



January 3, 2024

Dear Friends of Second Church,

I don't care what the ball in Times Square says.

For me, the new year doesn't officially begin until I finally run out of fruitcake.

Or maybe it's when there isn't any more cheese.

It's one of those two events.

We go through the egg nog early in our house — it's one of the first signs of the season, when everyone is humming "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas," and every SUV you pass seems to have a tree tied to the roof. Liz shows up with egg nog, and everyone else each gets their thimble of it to enjoy while I get the funnel from the basement to prepare my draught.

Much as we enjoy it, though, we usually only get it once—quickly and resolutely marching on to the other stuff on the grand list of Seasonal Delights.

That's us in December, and it's not so much a calendar thing as a state of mind that comes for a season, offering one good thing after another.

And so it continues, until the morning when you decide to sneak a piece of fruitcake for breakfast, only to discover that there's only just a bit left...and you realize that, come to think of it, the house seems both unusually quiet and oddly reconstituted: someone has placed the throw pillows back on the couch...the dining room smells vaguely of Pledge...nobody seems to be sneak-charging some device of theirs in what everyone knows is **your** charger.

For a moment as you wander around downstairs, you wonder if perhaps it was the Rapture. And then suddenly it dawns on you: ***It's 2024. Everyone else is at school.***

The Season of Delights has ended.

We are back to our regular programming.

Don't get me wrong: I am mostly enthusiastic about the regular programming.

New Years are always full of hope and purpose, with all their visions of arrivals yet to come after journeys yet to be undertaken. How all that will fit (or not) into the lives we've built for ourselves—that regular programming—is a question for another day. Today it is enough just to get started.

I love that, too.

But it's hard to close the parenthesis of Christmas, just the same. To put the ornaments back in the box and get all the trimmings back down to the basement.

Each year, it teaches us all over again to enjoy the good things of life, most especially one another, and to find joy, peace, and an anchor for ourselves in learning to give and receive.

It lets us tell the story of God's great love for us in ways the heart seems to recognize instantly.

I have to believe that our regular programming will be all the better for it. I know mine always is.

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.

[Click here to learn more about our 2024 Stewardship Campaign](#)

### 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.



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

Click here to register for Children's  
Chapel

Email Jenny for more  
information

Mark your calendars...

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



**SCHOOL IS OUT BUT  
VBS IS ON...**



***“Love is the  
only way”***

***Vacation Bible School***

**MLK- VBS**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15**

**9:00 - 11:30 A.M.**

**SPECIAL WOODCARVING WORKSHOP,  
GAMES, SNACKS AND SPECIAL GUESTS!**

**\$25 PER CHILD  
(SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)**

**EARLY DROP OFF AND  
LUNCH BUNCH AVAILABLE  
UPON REQUEST**

**DETAILS & REGISTRATION AT [2CC.ORG](http://2CC.ORG)**

**Register for VBS!**

# Coffee and Connection Speaker Series resumes in 2024...

**Saturday, January 27**  
**10:00-11:00 a.m.**

*Join chaplains Kate Noonan and Jenny Byxbee for women of all ages and stages to connect and for some self care. During our time together we will learn centering techniques, meditate, be inspired by scripture and leave behind what doesn't serve our higher selves*

**Childcare can be made available upon request.  
Please RSVP to [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org) to reserve your spot.**

**Email Jenny for more  
information**

**Thank you to everyone for a wonderful  
Christmas Eve!**





Visit our Website to see more photos from the Pageant!

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

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