



The Weekly Chalice

February 13th 2025

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



"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

-Matthew 6: 26

Its no secret that I struggle with Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel about worrying--how we should not worry so much.

I thought of this passage the other day when, sitting in my dining room, I caught sight of a hummingbird hovering in front of the window.

I thought to myself, "sure, that little hummingbird doesn't plant and harvest crops, but she works plenty hard for food and survival." I was suddenly compelled to get up and go refill the hummingbird feeder that has sat empty for quite some time. It has been very cold outside and I thought this was one small thing I could to help a creature who is working so hard for survival...and one small thing I could do, to feel like I am doing something productive and helpful in very chaotic times.

I want to encourage you to find ways to rest, to pause

from the constant intake of information and find something you can do. Action/activity helps keep stress from being stored in our bodies and doing damage to ourselves.

I came across this prayer by Laura Jean Truman. Read it, meditate on it and then maybe go fill a hummingbird feeder.

A Prayer for the Tired, Angry Ones
God,

We're so tired.

We want to do justice, but the work feels endless, and the results look so small in our exhausted hands.

We want to love mercy, but our enemies are relentless, and it feels like foolishness, to prioritize gentleness in this unbelievably cruel world.

We want to walk humbly, but self-promotion is seductive, and we are afraid that if we don't look after ourselves, no one else will.

We want to be kind, but our anger feels insatiable. Jesus, in this never-ending wilderness, come to us and grant us grace.

Grant us the courage to keep showing up to impossible battles, trusting that it is our commitment to faithfulness, and not our obsession with results, that will bring in Your *shalom*.

Grant us the vulnerability to risk loving our difficult and complicated neighbor, rejecting the lie that some people are made more in the image of God than others.

(continued)

Grant us the humility of a decentered but Beloved self.

As we continue to take the single step that is in front of us, Jesus, keep us from becoming what we are called to transform. Protect us from using the empire's violence--in our words, in our theology, in our activism, and in our politics--for Your kingdom of peace.

Keep our anger from becoming meanness.

Keep our sorry from collapsing into self-pity.

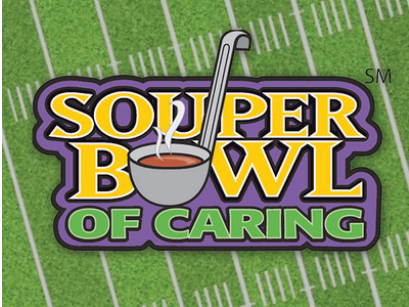
Keep our hearts soft enough to keep breaking.

Keep our outrage turned toward justice, not cruelty.

Remind us that all of this, every bit of it, is for love.

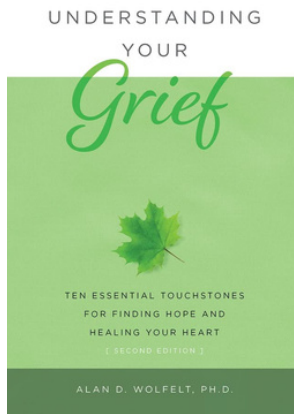
Keep us fiercely kind.

Amen.

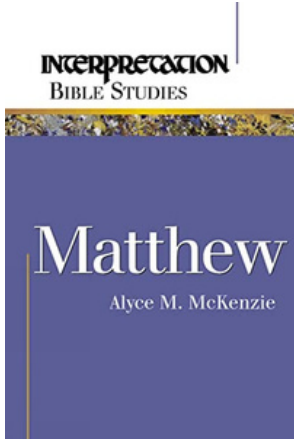


We had another amazing Souper Bowl of Caring this year. We collected 231 items (205 lbs) and \$61.15 in change.

Thank you all so much for your generous support in helping the Sumner Food Bank!



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.**



Our youth and young adult Bible study will meet again on **Friday, February 28th @ 2:30 p.m.** We will beginning a study on Matthew's Gospel. Please contact Pastor Rochelle for more information on location. We hope you can join us!



How do I join the church? When you participate and engage, you belong. If you would like to formally place membership at Sumner First Christian Church, **we will be adding back in the call to discipleship at the close of Sunday morning worship the first Sunday of each month beginning in March.** During that time, we ask you to reaffirm your faith (if you have been baptized) or respond affirmatively to the confession of faith in our tradition:

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God and do you accept him as Lord and Savior of all.

If you have not been baptized, we can begin a conversation about that. After the service, you will be invited to the back of the church to be welcomed and greeted as a new member. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Rochelle (Pastor@sumnerfcc.org).

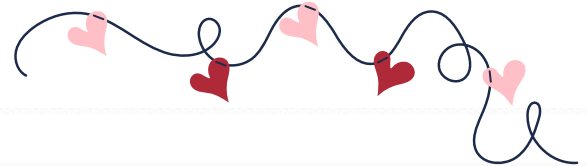


Week of Compassion, an arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), engages in the important ministries of disaster relief, refugee resettlement and ministries of compassion in places of need. This year's special offering

theme, Heard and Seen, underscores the importance of sharing the stories of this important work. "Week of Compassion continues to pursue the things that make for hope and peace – things that are true, honorable, and just. We eagerly share stories of hope, telling of what we have HEARD AND SEEN: that gifts of compassion matter, to people in crisis and a

and as people of faith. Week of Compassion makes an impact around the world, ensuring that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are heard and seen – and that we respond. With long-standing partnerships around ecumenical tables, especially in times of conflict and division, Week of Compassion is committed to the long-term, long-lasting, steady and deliberate work of peace, justice, and hope. We invite people of faith to be part of hopeful outcomes, where giving is a heartfelt response as we follow a compassionate Christ.

We will be collecting a special offering for Week of Compassion on **Sunday, February 16th and February 23rd** and we thank you in advance for your generosity and giving.



February

2025

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