



November 29, 2023

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Thanks to Georgia Harding, Suzy Starr, Bob Willett and his merry crew, the church is decked out for Christmas, and it looks terrific.

As you are turning your thoughts toward Christmas, we have two events this weekend that you should have on your radar.

First, our Gingerbread House Workshop on Saturday morning (see below).

One of the ways I mark the steady march of Greenwich's children toward adulthood is in the development of their gingerbread house-making.

Like it was yesterday, I remember going to the Gingerbread House Workshop and seeing one of the Buckey girls doing intricate lattice work with icing sugar on a roof, while in the "yard" of her house, two figures made of jujubes were having a snowball fight with mini marshmallows. A flagstone path made of bullseyes with sno-cap edging on both sides led out to a mailbox made of Twizzlers.

It was magic. I would have paid cash for that house.

Meanwhile, one table over, a visiting mom was pretty sure that her son, with his chocolatey hands and his hair covered in icing sugar, had just swallowed a toothpick.

(Ever-resourceful, as well as quick with her iPhone's "flashlight" feature, Jessica Stanciu challenged the boy to sing "Fa La La La LAAAA" as loud as he could, and thus determined that his airway was not compromised. For this, I understand she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.)

(Gloria says to tell people that's not what you do about a toothpick. She also says to admit that I made that part up.)

Of course, all of this is a long way of saying that, if you are seeking a solid dose of kid energy to get your Christmas spirit moving, the Gingerbread House Workshop is not-to-be-missed.

***(However, please note that if you are going to decorate a house, you need to reserve it in advance with Jenny. That said, wandering in and helping yourself to candy needs no reservation.)***

If that seems a little more boisterous than you're looking for, Alexander's annual Piano Serenade will offer something decidedly more meditative on Sunday evening in the Sanctuary.

Since we started putting church services and select other gatherings on YouTube, the Serenade has been the single most watched video we produce each year.

It is joyous and thoughtful without the oppressively “jolly” vibe we find in so much of the season’s music — and it’s just right for sitting quietly and looking at the Christmas trees in the Sanctuary, welcoming the arrival of this holy and memory-filled time.

I commend both events to you enthusiastically.

Please also remember that in the four Sundays before Christmas, we will also begin each service with a time for lighting candles to recognize and remember those who are on your mind and heart these days.

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.

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign is underway!  
Check out these informative videos from Max, Jenny and Alexander...





[Click here to donate to our 2024 Stewardship Campaign](#)

### **Chancel Choir Fall Schedule**

Rehearsals at 11:45 a.m.  
in the Chapel:  
December 10 & 17

Chancel Choir in Worship  
December 24

No previous experience is  
necessary.

Attend rehearsals/services when  
you are in town and able to join us.  
All you need is a love for singing!  
The choir is open to those who are  
high school age and older.

[Email Alexander with  
any questions](#)

### **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](#)

[Check out upcoming events for Youth on our website](#)

[Email Khaleigh for more  
information](#)

**Christmas is coming...**



Our annual Angel Tree is up in the Sanctuary and the Congregation is asked to help give families in need in our community a special holiday. Please stop by after the service and consider being a 2CC Angel. Monetary donations will be used to purchase Gift Cards for food and children's presents. Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. If you prefer to donate online, Click the link below for our Virtual Angel Tree. Contact Georgia Harding 203-940-1010 or Dorothy Mayfield at 203-629-9424 if you have any questions.

[Click here to donate to the Angel Tree online](#)

***Time is running out... reserve your Gingerbread House by December 1!***



**Decorate a Gingerbread House at 2CC!**  
**Saturday, December 2**  
**9:30-11:00 a.m.**  
Registration required  
\$35 per house  
Limited spaces available  
**2CC.org**  
Email [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org) for more information  
Children under age 12 need to be accompanied by an adult

[Click here to reserve a Gingerbread](#)



House

[Click here to pay for your Gingerbread House](#)



*Christmas Piano Serenade*

*Alexander Constantine, pianist  
featuring Jeff Pearson and Nicco Mazziotto*

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Second Congregational Church  
139 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

[Click here to watch the Piano Serenade on YouTube](#)

## **TEDDY BEAR STORY HOUR**

WITH JENNY AT COFFEE FOR GOOD

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**AT 8:00 A.M.**

ROLL OUT OF BED & JOIN US IN YOUR PJ'S...

SPECIAL GUEST ON

**DECEMBER 9: MRS. CLAUS**

EMAIL: [JENNY@2CC.ORG](mailto:JENNY@2CC.ORG) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION



EVENT IS FREE! DONATIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE FOR TEENS AT YALE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WILL BE JOYFULLY ACCEPTED BY MRS. CLAUS!

[Email Jenny for more](#)



## Moms Group Coffee for a Cause

Saturday, December 9 at Coffee for Good  
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Join Norwalk Hospital Chaplain,  
Jenny Byxbee, and guest speaker  
Mairead Finn with Yale Children's  
Hospital

Treats for Teens, any new unwrapped  
gifts for teens at Yale will be  
joyfully accepted!



Any questions please email: [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org)

Email Jenny for more  
information



## Christmas Eve at 2cc...

### Christmas Eve Worship:

- Regular Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Family at 3:30 p.m.  
(outdoor pageant with live animals)
- Festival at 6:30 p.m.
- Candlelight at 11:15 p.m.

Christmas Day: Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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



Great things happened Thanksgiving  
week at 2CC...





Thank you to all the helping hands that decorated placemats for the Thanksgiving deliveries!



The chefs were busy in the kitchen preparing Thanksgiving feasts for the homebound - thank you!







## More fun in Children's Chapel...







## An Invitation from the Red Cross...

Please see below to participate in the upcoming ***Greenwich Battle of the Badges!*** This year is very special since we are honoring Chief Jim Heavey donating his **100<sup>th</sup> pint of blood** and dedicating **50 years** of volunteer service to the Red Cross! Truly amazing!! (Thank you, Chief! You're a rock star!)

Please see the attached flyer and mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** to give blood at this momentous event. Even if you're not able to donate blood that day, we would love to see all of you there to show your support. This is truly an event you won't want to miss!

There will also be a Greenwich Battle of the Badges Wrap Around where people can sign up to donate blood in honor of Chief Heavey if they're not able to attend or give blood on that day. Please see the link below.

### [Donate Blood with ARC | Red Cross Blood Services](#)

We all know the importance of donating one pint of blood which can save up to three lives! With both of these drives taking place in honor of Chief Heavey, I also hope that you will share the attached flyers, and the above link with your friends, family, and colleagues. We would love to reach 100 pints of blood donations between the two drives! So please spread the word!

What a great way to honor Chief Heavey by helping to save lives!



Donate Blood  
In Honor of  
Chief James Heavey's 100<sup>th</sup>  
Blood Donation & years of  
dedicated service to the  
American Red Cross



## Greenwich Police, Fire and EMS First Responders

Held in the Garage  
11 Bruce Place  
Greenwich, CT 06830

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**  
**8:00 am to 1:45 pm**

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org)  
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).  
Use Sponsor Code: **GREENPOLICE**



**American Red Cross**

[redcrossblood.org](https://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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