



The Weekly Chalice

September 18th 2026

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

"On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return. "

— **Annie Dillard**

American Author Annie Dillard died yesterday (September 16th) at the age of 81. Her book *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* was pivotal to my thinking and understanding in my early 20s. Her writing connected me with something of the world that is wild and true and helped me to connect with the Divine God in a real way...not just a celestial God of some far off, untouchable heaven, but the God of creation. Her writing helped to validate my sense that God was closest to me in the wind and the rain, in the water and the creatures of the air, water and land. I always felt different, more centered and at peace in the natural world, and Dillard's writings validated this

sense of holiness that I had experienced.

I think about Dillard's writings and the legacy she leaves behind. During the Season of Creation we are drawn to remember the divine and holy God in our midst, close to us in all that we sense around us.

We use the word *Imago Dei* to refer to the likeness and image of God in humanity. There is another word utilized by early church leaders and theologians to describe the image and likeness of God in the world--*Vestigia Dei*. The word translates more literally to *the footprints or traces of God*.

Our culture and economic system of capitalism does not honor *Vestigia Dei*. These systems that mold and shape us, train us to view nature as a resource to be mined, exploited, dismissed, destroyed for personal gain and accumulation of wealth.

This is unholy and ungodly. And perhaps when we read the words of prophets and poets, like the Psalmists or like Annie Dillard, it resonates so much with us because it returns us to a bit of home...it returns us to the dust from which we have been formed and will return...it reminds us that we are not greater than the dust, but rather a piece and part of it. (continued...)

(Continued...) There is much happening in halls of politics and powers to degrade and exploit the *Vestigia Dei* and I hope you will use your God-given voice to speak up for and advocate for the world, the home God has given to us.

I carry the words of Psalm 8 with me and remember that God has entrusted us with much and expects much of us.

1 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.
2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your
fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
4 what are human beings that you are mindful of

them,
mortals^a that you care for them?

5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,^b
and crowned them with glory and honour.
6 You have given them dominion over the works of your
hands;
you have put all things under their feet."

On the last pages of this newsletter, you'll find a list of recent federal actions taken that weaken environmental protections and ways in which you can make your voice heard and advocate for God's creation. May we continue to grow as stewards of this beautiful home God has given to us. -Rochelle+



Our Friday noon-1:30 p.m. Bible study will resume in October (stay tuned for details).

The group will be studying the book of Genesis. Books and start date will be available soon.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	2 9:00 am–12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	3 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	4 12:00 pm AA	5 12:00 pm AA
6 10:30 Worship Service	7 12:00 pm AA	8 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	9 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 5:00 pm Elders Meeting	10 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	11 12:00 pm AA	12 12:00 pm AA
13 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting (virtual)	14 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	15 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	16 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	17 SCP First Day of School 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	18 12:00 pm AA	19 12:00 pm AA
20 10:30 Worship Service	21 12:00 pm AA	22 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	23 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	24 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	25 12:00 pm AA	26 12:00 pm AA
27 10:30 Worship Service	28 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm SCP Back to School Night	29 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	30 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom			



As people of faith, we understand creation not as a commodity but as a sacred trust. Scripture reminds us that “the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24). When policies threaten the health of God’s world, Christians have both the right and the responsibility to raise their voices.

In recent months, several federal actions have weakened environmental protections that safeguard air, water, wildlife, and climate stability. These changes affect communities across the country—including Pierce County—and have long-term consequences for future generations. Below is a brief summary of key environmental rollbacks, followed by practical ways you can make your voice heard.

Reduced Climate Protections for Power Plants

The administration has repealed rules limiting greenhouse-gas emissions from coal and gas power plants. These changes allow significantly more climate-warming pollution and may restrict future administrations from reinstating strong climate protections.

Weakened Endangered Species Act Enforcement

A new interpretation of the Endangered Species Act allows the killing of endangered wildlife if the animals are not the “intended target.” This opens the door for logging, development, and industrial activity even when they knowingly harm protected species.

Removal of Conservation Safeguards on Public Lands

The Interior Department rescinded the Public Lands Rule, which previously required conservation to be considered alongside extraction. This change increases the likelihood of expanded fossil-fuel development and reduced habitat protection.

Reduced Environmental Review Requirements (NEPA)

Over 80% of environmental review regulations within the Department of the Interior have been rolled back. This means fewer safeguards, less public oversight, and faster approval of projects with significant ecological impacts.

How You Can Voice Your Concerns

1. Submit Public Comment

Many federal rules require public input before they become final.

You can submit comments at:

- [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)
- [FederalRegister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov)

Thoughtful comments—scientific, moral, theological, or personal—become part of the public record.

2. Contact Your Elected Representatives

Residents of Sumner, WA (ZIP 98390) are represented by the following officials:

U.S. Senators (Washington State)

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)

- Washington, D.C.: [202-224-3441](tel:2022243441)
- Tacoma Office: [253-572-2281](tel:2535722281)
- Contact Form: <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>

Sen. Patty Murray (D)

- Washington, D.C.: [202-224-2621](tel:2022242621)
- Tacoma Office: [253-572-3636](tel:2535723636)
- Contact Form: <https://www.murray.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington's 10th District — Rep. Marilyn Strickland
(D)

- Washington, D.C.: [202-225-9740](tel:202-225-9740)
- Contact Form:
<https://strickland.house.gov/contact>

3. Engage State & Local Government

State legislators and local officials can support environmental protections and influence regional policy.

Find your WA state legislators:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>
(app.leg.wa.gov in Bing)

Caring for creation is not a partisan act—it is a spiritual one. When we speak up for clean air, healthy ecosystems, and responsible stewardship, we honor God's world and protect our neighbors. Your voice matters, and your advocacy can help shape policies that reflect justice, compassion, and care for all creation.



Calling all Bakers...

Do you like to bake? Do you like making bread? Would like to try baking bread? We would like to invite you to make bread for our World Communion Sunday celebration on October 4th. We will have recipes available for breads from around the world if you'd like to try something new. Or if you have a favorite family recipe or bread that represents your culture, we'd love for you to bring that to share. We will display breads during the worship service and then move them to fellowship time for sampling. We look forward to your baked creations!



"World Communion Sunday," held the first Sunday in October, was the idea of Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr. In 1933, the Presbyterian minister wanted to lift the biblical reality that through baptism, congregations worldwide were connected to one another. Kerr often cited Ephesians' "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

In 1940, against the backdrop of World War II, when division and discourse were ripping apart the seam of unity, the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches — the predecessor of today's **National Council of Churches** — embraced World Communion Sunday. It was soon adopted by many denominations, including the UCC.

Today, though, unity is once again being pulled at the seams as political dissension grows, and U.S. government funding cuts threaten global aid programs.

"In a time when more boundaries are set up — physical and psychological — World Communion Sunday is a time to celebrate the ways the Church is enabling the breaking down of the dividing walls," said Dr. Peter E. Makari, Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe for Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ."

Join us on October 4th as we join with brothers and sisters around the world to share in the unifying love of Christ at the table on World Communion Sunday.