



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

February 5, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

This week, I gave some thought to switching up our regular Prayer of Confession for another I found in Desmond Tutu's *African Prayer Book* (1995), but ultimately, decided not to.

The prayer begins with words that are not hard to admit, much less say out loud: "Lord, we confess our day-to-day failure to be human...that we often fail to love with all we have and are, often because we do not understand what loving means, often because we are afraid of risking ourselves."

True enough.

But it drills down at that point, and like a drill, it is indeed pointed, going on to address barriers of division we erect between ourselves and others, walls of prejudice, selfishness and lack of sympathy.

Those words surely apply to all of us (and are clearly intended to do so in the prayer), but I found myself worrying that some might bristle, thinking I was pointing fingers, throwing shade, or stirring the pot—and that in doing so, I'd be exhibiting the very behaviors that the prayer is seeking God's help to overcome (in me as much as anyone).

So with regret, I decided not to do that this Sunday, although in a way, I guess I am confessing it to you now.

I'm sorry to deprive us all of a strong, compelling prayer. I'm sorry that one another's intentions can be so murky.

Especially, though, I'm sorry to think that any of us might deliberately choose to keep our confessions just that much more bland and safe.

I'm sure we know that opening ourselves up to God in all our complexity, confusion, worry, self-justification, and downright unworthiness is not meant to diminish us, but to help us find forgiveness and strength—the new person we are finally able to become in Christ, as the Apostle Paul would say.

Confession, we're told, is good for the soul.

Yet if that's true, then broad confessions that declare a kind of generic imperfection may not be **wrong**, but they're also not **right** in any meaningful way. This is important to remember.

Nobody wants to be told they're a sinner or to be made to say so by words printed in a bulletin (or their author). I get that. Neither do I.

Still, our faith is quite clear that each of us has to drill down sometime, and risk opening up our own dark corners to the light of God.

That's not the work of a single prayer or a particular Sunday service, but it is the work of faith.

It's also how God fulfills the promise of redemption.

Whatever we say or don't, let's never lose sight of that, or allow ourselves to settle for a lesser kind of peace.

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.

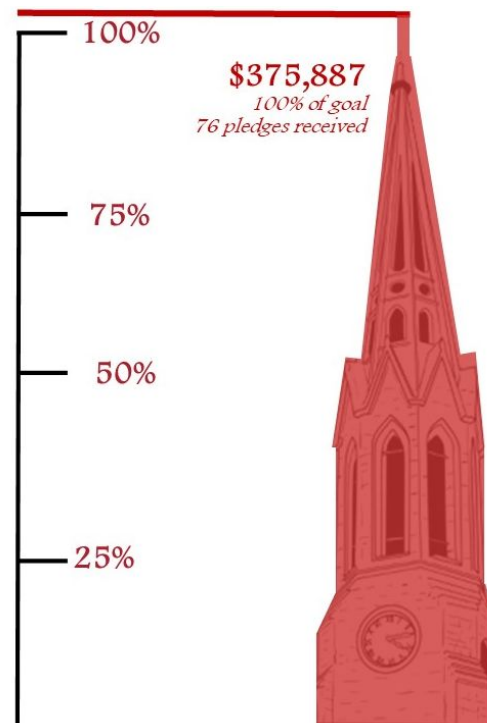
2025 Stewardship Campaign Update...

"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 February 5, 2025, we have received seventy-six (76) pledges totaling \$375,887.00 which is 100% of our \$373,646.00 goal. Thank you to all who have pledged for 2025. We are looking forward to receiving the remaining pledges to help us reach our goal.

Bob Willett, Chair

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



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 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. 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



Our children will be collecting candy or coffee gifts cards to accompany our handmade cards and crafts that will be delivered to VA services.

A little love goes a long way!

A collection bin will be left outside of the nursery room
February 2 - February 10

Email Jenny@2cc.org for more information

Mark your calendars...

**2CC Women's Fellowship
invites you for...**

**Chili & Chat
Tuesday, February 18
12:00 p.m.
Fletcher Hall**

**Enjoy a delicious bowl of chili and a
baked potato while we share our
favorite indoor entertainment for the
snowy, sedentary weeks ahead.**

**In a twist to our usual "Taste and Tell"
program, please think about a book, movie
or series you might recommend that you
think others will love as much as you did!**

Cost: \$10

RSVP: pam@2cc.org



Email Pam to RSVP for Chili & Chat



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 for more information

Mom's Group Coffee

Saturday, February 22

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Come join us in the Chapel for
some coffee, connection,
and a little "Healing Touch"

Healing Touch is a biofield therapy that
uses gentle touch to balance your physical,
emotional, and mental well-being.

Childcare available with advance RSVP.
Event is Free but donations greatly appreciated.



Please rsvp to Jenny@2cc.org by Friday, February 21

[Click here to learn more about Healing Touch](#)



2CC Out to Lunch Bunch
Tuesday, February 25
12:00 p.m.

Villa Italia Restaurant & Bar
26 Mill River Street in Stamford
(Next to the Hampton Inn)

There will be separate checks. Free parking in the lot as you pull into the circle or across the street on Mill River. Please RSVP to Leah Marmon by February 21: Lmarmon4@aol.com or (203) 622-6913

RSVP to Leah for lunch at Vita Italia

Looking ahead to March...



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!

Around Town...



Blood Drive

Friday, February 14, 2025

11:30 am – 4:15 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT

This winter, we're asking donors to create a flurry of hope for patients in need by coming to give blood

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Use Code FPCG

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



It was another busy weekend...

A great turnout for Teddy Bear Story Hour on Saturday morning...



Busy morning at Children's Chapel...



Our Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday...



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

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