

December 7, 2017



Steeple News & Views

Dear Friends of Second Church,

I knew she would ask me one day and I promised I'd never lie to her about it. I was picking Molly up from school and as I lifted her up into her car seat she asked me,

"Dad, is Santa real?"

She caught me off guard.

"Um..." I blurted out as I now was facing a question I thought I was prepared to answer.

Should I tell her? Will she understand? Will people think I'm some kind of Scrooge for ruining her childhood? I did what any good pastor would do, I quoted the Bible. Molly, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways" (1 Cor 13:11). It worked. I was proud of myself but it triggered a thought about the way people wrestle with Scripture today. When they approach Scripture as adults using the logic they held as children, the story of Scripture becomes as silly as Santa. I hear it all the time,

Issues with "that angry white-bearded God" in the Old Testament.
 The way they treated women and children.
 Wrapping our heads around the idea of miracles.
 How dare God let evil exist?
 Talking snakes, donkeys, and Jonah living in the belly of a whale.
 It's just a book of myths and fairy tales!

These were stories that were told to us as children but for many they lost value for us as adults. It's likely this is the reason a book we consider handed down to us by God often becomes an untouched accessory on our bookshelves and in our pews.

And so we are left with a choice. Do we continue to tell these stories in the same way we were told growing up? Or, do we dare to have the courage to face the narrative of Scripture as adults. We may be uncomfortable with what we find but I believe it's in that discomfort that we can hear Scripture no longer as children but as adults. When I face it now I see a new story in Scripture that prods my understanding,

Why was God so angry with humanity in the Old Testament?
 How can we give women and children a voice today?
 Can God use our church to miraculously feed 50 people at a men's homeless shelter?
 What can I do to partner with God and stop injustice in this world?
 What is creation crying out for us to hear?

All Christians are called to spiritually grow, to spiritually evolve, and to spiritually adapt. Peter expresses this in his first letter by saying, "grow up in your salvation."

For now, I'll tell Molly that she can believe in Santa, that Jonah was in the belly of a whale, and that an apple is why there is bad in the world. But as she grows I'll teach her that the story has a deeper meaning. That Santa

embodies a spirit of giving and even though Old St. Nick doesn't come down our chimney, that spirit can come forth out from her soul.

Let us dare to see what others cannot see, to hear what others cannot hear, and to allow the Spirit to provoke our imagination from the stories we find in the Bible.

O' the wonders Jesus still has yet to do through his people. He proclaims "you will do greater things than I."

Be wrapped up in the gift of Christ as we move into Advent.

In Christ,



**This Sunday we are
excited to welcome
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan
Lee!**

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Lee is currently the Philanthropy Officer for the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ in New York City. He served previously as Director of Advancement at Hartford Seminary and as pastor to UCC congregations in Connecticut for 21 years. He was baptized, confirmed and ordained at the First Congregational Church of Stratford and educated at Bates College, Andover Newton Theological School, and Hartford Seminary.

**Dr. Lee's Sermon this week is:
"Our New Voice"
Based on Scripture from Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark
1:1-8**

[Click here to listen to our sermon library online](#)

Stay for our Adult Ed Program:
Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 3, 10 & 17
After the 10:30 a.m. service

*There is more to the story...
come find out for yourself*



Second Congregational Church of Greenwich
2018 Stewardship Campaign
Amount Raised as of December 6, 2017



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](#)



Bill Gerecke, a Second Church member for over 37 years, passed away last week. Bill served on the Church Council as Chair of Finance and Administration in addition to serving on the Nominating Committee for several years. We extend our condolences and prayers to Bill's son Jeff Gerecke and daughter-in-law Sarah Gerecke and granddaughters Renata and Claudia Gerecke.

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 for detailed instructions if you are going to donate stock.

[Click here to donate directly online](#)



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS CONCERT & LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

10:45 A.M.



"Emmanuel, God With Us"

**CONCERT IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWED BY
LUNCH IN FLETCHER HALL**

COST: \$10

**RSVP TO:
MARMON4@AOL.COM**



Featuring Katie Nelson

[Click here to RSVP](#)

It is truly very difficult to highlight a particular Sunday for its musical offering during the month of December. Both our Advent, and Christmas services will feature a variety of musical accompaniments during our times of worship. I have listed the musical calendar for each Sunday leading up to Christmas Day below. We hope that the joy of this holy season will be reflected in each of our services during the month of December.

December Music at 2CC

Sunday, December 3	Shane Kirsch, soprano sax; Matthew Krob, tenor
Sunday, December 10	Chancel Choir, Yasmeeen Audi, soloist
Sunday, December 17	Youth Choir Christmas Music
Sunday, December 24	Last Sunday In Advent (regular 10:30 service)
Sunday, December 24	*3:30 Children's Pageant *6:30 Festival Service-Choir, Brass, Tympani, Violinist, Soloists 11:15 Candlelight Service
Monday, December 25	A Country Christmas Service, featuring piano, violin, mandolin

Please note NEW service times for Christmas Eve

Another GREAT Gingerbread Workshop!

It was another sold out event & everyone had a great time.

The Youth Ministry also visited Pilgrim Towers on Sunday.

[Click here](#) to see photos of these great events!

Amazing job Jessica!



Silent Night

alexander constantine, piano

CD's are \$10

All proceeds benefit
St. Jude's Children's Hospital

We are excited to announce that Alexander is selling his latest CD featuring Christmas favorites from his concert last Sunday.

ALL proceeds will benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital!

You can order CD's from our website:
2cc.org/christmas

Please note NEW Christmas
Service times below...

Christmas at Second Congregational Church

Christmas Eve:

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 Service 10:30 a.m.

2cc.org

Second Congregational Church - 139 E. Putnam Avenue



Coffee Hour
Hosts
Needed:

Please email Stacey Brown with a date that you are available to help out. Thank you!



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.

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](#)

