

## Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

*Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith*

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January 10, 2019

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Last weekend, I made a quick trip into CVS on the Avenue and was on my way right back out, when I saw it: a ten foot high pink cardboard display containing hundreds of Cadbury Creme Eggs. “Easter is Coming! April 21st!” read a sign at the top in perky white script.

This seems like a bad development. I am really not ready to think about that. We just put the wreaths away .

It seems mistaken to put the seasons on fast forward, to lose the sense of “returning to the ordinary” as the new year begins.

Along those lines, I’m not a fan of how Valentine’s Day seems to descend upon the world, starting December 26th. But Easter...three and a half months from now? I have to believe that nobody can eat that many creme eggs.

So I was surprised to learn that the ancient church might not have entirely agreed.

This week, I read the tantalizing detail that as early as the fourth century (and in some churches even today), it was/is part of the tradition of Epiphany — the season after the twelve days of Christmas — to announce the date of Easter during Worship.

Historians speculate that it may have begun as a practical matter at a time when few had calendars, as a gesture of synchronizing the religious seasons throughout the Christian world. Apparently, way back when, the particular job of determining the date of Easter fell to the Patriarch of Alexandria, a city that was noted for its many astronomers (the date is determined by the first new moon after the Vernal Equinox, which is why the date varies even today . Now you know.)

Maybe they were just *really* into creme eggs? Probably not.

More likely, they saw a spiritual significance to looking forward in this way — to synchronizing. Maybe we should, too.

A new year is described as a fresh start, a blank canvas, a new chapter, a trail with untouched powder — a time when anything seems possible. Where will we take it? What will we do? What plans should we make?

Those are powerful questions that can summon and strengthen much that is best in us.

Yet as Christians, our lives are also shaped by a deep awareness of God’s story, and the example of his son — most significantly at Easter — and this is a reminder to synchronize our time and ourselves with something bigger than just our own narrow hopes, however appealing they must be.

The hope of the world rests in people transformed by and attuned to a very different set of priorities and values.

If we are to use this opportunity for a fresh start well, we must ask ourselves how we fit into that larger story, and how we can prepare ourselves for the voice of the Spirit, sometimes

beckoning, sometimes nudging, sometimes downright shoving us toward transformation.

Easter will be here quicker than we know it. Transformation is already at work. As we learn to let it shape our days and our lives, our faith and our joy in God can only grow.

Go ahead and get yourself a creme egg to celebrate if you want.

See you in church,

Max

**Max's Sermon this week is based on Scripture from: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:21-22**

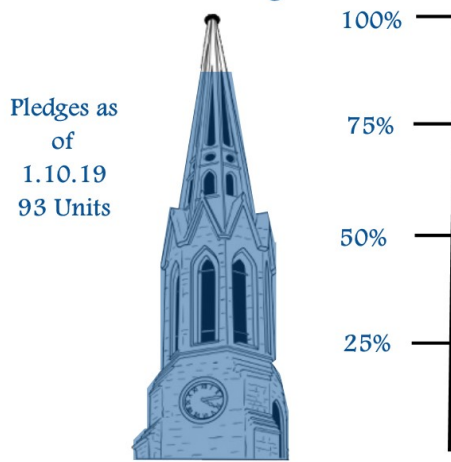
**If you would like to hear past Sermons you can find them on our website: [2cc.org](http://2cc.org)**

Coffee Hour - there is a sign-up sheet in Fletcher Hall for those who would like to bring baked goods for "Sunday Morning Coffee Hour." We recommend that you bring approximately four dozen bite-size items. The church will continue to supply fruit and beverage. You can also sign-up via email [pam@2cc.org](mailto:pam@2cc.org).

## Stewardship Update

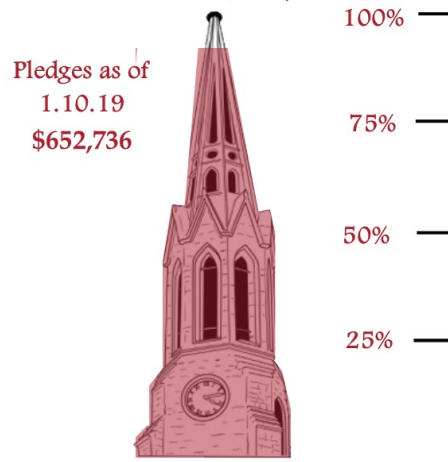
### Second Congregational Church 2019 Stewardship Campaign *Participation Update*

Goal: 117 Pledge Units



### Second Congregational Church 2019 Stewardship Campaign *Monetary Update*

Goal of \$703,000



**To date we have received \$652,736 from 93 pledges for 2019.**

**[Click here](#) to review our Stewardship information & to make your pledge online.**



**Please note:**

**There will be a Special Open Meeting of the  
Congregation on Sunday, January 20 after the  
10:30 Service.**

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held on  
Sunday, February 3, after the 10:30 service.

**Greenwich Moms' Group Upcoming Events**

**Moms' Group:  
Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.**

January 15  
February 5  
March 5  
April 2  
May 7  
June 4

**Moms' Night:  
Thursday at 7:00 p.m.**

January 24  
February 21  
March 14  
April 11  
May 16  
June 13

Contact [Jessica@2cc.org](mailto:Jessica@2cc.org) for more information

[Click here to Email Jessica](#)

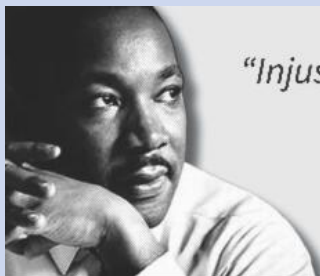
**Do you "Like" us?**



Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) & be sure to tag us in  
any of your #2CCGreenwich photos!



# Around Town...



*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., YWCA Greenwich is proud to co-sponsor and host a panel discussion...

## Fighting Modern Day Slavery

*...a conversation about the tragedy of labor trafficking*

**Wednesday  
January 16**

**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**YWCA Greenwich  
259 East Putnam Ave**

Register at:  
[ywcagreenwich.org/labor-trafficking-registration](http://ywcagreenwich.org/labor-trafficking-registration)

**Event is Free and  
open to the public**

For more information, contact Joan Mockler at 203-869-6501, ext 104 or [j.mockler@ywcagreenwich.org](mailto:j.mockler@ywcagreenwich.org)

In Greenwich  
for **Good**



[www.ywcagreenwich.org](http://www.ywcagreenwich.org)



Moderator  
**Krishna Patel**  
General Counsel and Director of Justice Initiatives, Grace Farms Foundation and former Federal Prosecutor



**Luis deBaca**  
Lawyer and former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and former Director of the Department of Justice's SMART Office



**Divya Demato**  
CEO and Co-Founder, GoodOps, a supply chain transformation company



**Jillian Gilcrest**  
Former Chair, Connecticut Trafficking in Persons Council and recently elected CT State Representative, District 18



**Resa Spaziani**  
Director, Wage and Workplace Standards, Connecticut Department of Labor

**Community Partners:**



Leaving you with a giggle...

**I SEE YOU LIKE TO SING  
WITHOUT USING THE HYMNAL**



**I TOO LIKE TO LIVE DANGEROUSLY**