

Blessing
- of the -
ANIMALS



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Bremerton, WA

*We seek Christ and celebrate the
mystery of God's love for all.
We are progressive Christians in an
open, inclusive,*

and affirming community of faith.

*We provide a safe harbor for everyone on their
spiritual journey.*

*We endeavor to bring God's presence to a world in
need.*

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Blessing of Animals October 4, 2026

This Sunday's Ministry Team:

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Arienne Davison

Deacon: The Rev. Bill Thaete

Music Director: Colleen Shoemaker

Media Arts: Tara Curran & Terri Anderson

A Message from The Rev. Arienne



Creation Sings, Barks, Mews and Hisses

Each year the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4. It happens this year that this day falls on a Sunday. Like many other Episcopal Churches, St. Paul's takes special care on this day to celebrate and bless those creatures that accompany we humans through our journeys on the earth.

St. Francis was a strange and wonderful man. Francis grew up in a wealthy family. He lived in luxury while watching the poor go hungry and leaders war with each other for territory. Francis seemed intimately connected to creation itself, as legend tells he often conversed with animals and spent time in their company. More than that, Francis believed the pathway to the might and grace of Jesus Christ was through humility and poverty.

Francis took money from his wealthy father to fund the repair of a church. When his angry father brought him before the Bishop for judgment, Francis stripped off his clothes and renounced his worldly goods. His bishop is said to have put a cloak on him to cover his nakedness.

While Francis' faith is the epitome of radical faith and young adult rebellion, we focus on his gentler side. Francis' love of creation and creatures continues to be a sign to faithful people of God's presence all around us.

When we gather to bless the animals (and stuffies) that are a part of our lives, we are better able to see God's presence alongside us. When we are disheartened a fluff of fur might plop in our lap reminding us we are not alone. When we are feeling off, a super smeller might alert us to dangerous levels of blood sugar. This specialization and connectedness of Creation reminds us that we human animals also have a job to serve and companion with all our hearts.

The Creator reveals the wonder of Creation day by day and mew by mew. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Animal Blessing

- Animal guests (under 150 pounds) and stuffies are welcome in church at 8:00 o'clock and 10:00 o'clock.
- Please leash or crate your animal for their protection and the protection of other creatures.
- The priest will ask you for the name of your animal/stuffy and about your animal/stuffy's personality and life with you.

If you would like to bring your pet for blessing only, we will bless pets from
 9:15 AM - 9:45 AM (between 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock service)
 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (after 10 o'clock service)

-The Rev. Arienne

A letter from Declan:

For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me.
 Matthew 25: 35 – 40.

My dearest Saint Paul's brothers and sisters in Christ,

The cool weather last night and this morning brought out the beginning of my winter clothes for which you beloved friends provided for me when my home was destroyed. Virtually every piece of clothing I have in my position at this moment is the result of your generosity and your commitment to me as a member of your community. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your generous love and your constant comfort.

I pray you, forgive me for taking so long to write this thank you note but to be perfectly honest between caring for Darrell, the destruction of my home, and an impending divorce, I am in one of the deepest valleys of my adult life, emotionally and physically. But in my darkness your light shown like a beacon on a hill always proclaiming God's love and care.

For those who donated clothing, I thank you, every time I wear them I shall think of you and utter a quick prayer for a blessing on whoever you are, all of you. For those of you who were so generous as to offer financial assistance, the basis of my daily wardrobe was purchased with your gifts and so every day I wear a testimony to your love.

I ask your prayers during these days of trouble, for guidance, wisdom, and understanding and dealing with the insurance agents and contractors for our home, the

continued good health of my brother Darrell and my own health issues for which I will be undergoing hand surgery on the 8th of October.

My beloved brother and sisters I remind you that it is not on the mountain tops where growth occurs but rather it is in the valleys which are difficult, but real growth can come forth. I guess this is just my time to grow a little bit closer to God and I am so very grateful that I have you to make that journey with me and to give me encouragement.

With praise and adoration for our loving God I remain yours,
Father Declan+
Old Catholic Church





Packed with Pride!



Give her more than something to do.

Give her a place to grow.

Troop 53143 is welcoming 4-12th Graders in Bremerton!
This troop welcomes and celebrates Girl Scouts and families in the LGBTQ+ community.

Register using the QR code or contact us at ERamsey@gsww.org
Reference the troop number in the subject line.

girl scouts 
of western washington



Keep Scrolling

St. Antony Grief Group

Drop-in Grief Group starting September 1st
will meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday
12:00pm

St. Antony of Egypt
11885 Old Frontier Rd. NW
Silverdale, WA 98383>

No book is needed-- the format will be similar to 12-step groups where individuals drop in to share if they would like and support one another. We'd be glad to see any of your congregants there who could use some extra pastoral care and support!



2026 Women of Achievement

Friday, October 9, 2026 • 5:30pm

Kitsap Conference Center

100 Washington Ave, Bremerton, WA 98337

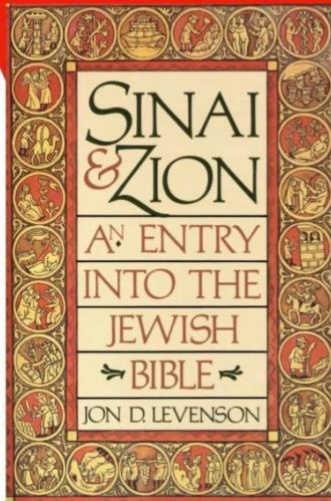
More than an awards celebration, **Women of Achievement** is an inspiring evening that brings together community leaders, business professionals, philanthropists, and changemakers who share a commitment to building a safer, stronger, and more equitable Kitsap County. Through powerful stories, meaningful recognition, and collective generosity, we celebrate those who are making a lasting difference while raising critical support for survivors of domestic violence and their families.

To learn more, click here: <https://ywcakitsap.org/events>

Coffee Hour Volunteers Sept - Dec 2026

Sunday	Name	Contact Information
Sept 6	Colleen Shoemaker	(360) 477-2053
Sept 13	Karen Hobson	
Sept 20	Jackie King	
Sept 27	Jim Manlove	(360) 710-5752
Oct 4	Mollyshannon Neel	(360) 929-1756
Oct 11	Karen Hobson	
Oct 18	Eric Smiley	(206) 310-8237
Oct 25	Jim Manlove	(360) 710-5752
Nov 1	Sue Ahrens	(360) 471-2139
Nov 8	Karen Hobson	
Nov 15	Olivia Holgate	(314) 546-3345
Nov 22	Bob Ellis	
Nov 29	Fifth Sunday Brunch Outing	
Dec 6	Mollyshannon Neel	(360) 929-1756
Dec 13	Karen Hobson	
Dec 20	Colleen Shoemaker	(360) 477-2053
Dec 27	Jim Manlove	(360) 710-5752

St Paul's Episcopal Church Book Club



New Book Starting
Oct. 5 — 6:30 p.m.

Join us every Monday at
6:30 p.m. via Zoom!

Invitation:
tinyurl.com/3mn96nwd

Meeting ID: 852 5300 8185
Passcode: journey

Or contact Katherine Adams
(360) 377-9942

Jon D. Levenson's book explores the Hebrew Bible through two great sacred mountains: Sinai, representing Israel's covenant with God and the giving of Torah, and Zion, representing Jerusalem, the Temple, and God's dwelling among Israel.

He shows how these two traditions developed, interacted and ultimately shaped Jewish theology and the Bible's understanding of Israel's relationship with God.

It's a scholarly but very readable introduction to the Hebrew Bible from a Jewish theological perspective.

For a Christian Bible reader, it would be especially interesting because it lets you encounter the Old Testament largely on its own Jewish terms, rather than primarily through later Christian interpretation.

[Click here to join via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/3mn96nwd](https://tinyurl.com/3mn96nwd)



[Click here to read the October 1 edition!](#)



Faith Formation
LIFELONG AND ONGOING



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
In Bremerton, Washington
*"An Inclusive and Progressive
Community of Faith"*

Sundays
8:50 to 9:20 a.m.
Between services.

'Being Episcopalian'

All are welcome!



St. Paul's Bible Study Group

We will next meet on **Wednesday, October 7** at
9:30 am in the
Oliver Room to discuss the following readings:

- **Exodus 32:1-14**
- **Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23**
- **Philippians 4:1-9**
- **Matthew 22:1-14**

All are welcome! **Contact Sue Ahrens at 360.471.2139** with any questions.
See you on Wednesday! If you would like to join us via Zoom, here is the Zoom link:

Topic: Bible Study Zoom Meeting
Time: Sep 2, 2026 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

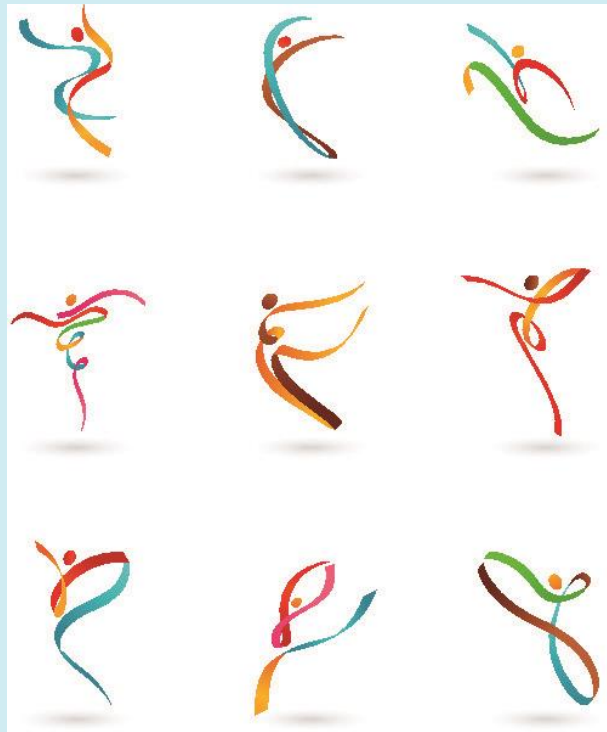
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83754444747?pwd=xfmYe5xgMLZZkB6Px7QHLVKZ8ihttG.1>

Meeting ID: 837 5444 4747

Passcode: 438263

Moved by the Spirit

Love dancing? Join us
at Moved by the Spirit
every Wednesday
morning at 11:30 on
Zoom.



Katherine Adams is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Dance

Time: Jun 10, 2026 11:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, 110 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwsdOuorjopH9bzJ8BkMMzfsICYYPsXHGP6/ics?i>

Meeting chat link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/jc/88132001352>

Meeting ID: 881 3200 1352

Passcode: Dance



" The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission not just to be part of but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community."

***Please check to see if your Fred Meyer card is linked
to St. Paul's to ensure continued donations.
Thank you!***

Keep Scrolling

**During April - June 2026, 27 households
participated. Donations were \$58.42!
You're awesome!**

Please submit any changes/updates for the
Halls of St. Paul's or Prayer Vine to Jessica Lewis
at stpaul700@gmail.com. Thanks!

Keep Scrolling