



**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.

**July 5, 2026
The Sixth Sunday after
Pentecost**

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

A Message from The Rev. Arienne



Sin-sick

For the past few weeks, we have been reading passages from Romans on Sunday in church. The Letter to the Romans is the closest thing to systematic theology that exists in the New Testament. And while there is a lot of disagreement over whether St. Paul wrote many of the letters attributed to him, most biblical scholars would count the following letters as authentically crafted by St. Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 1 Thessalonians, Philippians, and Philemon.

Of these Romans is the longest and Philemon the shortest. Outside of Romans, most of St. Paul's writing is pastoral. He writes about challenges, scandals, and conflicts that hamper the ministry of congregations he planted. In Corinth, a man is sleeping with his stepmother and other members are suing each other in court over disagreements that happened at church. In Galatia and Philippi, gentiles are being circumcised and acting like they are holier than uncircumcised gentiles. Also people are talking trash about Paul and his ministry. [*"You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you!?!"*] In Thessaloniki, people who believed Jesus was coming in their lifetime were dying and some stopped believing in the resurrection.

But St. Paul barely mentions what's happening in Rome in his book to the Romans. He has a totally different objective: explaining how his thinking in all those different situations fit together and make sense. What can sound like erudite philosophical double-talk explains why he came to the conclusions he did when wrestling with different ethical problems in different places. Instead of chastising false teachers who preach circumcision as he does in Galatians, Philippians, Corinthians; St. Paul explains why circumcision is a damaging teaching in the accepted format of philosophical argument in his day. Romans then is meant to be a general characterization of how an archetypical follower of Jesus ought to think and behave as well as how the community of followers should behave.

And this Sunday we will hear St. Paul's take on why people keep walking away from God when they know better. In his own words, "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."
(Romans 7:15 NRSV) He goes on to argue that while his mind or inmost self delights in God, he can't make his body do the things God wants.

This insight is common across spiritual and religious traditions. How is that even though I was created well by God, I damage that created self or other people? Why do evil and sin exist? What can I do to get out of the cycle of pain and hate that wound creation and the Creator?

St. Paul makes the case for ultimate humility: the assumption that people are going to choose to walk away from God because their bodies are too frail to do what is good. This is a tough one for me. Some people I admire like Fr. Greg Boyle dispenses with sin language when describing disordered human behavior. If someone comes to his large non-profit Homeboy Enterprises and smashes the front window, he tries to figure out what sickness caused that acting out and heal it. The disordered behavior isn't a character flaw but a signal that what some would call sin and others would call sickness is taking over the part of the person that knows what's right. And if we are honest, the difference between sin and sickness usually lies in whether or not we blame the person for the frailty or misbehavior. Fr. Boyle's approach blurs the lines, in a way that feels more honest and genuine to my experience.

I confess to you, I feel the blurred line between sin and sickness more than usual this week. Here in Bremerton we love the Navy and are proud of being a part of the United States of America. Many of my neighbors show that pride by acting out the striking image we hear in Francis Scott Key's hymn to the values of the United States flag, "the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Through no fault of any of my neighbors, someone many years ago changed the way my body reacted to the sounds of munitions when he held a gun to my head and said he would kill me if I didn't do what he said. Ever since then, when I hear fireworks, my body doesn't do what I want. When I hear the bombs bursting in air, my body believes I have a gun to my head. And I don't do what I want. I don't remember my next appointment. I miss signs on the road when I am driving. I can't sleep through the night, even when the bombs stop exploding. I am not as kind, brave, or curious as I am when I am well.

When I celebrate the Fourth away from people and fireworks, I don't think I am sinning against the ideals of America. And I don't think my neighbors are sinning against me by lighting off M-80's on the street. Though I cannot make my body feel differently about how we Americans celebrate this feast. I do think

my body is reacting to sin. A long time ago someone sinned by taking my human life and dignity for granted and I am carrying that sin in my body.

I am starting to think that diagnosing what happens in my body as sin or sickness isn't that important. Maybe we are running a fool's errand when we try to figure out whose fault sin is. Instead, we could thank God for making us so strong that we can carry other's sin and sickness for a time and then participate in the resurrection Christ promised for those who care enough to walk with him and those he loves.

-The Rev. Arienne



We're so grateful to Baker Electric for coming and fixing the lights on the tower, replacing batteries on the tower camera, and changing out the light bulbs over the front entrance! They also installed a new timer for the tower lights, so watch for the cross to light up at night again.

Keep Scrolling

Vacation Bible School

July 27-31, 2026
9 a.m. to noon

Register Now!



Click slide to register children

St. Antony of Egypt Episcopal Church
11885 Old Frontier Rd. NW, Silverdale

For children entering 1st Grade through 6th Grade
Light snack and VBS t-shirt provided
Cost: \$25 per child
Please complete one enrollment form for each child
<https://tinyurl.com/39683duv>

Adult volunteers needed!
<https://tinyurl.com/55hxc6f>



Ice Cream Social

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

Sunday, July 5th

After Sunday service – 11 a.m.

Bring your favorite toppings to share, or any favorite flavor.
We will have vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry
ice cream available.



Showing up for our neighbors

The Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA), which owns a site on Sheridan Road across from Saars Foods, has submitted a zone change request to allow tiny home structures on the lot for 3 years instead of 6 months. A Planning Commission Workshop is planned that includes opportunities for public comment.

Planning Commission Public Workshop
Monday, July 20 at 5:30 pm
Norm Dicks building, 345 6th Ave (first floor chambers)

At the last meeting, more people opposed zoning for tiny homes than favored it.

St. Paul's supports BHA's plans to provide housing-focused shelter to our unhoused neighbors.

Please consider sharing your support of the proposed tiny home village and our unhoused neighbors on July 20.

Coffee Hour Treat Volunteers May - August

Sunday	Name	Contact Information
May 3	Susan Porter	
May 10	Karen Hobson	
May 17	Bob Ellis	
May 24	Colleen Shoemaker	
May 31	Fifth Sunday Brunch Outing	
June 7	Jim Manlove	
June 14	Karen Hobson	
June 21	Jackie King	
June 28	Mollyshannon Neel	
July 5	?	
July 12	Karen Hobson	
July 19	Sue Ahrens	
July 26	Colleen Shoemaker	
August 2	Jim Manlove	
August 9	Karen Hobson	
August 16	Georgann Falotico	
August 23	Sue Ahrens	
August 30	Fifth Sunday Brunch Outing	

Thank You, Volunteers

Keep Scrolling

Upcoming Events

Saturday

June 27

Watch the Fireworks!

9:30 p.m.
Oliver Room



**All
Are
Welcome!**

Sunday

June 28

Holy Eucharist
8 a.m.

**5th Sunday
after Pentecost**

Sunday

June 28

Faith Formation
Series

8:50 to 9:20 a.m.
in Oliver Room



*Being
Episcopalian*

Sunday

June 28

Holy Eucharist
10 a.m.

Followed by
Coffee Hour

**5th Sunday
after Pentecost**

Wednesday

July 1

St. Paul's
Bible Study

9:30 a.m.
Oliver Room

Readings

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49,
58-67
Psalm 45: 11-18
Romans 7: 15-25a
Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Zoom?
Contact Sue
Ahrens
360-471-2139

Wednesday

July 1

Moved by the Spirit
Liturgical Dance

11:30 a.m.
Via Zoom



Contact Georgann
Falotico for more
information at
(360) 908-3588 or
georgann@botmail.com

Sunday

July 5

Ice Cream Social

Following 10 a.m. service
Oliver Room



**All
Are
Welcome!**

Every Monday

Book Club of St. Paul's
6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Contact Katherine Adams
(360) 377-9942

'Laugh Your Way
to Grace:
Reclaiming the
Spiritual Power
of Humor.' By the
Rev. Susan
Sparks

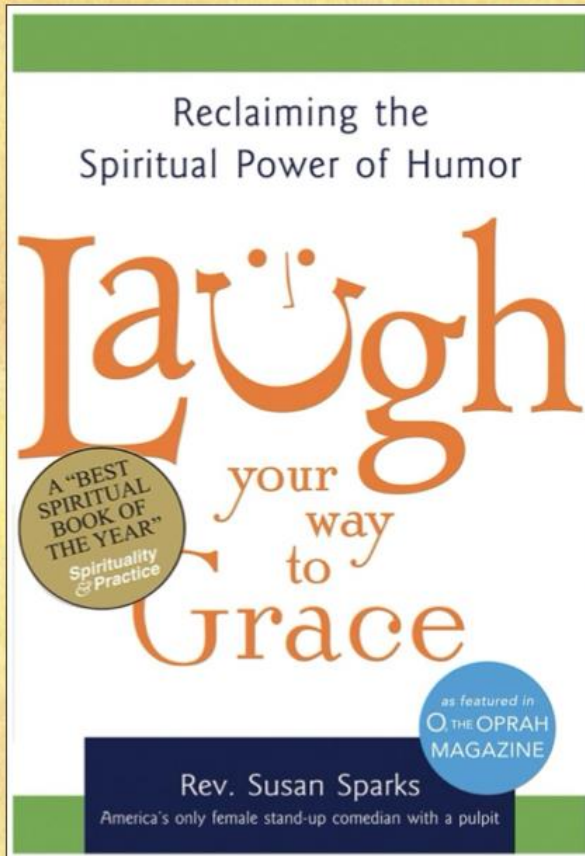


**New
Book
July 13**

Keep Scrolling

St Paul's Book Club

*New Book for Summer!
Starting July 13*



'Laughter was honored by the ancients as a spiritual healing tool and celebrated by the world's great religions. So why aren't we laughing along the spiritual path today? What would happen if we did?


In this personal and funny look at humor as a spiritual practice, Rev. Susan Sparks—an ex-lawyer turned comedian and Baptist minister—presents a convincing case that the power of humor radiates far beyond punch lines.'


*6:30 p.m. Mondays on Zoom
Invitation: tinyurl.com/3mn96nwd
Meeting ID: 852 5300 8185 Passcode: journey
Or contact Katherine Adams (360) 377-9942*

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



[Click here to read the June 18th edition!](#)


 *Faith Formation*
LIFELONG AND ONGOING

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

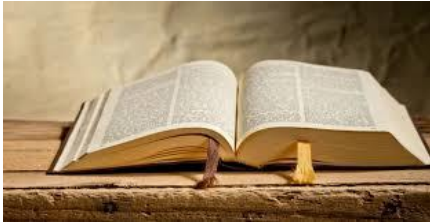
Sundays
8:50 to 9:20 a.m.
Between services.

'Being Episcopalian'

All are welcome!



Keep Scrolling



St. Paul's Bible Study Group

We will next meet on **Wednesday, July 8**
at 9:30 am in the
Oliver Room to discuss the following
readings:

- **Genesis 25:19-34**
- **Psalm 119:105-112**
 - **Romans 8:1-11**
- **Matthew 13:1-9,18-23**

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

Here is the Zoom link for Bible Study:

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/launch/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!

**During Jan-Mar. 2026, 28 households participated. Donations were \$65.98!
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