



## *The Weekly Chalice*

March 13th 2025

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

"And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'" -Matthew 9:10-12

There is a case to be made for empathy. Empathy is defined as "being aware of and sharing another person's feelings, experiences, and emotions." I want to invite you to think on the word "aware" or awareness." Awareness is defined as having knowledge or understanding of something that is happening or that something exists.

Consider the things you are aware of right now.  
Consider the things that our culture is aware of.

When we speak of God, we speak of a God who is aware of us...and doesn't have to be.

The words of Psalm 8: 1-3 capture this:  
"what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?"

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your  
hands;

you have put all things under their feet,  
all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas."

God is aware of us and because of this, has empathy for us. God has empathy for us when we are good. God has empathy for us when we are bad. God has empathy for us when we are successful. God has empathy for us when we are failures. Much of our Christian thought is about our right actions catching God's attention long enough, to be aware of us...to care for us...to have empathy for us.

And while God knows we need rules and regulations, laws to guide our existence, God also knows that our ultimate worth and value lies not in the perfect adherence to these.

The passage from Matthew above highlights this. It is a great struggle. We feel like we, and anyone else, should be righteous in order sit at the table and dine with Jesus. Jesus says otherwise. Jesus says he came not to heal those already well, but to have mercy on those who are sick...and friends if we live long enough, each of will fall ill (physically, spiritually and emotionally). That God is aware of us, even in our most unlovable state, is no weakness--it is the greatest show of strength and love there could be. God doesn't have to, but God always chooses us...and thanks be to God for that!

-Rochelle+



## The Lenten Season in Summer

During the season of Lent, we'll consider the fragments of our life, our faith communities, nation, and world, and how God, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, mends our fragments and makes us whole.

You may wish to join us in these Lenten practices this season:

+Beautiful Fragments devotional card sets: Scripture, reflections, and Lenten practices to guide your Lenten experience.

Take home a set or follow online at [Beautiful fragments: A Lenten Devotional for Year C](#)

+Soup & Art – in the Art Studio: Thursdays in Lent at 5:30 pm. No experience or skill is needed (you have all you need within you!).

+Maundy Thursday supper service: April 17 at 6 pm (in person)

+Good Friday Cross Walk (Puyallup): April 18 at 4 pm (meet at the parking lot at 3rd St SW & W Pioneer).

+Good Friday Tenebrae service of shadows: April 18 at 6 pm



When we talk about Stewardship in the church, we are talking about the ways we give that support our community. The monetary gifts as well as the gifts of the time and talent of our members and friends are our only source of resources for the church.

We are grateful for all gifts given and shared with the church. We want to highlight and say a special thanks to Kris K. and Kathy H., who have led a 10 week session on understanding your grief. This group has been an important source of healing and community building and we are grateful for the gifts that have made it possible.

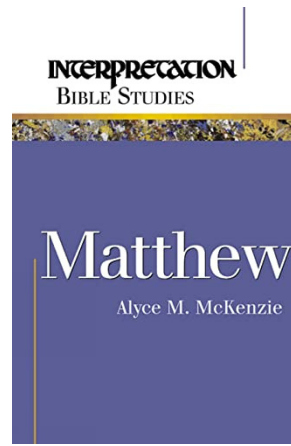
We are thankful for Robin C. who is currently leading open art sessions and providing soup on Thursdays during Lent. This too is a wonderful space of community, creativity and companionship.

We are grateful for Stew F. who tackled the big job of trimming the apple tree in the backyard! He even left a stack of wood out by our garage bins for anyone who might be interested.

We are grateful to Gretchen M. for creating our beautiful Lenten devotional cards.

And we are grateful for the many who do the ongoing work of preparing for worship, running video and sound, sending out birthday cards, volunteering for children worship & wonder, fixing things that need attention around the building and property, checking in each other, and doing whatever needs to be done.

Together we are a beautiful, loving community! Thank you all!



Our youth and young adult Bible study will meet again on **Friday, March 21st @ 2:30 p.m.** We will be discussing chapter one of the study on Matthew's Gospel. Please contact Pastor Rochelle for more information on location. We hope you can join us!

Join us for Children Worship & Wonder, Sunday, April 6th @ 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!



# March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12:00 pm AA
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00 am Baptismal Preparation Class 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 Sober Sisters 5:30-7:30 pm SCP Open House	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 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
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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 Sober Sisters 6:00 pm Book Club	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA 2:30 pm Youth Bible Study	12:00 pm AA
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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 Sober Sisters	12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Supper in the Art Studio 7:00 pm GA	12:00 pm AA	12:00 pm AA