



Worship with us on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

June 25, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

I'm seeing a lot of fond tributes to "Jaws," the first summer blockbuster movie, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week.

Not me. I don't celebrate it.

I was five when "Jaws" came out.

Certainly, I was not allowed to see it in the theater, any more than I would have been allowed to see "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" or "Three Days of the Condor." (That summer, I think I actually *did* see "Return of the Pink Panther," which I was annoyed to discover did not involve an actual pink panther.)

But while I did not see "Jaws" that summer, the fact was, I didn't have to. All the big kids saw it, and they told us little kids all about it.

Moreover, the way they told it made it significantly scarier than the actual movie, as I learned a hundred years later when I finally got around to seeing it for myself.

When I did see it, the scariest part for me was not the shark, but rather the extended monologue by the creepy old shark hunter, Quint, describing the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in shark-infested waters during World War II.

(I later learned that Richard Dreyfuss said he was also truly terrified by the story, which the actor Robert Shaw rewrote himself the night before and then delivered on camera in one take.)

You didn't need any haunting soundtrack to heighten that.

But back when I was five, the ten year olds had gathered us on the swings back from the water's edge to tell us about "Jaws," gesturing at the water and the beach, the boats in the harbor and the dock over to our left, all right in front of us, and that hadn't needed any soundtrack, either, although they provided one, anyway, which I heard in my dreams for the next three months: "da-DUM, da-DUM....da-DUM, da-DUM..."

The story of a Great White shark on the hunt off a cheery New England beach could not have felt any closer or more vivid.

It left me both terrified of the water (which subsided) and captivated by storytelling (which has stuck with me ever since).

So when I say I don't celebrate "Jaws," I guess what I mean is that I can still feel the power of that story. I can still conjure the emotions of being five years old and suddenly seeing the familiar and welcoming water made dark and strange. And I still respect how real that was, and the power of good telling to make it so.

Was that the beginning of innocence lost or of wisdom gained?

Probably both.

But summer is a time when experience often becomes our most significant teacher, unsupervised and unfiltered, as it's abundantly clear (even to a five year old) that adult life itself mostly is.

G.K. Chesterton once observed, "Fairy tales don't tell children the dragons exist. They already know the dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed."

For all the ways in which summer offers us new ways of seeing and the discovery of new powers lurking within our own depths, thanks be to God.

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 9:30 a.m.](#)
Sunday service.

Children's Chapel Update...

Children's Chapel

Every Sunday at 9:30

Let the little children come to me

Matthew 19:14

Starting Sunday, June 15 to Labor Day weekend, all children are encouraged to meet in the nursery from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for a very special summer worship experience for infants to school age children entering grade 5.

This is in alignment with our Summer worship schedule.

Children's Chapel this summer will include worshipping outside, special guests, crafts, games, scripture lessons, prayer, and worship services designed with young hearts and boundless energy in mind.

For more information please feel free to contact me anytime at Jenny@2cc.org

Around Town...

Greenwich Library kicks off it's summer reading program this week!

Guess what? The Children's Story Bible counts too!

Join us each Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 for some summer scripture, activities and stories in

[Click here to learn more about the Summer Reading Program](#)

2025 Children's Library Summer Reading



June 9 – August 15, 2025

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

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