



## *The Weekly Chalice*

March 6 2025

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

The season of Lent has begun. For 40 days we walk with Jesus in the wilderness. We fast, we pray, we look for ways to serve others...not because we are trying to get good marks and a passing grade, but because we are called to be in the wilderness where all the certainties and routines of life fade away and we are left with the reality of our fragile existence (we are but of dust, and to dust we shall one day return).

It is here in the wilderness of Lent that we are able to confess and accept our limitations and make room once again for God's powerful love and mercy (which, spoiler alert, was there all along).

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer dusted with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. The art form values what is broken, believing that even fragments of what was once a whole can be repaired and transformed into something even more beautiful and valuable.

During the season of Lent we focus on the fragmentation that we experience in life. We also will consider how valuable we are to God, even in our fragmentation, and how God loves us and is always working with and for us to mend what is broken and bring wholeness to the world.

I remember when my brother and I were in elementary school, my mother had left us at home alone for a little while one day. We are Generation X kids. To say we

were a little feral would probably have been a kind way of putting it. I'm not sure why mom thought she could leave us alone and we wouldn't get into some kind of trouble. As soon as she closed the front door and we saw the car pull out of the driveway, we started horsing around. If memory serves, we were throwing around some kind of nerf ball. You have to understand that my mother is a keeper of things and she had lots of breakable things out on display including my great-grandmother's vase, that my brother and I promptly hit with that nerf ball. It fell to the ground and broke into what felt like a hundred pieces. We panicked. We worked more cooperatively in that 20-30 minutes to glue that vase back together than we ever have in our life.

We realized how valuable that vase was to mom. We realized too how hard it is to put something back together again once it has been broken. And we realized that we could only fool our mother for a time (she didn't notice at first, but she did eventually notice).

Things break. People break. There is no shame in it. It is a fact of life. But broken things are not irrelevant things. Broken things are not useless. And broken things can be mended...not that they will be as they were before, but that they will become something new.

God longs to meet us in brokenness and remind us that we are not alone, that we are loved and valuable and that God is working with and for us to mend us.

-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.

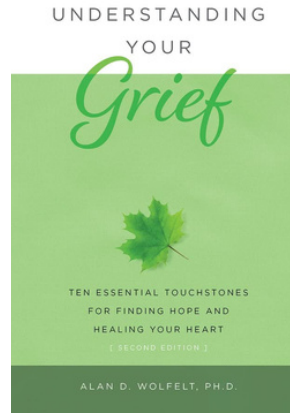
Take home a set or follow online at [Beautiful fragments: A Lenten Devotional for Year C](#)

+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!).

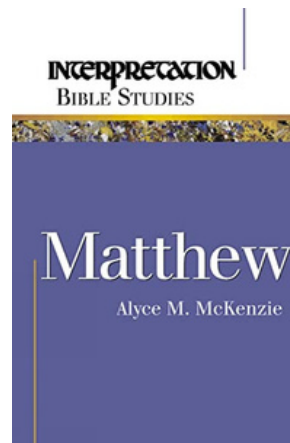
+Maundy Thursday supper service: April 17 at 6 pm (in person)

+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



Our grief gatherings will conclude Friday, March 14th. We will be planning another session in the spring. Stayed tuned for details. Join us this Friday and next, from noon-2:00 p.m. as we conclude our journey through *Understanding your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart* by Alan D. Wolfelt.



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!





## A Blessing to See Clearly

Yes, we will grieve,  
but not as those in denial.  
We will suffer,  
but not as those entombed in loneliness.  
We will join the ranks of afflicted,  
the weak, and the vulnerable.  
We do it willingly. (Okay, not always.)

But we are being shown  
what is plastic and what is gold.  
We are drawn forward  
by glimpses of something better—  
a world where cruelty and injustice  
cannot sustain themselves,  
where the cycles of harm  
finally collapse under their own weight.  
Once you've seen it,

you can't unsee it.  
Blessed are we  
who now know the value  
of what must be let go  
and what must be held tightly.  
May we carry forward  
only what is true,  
what is good,  
what is beautiful  
trusting this: love never fails.

Kate Bowler. "To See Clearly" in *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day: Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens*. (New York: Convergent Books, 2024). 147.



## 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 Al 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 Al 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 Al 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 Al 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