



The Weekly Chalice

September 24th 2026

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



Gaia by Luke Jerram
inside the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City
on display through October 8, 2026

We continue in the season of creation for two more Sundays with the culmination on Sunday, October 4th, World Communion Sunday. As the season winds down and fall begins, I am beginning to think about Advent and to sit with Scripture and, in prayer, to seek guidance in planning. Some of the words of *Oh Holy Night* keep running through my brain:

*Long lay the world in sin and error, pining
'Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'*

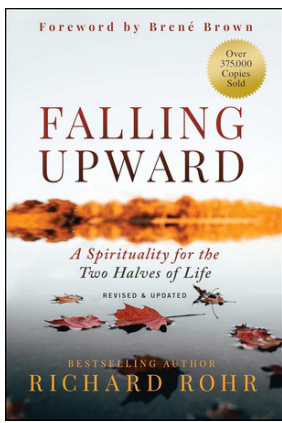
Through the years, we have tried to find more accessible and understandable words for what we have traditionally done in worship and in our communal life together as Christians. We always open with a prayer. We have come to call it just that: the opening prayer. The more traditional,

theological word for that prayer is **invocation**. When we pray that prayer at the beginning of worship, as all of those who have gone before us have done for ages, we are inviting, invoking God's presence in our gathering...not because God necessarily needs or relies on this invitation to be present, but because we need to engage in the act of inviting.

As we gather, we bring into sacred space all our hopes and fears, our joys and deepest sorrows. In those gathering moments, we acknowledge the need for God in all of that...the need for God that maybe we have overlooked or not tended to. And so we pray, we invoke God's presence to be with us, for our eyes and ears and all that we have to be attuned to God with us.

A repetitive phrase in my invocations throughout the years has been: *God be with us as we gather to rest in your presence*. When we slow down to sit in sacred, holy spaces, we realize how weary we are. The world itself is weary--weary of sin and error, of pride and power, of greed and injustice.

And so we gather every Sunday, no matter what the week or world has been like, to ask for God's presence to enter our weariness and revive us again.
-Rochelle+



Join us Wednesday, September 30th @ 6:00 p.m. for our next online book discussion of chapters 3 & 4 of Richard Rohr's book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. If you have not joined us before, know that you are welcome any time! Message

Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org) for an invitation to join the group on Zoom. We hope to see you there!



Our Friday noon-1:30 p.m. Bible study will resume on October 2nd. Books will be available if you have not

already received one. Mark your calendars and join us in the fellowship hall for fellowship, study and fun!

September 2026



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!



Join us, and our brothers and sisters around the world on Sunday, October 4th to celebrate God's reconciling love in Christ at the communion table for World Communion Sunday.

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			