



November 1, 2023

Dear Friends of Second Church,

With Halloween behind us, we are in the season of Thanksgiving, which I love thoroughly and also find tremendously challenging.

I take it more personally than other seasons — in many years, it asks more of me.

Each season asks *something* of us, of course.

To me, holidays are less a commemoration of something that happened (though they are also that). On a deeper level, they are expressions of a certain kind of mood — they are occasions that ask us to *feel* a particular way. That is a large part of what gives them their place in our lives.

If I'm right, then the proposed mood of Thanksgiving is headlined right in its name: thankful.

And some years, this does not come so easily to me. For one reason or another, I start out grateitudinally-challenged.

I've written before about our family's felt "Thanksgiving" tree, with its little pockets for each day in November, into which you're supposed to put a slip of paper with something for which you are thankful.

Liz has no trouble doing this. The girls have never had trouble doing this.

It asks a bit more of me.

Because once you get beyond "my family" (November 1st), "the church" (November 2nd), "walking the dogs" (November 3rd)...I mean...what's left? Writing "pizza" or "Taco Bell" seems wrong.

Besides, if I'm living the right way, shouldn't there be a whole lot of *new* stuff each year? I consider myself a pretty happy person, overall — so why is it so hard to remember any of that when I sit down each evening in November to write up some of specific details?

Then there are the years when I'm carrying more than usual, and pressing myself on thankfulness feels like an exercise in pretending I'm more cheery than I actually feel. Wouldn't I *love* to have a longer list than I do?

So as this season begins, let us be gentle with ourselves and all the feelings that we're carrying. Blessings on those with much to name. Blessings on those who struggle to

name much.

There is a lot of joy in thankfulness, so much that its seeming lightness may belie how hard won (and hard to keep) it may well be for any of us.

It may take a while for us to get to gratitude, or back to it, or even in its vicinity.

But our faith reminds us that there are always sources of goodness and hope at work in the world, signals which one theologian has described as sparks “of that hidden fire that will sooner or later consume the old and create the new,” and which we should greet as signs of our future home.

Whatever is on our hearts as we enter the season of thankfulness, may we find ourselves warmed by the promise of the new and strengthened by whatever sparks of that hidden fire we have been graced to encounter.

See you in church,

Max

Find us this Fall...



Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

[2CC.org](http://2CC.org)

Sermons are always  
available online:  
[2CCSermons](http://2CCSermons)

If you can't make it in person, join us  
via [Livestream for our 10:30  
a.m.](#) Sunday service.

## Chancel Choir Fall Schedule

Rehearsals at 11:45 a.m.  
in the Chapel:  
November 5 & 12  
December 10 & 17

Chancel Choir in Worship  
November 19  
December 24

No previous experience is necessary.  
Attend rehearsals/services when you are  
in town and able to join us.  
All you need is a love for singing!  
The choir is open to those who are high  
school age and older.



## Children's Chapel at 2CC

Nursery care for infants to age 4 starts  
at 10:15 a.m.

Deacons can help direct you to our nursery room.

Children ages kindergarten and up are  
encouraged to start worship with their parents  
at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Those who wish  
may depart for Children's Chapel and Choir with  
Jenny at about 10:45 a.m.

Registration not required but helpful for us to  
best know and love your child.

[Email Alexander with any questions](#)

[Click here to register for Children's Chapel](#)

## TREATS FOR THE TROOPS

TOO MUCH HALLOWEEN CANDY?  
A GREAT WAY AS A FAMILY TO SHARE THE  
LOVE IS TO COLLECT AND DONATE  
TO OUR TROOPS (CLICK LINK BELOW)



Sunday, November 5 will be a "Service Sunday" in Children's Chapel. We will be hosting "Candy for the Troops" and creating goody boxes and bags to send to Soldiers' Angels and nurses at Norwalk Hospital.

Children encouraged bring any extra candy to donate on Sunday as part of the service project.

[Click here to learn more about Soldiers'](#)

## Upcoming events for youth...

*Greenwich and  
Surrounding Areas*

# REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

OPEN TO ALL  
GRADES 6TH-12TH

### Semi-Monthly:

**Sundays @ 4 pm**  
SUNDAY SUPPER  
LOCATION CHANGES

### Special Events:

**Oct 22 @ 12 pm**  
APPLE PICKING AT MARCH  
FARM IN BETHLEHEM, CT

**Nov 12 @ 7 pm**  
FIRE PIT & SMORES AT  
2ND CONG. GREENWICH

**Nov 26 @ 5 pm**  
FRIENDSGIVING POTLUCK  
AT 1ST CONG. GREENWICH

**Dec 10 @ TBD**  
ONE-DAY MISSION PROJECT

**Dec 31 @ 12 pm**  
NEW YEARS EVE  
BRUNCH AT 2CC

**Jan 14 @ 5 pm**  
MOVIE NIGHT HOSTED AT  
A MEMBER'S HOUSE

**Jan 28 @ 5 pm**  
PAINT AND SIP AT FCCOG

*More about RYM:*

**The Regional Youth Ministry effort in lower Fairfield County strives to bring together any/all churches, community youth non-profit partners, and/or individual youth in a fun, inclusive, faith-filled group. The RYM's mission is led by youth, for youth.**

**All 6th-12th graders are WELCOME regardless of church affiliation or none. For more on RYM go to [fccog.org/regional-youth-ministry](http://fccog.org/regional-youth-ministry).**

Email Khaleigh for more information

Mark your calendars...



**In God We Trust**

**Vote  
YES  
to VBS!**

**Election Day VBS at 2CC!**

**Tuesday, November 7**

**9:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

Lunch Bunch (11:30-12:30) Available upon request


**Games, special guests, crafts, and more!**

**\$25 per child, scholarships available**

**Second Congregational Church, 139 E. Putnam Avenue in Greenwich**

**Details and Registration at [2CC.org](http://2CC.org)**

[Click here to Register for  
VBS](#)




***Please join us in the Chapel at 2CC  
for health, wellness and Tai-Chi  
with Dr. Jing Jiang***

***November 11  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.***

***All ages and stages welcome!***

***RSVPs appreciated: [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org)***

**Email Jenny for more information about Tai-Chi**



**Join the 2CC Women's Fellowship for an outing  
at the "new" Bruce Museum  
Tuesday, November 14  
10:00 a.m.**

Meet at the Cohen Education Entrance at the top of the building

*There will be a docent tour for the first 14 people who sign up.*

*The two current exhibitions are Robert Motherwell and Connecticut Modern Art (1930-1960)*

There is no cost for the Museum entrance.

Lunch can be purchased at the Museum Cafe with food by Aux Delices

To sign up contact Leah Marmon @ [LMarmon4@aol.com](mailto:LMarmon4@aol.com)  
or (203)622-6913 by Thursday, November 8

**Email Leah to save your spot!**

# Teddy Bear Story Hour



with Jenny at Coffee For Good

Saturday mornings  
at 8:00 a.m.

Roll out of bed & join us in your PJ's...

November 11

December 9

Special Guest on  
December 9: Mrs. Claus



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

# FALL YOGA

OCT 6 - NOV 17

9:15-10:00 A.M.



with Jill Ernst

\$60 for 7 weeks, or \$15 drop in fee  
Scholarships available

Child care available upon request

Contact: [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org)



Join us in the Chapel  
at 2CC!



Email Jenny for more  
information



## Christmas is coming...

**Gingerbread Workshop:** Saturday, December 2 at 9:30 a.m.

**Alexander's Piano Serenade:** Sunday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship:**

- Regular Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Family at 3:30 p.m. (outdoor pageant with live animals)
- Festival at 6:30 p.m.
- Candlelight at 11:15 p.m.

**Christmas Day:** Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Details at [2CC.org](http://2CC.org)



Everyone had a GREAT time at the  
Halloween Haunt!









Second Congregational Church | 139 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

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