



The Weekly Chalice

July 9th 2026

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

We moved from Dallas, TX to Sumner 21 years ago. If you've ever been to Dallas, you know it's a big city with lots of concrete and very few public outdoor spaces.

When we moved here, the phrase I kept hearing myself say is "Finally, I can breathe." I think I said/felt this in part because we moved in the summer and summers in Dallas are characterized by successive days of terrible air pollution.. But mostly I felt and said this because I could see and easily get to the natural world. When we spend time in God's creation, I think we synch with what is elemental in our being. It's like coming home in a way that is hard to describe.

My oldest child and I spent last week at the Grunewald Guild attending week three of their summer program *Resonance*. The Grunewald Guild's mission is "to offer welcome and inspire all people who seek to explore the intersections of art, faith, and community." During each session, several art mediums are offered, and participants choose one and work on a project (or projects) within that medium for the week and we participated in stained glass making (which is beautiful and challenging at the same time!).

Part of the week is also spent in intentional community building and spending time in nature. We

had a few trips down to "the swimming hole" on the Wenatchee where we waded out into the very cold water. And each time I thought, "Wow, it's cold! and...I can breathe."

Jesus, in Matthew's Gospel, tells us that we are salt and light--no different than the elements of the earth and universe. Maybe that's why when we get outside of our human-made stuff and into the God-made stuff, we feel different, lighter...we can breathe again.

Sarah Sprouse, the director of the Grunewald Guild, wrote this beautiful poem that reminds me of salt and light and of connecting with elemental things: You have stars in your bones
carried like a quiet constellation
beneath your skin.

laying its gold along your shoulders,
resting in the hallows of your hands
as if to say:
here is where the shining lives.

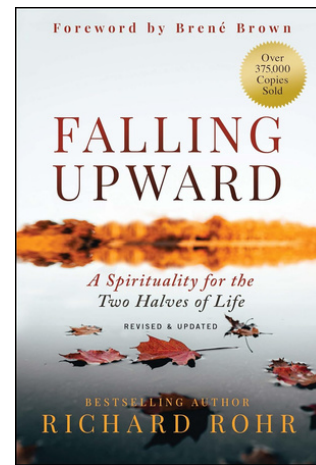
And this day
bright, unguarded,
waiting at your door,
is only asking,
that you walk into it
as one who knows
how to shine.



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.

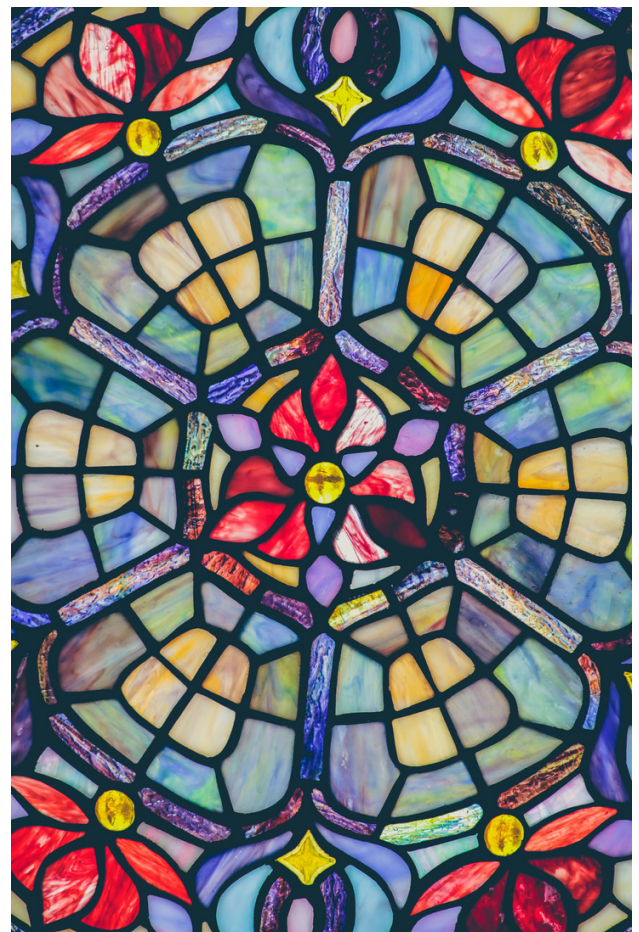
We will be taking donations up to Sunday, August 9th and are looking for a volunteer to count and take items to the Sumner Family Center by Wednesday, August 12th. Contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org) or office administrator Bev (office@sumnerfcc.org) for more information and thank you!



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

JULY 2026



The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) begins this Friday, July 10th and there is still time to learn about it and plan to join online. The whole church throughout the United States and Canada is invited to attend General Assembly 2026, taking place July 10–11. Rooted in Ephesians 3:14–21, this gathering invites the Stone-Campbell tradition of today and tomorrow to be grounded in the love of God that surpasses knowledge and barriers, calling the Christian Church to set a bigger table that extends beyond previous capacity. More than just a series of meetings, General Assembly is a covenantal table for education, discussion, worship, business, fellowship, and action, where each congregation is encouraged to boldly claim its place in shaping the life and ministry of the church. Learn more about [the General Assembly](#) and how you can be part of this experience.

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	