



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

April 2, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Faith and churchgoing are not the same thing, of course, but as Holy Week approaches (and the opportunities for church going abruptly multiply), it's probably worth reminding ourselves of this.

There is a kind of "opt in" structure to so much of our observance, which people can be inclined to bemoan, but which is far from being a "modern" problem if you look into it. Even the earliest believers had to do a whole lot of juggling to get to services.

There's less of an "opt in" for what the observances are trying to affirm—the power of God to bring forth new life, even in the face of death; the experience of Jesus as more than just an inspirational guide, but as an active presence in the world and in our lives; the promise that human brokenness is not the bottom line of human destiny.

Pondering where we find ourselves on any of that, and on any occasion when the church gathers, is a lot of what we're doing there. The quiet reflection before we say the Prayer of Confession? That's probably the most obvious moment when we open the box for ourselves, although really any hymn, joy or concern, sermonic tidbit, or silent shift in the sunlight coming through the stained glass may find a way to get us in touch with our deepest questions and most heartfelt longing.

Those are the internal places where we most hope to feel God's presence.

This is why I've come to love Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, two services that would have been deemed "extra" (and not really "our way") in the Congregational church of my childhood.

They tell parts of Jesus' story that hit hard, and draw on darkness as an element of the worship service itself, which is a rare move for us. Since the very beginning, our sanctuaries have been built for sunlight, boldly proclaiming that **this** is who God is—the light of the world, the one whose "life was the light of men."

Easter Sunday is surely when we say it most joyously.

But the purposeful darkness that proceeds it on Thursday and Friday also has its place in our sanctuaries and in our lives, because "where we are" on Easter's joyful proclamation of our faith's most central promises needs time to discern.

We need to remember that the God who is light is, nevertheless, the God who also knows the darkness, whether we mean the darkness of the world, in general, or whatever forms of darkness we may identify in ourselves.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offer us the chance to open the box, with all its questions and longing, and to lift all that into the Easter light.

These services aren't just boxes to check in a career of dutiful church-going. They are places for Jesus to find us and lead us from the empty tomb.

Hope to see you there.

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.

**The Memorial Service for Sheri Chin will be Saturday, April 5, at 2:00
p.m. at Second Congregational Church.
A reception will follow in Fletcher Hall.**

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

Holy Week Prayer Vigil Following the Maundy Thursday evening service on April 17.

Our overnight prayer vigil will begin, and will continue until 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18. A feature of Holy Week at 2CC for the last 23 years, the vigil offers a powerful experience for private prayer in the Sanctuary, which is illuminated by a single light, focused from the base of the cross. Some come with a plan for their prayers, some read Scripture or find other devotional reading and go where it takes them, and some simply sit and “listen for God” in the silence. Most find that the hour passes quickly, and that Easter is more powerful as a result. Join us!

A deacon will also be available to help people sign up after the 10:30 Worship service or to sign up online, email Pam@2cc.org.

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

Saturday, April 5: The Easter Bunny is coming back to town for Teddy Bear Story Time!

Saturday, May 3: Police Bear will be coming with friends from the Greenwich PD!

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.

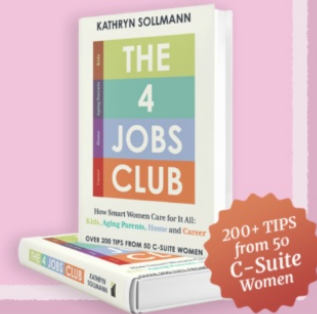
Discussion moderated by Jennifer Roth
in the Chapel followed by Q&A

\$35 per person, includes copy of the book

Visit 2CC.org for payment

Scholarships and childcare available
by contacting Jenny@2cc.org

Second Congregational Church
139 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
2CC.org



Reserve your spot for Coffee & Conversation in
April

Join us after worship for **Hoppy Hour**
Sunday, April 13



Grab your coffee, meet in the Chapel and hop in to help the
Easter Bunny... we need help stuffing eggs for our epic hunt!

Children will have the chance to build a bunny for a child
at Kids in Crisis and one for themselves.

Donations appreciated.
(First come first served until supplies run out).

Email Jenny@2cc.org for information

Donations of candy and plastic eggs welcome!

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

VBS Payment

Register for VBS

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

Another fun Sunday at 2CC...



Around Town...

Concordia Conservatory's, Music of Innovation, will take place on **Sunday, April 27, at 3:00 PM at The Second Congregational Church.**



THE HOCH CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Music of Innovation

Saturday
April 26
7 pm
Bronxville

Sunday
April 27
3 pm
Greenwich

[LEARN MORE](#)

[Click here to learn more & purchase tickets](#)



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