

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 First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2026

This Sunday's Ministry Team:

Preacher & Presider: The Rev. Arienne Davison
Deacon: The Rev. Bill Thaete
Music Director: Colleen Shoemaker
Media Arts: Tara Curran & Terri Anderson

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A Message from The Rev. Arienne



Practicing Advent

We at St. Paul's stand at the beginning of a new church year. While each year ends with a celebration of Christ's reign over heaven and earth; each Advent we rewind the story of salvation to an uncertain time when people were heartsick for justice and peace.

As we begin a year that will mark our 125th anniversary as an Episcopal worshipping community in Bremerton, St. Paul's is grateful for our neighbors. As we await the coming of a king who will judge us by how we treat the least among us, St. Paul's is invited to participate in practicing waiting for Jesus through three different types of service to our community.

Give Money: **Coffee Oasis**
Coffee Oasis is a homegrown non-profit that operates 2 of the 9 overnight youth shelters in Washington state. They work with youth in need of shelter and other social services.
Currently Coffee Oasis has need for funds to operate its shelter, funds that offer a meal and gift "Christmas experience" to teens in need, and volunteers. **Donate** at their website. You can also support their work by patronizing their coffee shops, buying specialty coffee products, or volunteering.

Shop for Neighbors: **Kitsap Community Resources** Christmas Baskets
Kitsap Community Resources provides Christmas meal baskets to households in need.
You can find a shopping list at the church on the Bulletin Board, other places in this email or our **Facebook** page. Shop for Christmas meal items and drop them at the church. Church volunteers will deliver the food to KCR.

Feed Neighbors: **Benedict House** Request for meals
Benedict House is a men's homeless shelter operated by Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. For decades, they have provided men with a place to sleep and 3 meals. Benedict House has asked St. Paul's if we would be interested in feeding the residents once a month for the next 3 months. If

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you are interested in preparing and delivering food to Benedict House, email Mother Arienne or sign up on Sunday.

Sometimes, when I see a need in our community, I get overwhelmed. You might too. You don't have to do all the things. Followers of Jesus do what they do with intention and love. We chase the wholeness and connection that comes from Christ's presence among us.

This Advent practice your holy waiting by praying together on Sundays and serving our neighbors.

-The Rev. Arienne Davison

The office will be closed on Friday, November 27.

St. Paul's special Christmas Services

Quiet Christmas Service: Dec. 20 5pm
Christmas Eve Service: Dec. 24 6pm
Christmas Day Service: Dec. 25 10am

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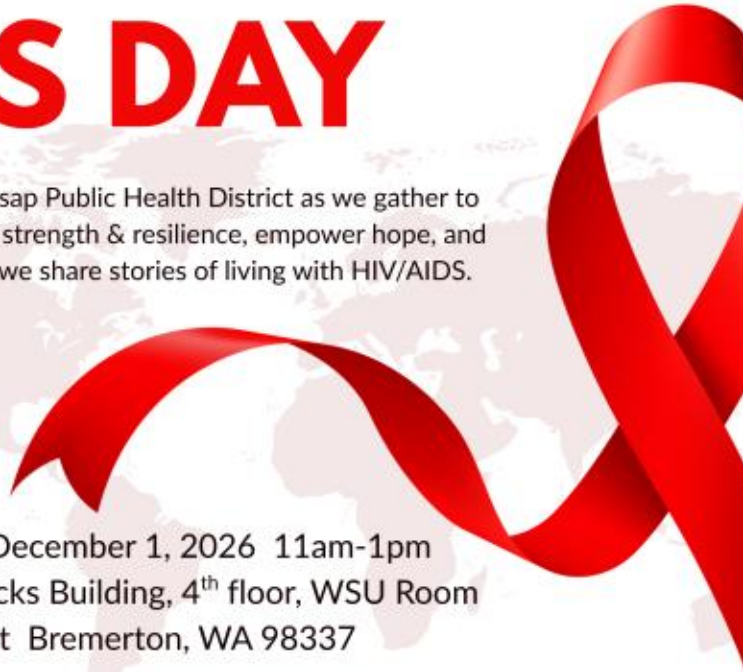
DECEMBER 1, 2026

WORLD AIDS DAY



Please join Kitsap Public Health District as we gather to heal, celebrate strength & resilience, empower hope, and remember as we share stories of living with HIV/AIDS.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 1, 2026 11am-1pm
WHERE: Norm Dicks Building, 4th floor, WSU Room
345 6th St Bremerton, WA 98337

Contact Jessica Howell
jessica.howell@kitsappublichealth.org (360) 233.6246

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Photos from Interfaith Thanksgiving, Nov 24. Thanks to all for their generosity. Over $2000 was donated to Bremerton Foodline!

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GRIEVE TOGETHER · A COMMUNITY GRIEF CIRCLE

Why would anyone intentionally step into a grief circle?

In the Christian tradition, following Jesus leads to the darkest and most difficult places of our outer and inner worlds. We're invited to face not only the suffering of the world but also, honestly, our own.

And yet, when we're honest, we acknowledge that we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, that we turn away from those who suffer and from our own suffering. Sometimes we get so good at helping others that we forget to tend to ourselves. Research suggests we are often far more compassionate toward others than toward ourselves.

So we need places where we intentionally face the reality of our own inner world. Our willingness to do so will lead us to both grief and praise, but grief is among the most difficult emotions to be with. Within our culture, we learn to move on, get over it, and avoid heaviness.

In Jesus we see a willingness to enter those burdened places. Not because he always wanted to ("Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me"), but because he chose to move toward truth and beauty in the dark and difficult. Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend: beauty. He did not push those feelings away: truth.

A grief circle is an intentional place to practice facing that which is difficult to face. It is also a place to move toward what we don't yet know we carry. Most of us have become so good at avoiding grief that we hide it even from ourselves, showing up instead as anxiety or depression.

These circles are a place to practice realigning with the truth of what we hold within us, so we can be set free from holding back and live more fully into the wholeness of our divinely human experience.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Grieve Together: A Community Grief Circle

Saturday, December 5, 2–6 pm
Faith Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 20295 Little Valley Rd NE, Poulsbo
Led by Dr. Jeffrey Batstone and Mark Demmel
Ritual, song, drumming, prayerful silence, and talking circle. Open to all, whatever your grief.
Sliding scale $55 / $85 / $125. Scholarships available; reach out if cost is a barrier.
Register: waterwaystherapy.com/griefcircle

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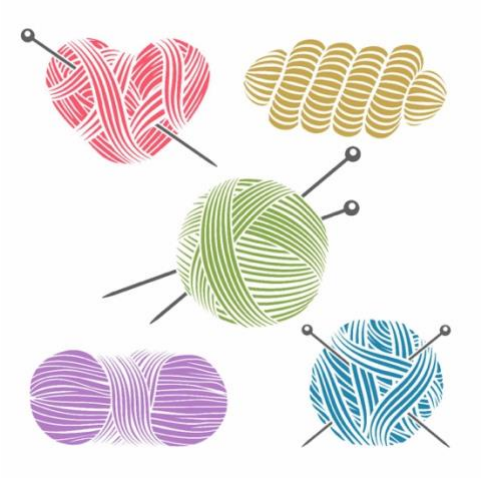
Have any leftover yarn from a project? We take yarn donations! The yarn is knitted or croched to make prayer shawls. These prayer shawls are available for all for free, and are located near the sound system in the sanctuary. Leave any yarn donations on the pew outside the office. See Margi Hall if you have any questions or would like to make a prayer shawl. Thank you!



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton

Want to request building space?



Find an application on our Website:
https://tinyurl.com/yy7eybyb

Click here for application!

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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

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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

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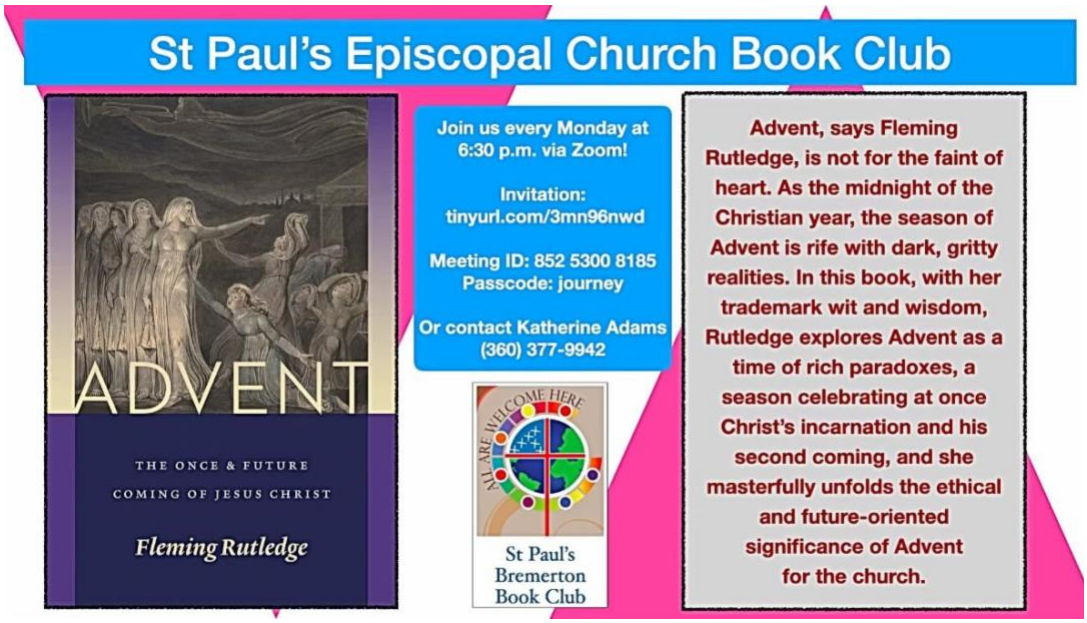

Click here to join via Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/3mn96nwd



Click here to read the November 19th edition!

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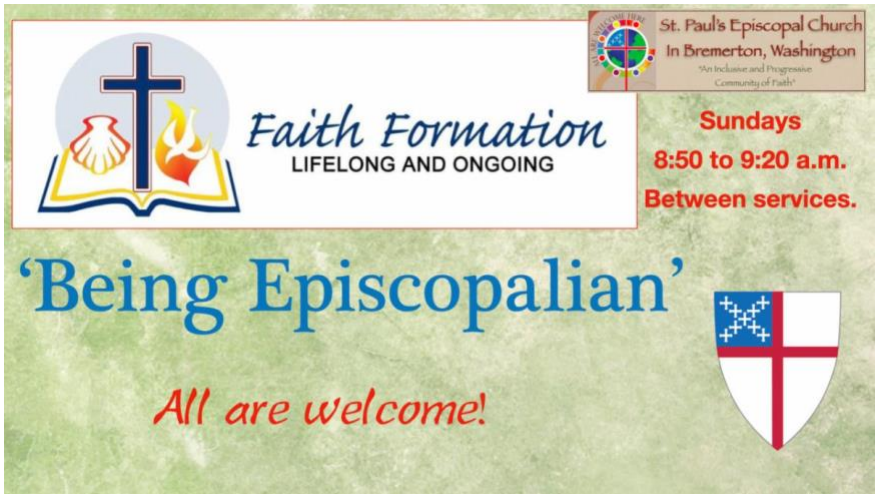

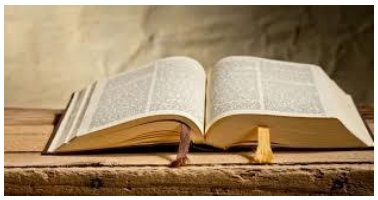

St. Paul's Bible Study Group

We will next meet on **Wednesday, December 2 at 9:30 am** in the Oliver Room to discuss the following readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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

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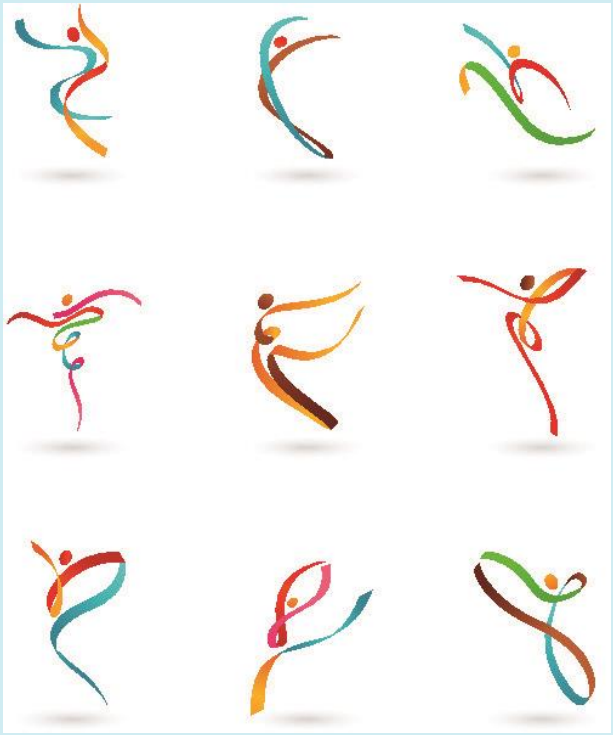
Moved by the Spirit



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/launch/jc/88132001352

Meeting ID: 881 3200 1352
Passcode: Dance

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Fred Meyer community rewards

Where shopping & giving unite



" 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!

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

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

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