



The Weekly Chalice

December 12th 2024

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

"Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning." Psalm 30:4

The third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday we light a candle for joy. In a culture, and a season, where we are pushed toward happiness, joy can be a different and very welcomed emotion.

We like being happy. We like joining in on the fun, smiling and doing all the things associated with happiness. Happiness is a good thing. But we're not always there...we don't always feel happy or feel like joining in on the fun or smiling. Sometimes happiness requires us to suppress the things that keep us from it.

Joy is different. Joy does not require you to suppress your worries, your anxieties, your grief. Joy truly arrives when you are able to sit with all those emotions, be honest with and about them (with yourself and others). I was going to write that joy waits for you on the other side of that open and honest work, but that isn't quite right. Joy waits for you in the midst of it. Through our tears we find a sense of relief, a sense of wholeness, a sense of our full humanity, a sense of God...we find joy.

Very soon we will sing the words to the carol *Joy to the World* as we welcome the birth of Christ into our world once again:

*Joy to the World, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her king,
Let every heart, prepare him room*

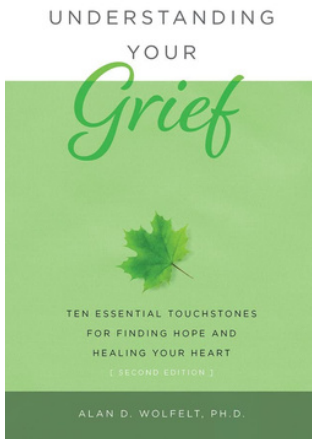
*and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

When it finally comes time to sing these words, I doubt that the world will be at complete peace, that my worries and grief will be gone, that everything will be as it should be, but the joy is that God in Christ still shows up in all that stuff, as it is. And the greatest gift is the knowledge that we are not alone...never alone...and that brings joy to the heart and soul in all seasons of life.

I pray the remainder of this Advent is blessed for you and that no matter where you are or how you are feeling, you will know the joy of Christ coming into the world and your heart once again. -Rochelle+



Ring bells with us on Christmas Eve. We'll be staying after church **this Sunday, December 15th** for a rehearsal with Michael. You do not have to be a musician. Join us for the fun and festivities!



Our grief gatherings begin this week. If you would like to attend, but still haven't had the opportunity to sign up, [you can do so here](#). We will have lunch together. Hope to see you Friday!
December 13th & 20th
12:00-2:00 pm



Longest Night Service of Memory & Hope
Saturday, December 21st @ noon

The winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year. For those living in the Northern Hemisphere, this also occurs during Advent and Christmas and is a visual reminder of the darkness into which the Light of Christ arrives. The holidays can be a complicated time when the grief of loss and change looms large. We gather on the Longest Night to create space and time for the complicated emotions of the season. We light candles to remember our losses and as a testament to the light that is present even in the darkest of days. This year's service will be at noon and we hope you will be able to join us.



Christmas Eve Carols, Communion & Candlelight
Tuesday, December 24th @ 7:00 p.m.

*Children are welcome in worship. If childcare is needed, please contact the church (office@sumnerfcc.org, 253-863-7858) by Friday, December 19th to make a reservation.



This Sunday, December 15th, is the last Sunday to bring items for the 5th grade class we are collecting for. Clothing that is in the range of size 10-12 or M-L is what we are looking for. We also will be assembling 23 gift bags after church this Sunday for the children. If you'd like to bring a small trinket for each gift bag, we encourage you to do so and thank you to everyone for your generosity!

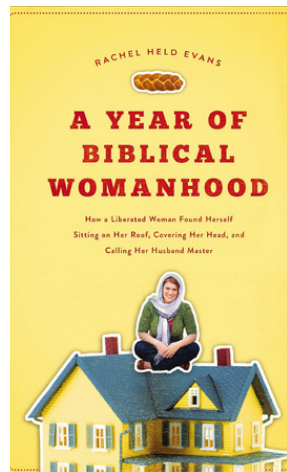


We take up special offerings through the year to support the work of the church beyond the local congregation. 100% of the special Christmas Offering goes to the work of our Northern Lights Region. We thank you in advance for the sharing of your gifts.

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 7:00 pm GA	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 7:00 pm GA	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 7:00 pm GA	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 7:00 pm GA	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

