



Join us for Worship Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

February 16, 2023

Dear Friends of Second Church,

This coming Sunday will be our annual "Mardi Gras Sunday" at the 10:30 Worship Service, which we particularly mark with the music of New Orleans. It is a joyful way to move into Lent, a period of particular spiritual focus that culminates in the great joy of Easter at the beginning of April.

Lent "proper" will begin *next* Wednesday, marked by an evening service at 7 p.m., including Communion and the imposition of ashes for those who wish.

In the early centuries of the church in Rome, penitent people and particularly notorious sinners began a lengthy period of public penance on Ash Wednesday, marked by wearing sackcloth, ashes, and temporary removal from the Christian community — almost a social "death" — that lasted until Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter), when they were reinstated.

It must have been so powerful to return to the fold on the night that remembered Judas' betrayal and the fragility of the bonds that connected all of the first disciples to Jesus—and the fragility of our own connection to him, too.

However, it seems that by the eighth century, Lent was no longer seen as a call-out (or a call back) for specific individuals, but rather a more general call for Christians to reflect and prepare for Easter, particularly with mortality and immortality in mind.

So it remains today.

I don't think the Church finds enough ways to talk about mortality, which is particularly unfortunate, since it was a central concern of some of the deepest Christian thinkers for about 1800 years, and the Church's resources on the topic are vast and often beautiful.

However, I'd be sad if that were all that Ash Wednesday seemed to be about.

I've always felt it had a broader message to share—that the love of God is with us even in the dark and confusing moments of our lives.

So often, it is only when things seem to fall apart that the grace for a new beginning begins to break through.

God holds us particularly close at such moments, as what abandons us is not him or his care, but some of our fondest illusions. And yet he knows how hard that can be. He does not want the pain for us, knowing how hard it is for any of us to see beyond their pain, and wanting none of its accompanying loneliness for anyone.

So Ash Wednesday names that even in the ashes, there is the sign of his enduring presence — and always the promise of renewal, new hope, and new life for us as we seek and find him.

With that in mind, I hope you will join us next week for this powerful affirmation of God's renewal, and that Lent will offer a chance to reflect on where God might be waiting for you even now.

See you in church,

Max

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

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

Please join us for our "Mardi Gras" themed-service this Sunday, when we'll be featuring Dixieland instrumentalists and Julie Foldesi during our service. Join us for all the fun with Alexander's Ragtime Band!

Hymns for this Sunday...

Join us in the singing of our hymns this Sunday which can be found by [clicking here](#).

Hymns for this Sunday

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

When The Saints Go Marching In

Chancel Choir Schedule

Sunday, February 19
11:45-12:30 (Brush Hall)

Sunday, February 26
10:30 Service (9:45 Call)

Elementary & Youth Choir each Wednesday

Elementary Choir
(Ages K-4)
4:15-5:00 p.m.

Youth Choir
(Grade 5 & Up)
6:00-6:45 p.m.

Email Alexander

Brush Hall

Email Heidi

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 Ms. Jenny at about 10:45 a.m.

We are fully in person and operational.
Registration not required but helpful for us to best know and love your child.



Registration not required but helpful for us to best know and love your child.
[Click here](#) to register for Children's Chapel this Sunday



Photographs by ChiChi Ubiña

This Sunday in Children's Chapel our First Selectman, Fred Camillo, as a guest reader with his beloved pets, Teddy and Reagan, in honor of Presidents Day.

We will have a special story and prayers for all of our leaders in honor of Presidents Day. Presidents Day was originally intended to celebrate George Washington's birthday, our first president, but as Christians, we can also use Presidents Day to remind us to pray for the current President and leaders.

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and

holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."
Timothy 2:1-4

Mark your calendars...

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 21
5:30-7:00 P.M.

FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND
A PANCAKE FEAST!



TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION [ZCC.ORG](https://www.zcc.org)



Ash Wednesday

February 22
7:00 p.m.

Last year we had a great time at the Pancake Supper (see photos below). Be sure to sign up ASAP so you don't miss all the fun!

Please RSVP to Jenny@zcc.org by Monday, February 20

Potluck Sign up for Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Supper:
<https://mealtrain.com/nl2156>





2CC OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



GEORGE ITALIAN SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE



2 SOUTH WATER STREET

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
12:00 P.M.

RSVP to Leah Marmon by February 20
LMarmon4@aol.com

Cost for a delicious 3 course priced-fixed luncheon that includes choices of starters, entrees, and dessert is \$24.95.

Cash bar.

Please make your check for \$24.95 to Women's Fellowship (and write: "luncheon" in the memo area) or bring cash to the luncheon.

Please RSVP to Leah Marmon by Monday, February 20 at lmarmom4@aol.com or (203) 622-6913 (you must RSVP in advance to Leah).

George Italian Seafood & Steakhouse is located at 2 South Water Street in the

Greenwich/Byram (formerly Char) and is a large gray building (just before crossing the bridge over the Byram River).

There is a large parking lot to the left of the building so pull into the lot on the left and park.

Entrance for the restaurant is in the parking lot. Phone number for the restaurant is (203) 531-7050

YOGA CLASS WITH HELENA SVEDIN



February 24- March 24
Friday Mornings
9:15 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
139 E. PUTNAM AVENUE IN GREENWICH

*As we gather together,
we will create a
meaningful time for
mindfulness with slow,
flow, yoga, with
Helena Svedin,
certified positive
psychology coach and
yoga teacher.*

Email Jenny@2cc.org
for more information

SUGGESTED
DONATION
\$10 PER
CLASS



Email Jenny for more
information



ISLANDERS VS THUNDERBIRDS



SUNDAY MAR. 5

PUCK DROP 3:00 PM
TOTAL MORTGAGE ARENA

The Islanders Welcome First and Second
Congregational Church of Greenwich!



Get your discounted tickets
using this QR code!



Questions? Contact Jack.Cocchia or 203.345.4829

Reserved seating together for 2cc families at discounted rate!

[Click here to order your tickets!](#)

Coffee and Connection Speaker Series Continues with Kate Noonan...

Saturday mornings:
March 11, April 1 & May 6
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Please join us for coffee, conversation, care and connection. During our time together we will learn centering techniques, meditate, be inspired by scripture and leave behind what doesn't serve our higher selves.

Hosted by 2CC Community Life & all are welcome!

Childcare can be made available upon request.
Please RSVP to Jenny@2cc.org to reserve your spot.



Kate melds together Christian beliefs, ideas and understanding with her Hospital Chaplaincy experience to all those engaged where they are in their faith journey. Kate weaves the principles of Reiki and Esoteric Energy work into her retreats and private spiritual life coaching. Kate is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and has over a dozen years of pastoral experience both in Greenwich and in New York City.

**Thank you to everyone that supported the
Haitian Art Sale last weekend!**

Children's Chapel enjoyed their tour of the Haitian Art Sale and learned a lot about the culture and different mediums used to make the displayed art.



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

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