



Join us for Worship Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

May 23, 2024

Dear Friends of Second Church,

Memorial Day began in earnest after 1868, when the General of the Grand Army of the Republic — the most important organization for veterans in its day — promoted the observance of Decoration Day, when the graves of soldiers from the Civil War were decorated with flowers, in remembrance.

The practice was done for Confederate as well as Union graves, but in the south, one of the most important early observances of the day (predating its adoption by the Grand Army of the Republic) was among former slaves in Charleston, SC, on behalf of Union soldiers buried there.

The late May date was no accident, and may have been selected, in part, because there were no significant Civil War battles on May 30th that would receive undue emphasis. The other concern was more practical: wanting to have a day when flowers would be reliably in bloom across the whole country.

This has also left us to grapple with a perennially murky line, with the duty to remember servicemen (and women) who lost their lives in war on the one hand, and on the other, the lighthearted celebration of summer's arrival.

For the most part, summer seems to be winning.

People were worried that might happen.

Remembering is especially about “going there,” which in this case means purposefully reopening our hearts to grief—learning to feel the loss of people, most of whom we never knew, ourselves. We can know them in this way, at least, and should, remembering that all lives are precious to God and all losses felt keenly by Him. *Shalom* — peace, wholeness, healing, all mixed together — has always been a central expression of God's will for Creation and prime directive for our work, to which any honest reckoning of the weight of our losses must lead us.

By contrast, summer is about dropping our burdens, at least for a while. It's the grand season of minimal encumbrance, with time and bandwidth, finally, for surprise. That may sound trivial. But ponder: the Holy Spirit does some of her best work in summer, when a new breeze can blow through our lives, and new joy seems to revive us in ways that get our attention—and should. Sometimes, it's only when the new air rushes in that we realize how stale the old air actually

was. Let's not forget: God genuinely does want our happiness. There is *shalom* in it, too.

As we begin another Memorial Day weekend, I hope all of us make time to remember—and to dream.

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.

A Note from the Church Office...



On Tent Sunday, we will recognize graduates from all high schools, colleges and universities, as well as professional schools, diplomas, bachelors, masters, doctorates and certificates of course completion. We want to recognize and thank God for those who have put the effort into their education. Please email Pam@2cc.org with the name of the graduate and with the information concerning any future educational or professional plans that graduate might have, no later than Wednesday, June 5.

Children's Chapel

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](#)

**Music Together baby and toddler class returns
June 2, 9, and 16 in the Chapel
9:30-10:15 a.m.**

Register for Music Together classes in June

Mark your calendars...

2CC Ladies Night...

Wine, Spirits & Cheese

Join us for some wine, spirits, cheese, and a chance to spend time together!

Thursday May 23

6:30-8:00 p.m.

A beverage or appetizer to share is welcomed!

Hosted by Karen Wieman and Lisa Wilson

Please RSVP to Jenny@2CC.org
by May 21 for location of event

Email Jenny to RSVP for Ladies Night

Looking Ahead to June...

Join us for Tent Weekend: June 7-9

TENT WEEKEND 2024

Second Congregational Church of Greenwich



Friday, June 7:
Food & Fellowship
5:30 p.m.
Pizza, Bounce house
& Mad Science Show!



Details at
2cc.org

Sunday, June 9:
Worship & BBQ
10:30 a.m.



Teddy Bear Story Hour

ROLL OUT OF BED AND JOIN US IN YOUR PJ'S
SATURDAY, JUNE 8
AT 8:00 A.M.



Coffee for Good
48 Maple Avenue, Greenwich, CT



(Greenwich Emergency Medical Service) is hosting a 1-day babysitting CPR certification class just in time for summer!

Saturday, June 1

Open to Middle & High School age students.

Register for Babysitting Class

**What a blessing we had last Sunday!
Our 2024 Confirmation class...**







Around Town...

Congratulations to Mothers for Others, one of our longstanding partner organizations, based here on our campus, as they close in on offering their MILLIONTH diaper to families in need!

This article from Connecticut Public Radio gives a glimpse of what they do, and why it matters:



[Click here to read 1 Million Diapers Article](#)



On Thursday, May 30, bring your family for a picnic set up and enjoy an evening at the Historical Society with live music. Children no charge. Chasing Romeo is a Greenwich, Connecticut based band playing rock classics from past and present. Get ready to rock!

[Click here to Register for Chasing Romeo Picnic](#)

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

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