



The Weekly Chalice

March 20th 2025

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



I grew up in Corpus Christi, TX and regularly went to the Padre Island National Seashore and stood at the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. It is a special and sacred place. When John and I were

first spending time together, I was training to run my first marathon. John volunteered to do my long runs with me. We ran at the National Seashore, with its four mile stretch of beach where cars were prohibited. Mind you, to get up to the higher mileage of running we'd have to run out and back a few times (oh to be able to move like that again!). When I think back to those memories I can hear the sounds and smell that humid, salty air. I see the fiddler crabs and the brown pelicans skimming the waters. I see the little fish that jump at sunset. I see the shells and the occasional whole sand dollars that we felt lucky to find. And I remember the sand. Sand that gets in between your toes and behind your ears. Sand that gets in your car and no matter how much you vacuum, remains.

Sand can a wonderful, but tricky surface to run on--you don't want it to be too loose or too packed down. The best kind of sand is the sand the waves have lapped over that's somewhat consolidated but still loose enough to give when your feet hit the ground. I have many memories of running behind John and seeing his footprints hit that sand, leave an indentation and then disappear a few seconds later.

Not long ago, I saw sand under a microscope and was

amazed. Sand is actually a collection of tiny mineral fragments. Most likely, the composition of Texas Gulf Coast sand is calcium carbonate which has been created over the past 500 million years by various forms of life, such as coral and shellfish.

During the season of lent we are considering what is fragmented or fragmentation. In my mind, I think about fragments as pieces broken from a whole. In the case of sand, it is the fragments of minerals that create a whole. Perhaps this gives us a different perspective to consider fragmentation in our world and how God mends and heals.

Krista Tippet recently recalled a past interview with the Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen who told this story about her Hasidic grandfather who explained the story behind the Jewish ethical imperative to repair the world: "In the beginning of creation, the light of the universe was shattered into a million million pieces, which lodged as shards inside everything and everyone. Our calling, as human beings, is to look for the light from where we stand, to call it out, to gather it up — and in so doing, to help repair the world."

I found fragments of life and light in the tiny fragments of ancient calcium carbonate that formed the perfect surface to cradle my feet as I ran. Where do you find life and light? May God open your eyes to see the fragments of life and light around you as we seek to repair ourselves and the world. -Rochelle+



The Lenten Season in Summer

During the season of Lent, we'll consider the fragments of our life, our faith communities, nation, and world, and how God, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, mends our fragments and makes us whole.

You may wish to join us in these Lenten practices this season:

+Beautiful Fragments devotional card sets: Scripture, reflections, and Lenten practices to guide your Lenten experience.

Take home a set or follow online at [Beautiful fragments: A Lenten Devotional for Year C](#)

+Soup & Art – in the Art Studio: Thursdays in Lent at 5:30 pm. No experience or skill is needed (you have all you need within you!).

+Maundy Thursday supper service: April 17 at 6 pm (in person)

+Good Friday Cross Walk (Puyallup): April 18 at 4 pm (meet at the parking lot at 3rd St SW & W Pioneer).

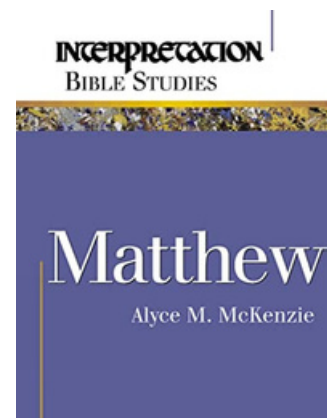
+Good Friday Tenebrae service of shadows: April 18 at 6 pm



Join us for a church work day on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. as we do some spring cleaning in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Lunch will be provided. We hope to see you there.



Join us for Children Worship & Wonder, Sunday, April 6th @ 9:00 a.m. All children are welcome to join in as we share story time, singing, open art time and the Great Feast (snack time). We hope to see you there!



Our youth and young adult Bible study will meet again on **Friday, April 18th @ 2:30 p.m.** We will be discussing chapter one of the study on Matthew's Gospel. Please contact Pastor Rochelle for more information on location. We hope you can join us!

A blessing for when you're tired of broken systems:
 Oh God, I am done with broken systems
 that break the very people
 they are meant to serve.

Harness this anger.
 Channel it into worthy action and show me
 what is mine to fix and what boundaries to patrol
 to keep goodness in and evil out.

Blessed are we who are appalled
 that brute ignorance can so easily dominate
 over decency, honesty, and integrity.

Blessed are we, who choose not to look away
 from systems that dehumanize, deceive, defame,
 and distort.

We who recognize that thoughts and prayers are
 not enough.

We who stand with truth over expediency,
 principle over politics,
 community over competition.

Oh God, how blessed are we who cry out to you:
 empower us to see and name what is broken,
 what is ours to restore,
 guide us to find coherent and beautiful alternatives
 that foster life, hope, and peace.
 Help us use our gifts with one another in unity.

Blessed are we who choose to live in anticipation,
 our eyes scanning the horizon,
 for signs of your kingdom—
 heaven-come-down—
 as we wait in hope
 and act with courage.

-Kate Bowler

This blessing was inspired by my conversation with Bryan Stevenson on
 the Everything Happens podcast. [Click here to listen.](#) It is also in our new
 book of blessings, *The Lives We Actually Have* (2/14/23)

March							2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 12:00 pm AA	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service Elder Meeting after Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
9:00 am Baptismal Preparation Class 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 5:30-7:30 pm SCP Open House	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	9:00 am – 12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
9:00 am Baptismal Preparation Class 10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Book Club	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA 2:30 pm Youth Bible Study	12:00 pm AA	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA	