



# 2020 CHURCH SURVEY REPORT

Glorifying God *by*  
Equipping Church Leaders *with*  
Credible Statistics *for*  
Strategic Kingdom Advancement

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ALARM SOUNDS GO  
TO YOUR STATION

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# INTRODUCTION

This year has been a potent reminder to many of us that the Church is not a building. Our Christ-given Commission is still both "Great" and simple - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:18).

This weekend in Kitsap County 28,083 people (10% of Kitsap's population) will gather with a local church. That's almost 4-times lower than the national average of 38% (Barna Group, 2017).

More noticeable still, **243,390 people will be somewhere else this weekend.** If every person in Kitsap County wanted to attend a church service this weekend, all 187 churches would need to hold 9 gatherings each in order to serve them.

No matter how big your building, your budget, or your brain, **this task cannot be done alone. Our churches need to know each other and work together in order to multiply.** If you read this report and miss the opportunity to know and partner with others then the goal of this project has missed its mark.

To that end, I would like to sincerely thank the **90 local pastors** who helped make this report possible. They contributed both their time and trust, neither of which I take lightly. Their answers to 46 questions produced 20,388 cells of data which have culminated in the insights that follow.

**Please take note of three things as you read this report:**

**First**, despite immense efforts, this report may contain errors. Keep in mind, this report was produced before 2020 U.S. Census results could be captured.

**Second**, this report highlights differences between churches with "*Growing*" and "*Declining*" attendance. These distinctions have been highlighted only where there is exceptional statistical margin, so as to suggest a trend. I am not suggesting that growth trends are always indicative of spiritual health.

**Third**, in order to be precise, this report uses the definition of "*church*" found on page 4. This definition is broad enough to capture *Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox*, and a wide array of *Mainline Protestant* and *Non-Denominational* churches.

This report is best read prayerfully. Praying earnestly that the Lord would send out laborers into His harvest (Mt.9:37-38). I pray this data is illuminating and might energize your church and synergize our churches as we strive together towards the goal of bringing glory to God in all things.

Together, For King Jesus!

Kyle Donn

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle 3.1.D". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "D" at the end.

# KITSAP COUNTY

<b>Population</b>	————	271,473
<b>Households</b>	————	101,662
<b>Persons 18-</b>	————	20.5%
<b>Persons 65+</b>	————	17.8%
<b>Median Household Income</b>	————	\$71,610
<b>Persons in Poverty</b>	————	9.1%

*Source: US Census Bureau 2019*

## HOW DO WE DEFINE "CHURCH" ?

For the sake of this report, a "church" is defined as a **community and establishment that**

- (1) holds historically Christian beliefs (its creeds and councils)
- (2) Professes Trinitarian Theology built on the confession that Christ is Lord.



**187**  
**60**  
**280**  
**28,083**

**CHURCHES**  
**DENOMINATIONS**  
**WEEKEND GATHERINGS**  
**WEEKEND CHURCHGOERS**

**740**  
PAID  
CHURCH  
STAFF

**64% OF KITSAP'S  
WEEKEND  
CHURCHGOERS**

**48% OF  
KITSAP'S  
CHURCHES**

**90  
CHURCHES  
SURVEYED**

# GEOGRAPHY

## KITSAP COUNTY

POP. 271,473

**28,083** (10%)

**187** (1 : 1,452)

**# WEEKEND CHURCHGOERS**  
(% OF TOTAL AREA POPULATION)

**# CHURCHES**  
(RATIO OF CHURCHES-TO-RESIDENTS)

### POULSBO

POP. 41,324

**4,778** (12%)

**30** (1 : 1,377)

### SILVERDALE

POP. 19,204

**3,503** (18%)

**17** (1 : 1,130)

### BREMERTON

POP. 108,565

**10,228** (9%)

**76** (1 : 1,428)

### KINGSTON

POP. 12,680

**750** (6%)

**9** (1 : 1,409)

### BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

POP. 23,380

**2,301** (10%)

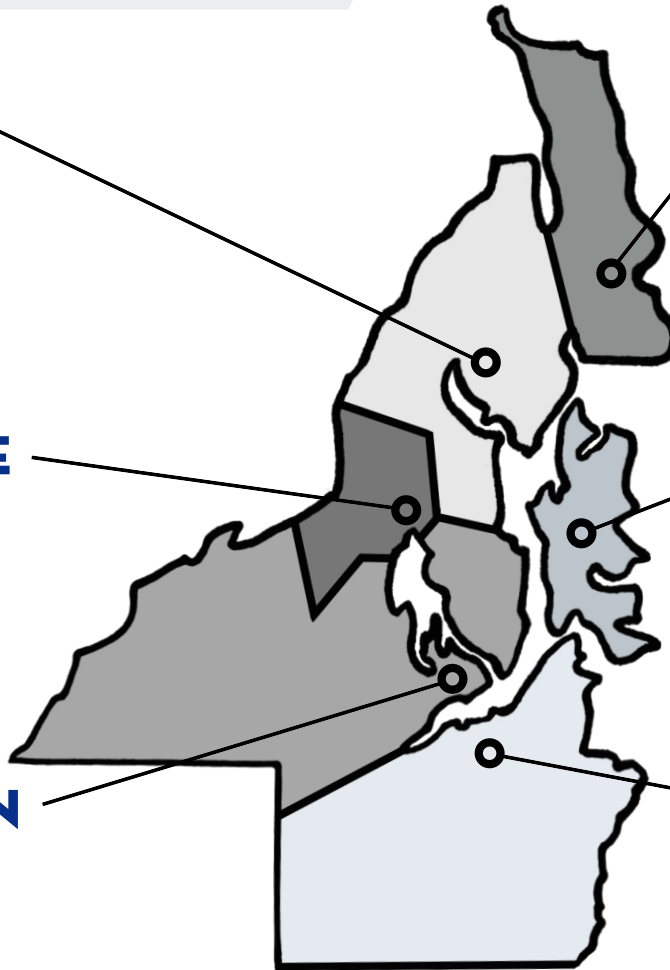
**8** (1 : 2,923)

### PORT ORCHARD

POP. 66,320

**6,523** (10%)

**47** (1 : 1,411)



**NOTE:**

- Communities with 3 or less churches (eg. Burley, Hansville, Seabeck, etc.) are absorbed into subdivisions as shown.
- Figures do not account for those that commute to or from other areas to attend a weekend church service.
- Population figures drawn from US Census Bureau, Statistical Atlas, and City Government Websites.
- The US 2020 Census was not completed at the time of this report.



For an interactive church-locator map,  
visit [www.kitsapchurchmetrics.org/resources](http://www.kitsapchurchmetrics.org/resources)

# ATTENDANCE & TRENDS

## Membership

74% of churches practice Membership

Congregants from churches that practice Membership give 28% more than churches that don't.

Churches with "Declining" attendance are 23% more likely to practice Membership than churches with "Growing" attendance.

## Factoids & Demographics

**150** The average church's weekend attendance

**787** Reported 2019 baptisms amongst surveyed churches

**63%** of churches have "few-to-no" young adults

**44%** of churches have attendees from all age groups

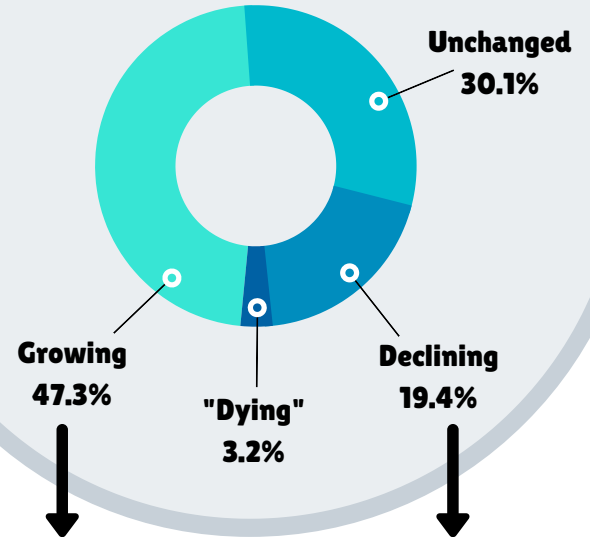
**17%** of churches are primarily "50-and-older"

## in the last 3 years

**12** Churches have CLOSED.

**6** Churches have OPENED.

## Attendance of churches in the last 3-5 years



2x more likely to have young adults regularly attending

7x more likely to serve the working class & poor

2x more popular with Military persons and families

3.5x more likely to be described as "pentecostal"

2x more likely to be described as "reformed"

4x more likely to be primarily "50-and-older"

On average are 48 years older than other churches

Employ 41% more staff than other churches

6x more likely to be described as "LGBTQ+ affirming"

3.5x more likely to be described as "Progressive"

## How do visitors find out about your church?

Respondents were able to choose multiple answers

**Word-of-Mouth - 81%** (The most common reason for growth cited amongst growing churches is "personal invitations")

**Website - 43%** (82% of churches have a functional website)

**Social Media - 33%** (79% have a facebook page)

**See Building - 31%** (26 churches are visible from a HWY)

**Intentional Outreach - 23%**

**Signage - 9%**

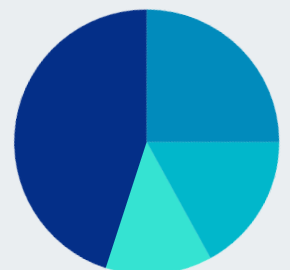
## How would you classify most of your visitors?

New to the area - 45%

Haven't been to church in a long time - 25%

Recently left another local church - 15%

Come from unchurched backgrounds - 13%



# DE·NOM·I·NA·TIONS

## Largest 10 Denominations by number of *attendees*

- 1 Assemblies of God
- 2 Non-Denominational \*
- 3 Roman Catholic
- 4 Independent Fundamental Church of America
- 5 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 6 The Alliance
- 7 Converge
- 8 Independent Baptist
- 9 Southern Baptist Convention
- 10 Evangelical Free Church of America

## Largest 10 Denominations by number of *churches*

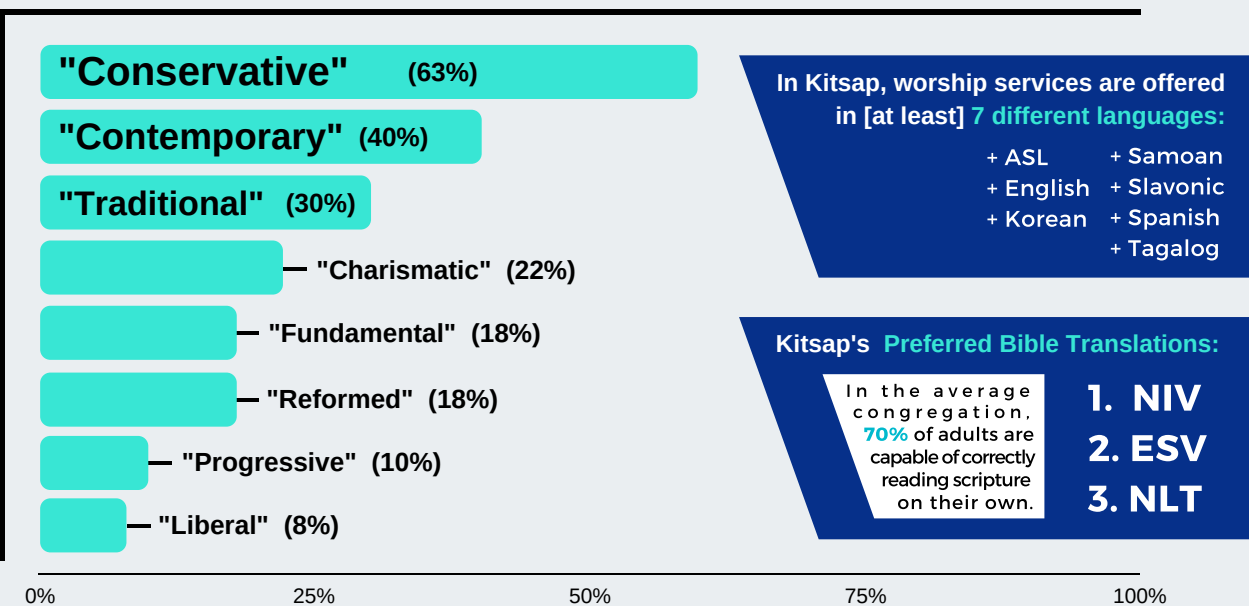
- 1 Non-Denominational \* (31)
- 2 Assemblies of God (11)
- 3 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (9)
- 4 United Methodist Church (8)
- 5 Independent Fundamental Church of America (7)
- 6 Southern Baptist Convention (7)
- 7 The Alliance (6)
- 8 Independent Baptist (6)
- 9 American Baptist Churches (6)
- 10 Roman Catholic (5)

\* "Non-Denominational" is, by distinction, not a denomination. However, the inclusion of its classification in this illustration may be helpful for better understanding the church landscape of Kitsap County.

# DISTINCTIVES

## HOW KITSAP CHURCHES DESCRIBE THEMSELVES

Respondents were able to choose multiple answers



In Kitsap, worship services are offered in [at least] 7 different languages:

- + ASL
- + English
- + Korean
- + Samoan
- + Slavonic
- + Spanish
- + Tagalog

Kitsap's Preferred Bible Translations:

In the average congregation, 70% of adults are capable of correctly reading scripture on their own.

1. NIV
2. ESV
3. NLT

# BUILDINGS & BUDGETS



**81%** OF KITSAP CHURCHES GATHER IN A TRADITIONAL CHURCH BUILDING

**76%** OF "DECLINING" CHURCHES OWN A CHURCH BUILDING OUTRIGHT

**23%** OF "GROWING" CHURCHES OWN A CHURCH BUILDING OUTRIGHT

APPROXIMATE 2020 BUDGET OF ALL 187 CHURCHES IN KITSAP COUNTY

**\$55,210,013**

AVERAGE GIVING PER CONGREGANT

**\$1,966/ YEAR**

*(This figure includes children)*

THE AVERAGE CHURCH MORTGAGE IS **\$736,761**

**1-IN-3** CHURCHES ARE PAYING A MORTGAGE

**6** CHURCHES IN KITSAP ARE "MULTI-CAMPUS"

THE AVERAGE CHURCH ALLOCATES **11%** OF ITS BUDGET TO **LOCAL OUTREACH & GLOBAL MISSIONS**

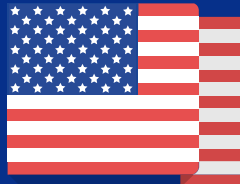
THE AVERAGE CHURCH **EMPLOYS 1 PERSON** FOR EVERY **38 CONGREGANTS**

## CHURCH OPERATED BUSINESSES

**63** KITSAP CHURCHES OWN & OPERATE  
**77** ASSOCIATED BUSINESSES

- 27 PRESCHOOLS
- 2 HOMES FOR ELDERLY
- 10 DAYCARES
- 1 COUNSELING CENTER
- 8 GRADE SCHOOLS
- 1 CAMPGROUND
- 8 SCHOOLS OF MINISTRY/ THEOLOGY
- 6 HOMELESS-FOCUSED NON-PROFITS

## CHURCH MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

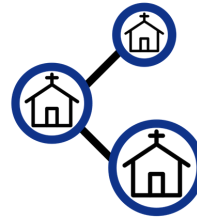


**2 NAVAL BASE CHAPELS**  
**5 SERVICES**

- **35% OF CHURCHES SAY THEY ARE INTENTIONALLY REACHING OUT TO ACTIVE DUTY PERSONS AND FAMILIES.**
- **50% OF CHURCHES SAY THEY ARE POPULAR WITH ACTIVE DUTY PERSONS AND FAMILIES.**
- **"GROWING" CHURCHES ARE TWICE AS POPULAR WITH MILITARY FAMILIES.**



# INTER-CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS



## CHURCH CHANGES

in the last 3 years

- 33 new lead pastors
- 19 church location changes
- 12 church closures
- 11 church name changes
- 6 new church plants
- 2 new campus launches

Follow us on facebook for more church highlights

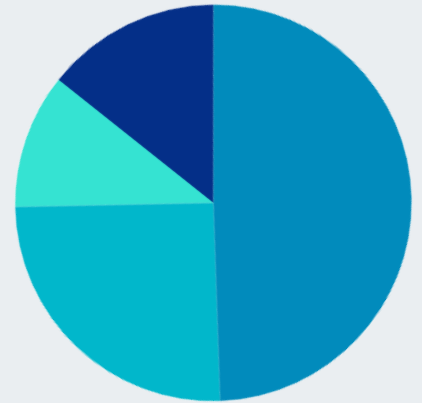
## HOW OFTEN DO KITSAP PASTORS MEET WITH OTHER KITSAP PASTORS?

1 OR MORE TIMES PER WEEK - 14%

1-3 TIMES PER MONTH - 50%

SEMI-ANNUALLY - 25%

ONLY WHEN NECESSARY - 11%



Want to connect with other local pastors? Fill out the form at [www.kitsapchurchmetrics.org/resources](http://www.kitsapchurchmetrics.org/resources) and we'll connect you.

## MULTI-CHURCH MINISTRIES

- 13 AWANA PROGRAM SITES
- 11 CELEBRATE RECOVERY PROGRAM SITES
- 10 BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) CLASS SITES
- 5 MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS) GROUPS

### PARA-CHURCH MINISTRIES CONNECTING & SERVING CHURCHES ON THE KITSAP PENINSULA

- THRIVE KITSAP - YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
- THE GATHERING - MONTHLY WORSHIP NIGHT
- CRISTA CAMPS - ISLAND LAKE & MIRACLE RANCH

## CONNECTING WITH OTHER CHURCH LEADERS

FIND THE KITSAP 'CHURCH LOCATOR' & KITSAP 'CHURCH CATALOGUE' AT [WWW.KITSAPCHURCHMETRICS.ORG](http://WWW.KITSAPCHURCHMETRICS.ORG)

'KITSAP CHURCH LEADERS NETWORK' FACEBOOK PAGE

ANNUAL KITSAP LEADERSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST - SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

'KITSAP YOUTH WORKER NETWORK' MEETS FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH - LOCATION TBD.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

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