



The Weekly Chalice

February 20th 2025

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

"A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.'" Luke 22: 24-27

How do you feel when you leave the Communion table? Communion has always been a place where I find my grounding. It is a place that represents a different time and a different way of being. It is a place where I turn all other things off and focus on God's love poured out in Jesus and what that means. It speaks different things to me each week depending on the week and what has been happening; but regardless, there is always welcome, love, a call to humility and belonging. Inevitably, I leave the Communion table feeling better than when I came to the table.

The passage above from Luke's Gospel occurs just after the celebration of the Passover and the Institution of the Lord's Supper (when I am leading Bible studies I always like to invite people to notice what comes before and after the passage they are reading). So directly after the first Lord's Supper, a dispute arose among them as to who would be the greatest.

Jesus' friends, followers, co-laborers, saw the beginning of the Lord's Supper as a gateway to something that was not intended--a gateway to honor, favor and power.

Jesus provides a corrective: that although we naturally would say the people seated at the table being served are the greatest, Jesus comes as the one who serves. Servanthood, service, humility--these are the hallmarks of greatness in God's Kingdom glimpsed through Jesus.

I have really been sitting with this: what does it mean to serve, to be a servant in these days?

1.) **It means to speak your truth and your values clearly and unapologetically.** I have always had a hard time with this one. When I read *Braving the Wilderness* by Brene Brown, I started to think about fitting in vs. belonging. To belong, we have to be able to speak and live our truth and values. This will not always make us popular and well loved, but we will belong to ourselves and to the God, the people and places that truly love and accept us unconditionally. I more recently have found these words from Brene Brown more prescient: The developmental stage of midlife is not a crisis but a call to authentic living and being.

2.) **Speak your truth and your values clearly and unapologetically and love others while you're doing that:** This involves a bit of internal work and healing. When there is backlash to our authentic selves, we may feel defensive, attacked. What is that about?
(Continued)

Where do those feelings come from? And is it possible to let others have their reactions to us, even when they are negative, and still love them?

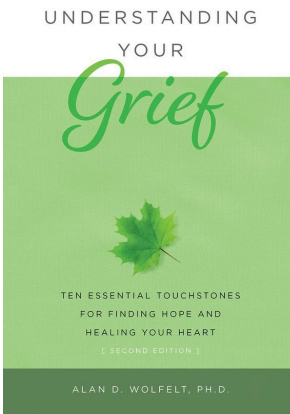
3.) **Trust in God to show you what you do not yet see or understand.** We have to start letting ourselves off the hook a little. We are not perfect. We don't have it all figured out. We are probably more aligned with Jesus' companions who misinterpret God's work through Jesus at the Last Supper. It's okay. Jesus doesn't cancel us for our misunderstandings. Jesus gently offers correctives and walks with us as we continue to learn and grow.

4.) **Find places of proximity.** One of the great lessons of God in Jesus is that the divine chose to come close to us....not to sit from afar, scrolling through the internet and social media and 24 hour news cycles to see what everyone else was saying about everyone else, but to be born in the flesh God created in order to come close to us. Let us take our cue from God and find ways to become close to others.

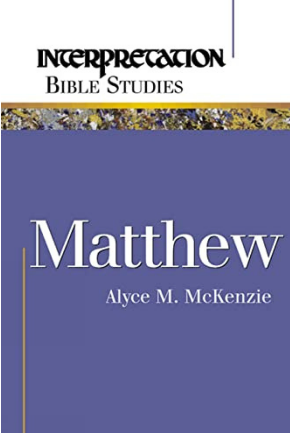
The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. The season is patterned after Jesus' wandering in the wilderness for 40 days where he fasted and prayed. As Christians, we traditionally have taken up one or more of the spiritual practices of fasting, praying and acts of service, to engage in for the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. I invite you to prayerfully consider taking up one or more spiritual disciplines during Lent to help ground yourself and grow. -Rochelle+



Join us for Children Worship & Wonder, Sunday, March 2nd @ 9:00 a.m. All children are welcome to join in as we share story time, singing, open art time and the Great Feast (snack time). We hope to see you there!



Join us for a gathering focused on 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).

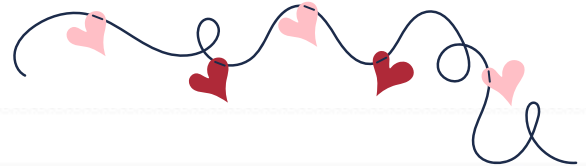


Week of Compassion, an arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), engages in the important ministries of disaster relief, refugee resettlement and ministries of compassion in places of need. This year's special offering

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	