

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

November 8, 2018

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Every November, the last item out of our box of dedicated Halloween supplies is the one that looks ahead to the next holiday: Thanksgiving.

And so each year, as things come down--the spider webs on the windows, the bats from the ceiling, and the light up dancing jack o' lanterns for the dining room--what goes up is the sweet and simple "Thanksgiving tree" made of felt, with a little numbered pocket for each day of the month, which each of us fills with a note about something we're thankful for that day.

If you were a kid in the 70s, you did a lot of this stuff.

Inevitably, some days it's harder to muster the appropriate thankfulness, and I find myself casting about for something -- anything. Some days I get busy and just forget, and so I have to backdate a few notes as I catch up.

And there are times when I've wondered how other families who have the same tree at their house are doing. Do they fall behind, too? Do they have some sort of neat little "gratitude station" with dedicated pens and seasonally-themed note paper for the task of recording their gratitude--maybe a little ladder up to the tree for the littlest member of the family to climb and post her entries--or are they using the backs of envelopes and someone's rogue eyebrow pencil to write with, writing on the fly between evening tasks, like I do?

I always wonder if there are some people who write nasty-grams like "Today I'm grateful that X is sorry for what she said to me in the car, and that I have forgiven her," or things like that.

And how many people "peek" at what the other people in their family write in their own notes? Is it even peeking? Because of course gratitude is personal...but is it supposed to be private? Even within a family?

It all reminds me that gratitude is not simply something that we feel as much as it is a set of practices we engage.

Waiting for it to turn up entirely on its own, to catch it while it passes through, makes it more of a creature of whim than a way of life.

Attempting to name it, particularly under less than ideal conditions, is important for us to do, even if we may not succeed. The attempt itself has a lot to teach us about ourselves and our way of seeing the world.

So may all of us find much to be grateful for in these weeks--and may we remain patient with ourselves on those days when this demands more from us than we might care to admit.

See you in church,



**If you would like to hear past Sermons you can
find them on our website: 2cc.org**

**This week Max's Sermon is based on Scripture from:
Isaiah 2: 2-5**

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.

Coming Up...





**Greenwich Moms' Club
Girls Night at Diane's Books
Thursday, November 15
5:00 p.m.**

Dinner to follow

Email: Jessica@2cc.com for details

[Email Jessica for details](#)



The Vassar Haiti Project presents

Haitian Art & Handcraft Sale

Friday Nov. 16 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres

Saturday* Nov. 17 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday Nov. 18 10:00am - 2:00pm

Hosted by

Second Congregational Church
139 E. Putnam Ave.
Greenwich, CT

* join us for a panel discussion from 2:00 - 3:00pm
co-sponsored by the Vassar Club of Fairfield County
Listening and Learning: Transformative Encounters in Humanitarian Work
featuring Ernest Barthélemy, MD, Andrew Meade, PhD, and Vassar Alumnae

All welcome! This event is free and open to the public.

All sales are 50% tax deductible!

Proceeds will go towards earthquake relief efforts and sustainable development programs in rural Northwest Haiti.



www.thehaitiproject.org



845.797.2123



haitiproject@vassar.edu



Vassar Haiti Project



@vassarhaitiproject

Many hands make light work...

School Supply Drive

to benefit READ elementary school in Bridgeport

Please bring donations of the following:

*#2 pencils, crayola crayons, Elmer's glue sticks, markers,
tissues, hand sanitizer, wipes for cleaning tables
(as students are served breakfast and snack daily in the room),
dry erase markers, crayolas and colorful card stock*

Contact Jessica@2cc.org for more information

[Click here to contact Jessica & help out!](#)

Christmas is coming... Save these dates!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Sunday, December 2:
Christmas Piano Serenade
featuring Alexander Constantine
at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 8:
Gingerbread Workshop at 10:00 a.m

Christmas Eve Worship
3:30 Family Service
6:30 Festival Service
11:15 Candlelight Service

Do you "Like" us?

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



Yale Gospel Choir at 2CC on Sunday, November 4

Leaving you with a giggle...

Poster found in a Church in France... (translated):

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."

