



## The Weekly Chalice

February 6th 2025

Sumner First Christian Church | 432 Wood Ave, Sumner, WA | [sumnerfcc.org](http://sumnerfcc.org)

"6 So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' 7He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 1: 6-8

I am a fix it kind of person...when something is awry or there is something left undone, I just want to get in there quick and fix it!

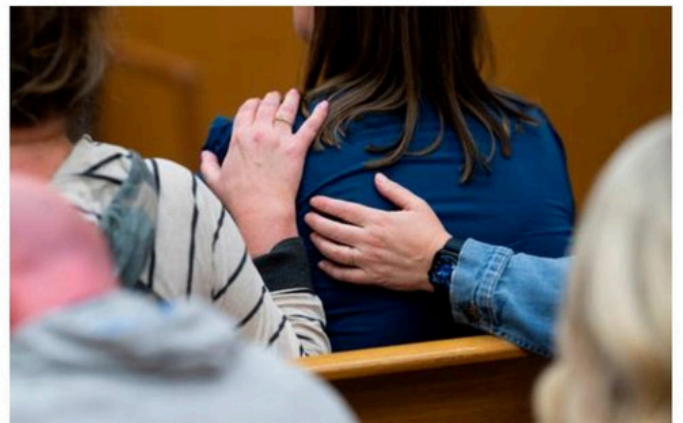
This has caused me a good deal of anxiety throughout my life because so many of us have come to experience that there really are no quick fixes to most things in life.

I have been in a courtroom a bit lately and I have been thinking about witnesses. What a witness is and what a witness does.

A witness is called forth to provide testimony. It is active. And the testimony given may be that of a victim about some traumatic event that's happened. The testimony may be given by someone whose been accused of a crime providing defense for themselves.

From my fix-it point of view, the testimony side of witnessing is helpful because its active...it provides an opportunity to do something in response to something that has been seen or experienced.

In our Christian faith, we are called to be witnesses and in the world that is full of complexities and brokenness, I think we embrace the more active side of witnessing, which is to provide testimony. We want to tell people about Jesus. We want to explain to people how Jesus is in our world and in our pain. Testimony often feels better because it provides an active way to do something about all that feels out of control, broken and wrong.



Members of the gallery console each other as the guilty verdicts are read by Judge Philip Sorensen in the sexual abuse trial of Jacob "Jake" Jackson, former Sumner High School coach, of his players, at Pierce County Superior Court, on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, in Tacoma Wash. Brian Hayes [bhayes@thenewstribune.com](mailto:bhayes@thenewstribune.com)

But I have come to understand that witnessing in our faith requires us first to see, to experience, to be with. We have no testimony to give if we have not first witnessed...something.

When Jesus is about to be taken up into heaven, he promises the disciples that they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses. In part their testimony (Continued)

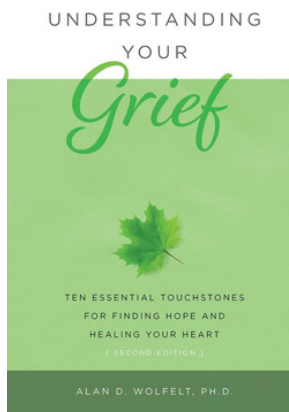
will be about him. In part their work will involve witnessing the lives of others and the work of Christ outside of themselves.

It is humbling work that Jesus calls us to and I think we need to be reminded of that. We don't come with testimony to have all the answers for everyone else and to fix everyone else. We come with an openness to witness, to see, to accompany, to look for God in the complexities, the pain, the hard moments of life.

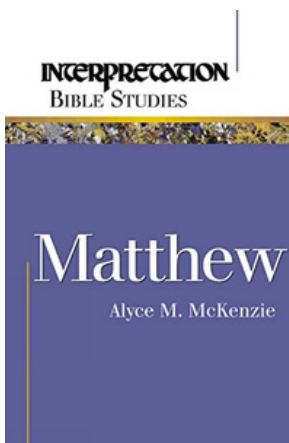
In one of my classes, we are leaning about the framework of **power with** instead of **power over** in the context of therapy. This same framework works for our faith and how we think about witnessing. Jesus' empowers his followers to be **with** people and not **over** them...which is a lot less neat and tidy.

People are feeling anxious and stressed right now and the question I hear is **What can I do?** The answer is to **be with others...**to **stand with** them in moments of hardship and pain and **see them...**to **let others stand with you and see you** in your moments of hardship and pain.

And as we accompany each other and see each other in these days, we also will witness Jesus in our midst.  
-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.**



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. 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).





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"

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.

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

**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!

# 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	