



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

March 12, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

As Lent deepens and Holy Week's solemn themes approach, a quiet somberness can settle over our hearts and homes. This is felt especially during Children's Chapel, where we grapple with the stark realities of Jesus' betrayal, capture, and death, realities we naturally wish to shield our young ones from. Yet, as a parent of teenagers navigating the digital age, I am acutely aware that their exposure to life's harsh truths far surpasses my own childhood experiences. Death, no longer confined to evening news or obituary pages, has become an unavoidable presence in our daily lives through modern technology.

How, then, do we honor these raw truths without causing lasting trauma, while still instilling the hope of resurrection? It is a delicate balance between honesty and compassion, particularly with children. Thankfully, we are not alone. Abundant resources are available to guide us as we mentor our children and families through this Lenten journey.

At the heart of Jesus' teachings lies a simple, profound direction: "Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36). Compassion, the essence of our faith, drives our efforts to improve the world. The forty days of Lent offer a sacred opportunity to cultivate this compassion, to embark on a journey of spiritual and physical renewal. Imagine quiet moments of prayer, the rustle of devotional pages, or the warmth of a shared meal with loved ones, all contributing to this renewal. As Martin Luther eloquently stated, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." This reminds me of the first crocuses on the hill near 2CC, a tangible testament to renewal.

In this quiet moment, I invite you to turn inward. What practices or acts of devotion, will draw you closer to God? Lent is not solely about self-denial; it is about intentional living. While abstaining from pleasures or making sacrifices can deepen our spiritual connection, Lent can also be a time to embrace simplicity and nurture our relationship with creation. I find sitting in the sanctuary in prayer, watching light filter through the glass helps me feel God's love. Or, finding new ways to serve and connect with others, step out of your comfort zone to know, and love all of creation. Acts of service and presence can provide moments of profound connection during Lent, for me it is where I encounter God most deeply.

Jesus believed in the transformative power of change, the enduring possibility of growth. He knew God's grace was always available, inviting us to address our shortcomings and serve all our neighbors with unwavering love. It is through our actions, far more than our words, that we truly reflect the light of Christ. Imagine a neighbor witnessing your gentle patience in a difficult situation, or a friend observing your unwavering strength amidst hardship. These living examples, tangible expressions of grace and humility, speak volumes. They invite others to experience the transformative power of a relationship with God, to discover the blessing of walking alongside Him.

May this season of Lent bring your mind, body and soul the renewal you need to be God's love and hope in the world.

You are so loved.

Yours in Christ,  
*Jenny*  
Minister of Care and Connection

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

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](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org). Registration not required but helpful for us to best know and love your child.

[Register for Children's Chapel](#)

### Children's Chapel Sunday March 16!

Building our Faith brick by brick with Lego Guru, Beth Pierson, of the Byram Library is back this Sunday. All ages welcome for fun, fellowship, and Faith Formation Fun with Legos.



## Mark your calendars...



“A Hero is a Person Who Does What They Can”

Ever see the remarkable healing work that medical professionals do all over the world and think “Maybe I should have gone into medicine”?

Have you ever taken part in helping activities like a church mission trip, Habitat for Humanity build, or something else, and thought, “It’s amazing to do something so hands-on”?

If so, please join us after church on **Sunday, March 16** for a conversation with Julia Gabriele, a New Canaan resident and Associate Head of School at St Luke’s School, who has just returned from a three month stay aboard The Mercy Ship off the coast of Sierra Leone.

The Mercy Ship is a former cruise ship that has been converted into a floating hospital, serving communities with little or no access to medical care. Their volunteer surgeons and other staff treat a range of conditions, from twisted limbs, cleft palates, dangerous tumors, and much more.

Julia’s role was in the ship’s kitchen, providing three meals a day for patients, families, and volunteer, using locally available items as well as some precious canned food that was hard to get.

But even with those challenges, she describes the experience as profoundly spiritual and tremendously rewarding.

She is a terrific storyteller and an inspiring person. Please join us after church in the Chapel to hear what a powerful service opportunity can teach any of us.

*Julia Gabriele has dedicated nearly 40 years to education as a teacher and administrator at St. Luke’s School in New Canaan, Connecticut. She has taught History and English and served in key leadership roles, including CFO, Associate Head of School, Division Head, and Admissions Director. Guided by her deep faith*

*and commitment to service, Julia recently spent a three-month sabbatical with Mercy Ships, a global medical charity, where she worked alongside an international crew to support life-changing surgeries in Sierra Leone. Her experiences aboard the Global Mercy reinforced her belief in the power of faith in action and the transformative impact of serving others.*

*We invite you to come hear Julia share her incredible journey—stories of healing, hope, and the ways faith and service intersect in powerful ways on Mercy Ships.*

*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 who 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**

2CC Ladies Invite you for

## Coffee & Conversation

“How Smart Women Care for It All”

with Kathryn Sollmann, Author of the "The 4 Jobs Club"

**Saturday, April 5**

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

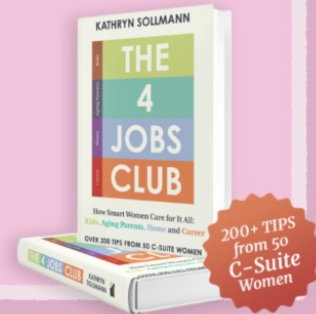
Discussion moderated by Jennifer Roth  
in the Chapel followed by Q&A

\$35 per person, includes copy of the book

Visit [2CC.org](http://2CC.org) for payment

Scholarships and childcare available  
by contacting [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org)

Second Congregational Church  
139 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830  
[2CC.org](http://2CC.org)



Reserve your spot for Coffee & Conversation in  
April

Women's Fellowship invites you to tour the

THE  
CULINARY  
INSTITUTE  
OF  
AMERICA®



**Wednesday, April 9**

**9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

(We will carpool from the church)



We will have lunch at the Ristorante Caterina de'Medici.

There will be time to visit the gift shop before our tour at 2:30.

Cost: \$30 Prix Fixe lunch (plus beverage, tax and service charge) and \$15 tour.

Sign up with Pam in the church office - space is limited.

Easter is coming...

Holy Week 2025



**Palm Sunday**  
**April 13**  
10:30 a.m.



**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 17**  
7:00 p.m.



**Good Friday**  
**April 18**  
7:30 p.m.  
First Congregational  
Church in Old Greenwich



**Easter Sunday**  
**April 20**  
6:07 a.m.  
Sunrise Service  
10:30 a.m.  
Festival Service

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich: [2CC.org](http://2CC.org)

**GOOD FRIDAY VBS**



**GOD'S LOVE IS EVERYWHERE!**

**Friday, April 18  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30**

A special Good Friday  
Vacation Bible School  
including feet washing,  
a swim at the YMCA  
pool & a pancake  
lunch!

**K-Grade 5: \$25**  
**Children under 5:**  
must be accompanied  
by a guardian  
**Grades 6-12:**  
welcome to attend as  
CITs and for High  
School  
service hours  
**Scholarships  
Available**

**Drop off and pick up  
at the  
Greenwich YMCA  
(50 East Putnam Ave)**

Our Minister of Care  
and Connection,  
Jenny Byxbee,  
looks forward to  
seeing you there!

RSVP no later than April 15  
Email: [Jenny@2cc.org](mailto:Jenny@2cc.org)

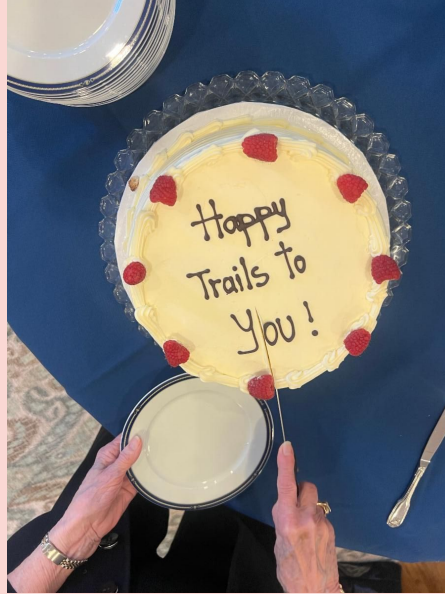
**VBS Payment**

**Register for VBS**

## Last week at 2CC...

*Women's Fellowship had a great turnout at their  
"Great Estates of Greenwich" Lecture yesterday.  
They also had a special "Happy Trails to you" cake for Dorothy Mayfield who  
is leaving for Oklahoma soon.*





*Another fun Sunday in Children's Chapel!*



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

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