



## The Weekly Chalice

Sumner First Christian Church | 432 Wood Ave, Sumner, WA | [sumnerfcc.org](http://sumnerfcc.org)

April 11 2024

I have shared several blessings in recent editions of this newsletter from author Kate Bowler's book *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings For Imperfect Days*. I find her writing resonates with me so much because its real...and real feels hard to come by these days. I have another to share with you and I hope it will speak to your heart as it did mine: for the good already come (and gone).

People like to say, 'The best is yet to come,' as some sort of guarantee.

Could we say, perhaps, lovingly (or angrily, if we feel like it):

"sometimes the best isn't ahead"?

We lose things, jobs, abilities....people.

Sometimes we have crescendoed.

Sometimes the best has already come.

Blessed are you who have finished humming the tune of parenthood,

because you didn't have that baby or they've grown up and out.

You who are playing the closing notes of parent's life,

or a friend's, or a child's.

You who are retiring or

moving out of the home you loved

or from the place that made you you.

Blessed are you who still have

much to sing about--

new hobbies and loves and friends and hope.

You who wonder how best

to spend your time, efforts, resources and gifts exactly *because* they are in short supply.

You who know to keep the end in mind.

Blessed are we, who see with such crisp clarity the gift that was, and that is,

and that might yet be.

Knowing--really knowing--that someday, the last note will be sung.

So let's sing our songs about our beautiful, ridiculous lives,

We will peak and crescendo and

approach the finale,

hoping for a pretty damn good finish.

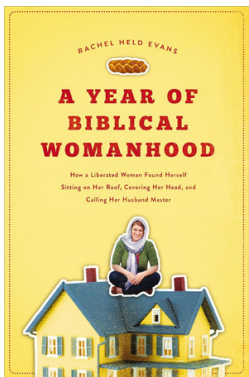




**We have a fundraising opportunity coming up, thanks to the generous donation of Becky's Baskets. We will have a plant sale on Sunday, April 28th @ noon.** The plants will be for sale for members of our church and community. So spread the word to family and friends or anyone who might be interested in buying some beautiful flowers and plants.



Join us for our middle-high school Fathom Bible Study on Sunday, April 14th @ 9:00 a.m. All youth are welcome. If you need more information on the book, please contact Pastor Rochelle: [Pastor@sumnerfcc.org](mailto:Pastor@sumnerfcc.org). We will be reading the story of the tower of Babel. See you then!



What does it mean to be a woman of faith. Spoiler: There's lots of opinions on that one! Join us on Thursday, April 25th @ 6:00 p.m. on Zoom as we explore the April chapter on purity! Please message Pastor Rochelle if you need more information and an invite to our gathering: [Pastor@sumnerfcc.org](mailto:Pastor@sumnerfcc.org)



**Gwinwood Retreat Center – Lacey, WA**

- **July 22-25 : Kids Camp** – Entering grades 2-3 (Mon-Thurs) – \$160 through June 3rd, then \$175
- **July 22-27 : Junior Camp** – Entering grades 4-5 (Mon-Sat) – \$235 through June 3rd, then \$250
- **July 22-27: ChiRho & CYF** – Entering grades 6-'24 HS Grad (Mon-Sat)–\$235 through June 3rd, then \$250

**Camp scholarships may be available:**

The Northern Lights Region is happy to offer a limited number of scholarships up to 1/2 off the registration cost. **Please contact Pastor Rochelle ([Pastor@sumnerfcc.org](mailto:Pastor@sumnerfcc.org)) to have your camper's name included in the scholarship requests.** These scholarships are made possible by legacy gifts from former congregations who continue to support our camping program year after year.

**Registration Deadline is 14 days prior to camp start – Don't miss out!**



**\$15 Early Bird discount through June 3rd!**



**One in the Spirit  
2024 Regional Assembly  
May 3-5, 2024 - Wenatchee,  
WA**

It's almost time for assembly! We are looking at streaming the Regional Worship service on Sunday, May 5th where you will be able to hear our new Regional Minister, the Rev. Paul Allen IV bring the morning message. More information coming soon!

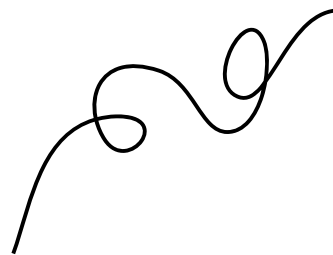




Things have been busy at 432 Wood Ave. We had a wonderful Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We have been doing lots of building projects from



pressure washing sidewalks and parking lots, to cleaning out the garage and storage spaces, to painting. We have an incredible group of faithful, hard workers who give so much of themselves in service to God in our church. Thank you to everyone for all that you do! What a blessing it is to be a part of this community of faith!



**April**

**2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	2 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:00 pm Elder Meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm AA	3 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	4 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	5 12:00 pm AA	6 12:00 pm AA
7 9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service	8 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	9 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	11 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12 12:00 pm AA	13 12:00 pm AA
14 9:00 am Fathom Youth Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting	15 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	16 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	17 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	18 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	19 12:00 pm AA	20 12:00 pm AA
21 10:30 Worship Service	22 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	23 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	24 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	25 12:00 pm AA 6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom 7:00 pm GA	26 12:00 pm AA	27 12:00 pm AA
28 10:30 Worship Service Plant Sale	29 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	30 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA				