



Join us for Worship Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

May 2, 2024

Dear Friends of Second Church,

This afternoon I watched a zoom lecture on church music in Congregational churches during the Colonial and Early Federal period.

I was surprised to learn that instruments didn't much figure in worship at all until about 1720 — with the first organs appearing only after about 1770, and most being installed (at tremendous expense) after about 1810.

A more typical instrument in the 18th century was the double viol, not unlike a cello, which was able to anchor the congregational singing and led with a more accurate pitch than any of the readily available alternatives.

The scandal was in the singing. There were a lot of people writing and preaching about it, so when I say “scandal,” I mean it.

Apparently, most churches did not have hymnals, or, in any case, congregations that were trained musically to be able to read them — so when it was time to sing a hymn, people more or less stood up and went for it with gusto, with each singing at their own tempo, at high volume, doing their best with the tune (such as it was).

(You can see why they thought the double viol was a good investment — or later, the organ, the sound of which could fill the sanctuary.)

Ultimately, a number of solutions emerged in addition to just plain louder instruments — better training, more soloists, etc.

The scandal dissipated as the music improved, and the world of church music as so many of us grew up with it, first began to come into view.

But there was one big downside: the world of individual believers singing joyfully (if not in unison or melodically) as a form of **worship** gave way to a more passive experience: the congregation began to understand itself as an **audience**. The participation that had been a unique feature of singing (and a break from and response to their extended listening to the pastor) was no longer quite the same.

For a while, some of the emotional release of music went away, at least until better musical training in the form of evening “singing schools” for young people, higher literacy for reading the lyrics, and the backbone of the organ covering up when the pastor started in the wrong key, all helped to restore

some of what had been lost.

To me, this is more than an interesting footnote to our history.

As churches, our goal is to invite participation in all the different aspects of our life together, not just gather an audience for what we do.

We need to remember that participation can be a little ragged, even a little discordant at times...but that this shows a different kind of beauty. Sometimes I worry that coming to church is like watching baseball on t.v., where most of it looks like a game being played by three people: the pitcher, the batter, and the catcher (Alexander, Jenny, and Max?) — when, of course, what's happening is so much bigger, more inclusive, more intricate and wonderful. And the point is for everyone to hop up and join in. When is the last time you really **worshipped** in Worship? What would it allow us to become if we did?

Wouldn't it be wonderful to find out?

See you in church,

Max

Sermons are always
available online:
[2CCSermons](#)

If you can't make it in person, join us
via [Livestream for our 10:30
a.m.](#) Sunday service.

Children's Chapel at 2CC

Nursery care for infants to age 4 starts at 10:15 a.m. Deacons can help direct you to our nursery room. Children ages kindergarten and up are encouraged to start worship with their parents at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Those who wish may depart for Children's Chapel and Choir with Jenny at about 10:45 a.m.

Registration not required but helpful for us to best know and love your child.

[Click here to Register for Children's
Chapel](#)

Mark your calendars...

Spring Yoga with Jill Ernst

Second Congregational Church

Friday mornings: April 26-May 17

9:15-10:00 a.m.

All ages & stages are welcome!

6 weeks for \$60 or drop in fee of \$20 per class

Scholarships available and childcare upon request

Email Jenny@2cc.org for more information



Email Jenny for more information about
Yoga

Music Together

Sunday, May 5
9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Come sing, dance and play
with your child ages 0-5
Babies, toddlers, and big
kids can participate
together in our
family-style class



Join Music Together at 2CC
for a demo class and find out how much music
making can support your child's overall
development and have more joyful family time.
Make new friends and join our welcoming
community!

Registration required.
More info contact Jenny@2cc.org

Click here to register for Music
Together

Women's Fellowship Luncheon

Tuesday, May 7

11:30 A.M.

Greenwich Country Club

Music by Alexander Constantine

All members are welcome!

Reservations will only be accepted when
accompanied by a check in the amount of
\$40.00 per person
no later than Friday, May 3

Please make checks payable to
Women's Fellowship and
drop off or mail to the church office

RSVP for Women's Fellowship Luncheon

2CC Ladies Night...

Wine, Spirits & Cheese

Join us for some wine, spirits, cheese, and a chance to spend time together!

Thursday May 23

6:30-8:00 p.m.

A beverage or appetizer to share is welcomed!

Hosted by Karen Wieman and Lisa Wilson

Please RSVP to Jenny@2CC.org
by May 21 for location of event

[Email Jenny to RSVP for Ladies Night](#)

Looking Ahead to June...

Second Congregational Church and GEMS (Greenwich Emergency Medical Service) is hosting a 1-day babysitting CPR certification class just in time for summer!

Saturday, June 10

Open to Middle and High School age students.

[Register for Babysitting Class](#)



Another wonderful weekend at 2CC!

Everyone had a great time at Coffee & Connection and Legos were a hit during Children's Chapel!





Thank you to Beth Pierson for introducing us to her new program at Byram Shubert Library in Greenwich, Legos for Wee Ones where she teaches about building a relationship with God.

Around Town...



Neighbor
to
Neighbor

35th NALC Annual Food Drive

May 11, 2024

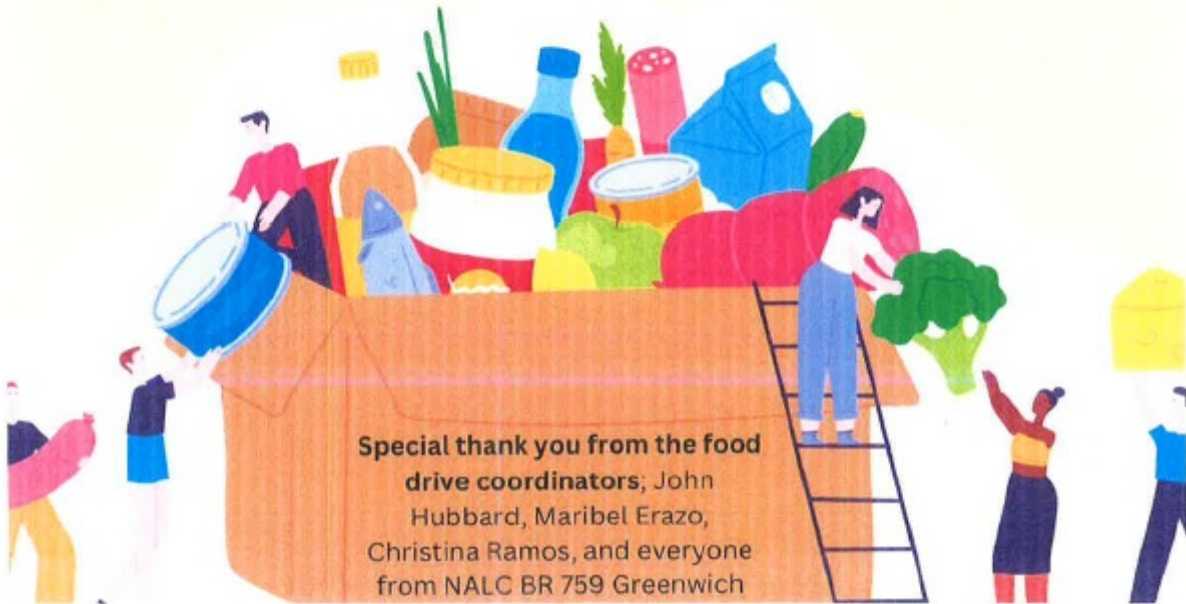
Access to food is a basic human right. Help make an immediate impact by donating non-perishable items like canned goods, jars, and sealed packets.

If you prefer, monetary donations are also welcome. Please send checks payable to "Neighbor to Neighbor" at 248 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, or donate online at www.ntngreenwich.org

Every contribution makes a difference.

Join us in supporting our community—donate today!

ntngreenwich.org



Special thank you from the food drive coordinators; John Hubbard, Maribel Erazo, Christina Ramos, and everyone from NALC BR 759 Greenwich

Second Congregational Church | 139 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

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