



**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 12, 2026
The Seventh 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



PRIDE

I didn't realize until I was driving into the town where I grew up that they didn't raise me to be proud. I had been asked to preside and preach on my hometown Episcopal congregation's Pride Sunday as a visiting preacher. **Jesus has things to say about preachers in their hometown.** Moreover, I wasn't a Christian back then. Back then I was more like Saul of Tarsus mocking and procedurally harassing Christians from a secular perspective for their hypocrisy and narrow-mindedness.

As I turned off the highway, I passed underneath a railroad overcrossing, I saw something I never saw as a child. Two large banners were attached to promote Black History and LGBTQ+ Pride.

When planning the visit, the junior warden of the congregation had shared that a pastor whose lively growing non-denominational congregation rented space in the building thought it was inappropriate and even sinful for Christians to be proud. The junior warden hoped I might help the Episcopal congregation understand why it was ok to be proud or celebrate Pride.

While I had some theological ideas in mind to share, the banners helped me realize something important that I had never said out loud. *As someone who spent the first 18+ years of her life shaped by that town's culture, I was not taught to be proud of who I was and where I came from by my neighbors.* Moreover, I could easily recall moments when being Chinese American with a White or Black dad made me strange and suspect. My whole body remembers being called a freak and a dyke in junior high and the high school a couple blocks away from the church.

Since I ended up marrying men, people stopped speculating about my sexuality. Including church people when I converted to Christianity and became an Episcopalian on the day of Pentecost in 2000. Despite these heterosexual cues, my childhood classmates were right. I am bisexual. I have been as long as I could remember. And because I was taught to hide that instead of being proud of it, I didn't mention it. In fact, as far as I can remember the first time a church official or

form asked me about my sexual orientation was in 2020. I never lied when asked, but that was when the church started asking. So it was that in 2024 for the first time I said I was queer in a sermon in my hometown.

And I made the case that we are grateful for and proud of our part in God's creative efforts. We are proud of the human being that God made. And further, it is sinful to suggest that God couldn't make a wholesome, connected human being who happened to be LGBTQ+ and love God. That would be the greatest sin of all: foreclosing the action of the Holy Spirit.

I would not have become a Christian, much less a priest, if I had not seen people who were Queer (LGBTQ+) modelling faithfulness, gentleness and service. The Episcopal Church happened to be the place where I walked in the door as a college student, sure that God would strike me down for my sin. Instead I met a lesbian couple, both holy and utterly ordinary, who served the church and their God. I am grateful that for the past 20 years, the Episcopal Church has modelled for other denominations how to wrestle with the scripture, traditions, and the culture of the church and come to the same conclusion affirming the fundamental goodness in people God created as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual, and Queer.

This year St. Paul's will share our hope for all people to realize that Christ's loving-kindness and mercy is for everyone. Mainland Kitsap Episcopalians are gathering on July 18 at Kitsap Pride to say we are sorry for the ways Christians have disrespected the dignity of LGBTQ+ folks and offer a drink of water, swag and hope.

All are welcome to visit the Episcopal Church booth at Pride.

Kitsap Pride

Saturday, July 18 from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Gordon Field, Kitsap County Fairgrounds
1400 Fairgrounds Road NW, Bremerton

If you would like to help staff the booth, please register here so that we can coordinate our efforts.

-The Rev. Arienne



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/55hxhc6f>



Come join us at St. Paul's booth at Kitsap Pride 2026!

Saturday, July 18th from 3:00pm-8:00pm
Gordon Field, Kitsap County Fairgrounds
1400 Fairgrounds Rd. NW, Bremerton.

If you plan to attend, please click here to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScszbeQQ79MEIfDYTLIFSKjP4rXTdrtSIllo2DqiQ3SHG69LPg/viewform?usp=header>

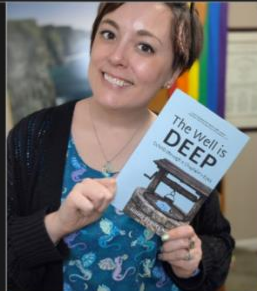
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BREMERTON
700 CALLAHAN DR + WWW.STPAULSBREMERTON.ORG

FAITH IN TRYING TIMES: REMORSE, COMPASSION, AND RAGE

A Festival of Books
August 13-15, 2026

THURSDAY, AUG 13
Remorse

An exploration of
the Christian
practice of
Remorse with
author Stephen
Crippen



SATURDAY, AUG 15
Rage Prayers

Get in touch with
righteous anger
with author
Elizabeth Riley.



FRIDAY, AUG 14
The Well is Deep

Hear and reflect
on compassion
with COVID-era
chaplain and
author Hillary
Kimsey



PROGRAM BEGINS AT 5:30 PM AND CONCLUDES AT 8:00 PM

All are welcome at Book Fest August 13-15, 2026 at St. Paul's Bremerton, whether registered or not. Letting us know if you are coming helps us plan for a light meal at the beginning of each program.

- Light meal and gathering 5:30 PM -6:00 PM
- Program 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Click here to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPP080WxO6qpu7HjGNWbrz4JBMifX8lkkWEUcikRpiMaJJAq/viewform>

Keep Scrolling



Belonging by Design: Building a Community Where EVERYONE Can Thrive

Join us as we welcome Dr. Jessica E. Salvador, Executive Director of the Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC), for a conversation about what it means to build belonging by design. Drawing from her lived experience as the child of immigrants and her work, Dr. Salvador will explore how communities can move beyond simply welcoming newcomers to intentionally creating systems, relationships, and opportunities that allow everyone to thrive. Through stories, insights, and examples from KIAC's work, this presentation will examine how belonging strengthens communities, why it matters for all residents, and what we can do together to build a more connected and resilient Kitsap.



Dr. Jessica E. Salvador



In person only program: Friday, July 17, 2026

Doors open, 6 p.m.; Presentation, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 700 Callahan Drive, Bremerton

FREE; donations welcome at the door.

Register and learn more at [EnlightenKitsap.org](https://www.enlightenkitsap.org).

Enlighten Kitsap Community Forum is a licensed nonprofit corporation (not a 501(c)3) with no affiliation to any religious organization or political party.



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

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Upcoming Events

Sunday

July 12

Holy Eucharist
8 a.m.

**7th Sunday
after Pentecost**

Sunday

July 12

Faith Formation
Series

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



Sunday

July 12

Holy Eucharist
10 a.m.

Followed by
Coffee Hour

**7th Sunday
after Pentecost**

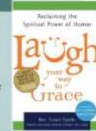
Every Monday

Book Club of St. Pat
6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Contact Katherine Adams
(360) 377-9942

**New
Book
July 13**

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



Wednesday

July 15

St. Paul's
Bible Study

9:30 a.m.
Oliver Room

Readings
Genesis 28: 10-19a
Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23
Romans 8: 12-25
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Zoom?
Contact Sue
Ahrens
360-471-2139

Wednesday

July 15

Moved by the Spirit
Liturgical Dance

11:30 a.m.
Via Zoom

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

Wednesday

July 15

Vestry Meeting

6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Friday

July 17

Enl'ghten Kitsap
6:30 p.m.

Church Sanctuary

Dr. Jessica
Salvador:
'Building a
Community
Where
Everyone
Can Thrive'



All welcome
enlightenkitsap.org

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St Paul's Book Club

New Book for Summer!

Starting July 13

Reclaiming the
Spiritual Power of Humor

Laugh

your way
to
Grace

A "BEST
SPIRITUAL
BOOK OF
THE YEAR"
Spirituality
& Practice

as featured in
O, THE OPRAH
MAGAZINE

Rev. Susan Sparks

America's only female stand-up comedian with a pulpit

'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 July 9th edition!](#)



Faith Formation
LIFELONG AND ONGOING


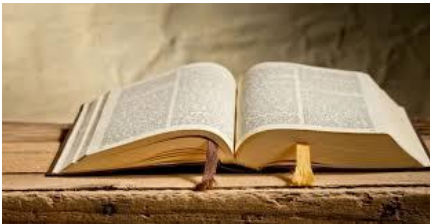


St. Paul's Episcopal Church
In Bremerton, Washington
*"An Inclusive and Progressive
Community of Faith"*

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, July 15**
at 9:30 am in the
Oliver Room to discuss the following
readings:

- **Genesis 28:10-19a**
- **Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23**
 - **Romans 8:12-25**
- **Matthew 13:24-30,36-43**

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:

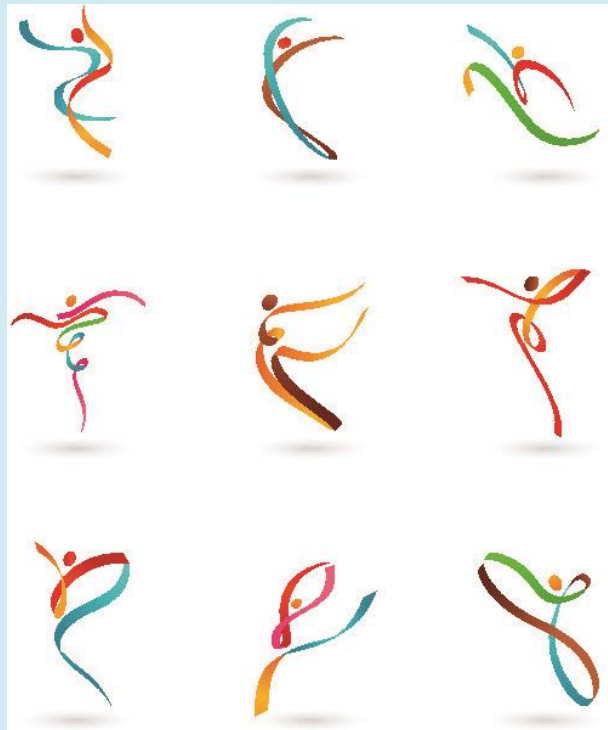
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83754444747?pwd=xfmYe5xgMLZZkB6Px7QHLVKZ8ihttG.1>

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

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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!