



The Weekly Chalice

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

I think it's okay to say, at the outset of Holy Week 2025, that I am just tired. I am tired from the relentless nature of work and school and life in general...I am tired of the news and the current state of politics and the world...I am tired from grief and loss and the transitions of life that we are walking through. I'm just tired. Not the best way to enter this time where so much more is required of us Pastors.

In listening to my favorite podcast, Kate Bowler's *Everything Happens*, author and theologian Jeff Chu talks about his time at Princeton Seminary in their farminary program. What is farminary you ask (as I did)? It is a unique program that combines seminary and farming to open those called to ministry to a more connected way of learning about, experiencing God, and ministering.

When you Google Princeton and farminary, this description appears: "The harvest from the farminary's compost-enriched soil is used by dining services when the seminary is in session, and during the summer the farminary offers CSA shares to the greater seminary community. The food loop includes taking scraps from dining services and composting them with autumn leaves from campus."

Part of the description from Jeff Chu's *Everything Happens* interview is this: in this conversation we explore "the theology of compost: how death, rot, and loss make way for new life."

I kind of don't like the death, rot and loss part (or the seasons of feeling tired), but, as Chu's interview reveals, you don't get to the good soil that nourishes and supports

the harvest in the next season without the death, rot, loss (and fatigue). And so...I am learning to name it instead of denying it. I am learning to put on my muck boots and wade into it and to be in it. I am learning that there are necessary processes of these times that we all go through and rather than deny it, brush over it or stuff it down behind a smile, to just own it.

At a time when Pastors are pushed to feel extra inspirational, coming up with the right words, the best songs, the perfect gatherings, I would like to be a little more honest. I am tired. and maybe you are too. It's okay to just stand in the garbage heap. It's okay to grieve the rot and death and loss that is integral to life. We certainly will name and embrace this truth on Good Friday. Because we can't get to Easter...we can't get to the harvest without it.

-Rochelle+



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. Bring yard work tools and cleaning supplies for inside. Lunch will be provided. We hope to see you there.



Lent, Holy Week & Easter at Sumner First Christian Church:

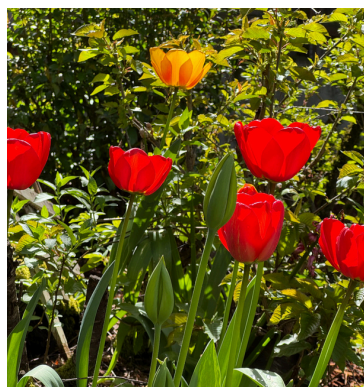
+**Palm Sunday**, April 13th at 10:30 a.m.

+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

+**Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** Be sure to bring cut flowers to decorate the cross.

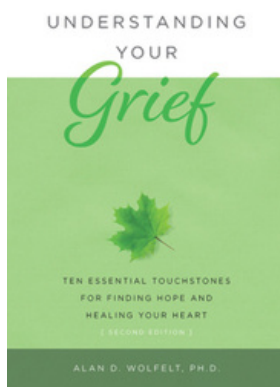


One of the Easter traditions of our church is the flowering of the cross during Easter Sunday worship. bring cut flowers from your yard or from the store on Easter morning to help us flower the cross.



Sunday, April 27th @ noon (after church)

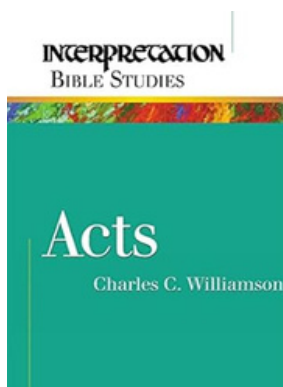
Becky Scholz, of Becky's Baskets, is generously donating flowers and plants for our spring sale. If you have small boxes that could be used to transport plants, bring those in advance of the sale and spread the word!



Understanding Your Grief: 10 Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing in Your Heart

Another session of Understanding your Grief is being planned for Thursday evenings, April 24th-June 19th. There are two times

being considered, 5:30-7:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining the group, please sign up or message Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org) and indicate which time works better for you. Books and accompanying journals are available for those participating in the class and a donation to help defray the materials cost is appreciated (the cost of the book and journal is \$20).



The Acts of the Apostles is the book that tells us "what's next" in the story after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Pastor Rochelle will be leading a Bible Study on the book of Acts utilizing Charles C. Williams *Interpretation Bible Studies* book. A sign up sheet

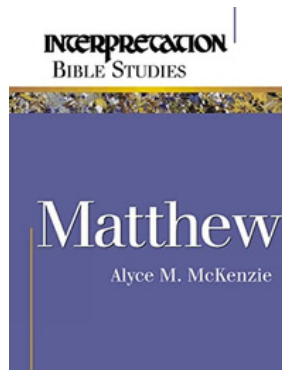
is available to indicate times of interest: Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom, Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in person. The study is six weeks long and will be held between Easter and Pentecost. Books will be available to those who sign up for the study (a \$10 donation to offset the cost is appreciated). **Please contact Pastor Rochelle with any questions or to indicate your preference on meeting day/time: Pastor@sumnerfcc.org.**





Sumner First Christian has been a supporter of the Sumner Community Food Bank for

many years. Federal cuts to USDA are affecting local food banks across the country. To help, we will have a spring Food drive that will begin after Easter and culminate on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. For this food drive, consider donating some of the usual staples: canned vegetables & meats, soups, peanut butter, jelly, rice. Also consider baking ingredients--flour, powdered milk, baking soda/powder, sugar, vanilla, oil, vinegar. Also consider snack items for school weekend backpack assistance that the food bank provides: cup of soups, protein bars, granola bars, fruit pouches, etc. And thank you for your support of our neighbors in need! Your giving makes a difference.



Our youth and young adult Bible study will meet again on **Friday, April 25th @ 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!



Join us for Children Worship & Wonder the first Sunday of each month. All children are welcome to hear a Bible story (told in the style of the Montessorri learning method), sing songs, share in art responses and the great feast (snack time)! We hope to see you there!

April

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am Al 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	9:00 am – 12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service Elder Meeting after Service	12:00 pm AA SCP Closed for Spring Break	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA SCP Closed for Spring Break	10:30 am Al Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters SCP Closed for Spring Break	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA SCP Closed for Spring Break	12:00 pm AA SCP Closed for Spring Break	9:00 am – 1:00 pm Church Work Day/Lunch 12:00 pm AA
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday 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 Al Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	12:00 pm AA 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm Puyallup Cross Walk 6:00 pm Good Friday Service	12:00 pm AA
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday 9:00 am Baptisms 10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am Al Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Book Club	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA 2:30 Youth Bible Study	12:00 pm AA
27	28	29	30			
10:30 Worship Service 12:00 pm Plant Sale	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am Al Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters			