







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 gratitudinally-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,





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.





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



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.

Upcoming events for youth...

Greenwich and Surrounding Areas

REGIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

OPEN TO ALL
GRADES 6TH-12TH

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/regionalyouth-ministry.

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

Email Khaleigh for more information

Mark your calendars...



In God We Trust

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

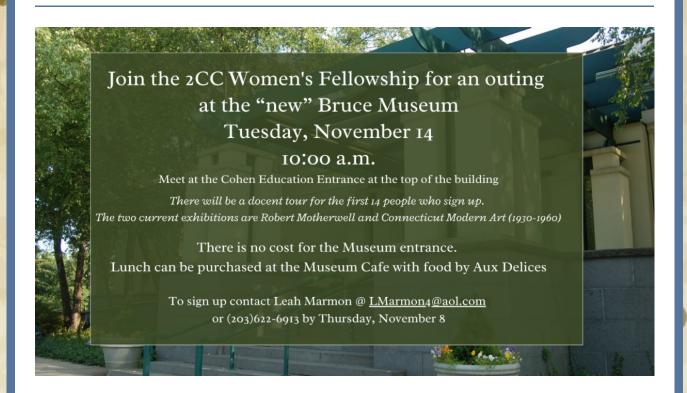
Second Congregational Church, 139 E. Putnam Avenue in Greenwich

Details and Registration at 2CC.org

Click here to Register for VBS



Email Jenny for more information about Tai-Chi



Email Leah to save your spot!







at 2CC!



Email Jenny for more information



Everyone had a GREAT time at the Halloween Haunt!

Details at 2CC.org

















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

Unsubscribe laurie@2cc.org

<u>Update Profile</u> |Constant Contact Data <u>Notice</u>

Sent bylaurie@2cc.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!