



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### August 2024

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.



### Coming Up

- VPC Yard Sale August 3 9:00 – 3:00
- First Friday on VPC Lawn August 2 at 5:30
- Food Bank Sunday August 4
- Theology Pub August 29 5:00
- August 30 VPC Book Club at Hofman home 6:00

### Golden Sun

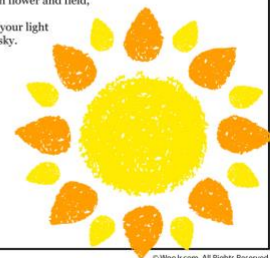
by Lenore Hetrick

Great, glorious, golden sun,  
Shine down on me today!  
You are the life of all this earth,  
You and your magic ray.

You are the life of bird and plant,  
All must depend on you,  
Shine down, great sun, the whole day long!  
Shine from the heaven's blue.

And I will welcome your golden rays,  
For you mean life to me,  
And you mean happiness and health,  
Strength and energy.

Shine down, great sun, on flower and field,  
And never say goodbye.  
Forever and ever give us your light  
From out the wide, blue sky.



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## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

Something happened at Festival that I want to share with you. I was helping a woman to her seat for the parade. She didn't know I was the pastor, and I didn't tell her. I'm not sure she realized I was a part of the church at all. "You know this is the nicest church even though I don't go to church," she said. "They just help every way they can, and they always put out these chairs so folks can see the parade."

I decided a simple reply was the best thing at that moment, as we were nearing the start of the parade. "They are nice," I said. "I think they enjoy helping the community out. Maybe you should come one Sunday and get to know them."

I'd love to tell you that everyone was blown away by our hospitality. Many were, I think, and some have just come to expect it. And I suspect there were some who thought we could have done more. But what was especially lovely was watching folks find their seats and then come inside after the parade to use a real bathroom before heading down the street.

I appreciate you! I appreciate how you show up and put out chairs, and direct traffic and usher folks to the bathrooms and outlets for their cell phones. I appreciate you for who you are.

As I type this, I am struggling with a fever and a new case of Covid. Apparently, there are many strands these days. I'm sad that I won't be able to be at the Yard Sale on Saturday and yet I'm confident it will be another example of you being you, showing up and loving the community.

This, I believe, is what scripture asks of us. This is the way of Jesus. This is the radical and loving hospitality he sought to share with us all. And you live it!

So, carry on, my dear ones. Carry on being you and showing up and loving big. It draws me to you, it draws others to you. You plant seeds so generously. The harvest, however, is up to God. Trust in that.

I can't wait to see you! I can't wait to be with you!

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

The July Session meeting was at the home of the Ross-Westons. A motion was passed to support a limited elder care program sponsored by the Vashon Senior Center. VPC has agreed to supply a space for qualified outside staff to provide elder care for a few seniors a few hours, two days a week. The point of this program is to offer a brief respite to their full-time caregivers. No additional costs are anticipated, and the project is still in the planning stages.

Most of our time together was devoted to considering the following question: What would be the community-wide reaction if the Vashon Presbyterian Church closed its doors?

Our community would:

- ◆ Not have the inspirational sayings on our reader board
- ◆ Realize how much space we provide for non-profits
- ◆ Not have a place to meet for various community-wide programs
- ◆ Feel the loss of our impact on the rest of the small churches on the island
- ◆ Not have a place for IFCH to host meals
- ◆ Not have the AA support we have provided the space for over 40 years
- ◆ Lose our hosting NAMI
- ◆ Lose our hosting two schools
- ◆ Lose the prime location for the activities we host
- ◆ Miss the lighting of the big tree in front of our church for Christmas
- ◆ Lose the energy lift we provide to the community
- ◆ Lose the positive impact in our local community
- ◆ Lose the enthusiasm we have for our missions, support for island wide ministries
- ◆ Miss the character our church represents
- ◆ Be diminished

In other words, we provide a vital service to our Vashon Community! While we are always seeking new ways to support our church and our island, let's take a moment to reflect and celebrate the many ways VPC (meaning you!) makes a positive difference in our community.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session*



## Worship

We are so appreciative of all the support we have had during worship. Thank you to Marsha Morse, Marita Erickson, Thomas Abraham, Jan van Roessel and Beverly Skeffington for all your musical talents. Thank you to Chris Coldeen, Kathy O'Laughlin, and Brownie Carver for having Communion ready each month. Also, there are others behind the scenes who help collect cups and wash up. Thank you to the tech people, especially Jim and Diana Lilje, Trace Hyde, Jacq Skeffington and Claudia Ross-Weston who continue to present the service and troubleshoot when things inevitably go awry. Thank you to all the people who bring flowers for the stone bouquets and other beautiful arrangements, not only in the Sanctuary but all around the building.

We are still working on scheduling a VPC worship retreat, so stay tuned for those announcements. We hope to have specifics very soon.

*Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder*

## Deacon's Message

I find my heart is very full. Our mighty church has accomplished great things this month. We surrounded the Williams family with love and compassion. We created a welcoming space for families and friends from all walks of life during the Strawberry Festival. Meals are served every weekday for those in need.

These are just a few of the many ways we provide support to our island home. Although there are specific people in our church who are elected as Deacons, you are all "caregivers" for each other and our community. We all provide a very important role in caring for all of God's children. I am grateful and appreciative of every one of you. Blessings to you all.

Please remember we are available to help when you need a meal, a ride, a smile or a phone call. Don't hesitate to ask for support or help. We want to be here for you.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator*

## VPC Book Club

Book Club this month will be on Friday, August 30 at Lindsay Hofman's home, 21107 Westside Hwy SW.

We'll discuss [The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store](#) by James McBride.

Winner of the 2024 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction, [The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store](#) is "a murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel . . . Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing."  
—Danez Smith, *The New York Times Book Review*

We'll meet at 6:00 and begin with a potluck meal. Please join us.

The book for September will be [Love your Enemies](#) by Arthur C Brooks.

## Community Service Areas of Responsibility

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

The Festival parking and seats was a success! We had over 100 seat and 40 parking reservations. More than \$1,300 was donated and is being forwarded to Vashon's Journeymen Institute. The organization's web page states "Journeymen Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based on Vashon Island, WA. In addition to our signature nature-based rites of passages for boys in Puget Sound, integration support, and mentoring, we host various workshops and training courses designed to empower youth and the adults in their lives to catalyze positive change in our rapidly changing world." Thanks to the volunteers who helped with this annual project.

August 4 is Food Bank Sunday. Please remember that food insecurity is not taking a vacation, and non-perishable food and personal hygiene supplies are always needed. Please bring items to the worship service or church office. The Food Bank also notes that "perishable foods can be donated directly to staff. Please do not leave perishable foods in the shed or left outside. If you are a farm or gardener with an overflow of produce to donate, contact [harvest@vashonfoodbank.org](mailto:harvest@vashonfoodbank.org) to coordinate."

First Friday is August 2, and we will have snacks and games on the front lawn that evening. The Cub Scouts will have a space to set up a table to advertise their program for the coming year.

### Yard Sale Saturday, August 3

Our annual church Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, August 3, from 9:00 – 3:00. Like last year, items will not be priced, and all offers will be accepted. 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."

There are signup sheets in the East Room for volunteer help. 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.*

Questions? – contact Barb Huff, who is organizing the event.

#### *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*

## **Building and Grounds**

### **Recent projects**

With the departure of our toddlers' group, which met weekly on Tuesdays, the nursery needed new paint, and the Great Hall paint needed touching up. Trace Hyde has been working on that project.

Our parking lot resurfacing has been completed.

Both back porches are in the process of being overhauled by Vashon Custom Homes. The contractor is awaiting new doors and frames to replace the weather-damaged existing doors and frames and plans for a dumbwaiter.

### **Future maintenance required**

The stairs from the nursery to the courtyard need replacing. We will work with Cooperative Preschool, who had agreed to split the cost.

The carpets in the Social Hall, Great Hall, Church Office, East Room, Narthex, and West Entry Hall will be cleaned on Wednesday, August 14.

Cintas will perform quarterly testing of the sprinkler system on August 20.. This test is recommended by the National Fire Protection Agency.

King County Surface Water Management requires VPC to self-inspect and repair our storm water drainage system before November. Since August is the driest month of the year, we will need to open all catch basins in the parking lot and both settling ponds, inspect them, remove excess silt intrusion and make any necessary repairs.

Baseboard trim in the kitchen, beneath the center island, still needs to be purchased and installed.

Additional electrical outlets still need to be installed in the Sanctuary.

We need to sand and stain the front door, the library table, and the Communion table.

The wooden fence separating VPC's front lawn from Zamorano's dining area needs to be replaced.

### **Our Building Serves our Community**

IFCH dinners are served Monday through Friday from 5:00 – 6:00. Preparation starts at 4:00.

The Opera Company will hold rehearsals in the sanctuary Thursday evenings throughout August, and on Tuesday, August 27. All rehearsals are from 6:30-8:30.

From September 10 -December 3, the Vashon Chorale will hold rehearsals in the Sanctuary on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00.

The Healthcare District continues holding meetings in the Social Hall on the first, third, and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 – 7:30.

*Jacq Skeffington*

## Building and Grounds (Continued)

### *From the Planning Committee:*

After taking a month breather, the Planning Committee met on July 30. We reviewed the work we have to do and made suggestions for what areas we need to address.

One project not yet finished is the replacement for the carpet removed next to the organ in the sanctuary. We are planning to use luxury vinyl planks (LVL) to fill that space, which is a small. The LVL should not take long to install. We will be looking for the planks in August.

We have not forgotten the plan to have training sessions for our AED at the Fire Department. They will probably be scheduled for this Fall on a Thursday night.

A sound technician looked at our system in the Sanctuary. He deemed our current setup to be adequate, and we do not need to make any large outlays for additional equipment. However, we need and will be looking for a small locking cabinet to house our amplifier so that the Techs do not have to lean over and peer into a dark space to make volume adjustments.

Finally, we are still investigating an improved locking system for our doors to help us better control/monitor access to our building. There may be a trial of one system soon.

*Diana Lilje, Building and Planning Committee Chair*

## 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

<b>August 4</b>	Open
<b>August 11</b>	Mac and MJ McCullough
<b>August 18</b>	Nancy Tucker
<b>August 25</b>	Liz Loveness and Thomas Abraham

*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*

## Faith Formation

Last month, Pastor Leigh began a Zoom study/discussion of the book of Job. These discussions are held each Wednesday at noon, and will conclude by mid-August.

Faith Formation classes will resume in early September with Liz Loveness 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. Contact me if you have other suggestions for time and place.

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 welcome your continued suggestions and comments!

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder*

## August Birthdays

*Please wish a happy August birthday to:*

4      Larry Commeree  
12     Leigh Weber  
15     Kim Carner  
31     Kathy O'Laughlin





## Calendar

### August 2024

2	First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
3	VPC Yard Sale 9:00 – 3:00
4	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion Food Bank Sunday
9	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
11	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
16	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
18	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
20	Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
23	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
25	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
29	Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
30	VPC Book Club 6:00 PM

### 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

<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>Fridays</b>	Anything Goes (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>	Claudia Ross-Weston
<b>Session Members</b>	Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Bob Spangler, Al Ross-Weston, Nancy Tucker
<b>Deacons</b>	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Brownie Carver, Chris Coldeen