



The Weekly Chalice

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

April 25th 2024

Those of us plugged into the church are pretty plugged into the work, needs and worry of the church. Like any organization, there are logistics and business matters that have to be attended to. There are building needs that have to be addressed. Sometimes the very uninspiring but necessary work of paying the bills, pulling weeds and cleaning out gutters is necessary to the body of Christ at 432 Wood Ave.

There's always something...and that can get tricky. We have to pay attention to these things and give them their due time and attention, but they are not the foundation of why we exist.

There is always a "so what" factor to all the work we do in and for the church. And like most things, if the foundation is not solid, the house on which it is built, will not be sturdy enough to withstand the stress of storms and the wear and tear of time.

What is the "so what" factor of our church? Why is it important to engage in a level of knowing the worries, contributing to the work, sharing the load?

Sammy and I were in Vancouver, WA last weekend for a dance competition weekend. It was hosted by the Hilton Vancouver, right at the Convention Center and the Esther Short Park. During a break, we walked through the park to Starbucks for a drink and a snack. As we were making our way back, we saw an elderly man, obviously unhoused, sitting on a bench. Sammy looked me and said, "Do you have anything we can

give him?" And I did have a food gift card. Sammy gave it to him, touched his hand and said, "Hi, I hope this helps you." He smiled and thanked her for being so kind.

Homelessness is becoming a polarizing issue. I believe it will take communities and governments working together to truly address it, beyond merely criminalizing it.

What struck me about this encounter was that Sammy saw this elderly man as a human being, made in God's image. And that comes from her time in our church...her baptism into a faith that teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

There are so many stories like this--lives that have been touched by God in Christ through our little community of faith.

Its our "so what"...we do it all and we love others because God, first loved us. -Rochelle+





The city of Sumner planted a row of *Parrotia persica* 'Vanessa' trees along the Northside of our church property in honor of Arbor Day. We are happy to collaborate with our wonderful city on this earth care/stewardship project. Check it out when you have a chance.

Plant Sale this Sunday, April 28th @ noon
We are grateful for the generous donation of plants and flowers from Becky Scholz of Becky's Baskets. We will be selling these beautiful plants and flowers as a fundraiser for the church, so be sure to spread the word!



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.

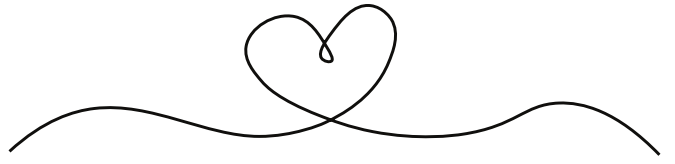
Registration Deadline is 14 days prior to camp start – Don't miss out!

Check our Early Bird Discount!

\$15 Early Bird discount through June 3rd!



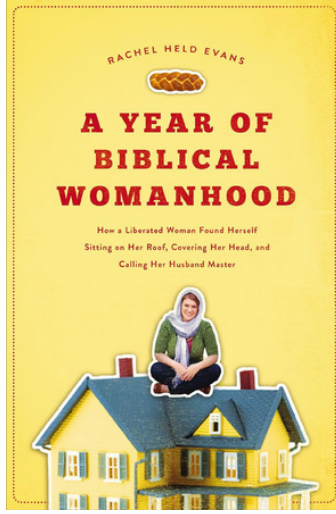
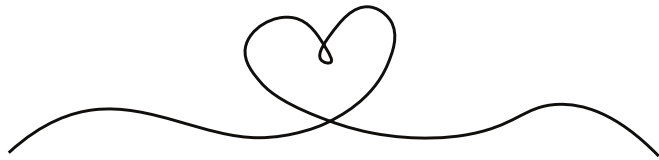
The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is happening next weekend, May 3-5. We will watch the closing worship service for our worship on May 5th and hear the Rev. Paul Allen, new Regional Minister, address the assembly. Please keep the Region, the assembly and the work of the church in your prayers.



Children Worship & Wonder is cancelled for Sunday, May 5th.

We'll meet again on Sunday, June 2nd @ 9:00 a.m.

All children are welcome!



Our next gathering for our book group will be Thursday, May 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.

If you are interested in joining us for this fun journey through Rachel Held Evans book *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*, please message Pastor Rochelle Richards (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org), for more information and an invitation.

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				

May

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:00 pm Elder Meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day 10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:30 Worship Service	Memorial Day 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA

