



The Weekly Chalice

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

The Easter narrative in John's Gospel closes with these words: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20: 30-31).

The words leave us with a "now what" kind of questioning and feeling. Having a new life in Jesus' name means what exactly?

For the emergence of what would become the church, post-resurrection was a time of waiting. It was a time of living a new life in Jesus' name, but also a time heavily focused on and laden with the anticipation of Jesus' promised return.

The initial time after resurrection, was most likely filled with ecstatic hope. Jesus meant something to the people. Jesus had healed many of them of their physical and spiritual ailments. The holy and divine in Jesus had met people in the corners of life that were forgotten or purposely hidden. Jesus had empowered the marginalized, welcomed the rejected and given a fresh start to those who had been condemned to be forever defined by their frailties and faults.

Jesus meant something universal and powerful and yet very personal and tender to people. And this was the life they stepped into post-resurrection as they lived and waited for that power to appear again.

All these years later, we still wait and wonder where Jesus is in our lives and world. In the time that has passed, too often we have made this religion in Jesus' name about the same oppressive religious rules and political power that Jesus condemned.

Now what? you may ask in the wake of another Easter celebration? Now we continue the work of waiting and of living new life in Jesus' name.

For the church today that means that we continue the rituals, the practices, the disciplines (praying, fasting, acts of service), that root our lives in that power that means something to us and to the world.

It also means that we can never stop thinking about how we share that new life and meaning in Jesus with others--not because we want them to believe a certain way or conform to a specific doctrine, but because we want people to know the power of Jesus that enriches and changes lives.

The Pew research center released a recent poll which asked respondents: how often do you attend church: at least once a week, once or twice a month/a few times a year, seldom/never. The findings were reported by state. In WA state, 30% reported attending once a week, 32% reported attending once or twice a month, and 38% reported seldom/never. (continued...)

This does not mean that people don't have spiritual longings, questions, or wonderings. It does mean that culturally people are not always starting with a church service (as was once the cultural expectation) as their first place of exploring those longings, questions, and wonderings.

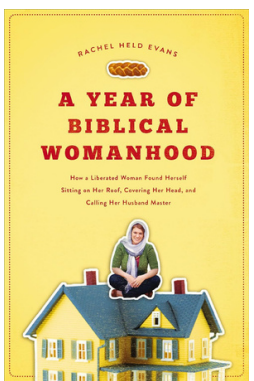
Now what? We worship *and* we consider new ways in which we might connect people with the life-giving and life-changing power of Jesus. May God guide us as we continue that work. -Rochelle+



Join us for Children Worship & Wonder on Sunday, April 7th @ 9:00 a.m. All children are welcome to join us as we share a story, sing songs, do art work and share a snack. We hope to see you then!



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. 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



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 28th**. We will be having a plant/flower sale fundraiser just in time for Mother's Day and gardening. We thank Becky's Baskets for their donations of plants for our sale!



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. If you are in need of a scholarship, please contact Pastor Rochelle for more information: Pastor@sumnerfcc.org.

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



\$15 Early Bird discount through June 3rd!



Stewardship CORNER	March 2024 Income from Tithes & Offerings:	\$11520.56
	Income from Building Use:	\$700
	March 2024 Expenses:	\$12367.92
	March Net:	\$-147.36

Thank you for your continued gifts. As you can see, every gift is important in helping us continue our mission & ministries. Thank you for your gifts!



When Disciples from Alaska to Washington to North Idaho to Montana became one Region, we knew we were coming together to make a difference, and that all of the members of this Region – this Body – had

gifts that were necessary for the whole. Whether the members of the body are named states, counties, cities, congregations, clergy, or laity, we are learning to be One in the Spirit. God’s Spirit equips and unites us across this Region, and indeed, the world.

As part of a country and a world in need of partnership and cooperation, and with too many walls and barriers being created, as Disciples of Christ in the Northern Lights Region we strive to break those obstacles down, and hope to learn and dream new ways to share hope, give love, and live out our faith in ways that will unite and reconcile,

and ripple out across the globe. We are up to the challenge.

Over this weekend we will gather to stretch and learn together as clergy and laity have an opportunity to receive training about creating Healthy Boundaries which will strengthen our region and our relationships. We will listen with open hearts to the stories of our mission coworkers and partners in Colombia. Breakout sessions will provide means to be educated around regional ministries available to us and supporting us.

We will welcome and witness Rev. Hord Owens’ installation of our new Regional Minister, Rev. Paul Allen IV, as a new chapter begins, and we will give thanks for our interim Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Robey, and our regional Search Committee who so faithfully did their important work.

For more information, please visit the [Northern Lights Regional Website](#).

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				