

December 20, 2017

*Merry Christmas from all of us at  
Second Congregational Church!*



Dear Friends of Second Church,

Over the last week, in the course of my travels, I've been delighted to stop by the homes of several church members.

All were lovely, though each distinctively so.

At one, there were packages being delivered even as the joyful gathering inside was happening, such that when it was time to go, the back step was covered in packages — as if Santa had been there and quietly slipped away. (Also, Santa apparently is now a subcontractor for Amazon.)

Another house had suitcases in the kitchen, which had been dutifully brought in from the garage that morning so that the Grand Packing of Christmas could begin.

Some in our congregation are getting everything ready for guests to descend — children and grandchildren and the dogs it seems wrong to board at the kennel, what with it being Christmas and all.

Others are taking to the roads and skies, off to see family or to enjoy a little Florida warmth, as one person told me, "before everybody else gets there."

Some are delighted to be spending a quiet Christmas watching old movies or playing new video games, and getting some rest.

I feel like I owe our dog a few long walks in the woods, for starters. There are friends and their news that I need to catch up on.

But I do feel more grounded in the hope of Christmas this year. I find myself renewed by the old story, which for me is about how God's love seeks to transform the world, calling us to find the strength in being vulnerable, and to embrace the risk of relationship, and the risk in searching for truths that will almost certainly ask us to change.

However it is we make contact with those we love this week, I hope it reminds us of that greater hope. For all our particular comforts, blessed as they are, there is the call to remember the source of all goodness, who loved us too much not to be with us, and who came to know the life we know, that we might know the light and life of God.

At its heart, Christmas is how the world should be. May its traditions remind us. May its rest restore us. May its love transform us.

Rev. Shawn and I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

See you in church,



**Please note NEW Christmas  
Service times below...**

# 2017 Christmas Service Times

## Christmas Eve: December 24

Regular Worship 10:30 a.m.

Family Service 3:30 p.m.

Festival Service 6:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service 11:15 p.m.

## Christmas Morning: December 25

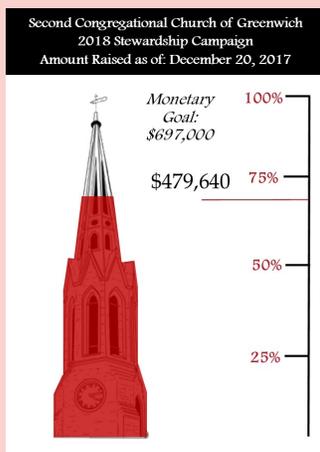
Christmas Service 10:30 a.m.

Second Congregational Church

[2cc.org](http://2cc.org)

If you might be visiting Second Congregational for any of our upcoming services please visit our [FAQ page](#). We hope it might answer some questions about our services and what to expect.

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



## Stewardship Update

Our 2018 Stewardship Campaign is underway! Be sure to check in & see our progress or donate online by using the links below:

[Stewardship Update](#)

[Donate Online](#)

## 2017 Donations

2017 is quickly coming to an end! It would be helpful to the church office if pledge payments

could be completed prior to Christmas. For your tax records, payments must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31. Please be sure to clearly mark on your check to which year the funds should be applied (2017, or 2018 if you are prepaying).



Stock donations are a great way to complete a pledge. Your broker will send the stock to our bank, where it will be liquidated. Because of privacy laws in stock transactions, your broker may not designate your name. Please advise in writing of your intention to pay this way. Please contact Julie Muratore at [Julie@2cc.org](mailto:Julie@2cc.org) for detailed instructions if you are going to donate stock.

**[Click here to donate directly online](#)**

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## **2018 Offering Envelope Update**

Using offering envelopes is a matter of personal preference. Envelopes are used by donors who make an annual pledge and by those who do not pledge but give when they are able to do so. They provide additional privacy, the option to make cash donations, and serve as a reminder to keep up with donations to the church.

If you would like to have one assigned to you, or if you have previously received envelopes you no longer use, please call Gloria in the church office.

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**Coffee Hour Hosts  
Needed:**

Please email [Stacey Brown](mailto:Stacey Brown) with a date that you are available to help out.

**Thank you!**

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# December Music at 2CC

12/ 17	Youth Choir Christmas Music
12/ 24	Last Sunday In Advent (regular 10:30 service)
12/24	*3:30 Children's Pageant
	*6:30 Festival Service- Choir, Brass, Tympani, Violinist, Soloists
	11:15 Candlelight Service
12/25	A Country Christmas Service, featuring piano, violin & mandolin

*Please note NEW service times for Christmas Eve*

## Do you "Like" us?



Are you following us on social media? No? You're missing out on a lot of inspiration & fun!

If you take pictures during the service(s) or on church grounds at any of our events please be sure to share the love on social media by tagging @2ccGreenwich on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#)



For the month of December, Neighbor to Neighbor is in need of Cereal, Canned Fruit, Pasta, and Jelly.

Please consider donating these items to our foodbasket for the December collection. All donations are brought to Neighbor to Neighbor and are greatly appreciated.