



The Weekly Chalice

August 6th 2026

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

I was thinking about the God of the mustard seed when I read this quote: micro joys are how we survive macro griefs. Small moments of joy are like the mustard seed of Jesus' parable describing the kingdom of heaven, in which a very small thing becomes the very thing that the birds of the air need to survive. Where do you find micro joys in your life? Sometimes they come in unexpected places or during unexpected times.

The picture below looks like AI (or like something from a Star Wars movie), but it's not. My husband snapped this photo on Tuesday when the fire smoke from Eastern Washington rolled into our area.

We are all saddened by the devastation of our neighbors in Spokane and in many places around our country and planet also experiencing devastating wildfires. Some of us feel devastated to think that climate change is going unchecked, accelerated by policies that ignore the science and truth of our changing climate and planet. But if we are not a billion-trillionaire, what can we do to stop it?

Where is the joy in this? You may ask.



For me, the small joys that show up in these moments are in the acts that humans do for one another. Stories of neighbors supporting each other, faith communities reaching out, Week of Compassion and World Central Kitchen showing up, first responders and firefighters and aid workers putting themselves in harms way at times to fight these fires and help people they don't know. It's inspiring, touching, joy-filled to see what good and compassionate things people do for each other in times of need. One of our favorite artists, Brandi Carlile, released an album this past year entitled ***Human***. The lyrics are micro joy that help me survive macro grief:

It's not like we're ever really gonna learn
And I'm no angel, I know we're gonna watch it burn
And, baby, there isn't anywhere to run
And I won't blame you for seeing all the beauty in a wildfire sun
Tomorrow isn't nothing but a game that we used to play
And we're only human
I don't need to see how to it ends
To tell you that we'll never be here again
we're only human
I just wanna feel my face in the sun
I never really wanted to hurt anyone
Forever only means we had a good run
We don't need to know to right now
It's hard enough being human



The Season of Creation is an ecumenical observance of care for the earth beginning on September 1st (known as the feast of Creation) and ending on October 4th (the Feast of St. Francis). The season is

dedicated to the stewardship of creation. This year's theme is Immersion in Living Water based on Ezekiel 47: 9, 12. We will be observing the Season of Creation and will be contemplating Ezekiel's prophetic words in terms of the living waters that sustain us and our responsibility to preserve them.

Some quick water facts:

- Chemical formula: H_2O — two hydrogen atoms bonded to one oxygen atom.
- State of matter: Exists naturally as solid (ice), liquid (water), and gas (vapor).
- Life depends on it: All known living organisms require water to survive.
- Human body composition: About 60% of the adult human body is water.
- Cellular function: Essential for nutrient transport, temperature regulation, and chemical reactions.
- Ecosystems: Supports biodiversity, regulates climate, and shapes landscapes.
- 97% of Earth's water is saltwater.
- 3% is freshwater, but most is locked in glaciers or deep underground.
- Less than 1% of Earth's water is accessible for human use.



The Deschutes River, Oregon



This Sunday, August 9th, is the last Sunday to bring donations for the Sumner Bonney Lake School District Back to School resource fairs. Thank you to everyone who has and will donate. Your generosity positively impacts the lives of young people in our community.

*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.



Join us and spread the word:
Sumner-Bonney Lake School
District Back to School Resource
Fairs:

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



Since Covid, we have been livestreaming our Sunday morning worship service. The livestream and recording is a wonderful ministry of outreach and means of expanded participation. We are currently in need of additional video operators and slide "clickers" for Sunday morning worship. Training and shadowing opportunities are available. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org) and thank you in advance!



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, 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).

AUGUST 2026

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