



## The Weekly Chalice

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

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

"You have heard it said...but I say to you..." (Jesus in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew's Gospel).

I have, in more recent years, been repeatedly drawn to the Gospel of Matthew and the sermon on the Mount and series of instruction that contain the above formula "You have heard it say...but I say to you..."

The weekly Gospel reading in the Lectionary has us spending a bit of time in Matthew's Gospel where we find Jesus respectfully disrupting the status quo. Matthew presents Jesus as not wanting to burn down the old to bring forth the new, but to rather facilitate the evolution and transformation of the old into something different. This, of course, is very difficult work, especially when the "thing" transforming is religion.

Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill," (Matthew 5:17) and then he gives this series of statements ("You have heard it said...but I say to you...") in regard to some of the existing Jewish laws.

Some of the Jewish laws that Jesus addresses include those that deal with murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, eye for an eye, love/hate for enemies. These were religious, and not civil, laws

that Jesus addresses, but I wonder if any of them feel relevant for you today (and I invite you to read Matthew 5 for full context)? I wonder what the people in Jesus' time "had heard" not just religious leaders/authorities say about these laws, but what they heard their family and neighbors say about such laws and those who broken them? And I wonder what laws, religious or civil, Jesus might challenge and nudge toward change in our world today?

In a recent conversation with a loved one, we each made definitive statements about topics that "we heard from someone...or somewhere." In this age and time of instant access to information and the unabated amount of misinformation and disinformation coming at us, we each agreed that it is important to have a more critical lens and filter on the information we see and receive. Don't just believe it because "you heard it said..."

For we Christ-followers, there is another tool, in addition to critical thinking, that we can use when testing the validity of what we hear. What does Jesus say about such matters? How does Jesus behave and act in regard to such things? Christ is the founder and example of our faith and a reliable measure for the things we allow to take into our hearts and minds.

What have you heard said...in the news...online...by people around you? And what might Jesus say about such things?  
-Rochelle+



## And the Table Will Be Wide A Blessing for World Communion Sunday

When our Congregation went through the process of becoming an open and affirming church, we spent time creating a statement of welcome which is shared below to remind us that *welcome* is not just words on a page, but an intentional and sometimes hard-fought act we are invited to live everyday.

Prayer is central to our faith as we seek to know and understand more about and connect to the living God. In prayer we seek to make meaning, express our deepest longings, and ask for the strength to listen for God and God's calling in our life. Because of this, we seek to frame our statement of welcome as a prayer—praying for God's guidance as we live into that every expanding circle of God's inclusivity and love.

We the people of Sumner First Christian Church state that our community is open and affirming of all people, irrespective of age, creed, ability, status, race, gender, sexual orientation, or expression. Our community is open to all people for safety in exploring their spiritual lives and fully participating in this community.

Because we are also a people of the table—drawn to Commune with Christ weekly where with diverse groups we find sustenance, fellowship, and remembrance of God's love in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup—we frame this declaration with the prayer of blessing *And the Table will be Wide for World Communion Sunday* by writer, theologian and artist, Jan Richardson.

And the table  
will be wide.  
And the welcome  
will be wide.  
And the arms  
will open wide  
to gather us in.  
And our hearts  
will open wide  
to receive.  
And we will come  
as children who trust  
there is enough.  
And we will come  
unhindered and free.  
And our aching  
will be met  
with bread.  
And our sorrow  
will be met  
with wine.  
And we will open our hands  
to the feast  
without shame.  
And we will turn  
toward each other  
without fear.  
And we will give up  
our appetite  
for despair.  
And we will taste  
and know  
of delight.  
And we will become bread  
for a hungry world.  
And we will become drink  
for those who thirst.  
And the blessed  
will become the blessing.  
And everywhere  
will be the feast.  
— Jan Richardson



Join us for a freedom and democracy service and picnic potluck on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Plan on staying with us and enjoying some good food and connections!



We will have a brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> following worship to vote on our proposed slate of nominees for church leadership and our proposed 2026-2027 budget.

## JUNE 2026

## 2026-2027 Church Officer Nominations

**Board Chair/Elder Representative:** Kris K.  
**Vice Chair:** Bob I.  
**Treasurer:** Melanie R.  
**Secretary:** Kathy H.  
**Deacon Representative:** Colleen C.  
**Elders:** Kris K., Robin C., Kathy H., John R. & Debbie I.  
**Deacons:** Melanie R., Colleen C., Lauralee I., Rhiannon S., Camille S.



Pastor Rochelle would like know where you are from, meaning, where did your ancestors migrate from (if known). A lot of detail is not necessary, but if you could let Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org) know by June 24<sup>th</sup>, the information will be incorporated into the service on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 pm AA	2 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	3 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	4 12:00 pm AA 5:00 pm Elders Meeting 7:00 pm GA	5 12:00 pm Cup of Life Bible Study 12:00 pm AA	6 12:00 pm AA
7 10:30 am Worship Service Senior Sunday during worship honoring Viola, Keeva, Sammy Board Meeting after Service	8 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	9 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	11 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12 12:00 pm AA	13 12:00 pm AA
14 10:30 am Worship Service	15 12:00 pm AA	16 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	17 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	18 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	19 Juneteenth 12:00 pm AA	20 12:00 pm AA
21 Father's Day 10:30 am Worship Service	22 12:00 pm AA	23 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	24 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	25 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	26 12:00 pm AA	27 12:00 pm AA
28 10:30 am Worship Service Congregation Meeting Freedom & Democracy Sunday & Potluck	29 12:00 pm AA	30 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA				