



The Weekly Chalice

July 16th 2026

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

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." -Jesus in Matthew 5:9

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."
-Jesus in Matthew 10:34

What are you skeptical about these days? How are you Mariner's fans feeling? I'm not a huge baseball fan/follower, but I feel like Mariner's fans are among the most hopeful and longsuffering sports enthusiasts out there. Perhaps you feel hopeful AND skeptical at the same time.

There may be many things that people feel skeptical and hopeful about in these times. One place where I have deep skepticism is in the interpretation of Biblical reading that goes something like this: "The Bible clearly states..." Maybe you've heard someone say this...maybe you yourself have said it. Sometimes it is said to express someone's deeply held belief from their reading and understanding of the Bible...sometimes it is said to weaponize the Bible and use it to disenfranchise someone or a specific group of people.

I am deeply skeptical of the phrase and sentiment "The Bible clearly states" because there is plenty of evidence to suggest otherwise. Take the two quotes above from Matthew's Gospel, both spoken by Jesus and both referencing peace.

The first describes peace and peacemakers as blessed, children of God. The second describes Jesus as bringing conflict and not peace. These are contradictory statements. Are we to be peacemakers or provocateurs? More context is needed.

As a seminary student at Brite Divinity School, I felt very blessed to have time learning under Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, who was an adjunct faculty member at the time but was better known as a former General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a candidate for ordination, we were required to compose a Theology of Ministry paper that would be reviewed by the commission on the ministry. Dr. Teegarden guided this process and told us that it was not just something to do once for ordination, but an exercise to engage in our entire lives as Christ followers...and not just us, but anyone who claims to follow Christ. To deeply and prayerfully examine what you believe and why and to come to your own decisions is an important part of following Christ and being in relationship with him.

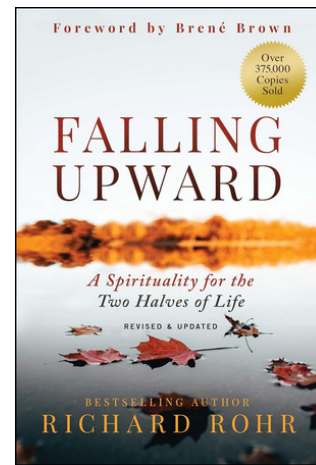
In the Bible and in life, we will encounter inconsistencies or things that seem contradictory. Our call is to sit with these, to look for more evidence, to ask questions, to engage and to allow God's Spirit to guide us to a place of deeper understanding.
-Rochelle+



We will be collecting backpacks and school supplies for the Sumner Bonney Lake School District Back to School fairs held in August. Community donations are an important part of ensuring there are plenty of supplies for students in our community. In the coming weeks, consider purchasing and donating some of the needed items and thank you in advance for your generosity and support:

- *Backpacks
- *folders
- *notebooks
- *pens/pencils
- *erasers
- *makers
- *rulers
- *colored pencils
- *notebook paper
- *pencil cases
- *calculators
- *Lunch boxes
- *AND/OR...anything else that would be useful for students starting a new school year.

We will be taking donations up to Sunday, August 9th.



Join us for our monthly book group as we begin Richard Rohr's book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. Our meetings are moving to the last Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested in joining, please message Pastor Rochelle for a Zoom invitation:

Pastor@sumnerfcc.org

We hope to see you on Wednesday, July 29th @ 6:00 p.m.! There are a few copies of the book available. If you are able to reimburse, the cost is \$15. Books can also be found through your local library, at or through your local book store or online in print and digital formats.



Free backpacks and supplies for students in need attending schools in the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District are available at Resource Fairs in August:

Thursday, Aug. 13

Noon-2 pm
Daffodil Valley Elementary
1509 Valley Ave., Sumner

Monday, Aug. 17

Noon-2 pm
Liberty Ridge Elementary
12202 209th Ave Ct E., Bonney Lake

Thursday, Aug. 20

4 to 6 pm
Sumner Middle School Commons
1508 Willow St., Sumner

Summary from Annual Congregational Meeting:

On June 21, 2026, we held a brief annual meeting after worship, during which the proposed slate of officers and budget for the new fiscal year were proposed and approved. Below is a summary of the information presented:

This year's total income as of June 30th was \$148,819. Of that amount, \$92,144. were donations from our friends and members, \$22,746. from building use, and \$24,164 from the IRS Employee Retention Credit and a donation from an estate. These funds went to the general fund, which pays for day-to-day operations. We also received \$8,991. in designated offerings, which are used only for specified purposes. Our total expense this year was \$155,017. for a difference of \$-6198.

As you know a budget is our best estimate of what our expenses are expected to be in any given year. The increase for this year's budget is less than \$2000 which is primarily due to rising utility costs. We were able to keep the increase this small by discontinuing our landscaping services. Stew graciously took on the landscaping needs, which increased the hours he works but is less than the previous landscaping services. We were also able to reduce our property insurance policy costs by \$300, this decrease may sound small, but we are looking at any small savings we can make.

Last year we were concerned about a significant shortfall of about \$24,000 in expected income and then we received the ERC funds and a donation from an estate making up that shortfall. God provides in so many ways.

We have the same concern this year about whether we will be able to meet our obligations. However, on a positive note and by God's grace, we have already received a significant over-and-above gift for this coming year.

I also want to highlight some of our accomplishments through our over-and-above giving this past year.

These gifts were used to support our local community and the world beyond:

- We gave 282 items to the Sumner school district for their back-to-school drive last year.
- We provided 762 lbs. of food to the Sumner Food Bank and \$90 from our change jar.
- In addition, we were able to obtain a \$1000 grant from the Northern Lights Region. These funds were divided between additional food purchased for the food bank, cash for the food bank and to pay for the overdue lunch accounts at Maple Lawn Elementary School.
- We also donated \$1022. to special offerings which included Week of Compassion, Reconciliation offering, Pentecost and the Christmas offering.

We may be a small congregation, but our impact is large and far-reaching.

I also want to mention the gift of our church building to the community. By having the preschool and 12-step groups in our building, we truly provide a place of learning and healing for so many in our community.

May we continue to work and to give toward sharing God's love inside and outside the walls of our church. And thank you again for your generous and diligent stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie R.

Board Treasurer





join us on Saturday, August 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a church work day. We will be doing some indoor cleaning, painting a wall, and working in our front garden to weed, trim back hedges and prepare the labyrinth for the fall. Plan on bringing tools and supplies. We will share lunch together. Please let Pastor Rochelle know of any dietary restrictions (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org). We'll see you then!



JULY 2026

Soul Circle
A women's spiritual retreat



Teachings, Meditations & Rituals
to Celebrate Your
Authentic Feminine Wisdom

Based on the book
Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear
by Elizabeth Gilbert

Take time for rest and rejuvenation at the women's fall spiritual retreat. If you are interested, you can get [more information and register here.](#)

 Cane Ridge West
Conference &
Retreat Center
Sept. 18-20, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	2 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	3 12:00 pm AA	4 Independence Day 12:00 pm AA
5 10:30 Worship Service	6 12:00 pm AA	7 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	8 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Elders Meeting	9 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	10 12:00 pm AA	11 12:00 pm AA
12 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	13 12:00 pm AA	14 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	15 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	16 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	17 12:00 pm AA	18 12:00 pm AA
19 10:30 Worship Service Deacon's Meeting after service	20 12:00 pm AA	21 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	22 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	23 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	24 12:00 pm AA	25 12:00 pm AA
26 10:30 Worship Service	27 12:00 pm AA	28 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	29 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom	30 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	31 12:00 pm AA	