

The Weekly Chalice

November 5th, 2026

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



At the beginning of each new calendar year, many people will take on, as a form of resolution, reading the Bible in a year. This is a lofty and difficult goal to achieve because the Bible is long and many parts of it are difficult to read or understand.

Sometimes we approach Bible reading as a task--an achievement to reach or goal to accomplish. But I have found Bible reading to be a lifelong pursuit. The words are not just text on a page, they are pieces of history, story and potential for encounter with God's living Spirit.

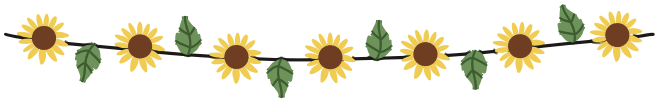
When I read the Bible, one of the things I am doing is noticing patterns--patterns of how God acts and interacts with the world. One of those patterns I notice is community. God will interact with individuals, but always for some purpose of the greater community. God does not choose to be an isolated, individual entity, but to collaborate with the very creatures God brings forth. There is power, life and hope in collective action. We give thanks for this holy reality and pray to live into it each and every day. -Rochelle+

Join us in a collaborative congregational art project--no experience necessary and all are welcome!

Our congregational art project (liturgical calendar) may not look like much now, but this will be a tool and reminder for grounding ourselves in the patterns and rhythms of the life of Jesus through the seasons (starting in Advent, the beginning of the Christian year).

All are welcome to be a part of this project, no experience is necessary. **Our next session will be Friday, November 6th from 12-1:30 in the art studio (in the fellowship hall).** Other upcoming times will be listed on the back of the bulletin each week until it is hanging for Advent!





In the month of November, we focus on stewardship and consider how God might be calling us to support the ministry and operations of the church. This week, we remember some of the 12-step groups that utilize our facilities during the week and the important work that they are doing:

Dear Sumner First Christian Church,

The Above Ground Group of Alcoholics Anonymous relocated to your facility in January, 2023. We are very pleased with your facilities and you have been very supportive of our time here.

In addition to our relocation, one other AA group also moved to your facility, as well as other 12-Step recovery groups. To my knowledge, **there are at least six AA meetings per week** being held in your facility, not including the other 12-Step recovery groups. In addition, our AA District 29 now meets monthly at the church, as well as its various committees, which meet once weekly.

The Above Ground Group's primary mission is to help the alcoholic who is still suffering. Our meetings are open to all, whether an alcoholic or not and we meet twice weekly. Our current meetings typically range in attendance from 20-30 people and the sobriety of those members range from two months to sixty-one years. Our hope is that new members hear something that resonates with them and allows them to keep coming back. New members are encouraged to select a sponsor that can guide and support them as they move through the 12-Step process.

We also hold a birthday meeting the last Friday of every month where we celebrate milestones in sobriety. The entire Alcoholics Anonymous program is aimed at providing a new design for living, which will allow its members to face life on life's terms, without resorting to alcohol. Our group is very supportive of new-comers and our hope is that once they see the positive results exhibited by our long-term members, they will be motivated to continue following the recovery program.

As mentioned earlier, we are very pleased with our move to your church and you have been very supportive of our time here. Your offering of the adjacent office for our use, allows us to use the space for either babysitting, if needed, or one-on-one meetings with sponsors and their sponorees. Thank you again for your hospitality and support and we hope this can continue to be a long-term relationship.

Sincerely,
Gary Spray
The Above Ground Group

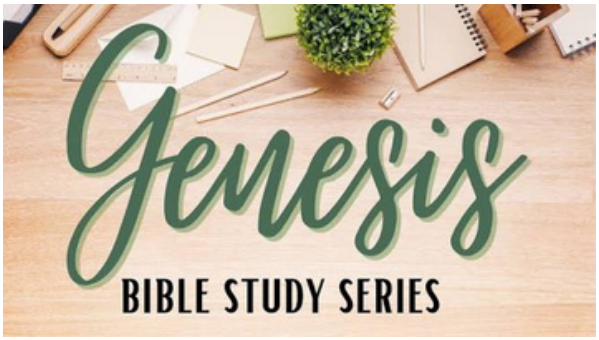
As you can see, the ministry of the church reaches our community through the stewardship of our building and its use by groups like AA.

We are able to upkeep our building and meet the every increasing costs of utilities, insurance and other property expenses through the gifts and giving of members and friends.

If you have not made a financial contribution to the church, prayerfully consider doing so. You are always welcome to drop off or mail donations, place donations in the offering plate on Sunday mornings during worship or donate through our secure giving portal. Your gifts are crucial to our ability to operate and to continue ministering as they are our only source of income.

We thank you for your prayerful consideration of giving and for your faithful stewardship that enables God's light and love to continue shinging and working through our church.





join us for our **Friday noon-1:30 p.m. Bible study in the fellowship hall.** We are studying the book of Genesis and you are welcome to join at any time!





Gwinwood Retreat Center will hold its **annual meeting at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 14**, and we hope you can be there! The meeting will be in person at Gwinwood (you can also choose to join virtually via Zoom). Lunch will be provided.

Church Owners (western Washington Northern Lights Region Disciples churches) **may register two delegates plus their pastor to vote on agenda items. Non-voters are also welcome. If you are interested in attending and/or being a voting representative, let Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org) know by November 5th.**

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 10:30 Worship Service	2 12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Art Project	3 Election Day 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	4 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Al Anon 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Elders Meeting	5 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	6 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 12:00 pm AA 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project	7 12:00 pm AA
8 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	9 12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Art Project 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	10 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	11 Veterans Day 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Al Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	12 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	13 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 12:00 pm AA 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project	14 12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm-8:00 pm Scott Maresh Private Bday Party
15 10:30 Worship Service	16 12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Art Project	17 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	18 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Al Anon 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	19 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	20 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Genesis Bible Study 12:00 pm AA 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project	21 9:00 am–12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA
22 10:30 Worship Service	23 12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Art Project	24 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	25 10:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Al Anon 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Book Club via Zoom	26 Thanksgiving 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	27 12:00 pm AA 12:00 pm-1:30 pm Art Project	28 Advent Decorating 9:00-Noon 12:00 pm AA
29 1st Sunday of Advent 10:30 Worship Service	30 12:00 pm AA 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Art Project	31 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA				