



The Weekly Chalice

April 30th 2026

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

The walk to Emmaus is one of my favorite stories in the Bible partly because I was involved in the Walk to Emmaus retreats when I lived in Texas and these were among the most powerful and transformative experiences in my spiritual life. At those retreats there is a sense of something unseen unfolding as the weekend continues and there is something deeply comforting about that--as we journey, Jesus is with us in unseen ways that become more evident through time and experience.

My husband John is preaching this Sunday in my stead. I will be away for another weekend of dance with my daughter who is a senior in high school. This time with her is precious and I am appreciative of everyone who makes that time away possible for me.

My husband John, too, has been on a Walk to Emmaus and worked several walks. The experience of the unseen slowly being revealed was deeply powerful for him as well and I look forward to hearing his message.

There are four small, yet powerful words in this story from Luke 24: 13-35: *But we had hoped*. Jesus has come along the two disciples on their journey to Emmaus, but they do not recognize him. Jesus asks what they are talking about and the disciples tell of the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. As they tell

the devastating details of the story, they explain *But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.*

Part of the power of the Emmaus story meets us in the moments of our dashed expectations and hope. Think for a moment about hopes and expectations you've had in your life. When what we hope for comes to fruition, we feel fulfilled, content and that the world is as it should be. When our hopes are dashed, it can be devastating, leaving us with an emptiness in our hearts that can feel unfillable.

You know this feeling. You know the depths of the emptiness and how we can teeter on the edge of despair. What is important to note in this story, is that this is where these two people are as they journey down the road. I am glad they are together...that they have each other. Because one of the things that makes the darkness of lost hope bearable, is the companionship of another. They gave each other strength and presence as they travelled.

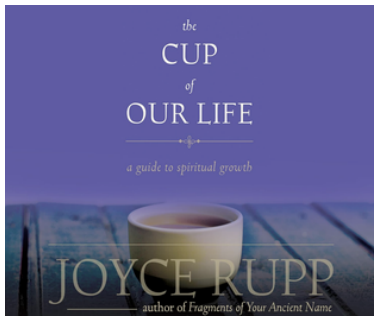
And then the stranger came and started walking and talking with them. He asked questions, had knowledge, was compelling in some familiar, yet indescribable way. I want to say this is how Jesus journeys with us along the way--showing up when we are really (continued...)

struggling and providing a curious, caring presence.

Of course my favorite part is when the disciple's "eyes are opened" when Jesus breaks bread with them after they offer hospitality to him bidding him to stay the night.

In our moments of lost hope, drawing closer to others and welcoming the stranger in our midst, breaking bread together can be the very thing to open our eyes to God with us.

Perhaps there is much lost hope in these days. Perhaps you feel it in the world around you or close to home in personal situations. Grab a friend and go for a walk. Invite someone to dinner or talk to a stranger at the coffee shop. Know that Jesus is with you and meets you in these small moments to bring big love, strength and renewal -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 1st.



Spring Flower & Plant Sale

Sunday, May 10th 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 10th following worship. Speward the word and be sure to come by for your gardening needs!

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12:00 pm-1:30 pm The Cup of Our Life Bible Study 12:00 pm AA	2 12:00 pm AA
3 9:30 Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service	4 12:00 pm AA	5 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	6 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	7 12:00 pm AA 5:00 pm Elders Meeting 7:00 pm GA	8 12:00 pm-1:30 pm The Cup of Our Life Bible Study 12:00 pm AA	9 9:00 am-12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA
10 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service 12:00 pm Plant Sale	11 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	12 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA 6:00 pm SCP Spring Event	13 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	14 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	15 12:00 pm-1:30 pm The Cup of Our Life Bible Study 12:00 pm AA	16 12:00 pm AA
17 10:30 Worship Service	18 12:00 pm AA	19 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	20 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	21 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	22 12:00 pm-1:30 pm The Cup of Our Life Bible Study 12:00 pm AA SCP Last Day	23 10:30 pm Youth Group, Craft 12:00 pm AA
24 10:30 Worship Service	25 Memorial Day 12:00 pm AA	26 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	27 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	28 12:00 pm AA 6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom 7:00 pm GA	29 12:00 pm-1:30 pm The Cup of Our Life Bible Study 12:00 pm AA	30 12:00 pm AA
31 10:30 Worship Service			**Add on to the 27th 9:00 am-12:00 pm SCP Clean Day			