



The Weekly Chalice

April 17th 2025

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

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

When I hit my 50's, I began to recognize my aging. One of those recognitions was that I don't completely understand the language of my children and their generation. I have taken to following the online videos of a middle school teacher whose mission is to decode the language of Gen Z. Its fascinating and has made me realize that my generation, too, had a cultural language that my own parents and elders probably didn't fully understand.

There are themes within language that transcend generational and cultural specificities. Beyond skibidi toilet (still trying to figure that one out), there are concepts like love, generosity, compassion and caring, that Gen Z and all generations understand. Another of those words is sacrifice--a word that has fallen out of collective favor and use, but one that we all seem to understand at the core of our humanity. We don't achieve, attain, progress, succeed, advance without some amount of sacrifice.

Holy Week naturally brings us back to this foundational word as we ponder the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and what it means. Sacrifice means to give something up, but not just any old thing. Sacrifice involves wholly letting go of something that is valuable and precious. In our Christian theology, we assert that God is in Christ--part of Christ as Christ is a part of God. And that God freely chooses to become one of God's own created in becoming human

in the person of Jesus. God is fully human and fully divine concurrently. And as such, God in Christ experiences all of the joys and delights of being human and all of the deep frustrations, sadness, pain and grief of being human.

Ultimately, God in Christ, does not utilize his power to gain the power of human institutions and government....God in Christ does not utilize his power to accumulate and acquire more material possessions and wealth...God in Christ, does not utilize his power to put others down and to oppress the marginalized. God in Christ utilizes his power to lay down his power, and ultimately his human life. He suffers oppression and dies a horrible death. Perhaps this sacrifice is, in part meant to show us, God's power with us, not over us--in the weakest, scariest, most vulnerable of times of life.

Perhaps one of the lessons being learned in these days is that activism void of sacrifice is not effective. When we stand up to power, we risk losing something, and perhaps even something that we count as valuable and precious. When I see people using their positions of power to oppress others while wearing diamond studded cross necklaces, I think we have lost our way...culturally we have forgotten the power and meaning of sacrifice.

God reminds this Holy Week, that love is made most real, most tangible, most effective, through sacrifice.
-Rochelle+

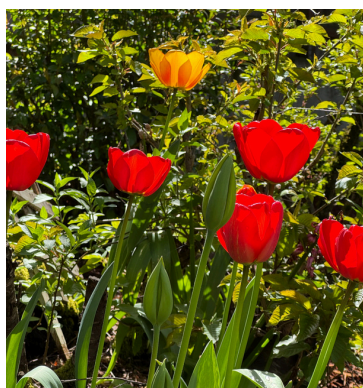


Lent, Holy Week & Easter at Sumner First Christian Church:

+**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.

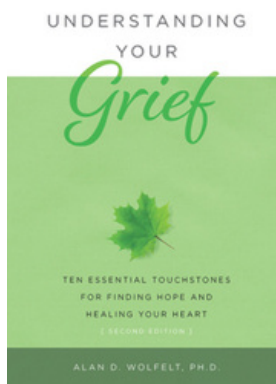


One of the Easter traditions of our church is the flowering of the cross during Easter Sunday worship. bring cut flowers from your yard or from the store on Easter morning to help us flower the cross.

spring
**PLANT
SALE**

Sunday, April 27th @ noon (after church)

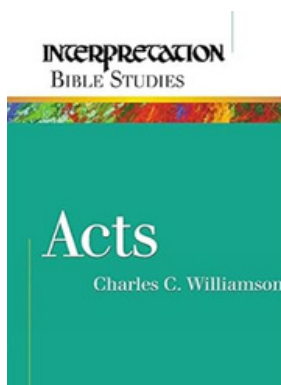
Becky Scholz, of Becky's Baskets, is generously donating flowers and plants for our spring sale. If you have small boxes that could be used to transport plants, bring those in advance of the sale and spread the word!



**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. 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. We will meet on

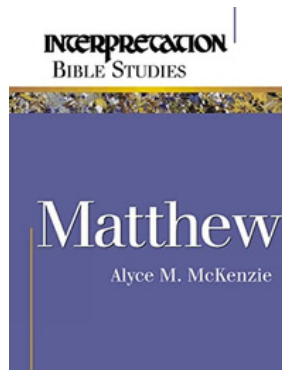
Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom, beginning April 29th. The study is six weeks long and books are available to those who sign up for the study (a \$10 donation to offset the cost is appreciated). **Please contact Pastor Rochelle with any questions or to indicate your preference on meeting day/time: 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			