



## Worship with us on Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

January 9, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

A belated Happy New Year if we haven't crossed paths with you yet, or if you, wisely, have decamped to warmer climes as the wind and ice descend upon Greenwich.

We certainly hope to see you at church, but if the weather outside makes discretion the better part of valor on any given Sunday, please remember that our 10:30 service streams on YouTube.

While most of us would agree that it isn't entirely "the same," it's still wonderful, and your church staff would rather know that you're safe than worry about you braving the elements without regard for "conditions."

As you might imagine, the topic of worship "in person" vs. "online" has been robust in the churches since the first re-openings after COVID.

For us, it's been a clear blessing to remain connected with members and friends all across the country. It's also been a way of including those only across town but nevertheless challenged to get to us.

Other churches went in another direction, deciding to shut their cameras down more or less permanently.

There were many reasons for this—concern for privacy, or alternatively, that the presence of technology might seem invasive to those who were there; a sense that watching from home wasn't the same as *truly* participating; and finally, worry that people would decide watching from home in their p.j.s was a better option all around, particularly because it relieved them of the responsibility to give during the offering.

But as an occasional watcher myself, those are not much on my mind, although I admit that participating on the couch under a blanket is not a bad way to seek the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Singing from there doesn't faze me in the slightest. If I know it, I'll belt it out with gusto.

What I miss are the things that the camera can't capture.

Don't get me wrong—they capture so many, and I'm grateful that they do so well.

But they don't give us the quiet ballet of the deacons getting up as a sermon winds down, slipping toward the back to get the collection plates.

You might see a small person doing a solo on camera, but you probably can't see their parents giving them a thumbs up, or breathing a subtle sigh of relief with each other when it goes well.

Sometimes during a sermon, there is something in the congregation's quiet that shifts and deepens. Abruptly, the silence in the room sounds different.

Sometimes during joys and concerns, you see someone trying to find the courage to raise their hand, and you can also see (or sense) that everyone in their pew is trying to encourage them—to send them the necessary confidence, or signal the kind curiosity of wanting to hear them, joy or concern.

Sometimes, the life that needs such faith becomes startlingly real to us in the room.

Sometimes the faith does, too.

With that in mind, any description of what “happens” at church that doesn't include moments such as those is way too thin, at least to me.

Our cameras try to convey as much of it as they can, but they don't quite catch us in the many small and lovely acts of being God's people, and certainly not in all their fullness.

Only our togetherness can do that.

So as we enter a season of uncertain weather and all too certain cold and flu, please take good care. Please participate from wherever you are in all the ways you can.

And may the love of God that holds us together bless you and all of us today and in the days to come.

See you next week,



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.

**Celebration of Life**



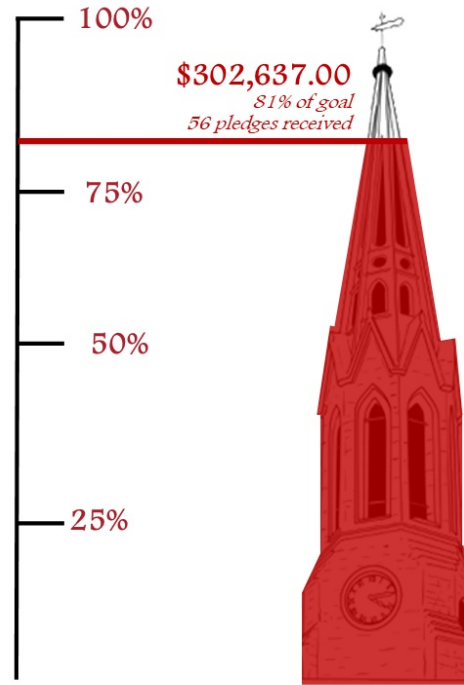
A Celebration of Life for Gerry Mayfield will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, January 18 at 11:00 a.m., with a reception to follow at Greenwich Country Club. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## 2025 Stewardship Campaign Update...

*“As each received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10*

As of January 1, 2025, we have received fifty-six (56) pledges totaling \$302,637.00 which is 81% of our \$373,646.00 goal. Thank you to all who have made their pledge for 2025. We look forward to receiving the remaining pledges to help us reach our goal.

*Bob Willett, Chair*



[Click here for more information about Stewardship](#)



**Sunday of Service**  
**January 19, 2025**  
**11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



*2CC is partnering with Church World Service to assemble hygiene packs.*

**Please join us to help assemble hygiene packs to be distributed by Church World Service.**

*When disaster strikes, the CWS hygiene kits help individuals meet their basic needs as they begin to rebuild their lives.*

For more information please contact: 2CC Outreach Chair, Mark Dewing-Hommes at [dewingho@gmail.com](mailto:dewingho@gmail.com)

**All ages are welcome!**



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

**Email for more information about Sunday of Service**

## Mark your calendars...

### Women's Fellowship invites you for a book discussion of the historical novel, The Winthrop Woman, by Anya Seton

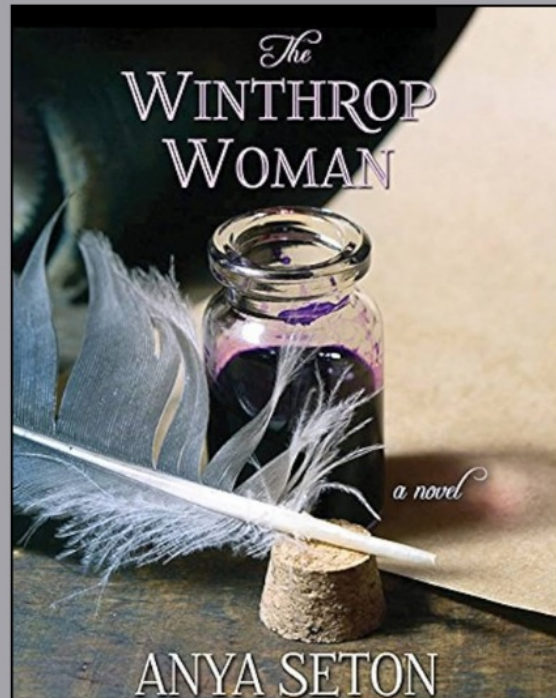
*Continuing our theme this year of the history of Greenwich, this novel is written by a Greenwich resident about one of the first English settlers in Greenwich. The book is available from Amazon or the Greenwich Public Library.*

Tuesday, January 14

11:00 a.m.

Join us for the discussion, lead by  
Dr. Maxwell Grant, followed by lunch  
in Fletcher Hall  
*(Please join us even if you haven't read the book.)*

RSVP to Gloria in the Church Office  
Cost \$20



RSVP for Book Discussion & Lunch



It's okay to take a break...

# WINTER YOGA

January 10-February 14  
Friday Mornings  
9:00-10:00 a.m.

\$20 per week  
drop ins welcome  
Nursery care and scholarships  
available upon request

Caring and certified instructors each week can modify for beginner to advanced

Nursery care and scholarships available upon request

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



God's Love is...

Out of this World!

Join us for a Vacation Bible School &  
learn all about God's love.  
We will have a slime lab too!

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

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

**SCHOOL IS OUT BUT VBS IS ON!**

**AGES 4-12 \$25 PER CHILD**

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Breakfast buddies and lunch bunch available

**DETAILS AT: 2CC.ORG**

[Click here to Register for VBS on January 20](#)

[Click here for VBS Payment](#)

We had a wonderful Christmas week...



A special thank you to all who came to the Ladies Cookie Swap & especially to our host, Paula!



[Click here to see the Greenwich Time Article from Christmas Eve](#)



Santa made a visit at Teddy Bear Story Hour (a special thank you Reimer family)

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### Christmas week was busy for the 2CC Pacific House team...

Our Sunday cooks—Barbara Swartz, Annette Grieco, Judy Weeks-Padgett, Paula

Saunders & Lisa Wilson prepared 2CC's "Signature Dish" in record time and left the kitchen spotless. On Monday, the team of Alexandra Ng, Gordon Ng, Judy Weeks-Padgett, Taiga Dorrian & Chris Starr made the vegetables, buttered the rolls and loaded the van. Expert van driver, Chris Starr, brought us to and from the shelter safely. Gail Covney & Kathleen Perry used their baking skills and provided dessert.

It was a cold night so many of the clients came in for the 6:00 p.m. meal—it was standing room only and everyone was served efficiently. Although new to the PH serving team, Judy Weeks-Padgett was a whiz on the serving floor—handling four dishes at a time (she said she used to handle eight). She was so efficient that one of the clients asked if he was supposed to tip her!

It was another successful meal appreciated by the Pacific House clients, who wished us well with smiles and gratitude.

May they remain warm and safe during this holiday season and beyond.



Monday's serving team at Pacific House



Our prep team on Monday



Pacific House staff member, Lenny

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