

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

May 8, 2019

Dear Friends of Second Church,

This Sunday we will celebrate as the Church grows by three, as three members of Shawn's confirmation class stand in front of us to join Second Congregational Church, and more broadly, to reaffirm for themselves the vows made on their behalf by others at their baptisms some years ago.

Spring, especially after Easter, seems to be the season of confirmation and has been as long as I've been paying attention. That's not the only reason it has the general atmosphere of a graduation, although that has to be a part of it. Like a graduation, also, it's not always clear whom it's really for — the graduate or the grown ups.

Although churches know what they're supposed to say on that, their actions sometimes speak otherwise.

I once attended a church where someone — a grown up — had a complete melt-down before church over the carnations that had been delivered for confirmation. The flowers looked rattier and more faded than she felt appropriate — so much so they would “ruin” the whole morning. Accordingly, much of the hour before the service was spent by the elders of the church, seeking to respond to these concerns (or as is so often the death of the church, at least to “appear responsive”).

Meanwhile, the members of the confirmation class sat out of the way on a bench, staring off into space until they were summoned to file in at the opening hymn to go profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and their loyalty to their church and the Church Universal, offering the support of their prayers, their talents, their resources, and the gift of their presence.

The profession is important, of course, and is something to celebrate. May it be beautiful.

But sometimes I wish we had better ways of naming that what truly “confirms” us as Christians is a different kind of moment, often far away from a lovely spring Sunday in a peaceful sanctuary, with (or without) a carnation.

Its deepest form really happens elsewhere.

Likewise, what we learn in confirmation is not really “information about Jesus” or “the official answers of the Church” — beautiful as these often are, as well.

Confirmation's deepest teaching is from sustained encounter with other Christians — the beginning of actual friendships with people who might be very different than we are or our parents and their friends are — the kind of people we can recall in life's hard moments, and in remembering, find guidance sufficient for our own next step. People whose lives are connected to their faith.

It is a lot to ask what Jesus might do in any given circumstance. But we can ask what Shawn might say, or how Miss Jessica would lead us to pray, or what Miss Barbara might bring if she didn't have a prayer shawl.

Following their example, road-testing the faith they embody in their own ways, but now for our own lives, will confirm a great deal about them, us, and finally, God.

I hope you will make a point of being here Sunday, and that in some not too distant day, one of our confirmands may confront uncertainty by remembering the power of your example, and the presence of Jesus in your life.

See you in church,

Max

**Shawn's Sermon this week
is based on Scripture from:
Deuteronomy 11:16-23**

**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.



In June, we will recognize graduates from all high schools, colleges and universities, as well as professional schools, diplomas, bachelors, masters, doctorates and certificates of course completion. We want to recognize and thank God for those who have put the effort into their education.

Please email Gloria at gloria@2cc.org with the name of the graduate and with the information concerning any future educational or professional plans that graduate might have, no later than Wednesday, June 5.

Upcoming Events

**Second Congregational Church
Women's Fellowship Luncheon
Tuesday, May 14
11:30 a.m.**



**\$40
RSVP TO GLORIA IN THE CHURCH OFFICE:
GLORIA@2CC.ORG**

GREENWICH WATER CLUB

[Email Gloria to RSVP](#)

Greenwich Moms' Group

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

June 4

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

**May 16
June 13**

Contact jessica@2cc.org for more information

[Click here to Email Jessica](#)



SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
TENT WEEKEND

JUNE 7-9, 2019

Stay tuned for more details...

Do you "Like" us?

WHY CHURCH ON SATURDAY?

1. I'm too busy Sunday.
2. Like I need a double espresso...
I need double church!

2cc.org/evensong

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

Coming this Summer...



join us!

**TAKE ME OUT
TO THE BALLGAME**
2CC GAME DAY AFTER CHURCH

Mets vs. Tigers
Sunday, May 26th
Gametime is at 1:10

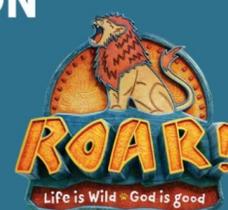
We'll meet at the church at 1145am
and carpool to the game.

RSVP
Cost is \$65/ticket
Pay via cash, check, or card swipe at the church.
You can give your payment to
Rev. Shawn or put it in his church mailbox.



SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GREENWICH, CT

**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL
2019**



June 24-28

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION & SIGNUP PLEASE
VISIT 2CC.ORG OR
EMAIL: VBSCAMP@2CC.ORG

[Click here to RSVP to the Ballgame](#)

[Email Jessica for more information](#)



Performing Arts Camp 2019

JULY 8-12

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

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

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

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

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

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 please visit 2cc.org

[Email Alexander for more information](mailto:Alexander@2cc.org)