



The Weekly Chalice

November 27th

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

I am wondering if you feel as I do these days--weary. I am weary because I don't sleep as well as I used to. I am weary from a busy schedule of trying to balance many things at once and feel like I am moderately successful at doing that. I am weary by the aches and pains I feel more persistently these days. I am weary of personal grief and loss and the grief of a hurting and broken world.

Do you feel weary too?

The hymn *O Holy Night* has these words: "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

As we enter the season of Advent, we are weary and at the same time joyful for the love of God that is being born again into our lives and world.

This Sunday begins Advent and we are following the theme of Kate Bowler's Advent materials: *A Weary World Rejoices*. Below are the opening words to the individual guide that you can use to navigate the next four weeks. We are weary, and we are joyful. - Rochelle+

Have you been looking at the jaw-dropping new images that are coming in from the James Webb Space

Telescope? These photos of deep space are wild and surreal. Pillars of gas and dust. Clouds of yellows, oranges and blues that capture the mystery and dazzling beauty of the universe. You are immediately

struck by the sense that there is so much out there, but it's not here. Not yet anyway.

The days leading up to Christmas (we call this season Advent) is kind of like that. It's a promise that is coming, as surely and steadily as light traveling from a distant star. It is the promise of a return—a restoration of all things to their true being, a goodness which was conceived from the beginning of time, a realized hope we've been longing for. For the "days are coming," say the prophets of old. "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfill the good promise." The promise of truth, compassion, restoration, and justice.

These four promises are how we will orient this daily devotional guide. They will serve as our guiding themes—pulling us toward a future that we can only glimpse. But it is a future that will turn everything upside-down (or maybe right-side up). Everything wrong will be made right; everything bad will be made good; everything empty and devoid of love will be filled.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian calendar, and it's about 22-28 days depending on the year. And one of my favorite things about this time of preparation for Christmas is the tone. We don't cruise into Christmas with triumph and a rah-rah certainty that all is well. We begin by waiting—tired waiting. (Continued)

A feeling I know you know too well. Waiting for the test results. Waiting for the phone call. Waiting for your kid to come back or the job offer to come through. Waiting for your parents to get better or finally apologize. Waiting for the family you longed for or that financial relief you desperately need. Waiting for prayers to be answered or community to be found. We are very familiar with waiting.

But, this Advent, we don't wait in vain. Christmas brings us right to the moment of the birth of Jesus—our joy realized, first in a tiny baby born and laid down in a hay stall in a backwater town. A Savior who will someday make all things right. This Advent, may we squint at the light that is afar and say, "Come, Lord Jesus! We're tired of waiting."

-Kate Bowle



One of our teachers, Haley I., works with 5th graders at a local elementary school. Many of the children are in need of basic clothing items and we will be collecting these through the holiday season: these would include everyday clothing items as well as warmer winter items. Children this age are typically a M-L size (10-12 for girls), but remember there will be children at either end of that average as well. Holiday sales will be coming soon and it might be a great opportunity to pick up a few items. We will be collecting these through Sunday, December 15th. Thank you in advance for your help!



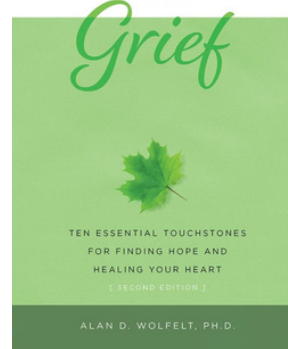
Thank you to everyone who brought your loose change--we raised **\$133.23** for our Camp, Gwinwood. The jar is out and we'll be collecting for the **Sumner Food Bank**.



The Weary World Rejoices

Advent, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, begins on Sunday, December 1st. This year we will be exploring the theme of *The Weary World Rejoices* from Kate Bowler. If you would like to follow along, there is an [individual guide available online](#). We will print a few copies as well for those who need print editions. We hope you will join us as we search for joy even in the midst of weariness and fatigue.

UNDERSTANDING
YOUR



Our next grant gatherings: Pausing for Grief During the Holidays

The next in our NBA-funded series of gatherings will take place in December and will center around grief and the holidays. Many losses and life transitions can induce grief.

Our gatherings will focus on bereavement caused by the death of a loved one.

"Grief waits on welcome, not on time," writes Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt in his book *Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart*. This book will be our guide as we seek to create a safe and comfortable environment in which to explore and share. **All materials and catered meals will be provided. Groups will be limited to around 20 people. [Register now](#) to save your spot.**

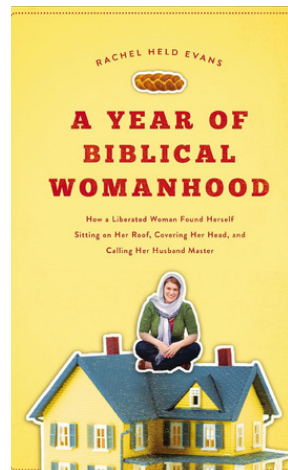
**Thursdays, December 12th & 19th
5:30-7:30 pm**

**Fridays, December 13th & 20th
12:00-2:00 pm**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service Elder Meeting after Service	2 12:00 pm AA	3 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	4 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	5 12:00 pm AA	6 12:00 pm AA	7 9:00 am – 12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA
8 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	9 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	10 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	11 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:30 pm Understanding Grief	13 12:00 pm AA 12:00-2:00 pm Understanding Grief	14 12:00 pm AA
15 9:00 am Fathom Youth 10:30 Worship Service	16 12:00 pm AA	17 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	18 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Book Club via Zoom	19 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:30 pm Understanding Grief	20 12:00 pm AA 12:00-2:00 pm Understanding Grief	21 12:00 pm AA 12:00 pm Longest Night Service
22 10:30 Worship Service	23 12:00 pm AA	24 Christmas Eve 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	26 12:00 pm AA	27 12:00 pm AA	28 12:00 pm AA
29 10:30 Worship Service	30 12:00 pm AA	31 New Year's Eve				



Our next **youth/young adult Bible Study** will be **Sunday, December 15th @ 9:00 a.m.** We are moving into the prophetic words about the coming of Christ. This will prepare us for the season of Advent & Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@summerfcc.org).



Join us for our next *Year of Biblical Womanhood* gathering **Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.** We will be reading the chapter for October: Gentleness. Message Pastor Rochelle for a zoom invite: Pastor@summerfcc.org

