



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

September 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.



September Dates to Remember

- 1 Food Bank Sunday
- 6 First Friday with S'mores on the lawn
- 26 Theology Pub
- 27 VPC Book Club

...Plus, we're resuming Faith Formation classes and planning a VPC all-day retreat in October. More details inside!

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

While Leigh is away spending time with her family, we are reprinting a Message from a previous News and Concerns.



Clerk's Corner

The regular Session meeting was held at the church on August 20. Minutes from the meeting are available on request. Highlights include:

- Leigh reported she would be going to visit her parents and will be away on September 1. She has been coordinating with other community members to help some people who are currently homeless.
- This summer the back porches have been repaired and two outside facing doors have been replaced. Indoor painting has been completed. Solar panels have been cleaned and new outlets installed in the Sanctuary.
- An adjustment was made on the contract with Carpe Diem since they were not able to move into the contracted space until August 25 rather than August 15.
- Working on a one-day all-church retreat in October, to be held at Camp Burton.

Looking ahead to September and October

- Session Visioning meeting Tuesday, September 24 at 4:00 pm at the home of the Spangler's
- Regular Session Meeting Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 4:00 pm at the church

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session



New Back Porch



Yard Sale Activities

Worship

While Leigh is spending time with her family in North Carolina, I will be leading worship and preaching on Sunday, September 1.

It has been several years since we met as a congregation outside of Sunday worship. We are planning on holding an all-day church retreat at Camp Burton. We are considering two dates, both Saturdays in mid-to-late October. While we want this to be a worship-full experience, I welcome your suggestions as to relevant topics/subjects to include. Details to follow as we progress with the logistics.

Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder

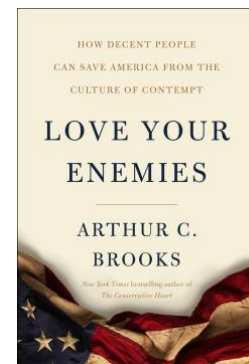
VPC Book Club

Book Club this month will be on Friday, September 27 at Bob and Carol Spangler's home, 17304 137th Avenue SW.

We'll discuss [Love Your Enemies](#) by Arthur C Brooks.. "America has developed a 'culture of contempt' - a habit of seeing people who disagree with us not as merely incorrect or misguided, but as worthless.

"In *Love Your Enemies*, *New York Times* best-selling author and social scientist Arthur C. Brooks shows that treating others with contempt and out-outraging the other side is not a formula for lasting success. Blending cutting-edge behavioral research, ancient wisdom, and a decade of experience leading one of America's top policy think tanks, *Love Your Enemies* offers a new way to lead based not on attacking others but on bridging national divides and mending personal relationships." –Amazon

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



Community Service Areas of Responsibility

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

September 1 is Food Bank Sunday. Non-perishable food such as pasta, peanut butter and tuna fish and personal hygiene supplies are always needed. Please bring items to the worship service or church office. If you have perishable items to donate, contact the Food Bank directly to make arrangements. Last year 1,707 individuals relied on the Food Bank because of food insecurity. We can help these people with our donations!

The annual Yard Sale on August 3 was a success. We received donations of \$2,468 on behalf of Vashon Youth and Family Services. Thanks to all who helped!

The Community Service committee met on August 23 to discuss activities planned for the remainder of 2024, and to start budget planning for 2025. Some of the recommendations require Session approval, and will be highlighted in forthcoming newsletters and e-news. Among the items for discussion was a review of our six Mission Partners, to whom we donate through VPC's general operating fund. The following is a description of one of our Mission Partners.

Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) is a Tacoma-based organization whose mission is assisting immigrants held in and released from the ICE Federal Processing Center in Tacoma. Services to those in detention include visitation and donation of books, craft materials and phone cards. In July, AIDNW volunteers made 16 visits to detainees, provided 105 detainees with phone cards worth \$2,100, and supplied 16 bags of clothing and other items to individuals being deported. For detainees who are released, AIDNW maintains a Welcome Center outside the ICE facility consisting of an RV and two heated tents. Released detainees are provided food, clothing, backpacks, cell phone charging and usage, travel assistance and, if necessary, short-term housing at a rental house in Tacoma. In July, volunteers assisted 35 released immigrants at the Welcome Center, offered 16 rides and provided 187 guest nights at the Hospitality House. We are pleased to support these efforts by donating \$1,000 to AIDNW this year.

Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder

Deacon's Message

I had the opportunity to go for a hike to Greenwater Lakes this past week. We walked among giant trees, nurse logs with four or five new trees just getting started, and groves of Devil's Club. Along a meandering river we passed Douglas squirrels declaring that we were getting too close for comfort. We were in sacred space.

This hike reminded me to continue to look for sacred space wherever we go. In a walk in the Center Island Forest, around Judd Creek, or in a backyard garden, take the opportunity to look for and experience sacred space.

I am so grateful to my friends who suggested we get out and hike because I don't think I would've made the effort on my own. Sometimes we need the ideas and inspirations of our family or friends to motivate us to change our routine or expand our experiences. I hope you can be inspired by someone or be the inspiration to another person this coming month. It is another way we care for and expand our possibilities. I am ever grateful to others, who keep me in relationships and expand my horizons. May we all cultivate supportive and caring relationships with each other this Fall.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator



Hospitality

VPC Hosts Wedding and Gala Reception

On August 24 our church was home to a joyous occasion; the wedding of Vashon residents Susan Natrass and Shann Emerald.

Around 80 guests attending this event, which was officiated by Reverend Dr. Scott Anderson. Marita Eriksen played piano and sang during the service.

The reception was catered by local restaurant Gravy. Vashon-based DJ Cliff kept the music going throughout the evening, from the cocktail hour to the last dance.



Many thanks to the VPC team who supported this event:

Wedding Coordinator: Marcy Rice (who wore MANY hats in organizing/facilitating the reception)
Technical Team: Trace Hyde, Claudia Ross-Weston, Jacq Skeffington
Flowers: Marcy Rice
Setup/Teardown: Jacq Skeffington, Trace Hyde, Brownie Carver, and other volunteers who just "showed up" in typical VPC fashion!
Cleanup: Marcy Rice, Barb Huff, Héré Thieme, Beverly Skeffington and others who helped on Sunday

We're delighted to have played host to this celebration and hope others on the island will want to use our facilities for other happy events.

Hospitality (Continued)

Hosts Needed for Coffee Hour

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who assisted over the summer with coffee hour. Whether you provided refreshments or helped with the setup/cleanup, your participation made a difference. Thank you!

September 1 Nancy and Jan van Roessel
September 8 Laretta Hyde
September 15 Nancy Johnson
September 22 Nancy Tucker
September 29 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.

In September I will host a Hospitality Committee meeting to plan our activities for the fourth quarter. The discussion topics will include the annual Harvest Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, November 16.

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

Liz Loveness will lead our Faith Formation discussion in September. The book/workbook is entitled The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters Most by Mathew Kelly and Allen R. Hunt.

We'd like to distribute the books sometime when we can discuss how we want to use the book and when. Suggestions have been after coffee hour Sunday or Monday late afternoon or early evening. There may be other times better for those interested. We'd like to have the first gatherings, at least, in person.

Please let me know which days/times can work for you for in-person discussions of this engaging material. I hope you will join us.

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

September Birthdays

Please wish a happy September birthday to:

8 Diana Lilje
18 Mary Jacobs
24 Mike Fisher
27 Laura Jean Walls Fisher



Calendar

September 2024

- 1 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
Food Bank Sunday
- 6 First Friday with S'mores on the lawn 5:30
- 8 Sunday Worship Service
- 13 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 15 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 17 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
- 20 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 22 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 24 Session Meeting 4:00 PM Spangler home
- 26 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 27 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM at Spangler home
- 29 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