

# Vashon Presbyterian Church News and Concerns November 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.



## From Leigh's Family

Dear VPC,

Our heartfelt thanks for the beautiful flowers. They were not only in the front of the church for the memorial service for Don/Dad but are now on his gravesite and we are all deeply honored by the prayers and love they represent from you.

We have felt your love and kindness!

Thank you,

Jane Farmer, Tim Farmer and Leigh Weber

VPC Harvest Dinner  
Saturday, November 16

Join us for our annual pre-Thanksgiving celebration! Appetizers will be served at 5:30, with dinner beginning around 6:00.

This is an evening of great food, fun, and lots of socializing. This year's entertainment features an original mini-play written, produced and directed by Laretta Hyde, with a star-studded VPC cast.

Turkey and wine will be provided, with you bringing your favorite holiday side dish.

Family and friends are welcome. Sign up today!

## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

Inhale: "God, you are here."

Exhale: "God, I am here."

This is the breath prayer that helped sustain me as my brother and I did our best to create a container around our parents in the last week of my dad's life and now in the first week of my mom's life without him here. The fragility of life is never lost on me as a pastor, as a mom, as a widow, as a daughter, as a friend, as a human.

My niece is scheduled for a planned c-section on Friday, November 1, All Saints' Day. Mom's great granddaughter. As I write this to you, I am on their couch watching my mom crochet a baby blanket for this new life coming to our family at the very moment that her tears are still near. The circle of life is death and birth and birth and death. And friends, this IS life. This is the human condition. This is the reality of our fragility, and this is faith. These are the moments when we cry out to God, "God, you are here and God, I am here."

A comment from my brother-in-law last week, "I miss Dad, it's been years and yet it just hit me again the other day." Who among us doesn't have moments like that? Who isn't caught off guard by a song, or a smell or something we can't even see? This is love and even at those moments, God is here, and we are here.

Too often we want theology and faith to make sense. We want it to explain and somehow "fix" our realities. We want it to be logical and linear. But I wonder, is love ever logical? Is love linear? My experience suggests that it is not. Love just is. And God is love. And God creates us to be in community to share love and to experience holy love together.

Faith is the daily trust that love is love is love and God is love. Faith is the daily trust that love is love is love and God is right here loving us. And faith is the daily trust that we are here in this love with God. God is the tether to love we can't understand or fully grasp. God is the tether to that great communion of saints that continues to cheer us on to believe and to trust and to know that while we now see through a mirror dimly, one day we will see even as we are seen and know even as we are known.

Faith doesn't make life easy. Faith doesn't provide a free pass from pain. Faith is a decision. It is a decision to trust in the love of God and God's faithful presence with us and all of humankind even if we can't explain any of it. Faith doesn't always make sense and yet, I would submit to you, faith is everything!

As we move from All Saints' Day to Advent this month, I would like to invite you to breathe in, "God, you are here." And then breathe out, "God, I am here." And together, let us hold tight to faith and remember that our call is to show up and be here. God is at work in the world today, God is at the work of love and there is a place for us in that work. And may we always say together, "God, we are here!"

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Halloween at VPC

Despite the chill and the rain, our Halloween celebration was (as usual) very well attended, with hundreds of trick-or-treaters and their parents showing up for candy. Our “Cat-a-Pult” continues to be a hit with kids of all ages. We made our restrooms available to the public, along with our water bottle refilling station—amenities that were greatly appreciated by our visitors.. We gave out more than 1,200 pieces of candy and still almost ran out. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event.



## “On the El Camino” with Barb Huff

### Sunday, November 3, During Coffee Hour

We welcome back Barb Huff from her 250-mile journey along the renowned Camino de Santiago, which she and her daughters hiked over the course of several weeks.

Barb has amazing photos and a compelling story to share, which she will do following Worship on November 3. Please join us during coffee hour to learn about her experience on this personal journey of faith.

## Clerk’s Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meetings are available upon request.

Our September Session “Visioning” meeting was devoted to creating an outline for an upcoming VPC retreat. Originally slated for October 26, our all-church retreat has been postponed to mid-January.

The only item of business approved in this meeting was a motion by Community Service to donate the Motorcycle Sunday funds to our account with the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation, to be used as part of the 2025 scholarship award.

The next business meeting of Session will be held on November 12 at 4:00 at VPC.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session*

## **Worship**

We will hold a meeting of the Worship Committee in November to plan our Advent services and worship activities. Details will be announced in an upcoming E-News.

*Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder*

## **Building and Grounds**

### **Planning Committee Report**

The VPC Planning Committee met in October to make plans for the fall months.

- ◆ The area that needs reflooring by the organ has been cleared and is awaiting installment of the LVL purchased to cover that area. That should happen in November.
- ◆ We are reviewing the replacement of the locking system used at the church and hope to replace what we currently have with a keyless locking system. We have reviewed a couple of possible systems and are attempting to consult a commercial lock specialist for suggestions.
- ◆ We are still looking for a lockable cabinet for our sound amplifier. It is set low in the current cabinet and difficult to adjust during services.
- ◆ The front door badly needs refinishing. That may happen sometime in the near future.
- ◆ The fence along our border with Zamorana's has been replaced. It looks much better and should hold up well.
- ◆ There are several burned out light bulbs our in our parking lot lights that should be replaced in late November.
- ◆ The solar panels have been cleaned, gutters have been cleared, and a new concrete pad laid to enable the trash bin to be pushed back into its home spot.
- ◆ Our small dishwasher in the kitchen is reaching the end of its life (it is over 24 years old!). We are looking into possible replacements.

*Diana Lilje, Planning Committee Chair*

## Community Service

### Areas of Responsibility

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

November 3 is Food Bank Sunday. Non-perishable food such as pasta, peanut butter and tuna fish 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, as are baking supplies such as cooking oil and mixes. Bring your items to the worship service or to the church office.

Gather at VPC on Halloween from 5:00 to 7:00 pm as we distribute treats to our island youth. Thanks to those who have volunteered to set up and take down the Cat-A-Pult. Costumes are optional. Because of this activity we will not have s'mores the following day (First Friday), although the building will be open for restroom use. And stay tuned for information on WinterFest, to be held on December 7. There will be plenty of activity on the VPC grounds at this annual event sponsored by the Vashon Island Chamber of Commerce.

Brownie Carver, our representative to Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness, notes that IFCH is beginning to collect warm items like socks, gloves, scarves and hand warmers. Thank you for your generous donations.

For at least two decades one of VPC's Mission Partners has been Vietnam Ministries. Mercer Island Presbyterian Church is the contact church which oversees our financial assistance. The program there is headed by Rev. Binh Nguyen, who also has led groups to Vietnam (which have included VPC members) to see the impact of our contributions. The ministries include scholarships for students who need assistance (especially in the rural highlands), support of a health center operated by a Catholic order, and financial assistance to the United Presbyterian Church of Vietnam. VPC this year contributed \$1,000 to these programs, and we are pleased that we can assist our fellow Christians in a country where religious groups do not have the freedoms that we take for granted.

*Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder*

### Faith Exploration

We will conclude our discussions of The Fourth Quarter of Your Life during our class on Monday, November 11 at 5:00 PM on Zoom.

On Sunday, November 3 we will distribute a small book entitled, Holy Moments, an accompaniment to The Fourth Quarter of Your Life. Depending on participants' preferences, we can discuss one or both books.

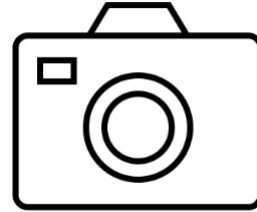
We will probably host some short activity in the rest of November. In December Pastor Leigh will lead us in an Advent study.

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Exploration Elder*

## Deacons' Message

### Life is Like a Camera by Chris Coldeen

Life is like a camera.  
Focus on what's  
important.  
Capture the good times.  
Develop the negatives.  
And if things don't work  
out,  
Take another shot!



## VPC Book Club

Our Book Club will meet on Friday, November 22 for a potluck dinner at the home of Lindsay Hofman. Her address is 21107 Westside Highway Southwest. We'll discuss The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin.

According to Amazon, "*An extraordinary friendship. A lifetime of stories.*"

Seventeen-year-old Lenni Petterson lives on the Terminal Ward at the Glasgow Princess Royal Hospital. Though the teenager has been told she's dying; she still has plenty of living to do. Joining the hospital's arts and crafts class, she meets the magnificent Margot, an 83-year-old, purple-pajama-wearing, fruitcake-eating rebel, who transforms Lenni in ways she never imagined.

## November Birthdays

Please wish a happy November birthday to:

- 8 Caran-Marie Weston Dunbar
- 13 Odie Hendershot
- 15 Claudia Ross-Weston
- 17 Chris Lee



## Calendar

### November 2024

3	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM; Communion Sunday; Food Bank Sunday "Walking the El Camino" presentation by Barb Huff During Coffee Hour following Worship
4	Faith Exploration 5:00 PM Zoom
8	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
9	Second Saturday Work Party 9:00 VPC
10	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
11	Faith Exploration 5:00 PM Zoom
15	Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
16	Harvest Dinner 5:30 VPC
17	Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
18	Faith Exploration 7:00 PM Zoom
19	Deacon Meeting 10:00 AM VPC Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
21	Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
22	VPC Book Club 6:00 PM Potluck at Lindsay Hofmans' home
24	Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
25	Faith Exploration 5:00 PM Zoom
28	Thanksgiving Day

### Ongoing Activities

<b>Tuesdays</b>	Sporty's In-Person Coffee Hour 9:00 AM
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Body Prayer 8:30 AM on Zoom Text Study Noon on Zoom
<b>First Thursdays</b>	Mental Health Advocates 7:00 PM
<b>Last Thursdays</b>	Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
<b>Fridays</b>	<i>Anything Goes!</i> 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 (Faith Exploration), Barb Huff (Finance), Al Ross-Weston (Worship), Bob Spangler (Community Service), Nancy Tucker (Hospitality)
<b>Deacons</b>	Claudia Ross-Weston (Moderator), Chris Coldeen