

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich

Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith

August 1, 2018

Dear Friends of Second Church,

For all those who have sung along with U2, “and I still haven’t found what I’m looking for…” the Bible offers us a solution. Solutions aren’t always easy to access though, sometimes they require some work. As many of you know, I recently went to Cambridge, England to study a theologian named Lesslie Newbigin. Newbigin addresses the issue many of us are experiencing at our churches; people seem less interested in attending church than they used to be and churches are struggling to come up with new ways to attract young people to their flock. We heard from leading theologians who have wrestled over this subject and I remember when I heard the solution to the problem.

Joy.

The theologians had concluded that we may have lost the very thing Christianity had to offer in the first place. Joy. I don’t know about you, but joy is not something I necessarily thought I was supposed to have at church. Maybe the comfort that church is helping me become a better person, or that I am connected with a larger community, but joy...is that something I expect to find at church? Is that something I expect to find in my relationship with God? The simple answer is that it should. Jesus introduced his disciples to this by promising that if they lived a life by the spirit they would experience this joy.

And who doesn’t want that?

You can likely make an accurate guess on what I am preaching about here at our Saturday Evening Church service. It is the topic of joy. Last Saturday I looked at the joy we receive from the world and this week we will be exploring the joy we receive through following Christ. I believe, that if we all could tap into this joy, we would see a resurgence of church relevance in our culture. In a chaotic world we need the truth taught by Christ to ground us in the promises of God. I believe that a life lived leaning on the promises of God leads to a life of joy.

Church is the place we are reminded of these promises. We sing them as songs, we say them together in our communal prayers, and we reflect upon them through our sermons. Friends, church is the house of joy and we are called to be joy-bearers in a world that desperately needs what we have.

I invite you to join us this Saturday night at 5pm as we learn more about how to tap into the joy that God is offering to us.



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

The Scripture selection for Max's Sermon this week is from: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."'

¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said,

¹²'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."'

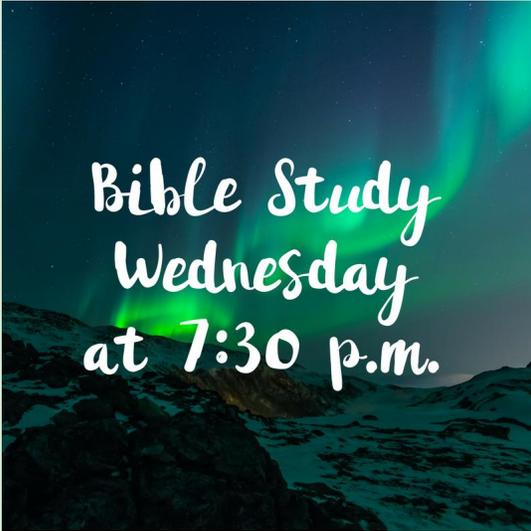
¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.



AND MOSES SPAKE UNTO
AARON, SAY UNTO ALL THE
CONGREGATION OF THE
CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, COME
NEAR BEFORE THE LORD:
FOR HE HATH HEARD YOUR
MURMURINGS.
EXODUS 16:9



Bible Study
Wednesday
at 7:30 p.m.



Prayer Group
Thursday
morning
at 11:00

August Music at 2CC

- 5 Ellie Strathdee
- 12 Jennifer Porretta
- 19 Jeff Pearson
- 26 Allen Louis

Join us weekly at 9:30 on Sunday morning

Ellie Strathdee has been a member of 2CC since birth, and grew up singing in our youth choir. She is passionate about dance and music and loves to share her talents with others. Ellie looks forward to graduating this December from Rollins College with a major in communications and a minor in dance.



To sign up for Coffee Hour please email: Pam@2cc.org with a date that you are willing to help out, thank you!

save the date

Homecoming Sunday: September 9, 2018

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of all the great things going
on here at 2CC!*

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**WE'VE SAVED
YOU
A SEAT!**

Leaving you with a giggle...

