



Vashon Presbyterian Church

News and Concerns

January 2025

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.



Look inside for a sneak peek at photos from the Tuckers' recent Antarctica trip.



Poster Found at a Church in France (Translated)

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God.'

However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phone.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place, and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."

A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

As someone who grew up in the Eastern Time Zone, I just assumed the new year came as soon as the ball dropped in New York City. So, in 1993, when I realized that just because it was midnight in NYC didn't mean it was midnight in my new home in Seattle, I realized that the ball drop in Times Square wasn't the final word on ushering in the new year.

Naturally, I understood the time zones across the country, but I didn't have to think about them too much because I lived in the one with both the largest city and as well as the nation's capital.

I also never expected to cast my ballot for a presidential election late in the day and realize that it was basically already determined before our polls here ever closed. I observed a lot of new things about this place that I now called home.

One of my hopes for us as a congregation and community this year is that we learn to observe and continue to widen our lens about what others might be feeling or what their stories might have taught them was true or perhaps what we assume everyone else knows.

While we can never fully stand in the shoes of another, we can listen and learn and observe. How scary might it be for someone to walk inside of a church if part of their story was being hurt by a church? What might it feel like not to know how liturgies flow and when to sit or stand or even how to find passages in the Bible? What might it feel like if you don't even have a concept of what church is or why people gather there?

Part of our call to the community around us is making space for others whose stories are different from ours. God calls these people God's children. They are our siblings.

VPC is very gifted at the art of welcoming and making space and my prayer is that we continue to lean into wide open doors and arms and hearts. My prayer is that we do our very best this year to remember that many things we take for granted might feel very new or even scary to others.

As we begin a new year together, let us remember to lead with love. Let us remember to lead with kindness. Let us remember to welcome everyone. We cannot know what this year holds for us, but we know who hold us through it. And may we all be reflections of the grace we have received.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



Clerk's Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meeting and a Special Congregational meeting are available upon request. Highlights from the December meetings include:

- The Congregation met December 22 to approve a proposed increase in Leigh's Terms of Call for 2024 and to elect Deacons and Elders whose terms will begin in January 2025. Leigh's Terms of Call was unanimously approved.
- Trace Hyde (first term), Lindsay Hofman (second term), and Nancy Tucker (second term) were approved to serve three-year terms beginning in 2025. They will join Bob Spangler, Al Ross-Weston, and Barb Huff on Session.
- Nancy van Roessel and Laurette Hyde will join Brownie Carver (Moderator) and Chris Coldeen as Deacons beginning in 2025.
- Session has also set the date of January 26 for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation to review the 2024 Annual Report and elect the 2025 Nominating Committee.
- The next Session meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, January 14, 2025.

Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session

Deacon's Message

At the beginning of this new year, I feel grateful to be a member of a loving church family. It is my honor and pleasure to serve as Moderator of the Deacons. Serving with me is a wonderful team which consists of Chris Coldeen, Laurette Hyde, and Nancy van Roessel.

We are the church's care team, and we are here to assist you, with prayer requests, rides, groceries, meals, emergency funds, and cards of encouragement. We can also direct you to other sources. Please let us know if you need help.

The best way to contact the deacons is to call or email the church office, or me. We look forward to serving and working with you.

Brownie Carver, Deacon Moderator



Anything Goes! Grief Group at Annual Gingerbread House Party

All-Church Retreat – Everyone is Invited!

PLEASE NOTE: The date has not yet been confirmed with Camp Burton; keep an eye on the VPC e-News.

This year's Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on January 26!

We will combine this year's meeting with Worship and with a retreat and will meet off site. We're working with Camp Burton to firm up the details but here's what you need to know:

You won't want to miss it!

You don't need to dress up! In fact, jeans and tennis shoes will be way better!

We WILL eat fun food (details coming)!

It WILL still be hybrid, meaning Zoom will be in place because hybrid is hybrid!

There WILL be a slide show so send your pictures to Leigh at her email: pastorleigh@comcast.net

There WILL be fun games!

There WILL be meaningful conversation!

This is your opportunity to share what you love about VPC, where you think we might be falling short, and how you would like to see us position our church for the future.

No one is ever too old to go to camp so circle the date and look for details to come in early January!



Worship

During Advent, communion was served December 1, 8 and 15. The annual Christmas pageant was performed on December 22 during the morning service.

The flowers this month were provided by Marcy Rice, Kathy O'Laughlin and other members of the worship committee. Thank you to Jim and Diana Lilje, Claudia Ross-Weston, Barb Huff, Trace Hyde and Nancy Tucker for providing the tech support. Also, Beverly Skeffington and Thomas Abraham for their support up front with the projector.

We also want to express our appreciation for the people who prepare the communion: Kathy O'Laughlin, Chris Coldeen, Brownie Carver and Héré Thieme.

We express our thanks to the musicians this past month who have added to our morning worship. They include Marsha Morse, Beverly Skeffington, Thomas Abraham, Chris Coldeen, and Jan van Roessel.

An all-church retreat is planned for January 26. This will include a morning worship service and the Annual Meeting, as well as opportunities to share in our faith journeys and participate in other fun activities.

Scenes from our Christmas Pageant



Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder

A Word from our Music Coordinator: Please Lend Your Talents!

We all recognize and appreciate the great music that comes to us each Sunday morning courtesy of Marsha Morse, supported by members of our VPC congregation. We would love to expand these musical offerings and hope you are feeling ready to share some of your favorite music with us, be it sung, or played. Please think about taking on a Sunday (or several) in the coming year. There are plenty of openings available. Please see or contact me to volunteer and/or offer suggestions.

Beverly Skeffington, Music Coordinator

Community Service Team

Areas of Responsibility

Scholarships, Outreach, Mary's Place partnership, IFCH, Mission Partner Relations

January 5 is Food Bank Sunday. Non-perishable food such as pasta, peanut butter and canned tuna, as well as 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.

The Christmas Eve offering of over \$1,200 is being donated to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Western North Carolina to be used for their Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

In January we will assemble a committee to review scholarship candidates intended for a Vashon High School senior. This is the scholarship awarded in May through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation. If you would like to be a reviewer, contact me at rwsfang@gmail.com.

Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder

Faith Exploration

During Advent, Pastor Leigh prepared a series of studies centered on the topics of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

For January, we are taking a breather from a prepared curriculum, and hope that individuals will be willing to share a favorite Bible passage or story to be the basis of our one-hour discussion. Details in upcoming e-News.

In February, we will discuss selections from the book, [Pray Like a Gourmet: Creative Ways to Feed Your Soul](#) by David Brazzeal. Nancy Tucker will kick off the series discussion in early February. She will obtain copies of the book; if you are interested, please let her know.

Faith Exploration currently meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom, but we are evaluating other potentially more convenient times for attendees. Keep your eyes peeled for the weekly e-News for updates.

Lindsay Hofman, Faith Exploration Elder

Building and Grounds

Planning Committee Report

The Committee did not meet in December, but we are still working on several changes.

- The parking lot light bulbs have been replaced so the area has much more light during our dark winter evenings.
- We should have news soon on the replacement of our locking system in the church. We hope to replace what we currently have with a keyless system.
- Our conventional dishwasher in the kitchen has aged out. It will be replaced soon.

Diana Lilje

Hospitality

December was a busy month for Hospitality. We actively supported the WinterFest held on December 6, with an enormous outpouring of support. We had plenty of people on hand to serve cocoa and cider, enough cookies and other treats, and we had enough left over for after-Worship coffee hours.

Upcoming Activities

After a very full November and December, there are no special activities planned for January. In mid-January I will hold a Hospitality Committee meeting to discuss fellowship opportunities for the first quarter 2024. Please think about fun, easy ways we can get together.

Ongoing Activities

Hosting Sunday coffee hours is easy; a signup sheet is in the East Room. Coffee at Sporty's continues each Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Please join us—you don't even have to order breakfast; just come for the chitchat.

Nancy Tucker, Hospitality Elder

WinterFest Highlights



VPC Book Club

The VPC Book Club meeting will be held at the home of Cherry Champagne. As usual, it will be a potluck meal beginning at 6:00.

Our selection is Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro. From Amazon: "Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. *Klara and the Sun* is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: What does it mean to love?"

The date is to be determined since there is a conflict on January 17. The date and Cherry's address will be published in the e-News.

Claudia Ross-Weston

January Birthdays



Join us in wishing a happy January birthday to:

- | | |
|----|---------------|
| 2 | Sheryl Lehman |
| 13 | Sara Dunn |
| 23 | Hére Thieme |
| 25 | Marcy Rice |

Church Leadership

Pastor	Leigh Weber
Clerk of Session	Claudia Ross-Weston
Session Members	Lindsay Hofman, Barb Huff, Trace Hyde (to be ordained and installed), Bob Spangler, Al Ross-Weston, Nancy Tucker
Deacons	Brownie Carver(Moderator), Chris Coldeen, Lauretta Hyde, Nancy van Roessel (Loretta and Nancy to be ordained and installed)

Greetings from Antarctica

Ben and Nancy Tucker are returning from a two-week trip that took them to Iguazu Falls, Argentina, and then to a cruise to Antarctica. Later this year they will host a brief slideshow covering the highlights of this once-in-a-lifetime voyage. For now, here are some photos snapped during the cruise.



Calendar

January 2025

- 3 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30
- 5 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
Ordination/Installation of Deacons and Elders during Worship
- 7 Faith Exploration 7:00 PM Zoom
- 10 Game Night 7:00 PM
- 11 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon VPC
- 12 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM
- 14 Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
Faith Exploration 7:00 PM Zoom
- 19 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- 21 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC
Faith Exploration 7:00 PM Zoom
- 23 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 24 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 26 All-Church Retreat Camp Burton 9:00 – 3:00 Includes
 - Sunday Worship Service
 - Congregational Meeting to approve 2025 budget
- 28 Faith Formation 7:00 PM Zoom

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 8:30 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 |