



February 7, 2024

This week's letter is from Jenny Byxbee, Minister of Care and Connection

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Even for a community as philanthropic as Greenwich, seeking and finding humility and hospitality can be hard to come by in our competitive, selfie-taking culture.

It feels like yesterday we were in the thick of the pandemic, where you could easily witness a dash to the toilet paper aisle to see someone get their hands on the last roll. Or just yesterday, I found it hard to find any hospitality in the Whole Foods parking lot. I, too, am guilty of lacking humility and being the first to jump up in the stands when one of my daughters scores a goal and I have a proud mom moment on Facebook.

In most recent years, during the season of Lent, I have challenged myself to explore what I may take for granted about God's love for me. Where I push myself is to seek where God's love has been present beyond my basic needs: food, clothes, and yes, toiletries. But where I challenge myself is to seek hospitality and where God's love is ever present in my life, with friends, family, church, and with strangers and strive to pay that forward. (My husband thinks this just gets me off the hook for giving up coffee or chocolate...).

In the Old Testament, we are commanded by God: "When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. *Love him as yourself*, for you were aliens in Egypt" ([Leviticus 19:33-34](#)). In the Bible, "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers."

What has called me most to Jesus's ministry is his acts of love. As he went town to town with the disciples, washing feet, healing, breaking bread, baptizing, these actions of love show me a ministry of hospitality in action. However, what is truly intriguing to me, is that Jesus was also a good receiver. He and his disciples relied on the hospitality of others for his public ministry to unfold ([Matthew 10:9-10](#)). He practiced what he preached.

As we prepare for the season of Lent, I challenge us all to look for ways to help our children, and all of us as children of God, to find meaning and love during the weeks leading up to Easter.

Giving something up, such as sweets or television, may be a great exercise in self-discipline, and in many ways can bring us closer to knowing God's love for us.

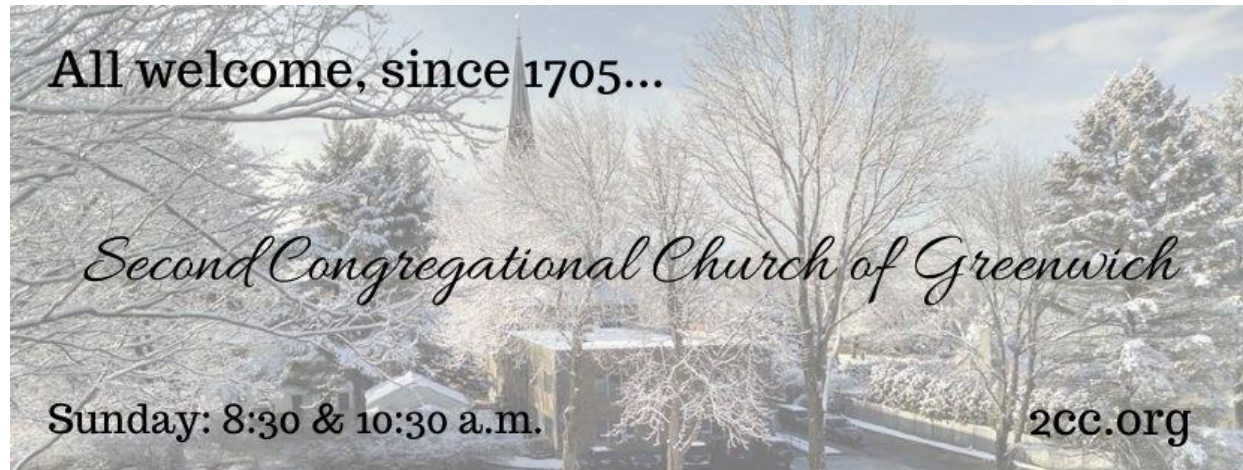
However, I challenge all of us in our Lenten journeys to look at how we can be more hospitable and love a neighbor or a stranger a little more than we did yesterday.

These don't have to be epic feats of generosity, donations, or mission work. It simply can be sitting with a new friend at the pancake breakfast, helping a parent out of their car with a little one as they head into church, or sometimes it is as simple as just showing up and being present.

I hope to see you over pancakes on Sunday, the Women's Fellowship lunch on Tuesday, our evening service on Ash Wednesday, or even for the children as they try foot washing on Good Friday.

Your presence is not just "welcome." It's an expression of the Kingdom. Come and see!

Jenny



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.

Chancel Choir Resumes

Sunday, February 11

Following 10:30 a.m. service

Brief meeting before

Pancake Breakfast

Please meet in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 18

Following 10:30 a.m. service

Please meet in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 25

Sing at the 10:30 a.m. service

9:45 a.m. Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

[Email Alexander](#)

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.

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

Mark your calendars...



Join us for...

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

In preparation for Lenten season, please join us for a pancake
Mardi Gras party following worship in Fletcher Hall.
Music, Fellowship, and Pancakes with all the fixin's!

All are welcome, rsvps appreciated:
Jenny @ 2cc.org

**RSVP for Mardi Gras
Sunday**

Welcoming Hearts

Creating Stronger Communities Through Hospitality and Connection

Tuesday, February 13

11:00 a.m.

Lunch immediately following (Cost \$20)

2CC Women's Fellowship invites you to our February Gathering featuring Guest Speaker, Jenny Byxbee, 2CC Minister of Care and Connection, and adjunct chaplain at Norwalk Hospital.

Together we are going to explore the importance of hospitality and community. How we can be welcomed, seen, loved and how that manifests in our own lives and community.

RSVP to: Pam@2cc.org

RSVP to Pam for February 13 Event

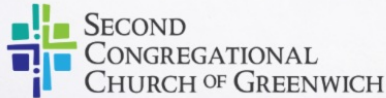
Ash Wednesday

February 14

Ashes to Go from 8:00–9:00 a.m.

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Communion will be offered during worship



Mindful Monday Winter Yoga with Jill Ernst



Second Congregational Church
BYOM (Bring Your Own Mat)

Monday mornings:
January 8 - February 12
9:15 a.m.

6 weeks for \$60 or drop in fee of \$20 per class
Scholarships available and childcare upon request

Email Jenny@2cc.org for more information



*Winter Yoga Session II will begin on
February 26
Details to follow...*

**Email Jenny for more
information**



Roll out of bed and join us in your PJs for

**TEDDY BEAR STORY HOUR
WITH JENNY**

— at —


COFFEE FOR GOOD



Saturdays from 8 to 9am

Jan 27, Feb 24 & March 30, 2024

48 Maple Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830



**Coffee & Connection
Continues...**

**Saturday, Feb 24
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

*Second Congregational Church of Greenwich
Event will be held in the conference room above The Preschool.
Greeters will be available to show the way!*

Women of all ages and stages please join
Chaplains Kate Noonan and Jenny Byxbee
for a morning of TLC, centering
techniques, and thoughtful conversation
inspired by scripture and rooted in love.

For more information or to rsvp:
Jenny@2cc.org.

Childcare available upon advanced request.

**Email Jenny to RSVP for Coffee &
Connection**

***We had a great turnout & lots of fun last year at our Mardi
Gras Pancake Fete, be sure to join us again this Sunday!***





Around Town...



Help save lives. Give blood.



Blood Drive

**Friday, February 16, 2024
8:00 am – 4:15 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church
1 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT**

Give Like Someone's Life Depends On It

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Use Code FPCG
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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

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