



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

February 27, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Many thanks to Jenny Byxbee and Barbara Zappavigna for leading our 10:30 Worship Service last Sunday, which they did in fine form and with particularly short notice.

After several more days on the sidelines, I am looking forward to being in the pulpit this Sunday, but on Sunday, March 9th, the church will welcome back Rev. Rebecca Spencer, Pastor Emerita of Central Congregational Church in Providence, RI, as our preacher.

I hope you'll also keep in mind our Ash Wednesday service, which we will hold in the Chapel at 7 pm next Wednesday evening. It's well worth it.

If you grew up as a Congregationalist, you may not have much of a relationship to Ash Wednesday, or to Lent, in general. Neither of them were part of our religious calendar (which, you may remember also excluded the formal celebration of Christmas for many years).

That calendar had been revised in the 16th century with an eye toward clearing out the church from any lingering "corruption" that might have crept in since the earliest days. This ongoing process of purifying what the church had become was how "the Puritans" got their name (though the name was not always said with love).

As was true of Christmas, their issue with Lent probably had more to do with the drunken, riotous free-for-all that started the season than it did with the season itself.

It is also worth noting that the Puritans held to the importance of public fasting and prayer in times of trouble — particularly since calls to such practices were easily found in Scripture, as were accounts of what happened when God's people failed to listen to those calls.

The particular disciplines of Lent would have sounded entirely sensible to them, too, offering a clear enough picture of how a faithful person should strive to live all year round, as they saw it.

For many Christians today, Ash Wednesday can seem much too somber: who

needs to come out for a special service just to be reminded of all their sins and shortcomings?

Whatever reservations they may have held about Ash Wednesday as a holiday, the Puritans would have welcomed such a reminder, in general, and might even have seen God's hand in its timing.

With all this in mind, maybe it's time for Congregationalists to take another look.

And if the call to personal scrutiny still seems off, maybe we might find renewed purpose and fresh insight in Ash Wednesday's public dimension. Our Puritan forebears had no qualms about praying for God's help in building a more faithful, compassionate, and secure life together — without God, they would not thought such a life possible.

They were right.

In John Bunyan's 1678 allegory, *Pilgrim's Progress*, the main character, Christian, is told to follow the straight and narrow path no matter what. Yet on his way to the Celestial City, he is temporarily led astray by Mr. Worldly Wiseman, who comes from the city of Carnal Policy, and is, of course, utterly reasonable until he suddenly isn't. (If you like the book, it's because you discover an appreciation for this sort of thing.)

The point is clear: worldly wisdom by itself is no way to love the world, but is at best an expression of carnal policy, providing anything from temporary distraction to outright destruction. The straight and narrow path is the only way.

The service for Ash Wednesday comes out of the same fundamental idea.

Its central hope is that the ashes of what cannot endure will remind us of the life of One who can, and of the Gospel's promise that in Him, all will find renewal—self, family, neighborhood, and nation.

It offers a lot to think about and pray for.

I hope you'll join us.

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.



Bluegrass Sunday

On Sunday we will be joined by a Dixieland quartet as the sounds of New Orleans are added to our 10:30 worship service. Please plan on joining us for this lively, toe-tapping and uplifting music! See y'all this Sunday!



Ashes to go!

Wednesday, March 5
7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Outside the main office of 2CC.

Children's Chapel at 2CC

Infant and toddler nursery care is open 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m., and little ones are also welcome with their parents in the sanctuary. Families are encouraged to join in the worship experience as makes sense for each individual child. Deacons can help direct you to our nursery room.

Children ages kindergarten to 5th grade 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 with Jenny at about 10:45 a.m. For more information, please contact Jenny@2cc.org. Registration not required but helpful for us to best know and love your child.

[Register for Children's Chapel](#)

Mark your calendars...



Teddy Bear Story Hour

ROLL OUT OF BED AND JOIN US IN YOUR PJ'S

SATURDAYS FROM 8:00 - 9:00 A.M.

MARCH 1, APRIL 5 & MAY 3



Coffee for Good - 48 Maple Avenue, Greenwich, CT



Shrove Sunday March 2 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join us in Fletcher Hall after worship
for flapjacks in the spirit of preparing for
the Lenten weeks ahead.

Hosted by our Community Life Committee.

Potluck signup below...



Signup to bring something to Shrove Sunday!



2CC Women's
Fellowship
Invites you for
The Great Estates of
Greenwich

Tuesday, March 11
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fletcher Hall

Lecture by Davide Strackbein
from The Greenwich Historical
Society who will be speaking
about the
Great Estates of Greenwich

Lunch Immediately Following
\$20 per person
RSVP: Pam@2cc.org

RSVP to Pam for event on March 11

Erin go bragh

Sunday, March 23

11:45 a.m.



Join us for a St. Patrick's Day Parade kick-off
in the Chapel with Dancers from
Lynne Academy.

Town of Greenwich St. Patrick's Day parade to
follow for any families would like to
walk over together.

Winter-Spring Yoga

Friday mornings until April 18

Cost is \$20/week (drop-ins welcome).

Nursery care & scholarships available upon request.

Caring & certified instructors each week can modify for
beginner to advanced.

Email Jenny for more information about Yoga
classes

Last weekend at 2CC...

*A big thank you to our Senior Deacons Lauren Fee and Natalie Butcher for
leading our new deacons in orientation and training.*

Welcome aboard all our new deacons!

We are grateful for your leadership, service, and love.



Thank you to all that attended our Moms' Group gathering on Saturday morning!



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

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