

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

February 27, 2019

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Each year, I feel like Lent sneaks up on me.

Because it's the season just before Easter, and Easter is a day that can come early or late, Lent seems to arrive unexpectedly, like a dinner guest who shows up two hours early and then stands awkwardly in the kitchen while you're still chopping and cooking and trying to get your kids to get their legos off the dining room table.

Lent doesn't stand on ceremony or wait for us to perfect our self-presentation.

It is uncomfortable that way — and that's not just how it starts. It's pretty much how Lent feels for the whole time.

In a world that's enamored with sheer positivity, Lent is about sincerity.

If the idea that “you never get a second chance to make a first impression” began as a shampoo commercial and has come to pass as actual life wisdom, calling us to supreme attention over how we come across to others, Lent challenges us to consider how we're really doing — and why.

Lent cares little for appearances and less for those who do.

Instead, it rejoices in God's power to work outside of our comfort zones, expectations, and preferred scenarios, and it talks about a God who doesn't simply banish darkness, but sometimes even dwells within it and can only be found there, in the places we do not wish to go, the truths we do not wish to confront, the pains we do not wish to feel.

It begins with Ash Wednesday, a day on which we acknowledge our mortality and the genuine depth of human loss — but without making the quick jump we often do to the promise of eternal life.

Instead, we are asked just to sit with that for awhile and to seek a sense of God's presence within it.

In the weeks that follow, we're urged to go within ourselves more deliberately, through prayer and reflection, service and Scripture, so that we learn to open our eyes, and ultimately, our hearts.

It is only because of Lent that we have the capacity to understand what's “good” about Good Friday.

Next Wednesday, as Lent begins again, Rev. Shawn and I hope you will join us for a short chapel service at 7 p.m., with imposition of ashes for those who wish.

But more deeply, we hope you will take the opportunity of these next weeks to explore where God might be calling you outside the familiar, the easily done, and the blandly popular, into a life that's far more challenging and unspeakably more beautiful than any human plan could ever imagine.

A blessed Lent to you.

See you in church,

Max

Max's Sermon this Sunday is
based on Scripture from:
Luke 9:28-36

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



Upcoming Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!
Tuesday, March 5, 2018
6:00 p.m.



*Reservations are recommended,
email Jessica@2cc.org for more information*



Quiet reflective Ash Wednesday
Service at 7:00 p.m. on
March 6, 2019



[Email Jessica for Shrove Tuesday details](#)

Join Special Education Legal Fund and Second Congregational Church on March 7 as we present a panel discussion on special education featuring community experts on evaluations and school environments.

Panelists include Debra Guise (Waverly Group), Piper Paul, Esq. (Law Offices of Piper Paul), Beth Sugerman (Winston Preparatory School), Marjorie Castro (Eagle Hill School), Aksana Varapai (Foundation School), Nelson Dorta PhD (Dorta & Associates), and Lara Damashek (Early Insight Advocacy).

The panel will be moderated by Christine Lai (Special Education Legal Fund).

The panel discussion will take place from 7pm-8pm. Q&A and networking session to follow.

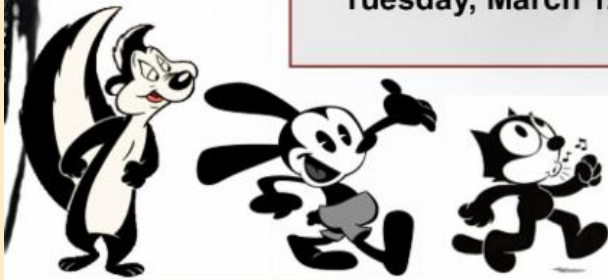
This event is free for participants. Refreshments will be provided.

[Click here for more information](#)

Join us at the
Bruce Museum for a tour
of the exhibit:

Buried Treasure of the
Silk Road & Masterpieces
from the Museum
of Cartoon Art

Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m.

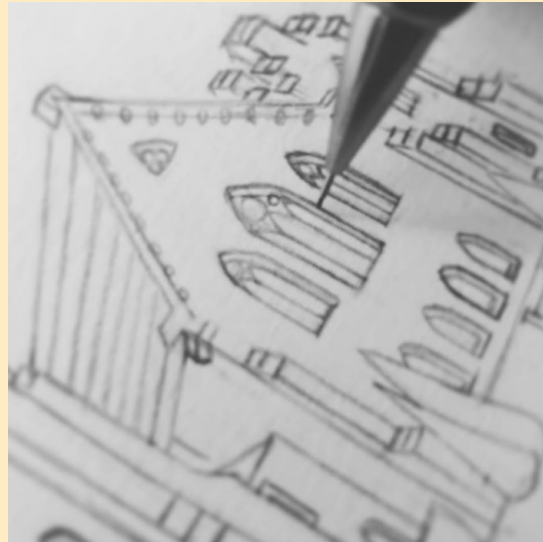


*\$12.00 per person,
due to the church office
by March 4*

Sponsored by Second Congregational Church Women's Fellowship
All welcome to join this guided tour!

[RSVP to Gloria](#)

Do you "Like" us?



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

Photo credit: [@shelbyanddesigns](#)

Save the date(s)...

Greenwich Moms' Group Upcoming Events

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

March 5
April 2
May 7
June 4

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

March 14
April 11
May 16
June 13

Contact Jessica@2cc.org for more information

[Click here to Email Jessica](#)

Vacation Bible School
at Second Church
June 24-28, 2019

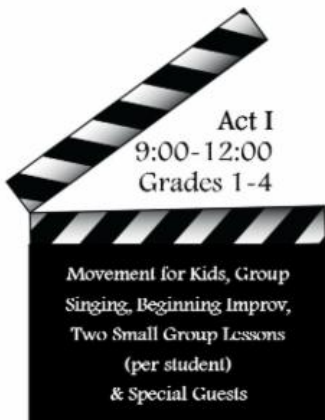
Ages 4-5th Grade
9:00 a.m. to Noon daily



More information & signup at 2cc.org
Director of Children's Ministry: VBScamp@2cc.org

[Email Jessica for more information](#)

Performing Arts Camp July 8-12, 2019



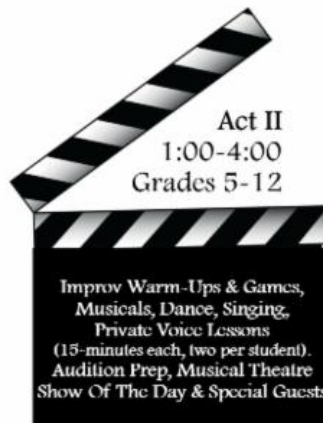
Act I
9:00-12:00
Grades 1-4

Movement for Kids, Group
Singing, Beginning Improv,
Two Small Group Lessons
(per student)
& Special Guests



Theatre Coaches
Alexander Constantine
Director of Music
(Second Congregational Church),
Educator, Musician, Walt Disney
World Cast Member,
Stage and Musical Director

Heidi Haskins
Youth Choir Director (Second Con-
gregational Church),
Educator, Professional Vocalist,
Theme Park Performer



Act II
1:00-4:00
Grades 5-12

Improv Warm-Ups & Games,
Musicals, Dance, Singing,
Private Voice Lessons
(15-minutes each, two per student).
Audition Prep, Musical Theatre
Show Of The Day & Special Guests



Finale:
End-of-the-week
Showcase
for Act I & II

<p>Cost: \$300.00 for the week per student (Discounts For Siblings, Scholarships Available) All classes/activities take place at Second Congregational Church 139 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT For more information, artscamp@2cc.org</p>
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Email Alexander for more information

News from Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Scholarship Program for Graduating High School Seniors

The Women's Fellowship of Second Church has established a Scholarship Program to honor and acknowledge the young people who have been involved in the life of the church.

High school graduating seniors who will be attending college in the fall of 2019 are encouraged to apply. Contact Gloria in the church office at 203.869.9311 or email womensfellowship@2cc.org, and we will email you an application

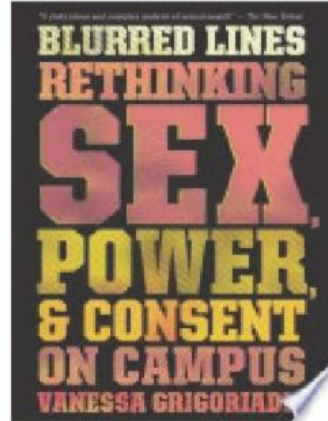


All applications due by March 29, 2019

[Click here to download an application](#)

Around Town...

Understanding and Preventing Sexual Assault on Campus



**Moderator
Reena Ninan**
Anchor and Correspondent
CBS News



Elizabeth Conklin
ADA Coordinator
Title IX Coordinator
Associate VP UCONN



Meredith Gold
Director of Domestic
Abuse Services
YWCA Greenwich



Vanessa Grigoriadis
Journalist and Author
"Blurred Lines"

February 28, 2019

6:30 – 8:00 pm

YWCA Greenwich

**Book Signing after
the event**

A constructive
conversation
about preparing
for college life

For more information,
please contact
Joan Mockler
at 203-869-6501 ext. 104

Register online at www.ywcagreenwich.org/registration



[Click here for more information about this event](#)