office or out on the patio or on the front porch. It's just going to be an informal drop in and catch-up time and I hope you'll come by one Tuesday. If there's a Tuesday where I out of town, perhaps one of you will want to make the coffee and sit on the porch.

God made us to be in community and to pay attention to the community around us. I recently had a wonderful conversation with a young man who reached out to talk after watching some of our worship services on our website. One comment he made was "the Presbyterian Church feels like a safe place, a judgment-free zone."

In a world that is fractured and hurting so much of the time these days, what a wonderful tribute to the good and holy work you all are doing in living your faith.

So, my friends, let us embrace this summer, let us embrace one another and let us embrace our community with love and compassion and safety. And let's spend some time sitting on the porch together. You never know who might walk by.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

The regular Session meeting was held on June 18 via Zoom. Minutes of this meeting are available upon request. Highlights from the August meeting include:

- Pastor Leigh will attend General Assembly in for several days beginning June 29
- The memorial service for John Williams will be held at VPC on July 13 at 1:30
- There will be a memorial service for Ron Zook on Saturday, August 10 at 10:00.
- The study of the book of Job will begin via Zoom on Wednesdays beginning on July 10.
- First Friday Fire pit will continue with the support of Laura Jean and Mike Fisher
- We are negotiating the contracts with the schools in our building
- The Vashon Maury Cooperative Preschool classes have moved from VPC to combine with the Vashon Youth and Family Services
- We are planning to combine some youth activities with other youth of other churches this summer

Looking ahead to July and August:

- Session Vision meeting will be held Tuesday, July 16 at 4:00 pm at the home of the Ross-Westons
- Festival seats and parking at the church on Saturday July 20
- There will be a combined church service with VICC and the Lutheran churches on July 21.
- All church yard sale Saturday, August 3, 2024
- Regular Session meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 4:00 at the church

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session

Worship

On Festival Sunday (July 21), we will hold a combined worship service with other churches on the island.

We are planning to hold an all-church worship retreat for one day in September at Camp Burton. Details will be announced as they are finalized, and the date draws closer.

I welcome your suggestions as to how to make our worship experience more meaningful to you.

Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder

A Visit with the Neals

Former pastor John Neal and his wife Beth recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Jacq and Beverly Skeffington were on hand for the event:



Deacon's Message

Small but mighty! That's how I would describe the Deacons at VPC. Because of time constraints and health issues, the group is currently Brownie Carver, Chris Coldeen and Claudia Ross-Weston. I suspect many folks would normally reach out to the Nominating Committee for help right away but these folks are determined to plug along doing the work together until the new year. It's such a Deacon kind of thing to do, caring for others with compassion and grace.

Kathy Olsen has stepped up to help with the caring card ministry and they, and I, are most grateful.

So, if you need help, don't let their numbers cause you to hold back. I have experienced each of them as knowing good self-care practices so that they never try to pour from an empty cup.

And if you want to help in some way, let them know. Most importantly, let them know that they are seen and they matter. I just can't imagine a church without deacons...they hold us all, including the pastor.

Pastor Leigh Weber

Watch us Grow!



2017

2018

2020

2022

2024

This flowering dogwood tree was planted during Leigh's installation celebration in June 2017. Members of the congregation brought bags of dirt from their yards or gardens to add to the soil and nurture the tree's roots during the planting, which was done by Weston and Garrett Dorr as the congregation and installation commission looked on.

Each year we commemorate "Leigh's Tree" with a photo including the Dorr boys. In doing so we are reminded of the various ways in which we grow as a church, as a community, and especially spiritually as God's unique creation.

Community Service Areas of Responsibility

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

July 7 is Food Bank Sunday. The schools may be on vacation, but food insecurity doesn't take a break. In fact, with no school lunches for two months, the demands on the Food Bank are increased. Always needed are staples such as pasta, peanut butter and canned meals such as beef stew. But other nonperishable food items such as cooking oil are welcomed, as are paper goods and personal hygiene products. If you can't bring your donation to the worship service, please deliver to the office.

We awarded the Heindsmann scholarships at the June 23 worship service to Natalie VanDevanter and Rain Freeman-Sheehan. "The checks to their schools are in the mail!" Thanks to Lauretta Hyde and Sue Weston who served on the Review Committee with me. The recipient of the Vashon Presbyterian Church scholarship awarded to a Vashon High School senior through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation is Kiara Bartel, who will be attending Arizona State University. Thanks also to that Review Committee: Bev Skeffington, Claudia Ross-Weston, Alice Dorr and Kim Carner.



Community Service Elder Bob Spangler awards Heindsmann Scholarship to Natalie VanDevanter, one of two 2024 recipients.

The Beachcomber article publicizing the Festival reserved seats and parking project should appear this week. Please remember that if you want a reserved seat or parking space, contact me (rwspong@centurytel.net). We do not assume that seats and parking are automatically available for the VPC community. The donations for the reservations will be given to the Journeymen Institute on Vashon. We still need a few volunteers to help with the chair set up and take down. Thanks to Laura Jean and Mike Fisher for volunteering to manage the parking.

Community Service (Continued)

Save the Date: Yard Sale Saturday, August 3

Our annual church Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, August 3, from 9:00 – 3:00. We will start on the front lawn. As was the case last year, 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 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 3.*

Please contribute:

- Kitchen and household goods
- Books
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Games and toys
- Tools and gardening items
- Holiday items

We do not accept::

- Clothing
- Computers
- Electronics
- Printers

Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder

VPC Book Club

Book Club this month will be on Friday, July 26 at the home of MJ and Mac McCulloch, 17326 100th Lane SW. They are at the Cedar Village Condominiums; the first unit on the right as you drive into the parking lot. We are reading biographies about Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890). Some recommendations for reading are The Devil Drives by Fawn M. Brody and Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton by Edward Rice. There are other options also. Please find something you would like to read about him and come ready to share. We'll meet at 6:00 and begin with a potluck meal. Please join us.

In August meeting we'll discuss The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. Lindsay Hofman will host.

Building and Grounds

Carpe Diem ended its classes for 2023-2024 term. They moved all chairs and furniture into Classroom B, allowing us to keep the tables used for coffee hour in the Social Hall set up during the summer.

Our parking lot was regraded in late June. This is a long-term solution to the perpetual potholes we have experienced in the parking lot. In addition to providing more usable space for parking, this regrading has made it safer to walk in the lot, particularly after dark.

Our back porches are undergoing much-needed repairs. Rich Singer began the work on June 24. It is uncertain how long those repairs will take, but access through the back doors will be secured during repairs.

The church was visited by an Labor and Industries inspector in May. He inspected our utilities room in the basement and cited us for a faulty relief valve on the boiler. Trace Hyde purchased a replacement and he and Jacq Skeffington installed it in early June. Unfortunately, a water leak sprung and required turning off all water to the old part of the church. Jacq and Trace repaired the leak the next day. We are now compliant.

In July, we will replace the dilapidated fence the is between our property and Zamorana's.

Jacq Skeffington

From the Planning Committee:

Last month we removed the mini walls in the Sanctuary to make room for our new grand piano. This revealed quite a bit of bare flooring, which needed covering. Rather than replace all the carpeting beginning at the steps to the altar, we decided to patch the carpet on the altar for the time being. That was completed on June 18. Once we have adjusted to the new piano and the decided what we want for floor covering, we will offer a plan for budgeting a replacement.

Trace Hyde, Jacq Skeffington, Claudia Ross-Weston, and Jim Lilje met with a sound technician to give us some options for an upgrade to our current system. More discussions to follow.

A cover was ordered for the new piano.

Diana Lilje, Building and Planning Committee Chair



New cover for our new piano



Parking lot regrading in progress

Faith Formation

Faith Formation will start again in September. Liz Loveness will be leading a reading of [The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters](#) Most by Matthew Kelly and Allen R. Hunt. This study includes a workbook. We are proposing that this be an in-person meeting at VPC on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

Several suggestions have been made regarding the content/format of Faith Formation studies, including:

- ◆ Different people leading discussions of excerpts from famous authors
- ◆ Visiting different churches as a group or individually after a discussion of organization and beliefs
- ◆ Discussing novels/modern literature with Christian themes, perhaps in Book Club
- ◆ Another group reading of the Bible in a year using a different text
- ◆ Outdoor worship (in the gazebo in Island Center Forest) on a Sunday afternoon, finding God in nature

I will be talking with people about these ideas and others during the summer and hope to come up with something more definite to share in the August newsletter.

I welcome your continued suggestions and comments!

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

Hospitality

Can You Host a "Summer Supper" Small Gathering?

If you are interested in hosting any kind of a get-together, small or large, there is a signup sheet in the East Room. Please contact Nancy Tucker (818-259-1770) if you have questions or would like some help in coordinating this gathering.

Hosts Needed for Coffee Hour

July 7 Nancy van Roessel
July 14 Lauretta Hyde
July 21 Open
July 28 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

July Birthdays

Please wish a happy July birthday to:

1 Ben Tucker
5 Lindsay Hofman
8 Chris Coldeen
13 Bonnie Nelson
25 Nancy Tucker
27 Jan van Roessel



Calendar

July 2024

- 4 Independence Day (Office Closed)
- 5 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
- 7 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
Food Bank Sunday
- 9 Session Meeting 4:00 PM Ross-Weston home
- 12 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 13 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00
- 14 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 18 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 19 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 21 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 26 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Mac and MJ McCullough's home
- 28 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

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

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