



## The Weekly Chalice

April 23rd 2026

Sumner First Christian Church | 432 Wood Ave, Sumner, WA | [sumnerfcc.org](http://sumnerfcc.org)

*Is there something you might need to accept right now rather than avoid, deny or fight any longer?*

This question was posed by Pastor/Theologian/Author Nadia Bolz-Weber in piece she wrote in early December 2025 about acceptance. Acceptance is not something we like to do much because the word implies that there is something *un-acceptable* hanging around in our life that we have to come to terms with. To be sure, we will exhaust all possibilities before we come to acceptance with something that seems completely unacceptable.

Bolz-Weber writes: "On Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, Eric and I stood on a beach in St. Bees watching the grey movements of the Irish Sea before taking our first steps of a 200 mile walk that would carry us clear across Northern England to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea. The tradition is to pick up a small stone from the first coast and carry it in your pocket until you place it on the second.

Before we left, friends had asked what they could pray for. The only answer I could summon was, 'acceptance.'

So that was the stone I carried in my pocket--of a small, smooth prayer of acceptance. It was all I had that I thought might, maybe, perhaps slay the Goliath I was facing.

Because sixteen days before leaving for Wainwright's Coast-to-Coast hike, I was diagnosed with invasive ductile carcinoma. Breast Cancer. A treatable, survivable form of Breast Cancer, but breast cancer nonetheless.

**'C.a.n.c.e.r.'**

That one word, 'cancer,' when spoken for the first time by your doctor is a gunshot. It's footsteps behind you in a dark alley; a tornado siren, and your spouse saying 'we need to talk,' all rolled into one.

### **Acceptance**

When friends asked what they could pray for, I knew I did not need bravery. I did not even need strength, per se. I just needed acceptance. Why? Simply because I had cancer and wished I did not.

So for 2 weeks I walked with this simplest of prayers. When it was raining and I wished it wasn't – I'd ask God for acceptance.

When the trail was steeper than I wished, I'd do the same.

When my legs ached and I longed for a place to rest and unlike on the Camino there were no café's at which to stop, I'd repeat it. Acceptance. (Continued...)

(continued...) When I wished the day's walk was over but we had two more kilometers to go and those two kilometers felt like five, I'd whisper, 'acceptance.'

A prayer, a reminder, an aspiration."

Acceptance is part of our life and faith work, for like Jesus in the Garden, we will be faced with some inevitability that we do not want. And so we put a little stone in our pocket and we pray the same prayer as we walk along: God help me to find acceptance. -Rochelle+



Join us for our next Friday study series: *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp, Fridays from noon-1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Spring Flower & Plant Sale**  
 Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> following worship  
 We are grateful to Becky's Baskets who is again donating beautiful hanging baskets, flower starts and vegetable starts for our Spring sale on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> following worship. Speward the word and be sure to come by for your gardening needs!

## APRIL 2026

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                         | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |                                 | 1<br>10:30 am Prayer Group<br>10:30 am AI Anon<br>12:30 pm Sober Sisters<br>7:00 pm SLAA  | 2<br>Maundy Thursday<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:00 pm Agape Meal & Table Worship<br>7:00 pm GA | 3<br>Good Friday<br>12:00 pm AA<br>7:00 pm Tenebrae Service | 4<br>12:00 pm AA  |
| 5<br>Easter Sunday<br>9:30 Worship & Wonder<br>10:30 Worship Service | 6<br>12:00 pm AA                               | 7<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:30 pm AA  | 8<br>10:30 am Prayer Group<br>10:30 am AI Anon<br>12:30 pm Sober Sisters<br>7:00 pm SLAA  | 9<br>12:00 pm AA<br>5:00 pm Elders Meeting<br>7:00 pm GA                                | 10<br>12:00 pm AA   | 11<br>12:00 pm AA   |
| 12<br>10:30 Worship Service<br>Board Meeting after Service           | 13<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting | 14<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:30 pm AA | 15<br>10:30 am Prayer Group<br>10:30 am AI Anon<br>12:30 pm Sober Sisters<br>7:00 pm SLAA | 16<br>12:00 pm AA<br>7:00 pm GA   | 17<br>12:00 pm AA<br>12:30 pm Youth Group, Craft 19         | 18<br>9:00 am-12:00 pm SCP Clean Day<br>12:00 pm AA<br>2:00 pm Janelle Shore Memorial Service |
| 19<br>10:30 Worship Service  | 20<br>12:00 pm AA                              | 21<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:30 pm AA | 22<br>10:30 am Prayer Group<br>10:30 am AI Anon<br>12:30 pm Sober Sisters<br>7:00 pm SLAA | 23<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom<br>7:00 pm GA                           | 24<br>12:00 pm AA   | 25<br>12:00 pm AA   |
| 26<br>10:30 Worship Service  | 27<br>12:00 pm AA                              | 28<br>12:00 pm AA<br>6:30 pm AA | 29<br>10:30 am Prayer Group<br>10:30 am AI Anon<br>12:30 pm Sober Sisters<br>7:00 pm SLAA | 30<br>12:00 pm AA<br>7:00 pm GA   |   |   |