



The Weekly Chalice

December 5th 2024

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

I grew up in a musical household and started piano lessons around the age of six. Music is a universal language that expresses emotion and experience that is sometimes beyond our words and language. Different musical techniques can elicit different emotions.

In Chord progression, the one that always makes my hair stand on end is the 7 chord--it is a dissonant chord in that the sound isn't quite right...its more than that...its grating, somehow hitting every last strained nerve in your mind and body. We get musical relief from this dissonant tension when the chord resolves. It's almost as if you can breathe again and you feel your body and mind relax.

I have always thought that the dissonance and resolution in music is such an apt metaphor for life. When we don't find resolution to the dissonance of life, we are on edge, tense, strained.

This Sunday is the second in Advent and the Sunday when we light a candle for and focus on peace. Whenever we focus on peace or talk about, it feels like its just so out of reach. We are fed news and examples of the absence of peace All.The.Time. And peace feels impossible...like why even bother?

And then I thought: "that's bullsh*" Because while I cannot make all the dissonance of the world resolve, I have quite a bit of agency in my own life and my own

little corner of the world. Peace is a choice. God empowers us to live lives of peace, but we have to choose it. We have to choose to find resolution to the dissonance in our own lives--to make peace with trouble pasts, to forgive (and forgiveness doesn't always mean reconciliation, but it means you stop drinking the poison of regret and anger and expecting someone else to die), to stop listening to messages that demonize and make enemies of others, to seek truth, to ground ourselves in God and not in the pursuit of power and things.

We can choose peace.

I always will remember our visit to the Taize Community in France. John and I were blessed to spend to time there in 2012 when I was on Sabbatical and thanks to the generosity of the Lily Foundation's Clergy Renewal Grant. At the Taize Community they pray three times a day and you live very simply in community while you are there. And foundational belief is that ***peace in the world begins with peace in the heart.***

You have to make the choice to resolve the dissonance in your heart, mind and soul. God holds out a hand to you this Advent...may we take it and choose to enter the work of peace in our lives.

-Rochelle+

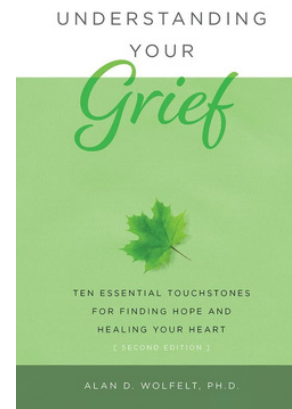


The Weary World Rejoices

Advent, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, begins on Sunday, December 1st. This year we will be exploring the theme of *The Weary World Rejoices* from Kate Bowler. If you would like to follow along, there is an [individual guide available online](#). We will print a few copies as well for those who need print editions. We hope you will join us as we search for joy even in the midst of weariness and fatigue.



One of our teachers, Haley I., works with 5th graders at a local elementary school. Many of the children are in need of basic clothing items and we will be collecting these through the holiday season: these would include everyday clothing items as well as warmer winter items. Children this age are typically a M-L size (10-12 for girls), but remember there will be children at either end of that average as well. Holiday sales will be coming soon and it might be a great opportunity to pick up a few items. We will be collecting these through Sunday, December 15th. Thank you in advance for your help!



Our next grant gatherings: Pausing for Grief During the Holidays

The next in our NBA-funded series of gatherings will take place in December and will center around grief and the holidays. Many losses and life transitions can induce grief.

Our gatherings will focus on bereavement caused by the death of a loved one.

"Grief waits on welcome, not on time," writes Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt in his book *Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart*. This book will be our guide as we seek to create a safe and comfortable environment in which to explore and share. **All materials and catered meals will be provided. Groups will be limited to around 20 people. [Register now](#) to save your spot.**

**Thursdays, December 12th & 19th
5:30-7:30 pm**

**Fridays, December 13th & 20th
12:00-2:00 pm**

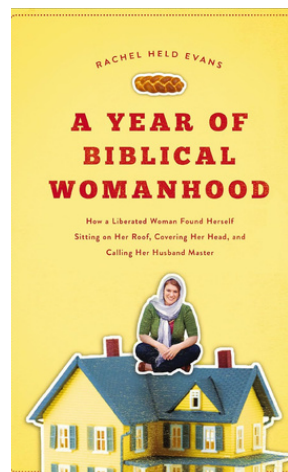


Thank you to everyone who brought your loose change--we raised **\$133.23** for our Camp, Gwinwood. The jar is out and we'll be collecting for the Sumner Food Bank.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service Elder Meeting after Service	2 12:00 pm AA	3 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	4 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	5 12:00 pm AA	6 12:00 pm AA	7 9:00 am – 12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA
8 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	9 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	10 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	11 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:30 pm Understanding Grief	13 12:00 pm AA 12:00-2:00 pm Understanding Grief	14 12:00 pm AA
15 9:00 am Fathom Youth 10:30 Worship Service	16 12:00 pm AA	17 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	18 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Book Club via Zoom	19 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:30 pm Understanding Grief	20 12:00 pm AA 12:00-2:00 pm Understanding Grief	21 12:00 pm AA 12:00 pm Longest Night Service
22 10:30 Worship Service	23 12:00 pm AA	24 Christmas Eve 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	26 12:00 pm AA	27 12:00 pm AA	28 12:00 pm AA
29 10:30 Worship Service	30 12:00 pm AA	31 New Year's Eve				



Our next **youth/young adult Bible Study** will be **Sunday, December 15th @ 9:00 a.m.** We are moving into the prophetic words about the coming of Christ. This will prepare us for the season of Advent & Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@summerfcc.org).



Join us for our next *Year of Biblical Womanhood* gathering **Wednesday, December 18th @ 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.** We will be reading the chapter for October: Gentleness. Message Pastor Rochelle for a zoom invite: Pastor@summerfcc.org

