



The Weekly Chalice

Sumner First Christian Church | 432 Wood Ave, Sumner, WA | sumnerfcc.org

April 18 2024

"4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 4-7

Do you experience anxiety and/or worry? I sometimes wonder how one does not worry or have anxiety in the world in which we live.

I've been working a bit lately on anxiety and worry--considering from whence it comes and how to cope with it. In my own life, I recognize that anxiety and worry free moments are afforded by the fact of having needs met--having food, water and shelter and safety. When those things are in jeopardy, or perceived to be less than what I expect, I begin to feel anxious and to worry.

In a society of pervasive, and growing, income inequalities, having the basic needs is challenging and anxiety/worry-producing for many.

David K. Shipler in his book, *The Working Poor: Invisible in America* writes: "The man who washes cars does not own one. The clerk who files cancelled checks at the bank has \$2.02 in her own account. The woman who copyedits medical textbooks has not been to a dentist in a decade...This is the forgotten America..."

Millions live in the shadow of prosperity, in the twilight between poverty and well being. Whether you're rich, poor, or middle-class, you encounter them every day. They serve you Big Macs and help you find merchandise at Wal-Mart. They harvest your food, clean your offices, and sew your clothes."

There is much, deserved, cultural criticism of and skepticism about church when the exterior of our beautiful buildings and perfectly presented pastors and performative gatherings lose touch with the least among us. Church doesn't exist for show. It exists to connect.

The Words of Philippians can seem trite on the surface--you can't buy groceries this month? Don't worry, rejoice! This is not the intent of the words, nor the mission statement that churches are called to craft in the face of income inequities and social need.

The words express peace that surpasses our human strength and capabilities...it assures us that even when the world doesn't change and things are hard, God is with us and peace can be found.

This does not exempt the church from the hard work of Matthew 25 in which we are called to feed the hungry, give water to thirsty, board the homeless, clothe the needy, visit the sick and imprisoned. (Continued...)

In essence, our mission is two-fold and we should always keep this before our eyes: We are called to preach the Word and to build up the body of Christ at Sumner First Christian Church. This involves worship, gatherings, studies, prayer, and all the things we do as a church body. This means we pay attention to our building, our grounds, and the quality of what we present. We take care of what has been given to us and offer the best of ourselves in service to God. Through this, we help people learn about that peace that surpasses our human understanding.

At the same time, we also are called to be aware of and act upon the needs around us. We name and give light to inequalities and injustices and work to bring the light of Christ to these. Can any one of us solve any or even one of the big problems in the world? No. But we are called to do what we can, where we can and to rest in the peace of understanding that God will work good through our efforts.

We have many worries and anxieties about our church itself--those same anxieties and worries over the basic needs arise for our organization and the words of Philippians are for us. We also have much to celebrate as a church--in what we are doing to build up the body of the church and to share Christ's light with others. We continue to work toward engaging and relevant worship experiences in person and online, we work toward offering engaging learning and connecting opportunities, and we continue to expand our service to the community through the stewardship of our building--we currently host 12-step groups 6 days a week, including a women's group offering child care. We are readying our space for the Sumner Coop Preschool which will offer child care and parent education to all children, regardless of income or ability.

The Board of the church has also worked to bring organizational elements back online following COVID-19. We have revised our Constitution and Bylaws to better fit our Congregation and to serve mission needs moving forward. These, along with a slate of officers and budget for 2024-2025 will be presented in a Congregational meeting after church on June 2nd. **We have much work to do and much to celebrate. Spread the word. Invite friends. And let us continue God's work in this place.** -Rochelle+



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.



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) 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!

Check our Early Bird Discount!

\$15 Early Bird discount through June 3rd!



Dictionary

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sab·bath

/ˈsabəTH/

noun

1. a day of religious observance and abstinence from work, kept by Jewish people from Friday evening to Saturday evening, and by most Christians on Sunday.
"we observe the Sabbath as God has commanded"

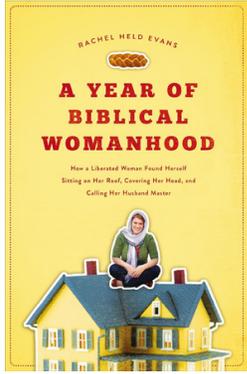
Sabbath is an important, but often overlooked or ignored part of our faith. We will be exploring ways to incorporate sabbath into our worship experiences on months with 5 Sundays. Our first sabbath Sunday will be June 30th--stay tuned for more details.

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!

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



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 | | | | |