



# The Weekly Chalice

May 14th 2026

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

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them".-Matthew 18:20

I often hear church referred to as "organized religion," or "an institution" which technically, it is. But church, when functioning well, is much more than an institution or an organization of history, belief and practice. When functioning well, church is **community**....and community is something that is desperately missing from people's lives.

Last week at the Communion table I said, "despair is not an option." If you are watching or consuming news, you are seeing that there is much that feels despairing in this moment in time. But an antidote to that feeling and that experience, is community.

And so dear small, lovely church, we have the power to be something important, purposeful, sacred and holy in this current moment in time... **we have the power to be community.**

Jesus told his followers that wherever even two were gathered, the Spirit of God would be present. This is fuel of our community, because we know that community, while necessary, is not easy. We receive so much in community, but we are also required to give. This is the only way community works...its the only way the community of church functions well.

I did a little online search of how to build community and here are some steps that I found...these are relevant for any community including the community of church:

Building community requires intentional action to create **shared identity, consistent participation, and mutual support. It stems from fostering connections through shared interests, vulnerability, and taking the initiative to "go first" in building relationships. It demands time, consistency, and a willingness to show up for others.** [and I will add here that showing up for others means having patience and a good bit of self reflection when we have a rough patch with someone else...a disagreement...a different viewpoint. We don't just walk away but try to hear each other and extend each other grace and love. **We find unity at Christ's table even when our lives are not uniform or exactly the same**].

Key elements for building and maintaining a community include:

- **Active Participation & Commitment:** A thriving community requires participants to show up regularly.
- **Shared Interests and Identity:** People unite around common passions, stories, and goals.

(continued...)

(continued...)

- **Physical or Digital Spaces:** Creating structures—like neighborhood groups or online forums—gives people a place to meet and connect.
- **Shared Vulnerability and Trust:** Genuine connections are built when members feel safe and supported, which requires honesty and empathy.
- **Active Leadership:** Someone often needs to take the initiative to bring people together, acting as a connector.



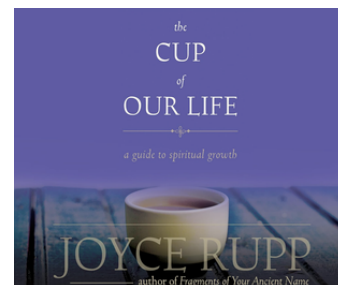
to extend community to the greater community, for the resources available to us and the ones we need to continue, and consider how you participate in this community. Think about what you receive and ways

you might contribute and who in your life might benefit from this community and consider inviting them. And give thanks to God for the gift of the Spirit, our Advocate and friend, who promises to be with us always.

-Rochelle+

This week prayerfully consider the community that is Sumner First Christian Church. Pray for the Spirit's guidance, the leadership current and coming, for the people who attend in person and online, for the many ways our building is utilized

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>.



## 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			