



# Vashon Presbyterian Church

## News and Concerns

### March 2025

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.



#### Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on March 8<sup>th</sup>!



#### Lent Poem by Sue Martin, 2018

Jesus may we follow you on the pilgrim way of Lent,

May we journey with you into the wilderness,

Willing to move beyond the ordinary,

So that we can discover your unexpected sacred places.

Jesus may we wash our hands and purify our hearts,

Learning to thirst after righteousness and hunger after justice,

May we humble ourselves before you,

Expecting to see you revealed in a new light.

Jesus may we walk with you no matter how challenging the path,

Learning to be patient with darkness and growth,

Willing to live with not knowing,

Until our mustard seeds take root and sprout into life.

#### Pi Day

Friday, March 14, Noon - 4:00

Help us welcome our island community with a slice of pie!

Looking for volunteers to:

- Bake pies
- Help set up/clean up
- Meet and greet visitors

Sign up sheet in East Room

*God's love is like Pi:*

*Irrational, real, and never ending*

## A Message from Pastor Leigh



Dear Ones of VPC,

As I type this, the sun is shining in my office and catching the prism that dangles in my window. The little rainbows sparkle along the walls. It feels like a long time since I saw those little sparkling rainbows. It has been a long winter and the great darkness of living so far north has felt tiring this year.

When spring first begins to give us signs that life was still at work in those dark months, pushing bulbs up from the cold ground, I'm reminded that so much of life and growth is left unseen by human eyes and yet it continues to find its way. That's the image I keep with me when life seems heavier than usual or when I watch those around me struggle with grief or hurt of any kind. In the dark unseen places, something is emerging that will sparkle with life in time. Waiting, though, can be painfully hard.

I suspect that's the work of Lent in many ways, walking with Jesus in the wilderness, bearing witness to his hunger, his pain, his own temptation to find an easier way. Lent occupies a substantial part of the liturgical year, taking up a full six weeks before we arrive at Holy Week. It beckons us to linger in the darkness, to trust in things unseen, unrevealed and to know that God is still at work.

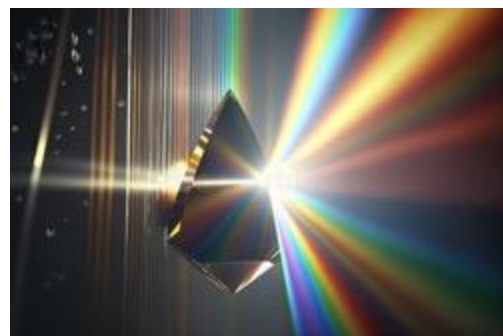
You may have the practice of giving up something for Lent or adding extra devotional time. How you honor this season is up to you, but honoring it is important. Lent doesn't just prepare us for Easter, it reminds us of what is born out of the dust, out of the darkness, out of grief, out of hunger, out of pain.

After Jesus returned from the wilderness, the writer of Luke tells us that he was filled with the power of the Spirit and word began to spread about him everywhere. Walking alongside of Jesus in the dark of the wilderness reminds you and me that darkness will never have the final word. Just like the prism that hangs in my office window, when the light comes, everything changes.

Easter is coming and we will shout, sing, and rejoice but let us not rush there just yet. There is much to learn from the dust of Lent.

Grace and Peace,

Leigh



## Clerk's Corner

Minutes of the monthly Session meeting and our Annual Report are available upon request. Highlights from the February 18, 2025 Visioning meeting include:

- We recorded our impressions of the retreat. We liked the space at Camp Burton. We discussed inclusion and allowing all people to be heard, possibly using a talking stick. We want to have enough time to play, have fun with each other and listen to each other's stories.
- We want to keep the awareness of where God shows up for us in our church and in the greater community. Where does God show up in our interactions? Continue to think of different ways we interact with the community in the future. This is an ongoing work in progress.

The next Session meeting will be held at VPC on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

*Claudia Ross-Weston, Clerk of Session*

## Deacons' Message

It's a new year with a new team of Deacons ready to support the VPC family. The words in an ordination service for our denomination describe the very clear responsibilities that guide all the Deacons' activities. Deacons are "called to be servant people... to support one another in common ministry...and to provide acts of care and compassion in the world." With that guidance, and the specific admonition to "serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love" we are ready to respond respectfully to all concerns that we learn about.

Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Leigh or one of the deacons when we can offer encouraging support for you!

*The Deacons Team*

*Brownie Carver, Moderator*

*Chris Coldeen, Laretta Hyde and Nancy van Roessel*

## Worship

We held Communion on February 2 and the Baptism on February 23. We begin the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The Ash Wednesday service will be held at noon at the Lutheran church.

Additional planning for the season is underway. Look for additional updates in the coming weeks.

*Al Ross-Weston, Worship Elder*



Edny and Marie look on as Leigh baptizes their daughter, Maevy.

## Community Service Team

### Areas of Responsibility

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

March 2 is Food Bank Sunday. There is always a need for staples such as spaghetti and other pastas, canned tuna, peanut butter, broth and personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste. Please also consider items such as condiments, baking staples, boxed potatoes and cooking oil. The Food Bank also needs clean paper grocery bags. You can bring items to the Sunday service, take them directly to the Food Bank or deliver them to the VPC office and we will follow up.

The period of Lent begins March 5, and one of VPC's Lenten activities has been participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. The nation-wide special collection is administered by our parent denomination, and receipts are distributed almost equally among three programs: Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will be providing more information about these programs during Lent.

We have formed review teams for the scholarship awarded through the Vashon Community Scholarship Foundation and for the Heindsmann Endowment scholarship. The awards will be announced in May.

The tradition of celebrating Pi Day continues! We will be distributing slices of pie to the public on March 14. Lindsay Hofman and Nancy Tucker will be organizing volunteers to bring pie, set up and take down chairs and tables. Look for the sign-up sheets in the East Room.

*Bob Spangler, Community Service Elder*

### Faith Exploration

In February, we discussed selections from the book, Pray Like a Gourmet: Creative Ways to Feed Your Soul by David Brazzeal. Nancy Tucker led this four-week discussion, which was energetic, thoughtful, humorous, and full of insights.

In March during Lent Jeff Minzel will lead a class series titled, "A Reasoned Faith." We will meet on Sundays at the church following coffee hour. This promises to be a very interesting theological journey. In Jeff's words, "This six-part series will explore classic arguments and objective evidence for the existence of a Creator and Christ. We will evaluate classic logic (Thomas Aquinas, C.S. Lewis, the moral law, love, etc.); intelligent design; the fine tuning of the universe; the reliability of scripture; the suffering of the Apostles and the early Christian church; fulfilled prophecies related to Christ; how faith and reason interact and inform each other; and much more. We will look only at arguments that can be objectively determined and carefully review counter arguments, including the tenants of atheism and naturalism. Faith is both subjective and objective. Strengthening both sides brings us closer to Christ. Learning objective arguments also allows us to engage with non-believers on neutral ground. We will leave plenty of time for discussion and debate, which I hope is robust. Please join us."

*Lindsay Hofman, Faith Exploration Elder*

## Building Resources

### Update from the Planning Committee

A new dishwasher was installed on February 24. It replaces one that served us well for over 20 years. It was heavily used, very tired, and had earned its retirement.

A new entry system for the doors on the north side of the church and for the kitchen will be installed soon. The time of having to keep track of over 100 keys will end. This new system will use keycards. You will receive an update on building entry once the system is installed and several people are trained on managing the locks.

*Diana Lilje, Planning Committee Chair*

### Building Use

You may not realize how heavily our building gets used by the school, the church, and various community groups as well as individual users. Our volunteer office staff and Building Use Coordinator Diana Lilje strive to fill every request.

Carpe Diem School uses the Social Hall every weekday from September to mid-June. In addition, they put on programs in the Sanctuary several times a year.

Five nights a week the Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (IFCH) hosts a meal in the East Room for those in need. VPC volunteers provide a meal once a month; other groups fill out the remaining days in the month.

Three Mondays a month the Vashon Bell Choir practices in the Sanctuary.

Every Tuesday night the Vashon Island Chorale practices in the Sanctuary.

Every Wednesday night the Men's Prayer Group meets in the library.

Every third Wednesday morning the Alzheimer Caregivers use the library to meet.

Every third Wednesday the Vashon Healthcare District meets in the Sanctuary and occasionally meets another night in the library.

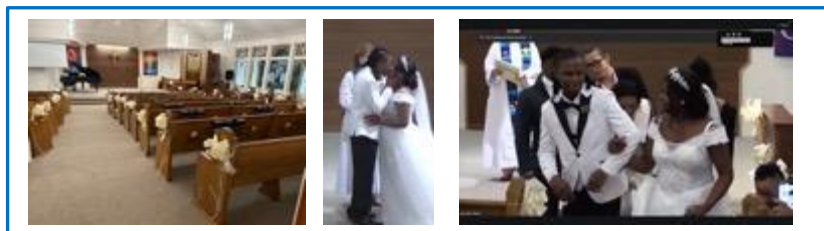
Other community groups have used evenings for meetings when space is available.

Individual users often request space for birthday parties, baby showers, or other large gatherings in the Social Hall.

All building use requests need the review and approval of the Building Use Coordinator. If you hear of anyone wanting to use the church building for a special event, please direct them to Diana Lilje.

*Trace Hyde, Building Resource Elder*

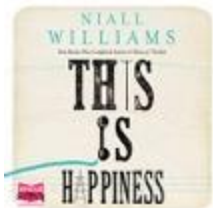
*Diana Lilje, Building Use Coordinator*



Newlyweds Garry and Glennie Altidor were married at VPC on February 23.

## VPC Book Club

Book Club will meet for a potluck dinner at 6:00 on Friday, March 21 at the home of Barb Huff. Our selection this month is This is Happiness by Niall Williams. **NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST and REAL SIMPLE**



"A profound and enchanting new novel from Booker Prize-longlisted author Niall Williams about the loves of our lives and the joys of reminiscing." Amazon

Our selection for April is Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate.

VPC Book Club is always light-hearted and entertaining, and you don't have to have finished the book to attend. Just contribute a dish (ask the host what's needed), and join the fun!

*Claudia Ross-Weston*

## Public Service Announcement: Pay Less for Your Energy

Get a monthly discount of up to 45% off your utility bill if you qualify. Puget Sound Energy is holding a meeting to explain this program on **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 – 3:00 at the Vashon Library**. If you are interested, please show up with:

- Your PSE account number/utility bill
- Amount of your gross monthly income (proof not required)
- Names/birth dates for all residents in the home

Questions? Contact Zachary.Kaija@pse.com.

## Hospitality

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes lots of opportunities to get together while it's light outside. It's time to plan our church activities, so in early March we will have a Hospitality Committee meeting where you can share your ideas and opinions on potential social events. Check VPC's weekly e-News for details.

## Ongoing Activities – Sunday Coffee Hour and Tuesdays at Sporty's

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*

## March Birthdays



Join us in wishing a happy March birthday to:

- |    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 13 | Aglaia Olsen |
| 14 | Liz Loveness |
| 17 | Barbara Zue  |

## March 2025

- 2 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Communion
- 4 Faith Exploration 7:00 PM Zoom
- 5 Ash Wednesday Service Noon – Vashon Lutheran Church
- 7 First Friday, S'mores at the fire pit on the lawn 5:30  
Game Night 7:00 PM
- 8 Second Saturday Work Party 10:00 – Noon VPC
- 9 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Faith Exploration Noonish VPC
- 11 Deacons' Meeting 10:00 AM VPC  
Session Meeting 4:00 PM VPC
- 16 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Faith Exploration Noonish VPC
- 21 VPC Book Club 6:00 PM
- 23 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Faith Exploration Noon VPC
- 27 Theology Pub 5:00 Camp Colvos
- 28 Game Night 7:00 PM Zoom
- 30 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM  
Faith Exploration Noonish VPC

### 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<br>Text Study Noon                           |
| <b>Wednesdays</b>      | Body Prayer 8:30 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)<br>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, Trace Hyde, Bob Spangler, Al Ross-Weston, Nancy Tucker |
| <b>Deacons</b>          | Brownie Carver (Moderator), Chris Coldeen, Laoretta Hyde, Nancy van Roessel       |