



## *The Weekly Chalice*

May 29<sup>th</sup> 2025

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

In 313 C.E. something happened that would forever change the trajectory of Christianity. Up to that point, the emerging religion remained on the margins of society and its adherents faced the threat of persecution (and not the fake kind of persecution that performative Christianity proclaims today but the death-by-torture kind of persecution). To be a follower of the Way (the name of the earliest Christian communities) involved risk and sometimes a very high cost to individuals, families and communities.

That all changed in 313, with the Edict of Milan. The agreement between Emperor Constantine I and Emperor Licinius granted Christians the right to practice their religion openly and without fear of persecution. This edict significantly altered the religious landscape of the Roman Empire, paving the way for the eventual rise of Christianity as the dominant religion.

With dominance comes the temptation to dominate...to over power, to abuse, to oppress and marginalize others. As Christianity become more powerful, there were those who felt that the religion was straying from its original roots and was not always living according to the principles of Jesus.

The church has faced these moments in time when a group splinters off of another group because the sense is that the religion has strayed from its original intent. Our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is an example of such a movement. Our founders believed that too many tests to fellowship had become a part of

of the Scottish Presbyterian Church and they sought to establish a unified church around the essential principles of the New Testament (spoiler alert: the church they sought to create further splintered into many different denominations). Human interaction, relationships and cooperation in any endeavor is complicated and often messy. It is no less so in church.

in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century, a group of believers sought to establish a community counter to the powerful rise of Christianity in the Roman empire. They were called the desert mothers and fathers. They lived in solitude, praying and engaging in spiritual practices, renouncing materialism and working together to sustain their community.

I have been contemplating the desert mothers and fathers and realizing that when the world gets chaotic, noisy and overwhelming, when church gets too wrapped up in politics and power, a return to community, to prayer and simplicity is often what people of faith do.

As I struggle to make heads or tails of the time we are in and what it means to be a Christian when the faith is being wielded as a weapon to oppress and gain political power, I am reminded of the call to quiet...to prayer...to simplicity...to community...to our roots. More to come. For now, I hope you can find a quiet place of prayer and peace. -Rochelle+

# Grief



TEN ESSENTIAL TOUCHSTONES FOR FINDING HOPE AND HEALING YOUR HEART (SECOND EDITION)

ALAN D. WOLFELT, PH.D.

## Understanding Your Grief: 10 Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing in Your Heart

Thursday evenings, April 24th-June 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



Sumner First Christian has been a supporter of the Sumner Community Food Bank for many years.

Federal cuts to USDA are affecting local food banks across the country. To help, we will have a spring Food drive that will begin after Easter and culminate on Pentecost Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generous support of our community!



Individual contributions to the Annual Fund (the Region's general operating fund) are a key piece of the funding of the ministry we do together as the Northern Lights Region. Your gifts and ongoing support of regional ministry this year, and every year, is deeply valued.

The Annual Fund makes up a percentage of our total budgeted operating income each year and plays a vital role in sustaining the ministry and mission of our Region across Alaska, Washington, Northern Idaho, and Montana. From clergy care to congregational vitality, your gifts help fund the everyday work of the regional church. We invite you to join others across the Region in supporting this important campaign.

# June

# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Children's Worship & Wonder 10:30 Worship Service	2 12:00 pm AA	3 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	4 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	5 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 7:00 pm GA	6 12:00 pm AA	7 12:00 pm AA
8 10:30 Worship Service Board Meeting after Service	9 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm SCP Board Meeting	10 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	11 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	12 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 7:00 pm GA	13 12:00 pm AA	14 12:00 pm AA
15 Father's Day 10:30 Worship Service	16 12:00 pm AA	17 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	18 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters	19 12:00 pm AA 5:30-7:00 pm Understanding Grief Study 7:00 pm GA	20 12:00 pm AA 2:30 Youth Bible Study	21 12:00 pm AA
22 10:30 Worship Service with Regional Minister & President Paul Allen	23 12:00 pm AA	24 10:30 am Prayer Group 12:00 pm AA 6:30 pm AA	25 10:30 am AI Anon 12:30 pm Sober Sisters 7:00 pm SLAA	26 12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm GA	27 12:00 pm AA	28 12:00 pm AA
29 10:30 Worship Service Congregation Budget Meeting	30 12:00 pm AA					