



The Weekly Chalice

January 23rd 2025

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

"One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied." John 6: 1-14

The miracle of the feeding of the multitudes is the only miracle, aside from the resurrection that appears in all four Gospels, which should tell us something about the importance of this event.

Ponder for a moment this question, "Am I responsible for others?"

How did you answer? What feelings arise when you are asked that question?"

We are a highly individualistic society that prizes self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. Each person should take care of themselves and their own needs.

The telling of the feeding of the multitudes is slightly different in each version, but there is a hint of "let them take care of it themselves...or why didn't they plan better?" In other words, yes they are hungry, but at some level, isn't it their fault that they are hungry?" Whatever opinion you may have about need and how it comes to be, Jesus has an answer for what we are to do.

Jesus could easily solve the hunger problem himself. The man who turns water into wine and walks on the ocean could surely materialize food.

Instead, he enlists the help of others--he asks what resources are available. In this case, a boy has his lunch--five barely loaves and two fish. In order for the miracle of multiplication and feeding to occur, the boy must first **willingly** share what he has. Without that first act of sharing, the miracle doesn't occur and people go hungry.

Are we a people who share? Does our sharing have conditions? Is our sharing reserved only for the deserving?

One of the practices I have taken up is sitting for at least ten minutes in the morning with my coffee and reading a devotional and/or praying (and pausing to watch the sun coming up). I have been reading Savannah Guthrie's book *Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere*. It is grounding me in these days.

One of the foundational Scriptures of her book is Ephesians 5: 1-2 (The Message translation): "Watch what God does, and then do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you."

I think we have to remember that God's sharing and giving to us comes from a place of love. (continued)

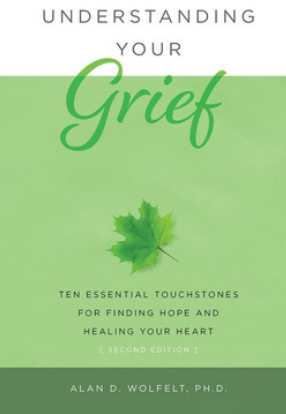
And when Jesus asks us to share, indeed, requires our giving in order for his power and work to be done, he is inviting us to grow in that love...and what would the world look like right now if we were more firmly rooted in love?



But the amazing power of what Jesus does in the feeding of the multitudes, and perhaps that's why it is in all four Gospels, is that he is showing us we don't have to fully get it...to be at a place where we love like God, to act. In other words you don't have to be completely and perfectly rooted in God's love to share. But when you share and when you give, it deepens those roots of love further. You feel it. It cements in your heart. It is the warm feeling you get from knowing you participated in making a difference.

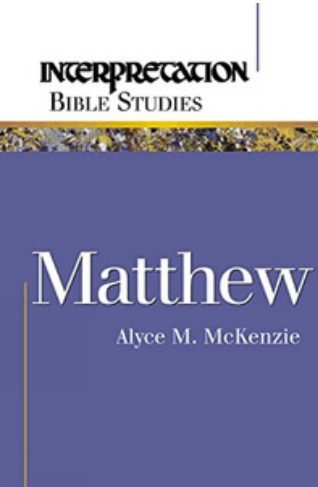
Pastor Rochelle will begin a Baptismal preparation class for those interested in learning more about the basics of Christianity and those interested in considering baptism. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the small meeting room of the church office. All are welcome!
Sunday, January 26th @ 9:00 a.m.: Repent and Confess
Sunday, February 9th @ 9:00 a.m.: Be Baptized
Sunday, March 9th @ 9:00 a.m.: Receive Forgiveness
Sunday, March 16th @ 9:00 a.m.: Receive the Holy Spirit

Love God and give....give and love God. the two are intertwined. Your work this week is to, in some way, give to another. And in the giving, grow deeper in God's love.
-Rochelle+



Join us for a 10-week study of the book *Understanding your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart* by Alan D. Wolfelt. The gatherings will be held on **Fridays from noon-2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

When we talk about mental health, there is a notion that people of faith shouldn't need mental health services because we have prayer and we have God to help us. While this is true, we know that God also calls us into community and to caring for each other. The gifts that God gives to those who are able to assist in health care minister to us as much as prayer and meditation. These are stressful times and you may find yourself needing help and not knowing where to start. Here are a couple of links to community resources. Keep these somewhere you might be able to access later or maybe share with someone in need:



Our youth and young adult Bible study will meet again on **Friday, February 7th @ 2:30 p.m.** We will beginning a study on Matthew's Gospel. The book is out of print, but we will have some copies available. It is readily available in digital format. Please contact Pastor Rochelle for more information on location. We hope you can join us!

- 988: Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline
- Pierce County Crisis Line: 1-800-576-7764
- [Kid's Mental Health Pierce County](#)
- [Mental & Behavioral Resources of Pierce County:](#)
- [Pierce County Community Resource List](#)
- [Pierce County Library Community Mental Health Community Resources](#)



In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat"

was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time. This gave birth to an idea.

Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good?

Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation directly to a local charity of their choice. The first year, they invited 22

area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities. That was 1990. Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass-roots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$193 million in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

We will be collecting food items for the Sumner Food Bank throughout January, culminating in our Souper Bowl celebration on Sunday, February 9th.

All changed collected in our change jar will also be donated to the Sumner Food Bank.

Thank you for your participation!

January							2025
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4	
			10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service Elder Meeting after Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	9:00 am – 12:00 pm SCP Clean Day 12:00 pm AA	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
9:00 am Fathom Youth 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
9:00 am Baptismal Preparation Class 10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Book Club via Zoom	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA	
26	27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 am Baptismal Preparation Class 10:30 Worship Service	12:00 pm AA	10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA	