

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich *Conversation, Celebration, Community - Of Faith*

August 8, 2018

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Earlier this week, Liz and I went to see “Eighth Grade,” a wonderful new movie that explores the daily life of a girl in the final weeks of middle school.

It is a movie in which “nothing happens,” and yet *everything* happens; on one level, there is no particular drama to the main character’s life, and yet on another level, the drama is profound and intense.



“Eighth Grade” explores all the awkwardness of becoming a teenager in cringe-worthy detail, from acne to bathing suits to living on a cell phone and learning about life via YouTube clips. (Be forewarned: that last one is not for the faint of heart.)

And of course, there is the all-too-familiar meanness of other kids and the anguish about whether you’ll ever fit in, anywhere.

It’s not easy watching — and don’t try to drag your eighth grader to go see it with you — but I highly recommend it.

It’s a reminder that the drama of becoming ourselves is filled with all kinds of peculiar milestones. From the outside, those milestones may seem utterly ordinary, scarcely even noticeable. Yet for us, they matter in ways we can scarcely put words to. A life in which “nothing happens” (or in which little has happened *yet*) still has plenty of drama. Plenty of becoming.

As a film, “Eighth Grade” may well torture you with your own memories of that drama. Watching it, you can’t help but see scenes from your own past playing out on the split screen of your mind.

But it will also remind you of the power of kindness — the incredible gift of someone who seems poised and perfect admitting their own nervousness and vulnerability. It acknowledges how momentous it can be when someone offers welcome for us that does not ask us to pretend we’re cool...because we’re cool enough just as we are.

In this, the movie is a powerful testament to the longing we feel when we’re searching for our tribe, and to the power of starting to find one.

And so, although it is not a “Christian” movie by any means, it might actually be the most Christian movie I have seen in a year.

It is not a film about a religious awakening.

But it names the longing of the human heart and the quest to understand the riddle of ourselves so honestly, without sentimentality or moralism. Its truths, such as they are, emerge from the messiness of living, which is the only way in which any of us, Christian or not, learn to live. And it affirms the power of authenticity, which is to be found only in turning away from the alluring prospect of assuming a fundamentally false self, and then in finding the strength to accept that we are accepted, even as we are.

Kierkegaard would love this movie. Other Christians should, too.

However it is that you are making it through the heat, humidity, and the many rainy afternoons of this summer, I hope you find your mind and heart growing, a sense of connection to your tribe, and a reminder of the power of stories to guide us.

See you in church,

Max

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: Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

4:25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another.

²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil.

²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

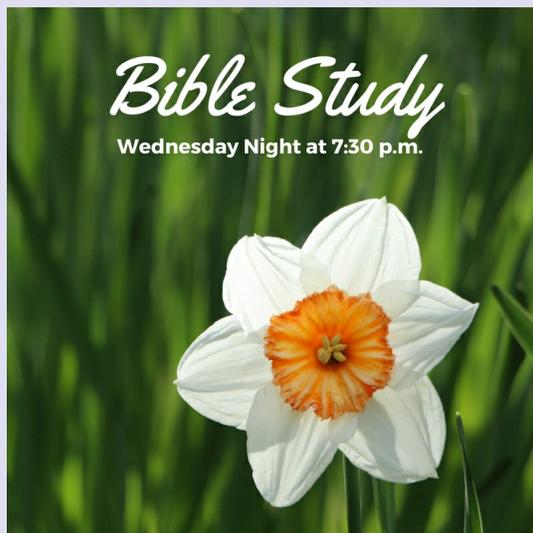
²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,

³²and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



August Music at 2CC

12 Jennifer Porretta

19 Jeff Pearson

26 Allen Louis



Join us weekly at 9:30 on Sunday morning



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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How can We
Pray for you?

Leaving you with a giggle...

