



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

October 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.



From Pastor Leigh's Parents

Don and Jane Farmer are very grateful for the cards and prayers they continue to receive from VPC. During this challenging time in their lives, they have been sustained by their VPC church family and want each of you to know they read and save each card. It makes a huge difference, and they are also grateful for the church's commitment to hybrid worship on Zoom that allows them to attend each Sunday.

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates!

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| October 4 | First Friday on the lawn with S'mores |
| October 6 | Food Bank Sunday |
| October 12 | Second Saturday Work Party |
| October 18 | VPC Book club at Ross-Westons' |
| October 26 | All-Church Retreat at Camp Burton |
| October 31 | Halloween treats on the lawn |
| November 16 | Harvest Dinner |

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

At our September Theology Pub discussion, we shared what being a part of a faith community means to each of us. I was struck by the level of comfort we naturally find together. I heard words like “safe” and “honest” and “real.” I also heard a thirst to share our stories of where and how God has been at work in our lives and the lives of our church family.

It had been a hard day for me. My own personal family is struggling with the continuing struggles of my dad and his cancer journey. By the time I got to Theology Pub, I had cried off my make up not once but twice. Years ago, I might have made excuses and gone home early, but safe, honest, and real are what I’ve also experienced in your midst also. So, I stayed, and I shared, and it made a difference.

We all want to be polished in this life our ours. We all want to look our best and present like we have it all together, but the simple fact is that no one has it together all the time. That is exactly why I believe God created us to be in community and why I think how we take care of our community matters greatly.

VPC is a small but mighty group of folks. We do a lot. People in the community often comment on how much we do. I don’t think we should stop doing those things, but I also want you to know that what you DO is far less important than who you are and how you matter.

I hope you feel safe. I hope you can be honest, and I hope you can be real here. God wants us to share our life journey together to stand in witness to those tender moments and draw strength from how others have gotten through their hard days, too.

When Jesus sent the disciples out to share his message and love with others, he sent them out in pairs. He didn’t send them out alone. He knew that being a disciple didn’t mean life would always be easy or simple. And I suspect he knew that together they could carry the load of life more than either of them could as individuals.

So, my friends, I encourage you to show up. Come to worship, come to Theology Pub, pop onto a Zoom meeting, drop by the office, call one another, call me. Show up for yourselves and for each other. Know that God didn’t create you to be alone.

Together, let us all stand in witness to what God might be doing in our midst. I personally know that I experienced the love of God, sitting in a brew pub, surrounded by fellow believers, on a pretty hard day and when I drove home my prayers were of gratitude.

And, as always, I am here for you and with you.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

The Vision session meeting was held at the church on September 24. Highlights:

- Pastor Leigh plans to be on the island Tuesdays and Thursdays this Fall. Please call to schedule if you would like to consult with her.
- Session approved the money donated to the church on motorcycle Sunday being added to the funds for the VPC-sponsored high school scholarship.
- A one-day all-church retreat will be Saturday, October 26.
- The Faith Formation class will begin September 29 after the church service in the Social Hall. Liz will lead this class based on the book [The Fourth Quarter of Your Life](#) by Mathew Kelly and Allen R Hunt.
- The focus of the Visioning meeting was defining the content of the upcoming congregational retreat at Camp Burton.

The next Session meeting will be a business meeting on Tuesday, October 22, at 4:00 PM at the church.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session

Community Service Areas of Responsibility

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

October 6 is Food Bank Sunday. Non-perishable food such as pasta, peanut butter and tuna and personal hygiene supplies are always needed. With colder weather here, canned meals to heat up, such as beef stew or chili, are also appreciated. Please bring items to the worship service or church office. Last year 1,707 individuals relied on the Food Bank because of food insecurity. We can help these people with our donations!

Thanks to all who made Motorcycle Sunday a success. Donations from our friends who enjoyed coffee and pastries amounted to \$481. Session voted to contribute those receipts to the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation to be used for VPC's 2025 scholarship award.

Upon recommendation from the Community Service committee, the Planning Committee agreed to transfer \$10,000 from the funds received from Kate Smith's estate to the Heindsmann Endowment fund principal. Kate was very interested in education, and we believe this is an appropriate way to use part of that bequest. The increased fund principal will produce increased annual earnings; that will allow us to award a larger scholarship that reflects the continuing higher cost of tuition.

October 31 – Save the date! We will again be providing treats on the front lawn on Halloween. More information will be provided in the weekly e-News.

Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder

Worship

We baptized Mars Arthur Paul Freeman on September 15. Congratulations to Mars and all his family. We celebrated Communion on September 1. We are greatly appreciative to all who supply flowers for Worship. Thank you to Marsha Morse, Jan van Roessel, Beverly Skeffington, Chris Coldeen, and Thomas Abraham for all their contributions to our worship music. Miribai and Camille Reeves also contributed to our service on September 29.

Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder

VPC All-Church Retreat Saturday, October 26 9:00 – 3:00, Camp Burton

Please join us for a time of reflection and fun as we hold our first (in a while) annual all-church retreat. During this meeting, which will be held in person and on Zoom, we will receive brief updates from our Elders and our Deacon Moderator on our various church ministries. And we'll hear from Pastor Leigh on aspects of her ministry, not only in VPC but in the island community. We'll all have a chance to share our own views on how to make VPC a place where we feel we belong and are heard. Interspersed with these discussions will be ample time to roam the lovely grounds and/or to participate in games. The meeting will begin with coffee and treats from Vashon Bakery, and lunch will be potluck. More detail will be provided as the date approaches, but for now, save the date!

Faith Formation

Discussions of the first chapters of *The Fourth Quarter of Your Life* will start after church on Sunday, September 29. There we will decide how to continue, whether in person or on Zoom or both. For those who can't attend on the 29th, and for others who are interested, we'll hold a Zoom meeting Monday September 30 at 7:00 PM. Future scheduling will be announced in the e-News.

Pastor Leigh has created and will lead the Advent study, beginning in December.

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Formation Elder

VPC Book Club

VPC Book Club this month will be held on Friday, October 25, at the home of Al and Claudia Ross-Weston, 12912 SW 300th Street.

Our October book selection is [A Wild and Heavenly Place](#) by Robin Oliveira. From Amazon: "Poignant and lyrical, *A Wild and Heavenly Place* is an ode to the Pacific Northwest, to those courageous enough to chase the American Dream, and to a love so powerful it endures beyond distance, beyond hope."

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

November's book selection is [The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margo](#) by Marianne Cronin.

Deacon's Message

I found this poem a few years ago and decided I wanted to share it again. In these times of national and international discord and upheaval I find I cling to gratitude and the small blessings even more.

An Abundant Attitude

By Catherine Pulsifer

Be thankful for the little things
The more contentment it will bring.
Focus on a thankful attitude
You will find blessings in multitude.

With this attitude, your life will be
Abundant and full because you will see
That every day blessings mean so much
That material things you'll no longer clutch.

You enter this world with nothing
And, in your passing
You will leave without a thing
Even if you're rich or even a king.

So look around and appreciate
That material things do depreciate
Be abundant in relationships
Spend the time in fellowship.

You have more abundance than you realize
Look around and it will materialize
If you could see every blessing you have
You would be more than glad!

Please know that the Deacons are here to support you and help in any way we can. I also know that all the congregation is ready to support each other when the need arises. I can only express my gratitude for each one of you. As we spend time with each other, share our stories and our gifts with one another we not only help others, but we bring purpose and meaning in our own lives.

Bless each of you as we go on our fall journeys together.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Deacon Moderator

October Birthdays

Please wish a happy October birthday to:

- 1 Jim Lilje
- John Datin
- 7 Kathy Olsen
- 13 Barb Huff
- 24 Sam Thompson



Hospitality

Many thanks to those who hosted small gatherings over the summer. As we move into cooler and darker weather, we'll find season-appropriate ways to enjoy fellowship with one another in a less-structured format. These include volunteering to help with treats on Halloween evening, dispensing cider, cocoa, and cookies during WinterFest (December 7), and simply bringing in a dish for Potluck Coffee Hour.

Save the date! On **November 16** we will hold our annual Harvest Dinner, in which we encourage you to bring your family and friends. It's a dinner of gratitude; a primer for Thanksgiving Day, and we celebrate with traditional fare, a bit of wine, and engaging activities. Please join us!

October Coffee Hour Hosts

- October 6** Open
- October 13** Brownie Carver
- October 20** Nancy Tucker
- October 27** Beverly Skeffington

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

Building and Grounds

Work is underway to put track lighting in the Belfry. We currently have no overhead lighting up there.

The solar panels have been cleaned so that our solar energy will be optimal.

In searching for more storage places within the building, we discovered a large area of empty space adjacent to the Youth Room. We also discovered a lonely wooden chair trapped in that space. We have since rescued that chair, which is currently in Leigh's office. We'll find a special place for it soon. We will construct a new closet within the empty space.

Our Second Saturday work party will be on October 12, from 10:00 AM – noon. This will involve fall outdoor clean up and installation of the vinyl plank flooring just to the left of the organ in the Sanctuary. Please plan to be at this work party, even if you can't stay the whole time.

Trace Hyde

From the Planning Committee

The VPC Planning Committee met in early September to make plans for the Fall months.

It was agreed that we would purchase laminated veneer lumber (LVL) to cover the small area by the organ that no longer has carpeting. The material was purchased and will be installed in October.

We are still working on plans to have the fire department present some classes on AED use. We have been unable to set a firm date but hopefully classes will happen in the next couple of months.

The Community Service Committee, chaired by Elder Bob Spangler, suggested that recommended to the Planning Committee that we transfer \$10,000 from the Smith Fund to the Heindsmann Fund to help to increase the annual scholarship funds the church has available. This was unanimously agreed.

Our final item addressed was the replacement of the locking system used at the church. We have many, many keys loaned out and some are unaccounted for. We hope to replace what we currently have by a keyless locking system. Stay tuned for further updates.

Elizabeth Loveness is looking into a lockable cabinet for our sound amplifier. It is current set low in the existing cabinet and is awkward and difficult to adjust during services.

The front door badly needs refinishing. That may happen sometime soon.

The fence along our border with Zamorana's needs replacing. Plans are underway.

There are several non-working light bulbs our in our parking lot bank of lights that will be replaced once we find someone with a lift truck that can perform this task.

Diana Lilje, Building and Planning Committee Chair

Calendar

October 2024

- 4 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
- 6 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
Food Bank Sunday
- 11 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 12 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 - Noon
- 13 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 15 Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
- 18 VPC Book Club 6:00 at Ross-Weston home
- 20 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 22 Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
- 24 Theology Pub 5:00 PM Camp Colvos
- 25 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 27 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 31 Halloween! Trick or Treat on the lawn 5:00 – 7:30

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
- Wednesdays** Body Prayer 8:30 AM on Zoom
Text Study Noon on Zoom
- 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 on Zoom

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