



The Weekly Chalice

January 9th 2025

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

'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' -Jesus (Mark 9:37).

The first Sunday of each month, we have Children Worship and Wonder. This past Sunday we had three children (siblings) and we heard the story of *The Ten Best Ways to Live*.

I don't know what my favorite part of these mornings is: the singing we do together, the children running their fingers through 'the desert box,' the sharing of wondering questions and snacks or the wonderful things they say.

The oldest of these siblings, kept coming to me and whispering in my ear, "don't forget to pray for my grandma." Precious. Made even more so because this little one is the great grandchild of a church member who was so caring and attentive to children. This child's great grand parent has passed from this life, but during it, he (and his spouse) were educators and specifically caring of children when they came to church. He always took time to sit with them, to listen to them, to encourage them and, maybe most importantly, to allow them to feel seen in a setting where children and youth don't always feel comfortable or welcomed.

One of the most powerful things that happened to me, happened when I was eleven. My maternal grandmother had died. She had metastatic colon

cancer and died at the age of 52. My family had not been church-goers, but we had started attending First Christian Church of Corpus Christi, TX with my grandmother when she knew her prognosis was terminal. We were embraced by that church, baptized into it and cared for by its staff and members. It was a larger church with multiple ministers and the minister in charge of pastoral care had been visiting with my grandmother and family during her illness. He baptized my grandmother in the hospital therapy whirlpool when she was too sick to be baptized at the church. And the day she died he came to my aunt's home where we had all gathered together. I was sitting in a chair in the corner when the minister walked in. He said hello to those at the door and then walked straight over to me, knelt down and said, "and how are you doing with all of this?" The tears began to flow, in part because it was the first time I felt like an adult saw me and really cared about how I was feeling...and in part because it felt safe to finally let all that pain go.

I carry the mantle of that minister and that of the great grandfather of the child who comes our church now. Sometimes we think we need fancy and BIG children's programs to have vital ministries to children youth and family. The truth is, you only need a big heart and a love of God that reminds you whenever you stop and see and listen to one of the little ones among us, you stop, see and listen to Jesus himself.

-Rochelle+

UNDERSTANDING
YOUR

Grief



TEN ESSENTIAL TOUCHSTONES
FOR FINDING HOPE AND
HEALING YOUR HEART
(SECOND EDITION)

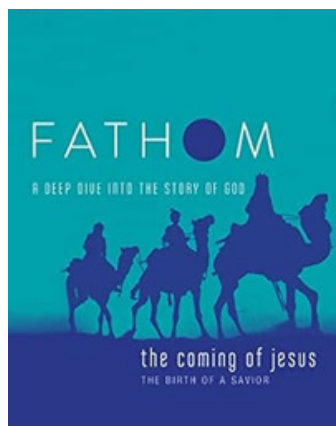
ALAN D. WOLFELT, PH.D.

Our December grief gatherings went very well and the group decided to do 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.**

You are welcome to bring a sack lunch. Books and the Companion Journal can be purchased online as well as through your local book store. **The first gathering will be on Friday, January 10th and will conclude on Friday, March 14th.** For more information or if you have questions, please contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org).

We are also looking at beginning an evening Zoom gathering for those who cannot attend during the day. If you would like to be a part of this group, contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org).

Our next **youth/young adult Bible Study** will be **tomorrow, Friday, January 10th @ 2:30 p.m. at the Electric Coffee House (409 Main Street, downtown Sumner).** Join us for coffee and good conversation.



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.



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. We will be using *Prepare the Way* materials from our denomination and a schedule of classes is listed below. Baptisms will be planned for Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Sunday, January 19th @ 9:00 a.m.: Welcome, Hear and Believe

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



Because we are a community of faith, a Priesthood of believers, shared participation and leadership in our worship service is vital to the health of our church. Elders provide weekly leadership at the Communion Table as well as the prayers of the people. We'll be looking for leadership in the spring for our new year which will begin on July 1st. We are changing our sign up for other participation in worship: **There is now a sign up sheet for the Scripture readings. We also have a sign up for a monthly liturgist.** Liturgy is the form and content of our public worship—things like the call to worship, opening prayer and blessing and sending are liturgical parts of worship. When you sign up, you'll be committing to leading these parts of worship for a month. The first Sunday of the month (or the Sunday of your Scripture reading), you're invited to come at 9:30 a.m. to run through the service and sound

checks to make sure you are comfortable and to receive any needed support or instruction. So stop by the table outside the Sanctuary doors and sign up today! .



Disciples Home Missions is organizing a prayer vigil for the new year and asking congregations of different regions within our denomination to sign up for specific days to pray. **Sumner First Christian's Day of prayer is Tuesday, January 14th.** We will include prayer for the church and our nation during our Tuesday prayer group. Additionally, you are asked to be in a spirit of prayer this day. A vigil is traditionally understood as an unbroken time of prayer. We won't have a sign up sheet or schedule, but ask you all to pray this day-- formally during your own time of reflection, as you are driving, or walking your dog, or caring for children, grandchildren or older family members, as you do your work or enjoy in leisure, with words or in silence.

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