



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

July 30, 2025

Dear Friends of Second Church,

I'm delighted to share some wonderful news about Rev. Shawn and Ashley Garan, who continue to thrive at the United Church of Southbury, where Shawn is the Senior Minister.

As many of you know, their ties to lower Fairfield County remain strong, and they have remained active advocates for neurodiverse people and their families here, taking the lessons they have learned from caring for their son, "Little Max" as a prompt for ongoing engagement and support.

In recognition of that advocacy, Shawn and Ashley are being honored by the Special Education Legal Fund, based in Steeple Commons, with the George H.W. Bush Disability Advocacy Award.

You can read more about their work here: <https://e.givesmart.com/events/IxD/page/honorees/>

The award will be presented on Saturday, October 18th at SELF's annual Homecoming dinner, and I am pleased that Shawn has accepted the Church Council's invitation to preach at 2CC on Sunday, October 19th at our 10:30 service.

I have a lot to say about Shawn and Ashley and what they offered our church family. I'll save most of that for my introduction on Sunday, October 19th. But it's safe to say that for many of us — and certainly, for me — their tremendous openness about the joy and challenge of building a life with Little Max (and his twin sister, Molly) was a window into a whole new world. Everyday activities could prove so complex. Yet their love for Max and their pleasure in having him around were obvious, even when it required riding on Shawn's shoulders for awhile while he took care of other tasks.

As Christine Lai, the Executive Director of SELF, said to me the other day, "When you have a neurodivergent kid, church is one of the first things to go." People want to be nice, of course, but not disrupted. Church spaces are rarely set up effectively, and it can be hard to predict whether any day will be a good day — or for how long. Caregivers can feel like their family sticks out like a sore thumb.

The Garans trusted us to see and love their family as they were, on good days and not so good ones. In addition, Shawn was able to serve as a pastor with his own deep humanity on full display. What gifts these were.

I'm delighted to see them getting recognition for all their work and am proud to call them friends.

What a blessing they are.

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.

A Note from Khaleigh...



Hello 2CC Family,

I'm grateful to live on campus at Second Congregational Church of Greenwich because of your role as a founding congregation of the Regional Youth Ministry program. This ministry continues to thrive because of your vision and commitment to collaborative faith formation in Lower Fairfield County.

Two week ago, July 11–15, I had the privilege of attending the 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Kansas City, Missouri. General Synod is the national gathering and voting body of the UCC, our denomination, and now meets every three years to worship, deliberate, and discern together what God is calling the wider church to be and do in this moment.

Delegates from every conference gather for caucuses, committee hearings, and plenary sessions to vote on resolutions of witness, justice, and policy, elect national leadership, approve budgets, and amend the UCC's bylaws when needed. This work ensures that our national setting reflects the diversity and values of the UCC across age, gender, clergy and lay voices, race, ability, sexual orientation, and more. I am deeply thankful to Rev. Max and the Fairfield West Association for sending me to represent you.

Each delegate serves on a committee assigned to a specific resolution. I was part of the committee addressing a Declaration of Support for Human Rights in the Philippines. For years, civilians in the Philippines, especially those advocating for health, justice, and safety, have been targeted and harmed under the banner of a so-called "war on drugs." Through this resolution, the UCC declared its call for an end to these inhumane acts, standing in solidarity with those working for peace and justice.

This year's theme, "Into the Deep" (Luke 5:4), challenged us to go beyond what is comfortable, leaning into bold faith and deeper discipleship. Guided by that spirit, Synod acted on several powerful measures, including full communion agreements with Puerto Rico's Iglesia Evangélica Unida and the Evangelical Church in Germany, an emergency resolution supporting immigrants, migrants, and refugees, including calls to oppose for-profit detention centers, a resolution for an end to genocide in Palestine affirming our commitment to peace and human dignity, and the formal recognition of the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Coalition within the UCC.

As your representative, I was reminded again that we are truly better together. This gathering affirmed what we believe in youth and faith formation ministry: God speaks to and through all of us. Synod is a living example of how the church, with a capital C, comes together to listen, pray, and act as the body of Christ in the world.

Thank you for the privilege of representing you at this historic gathering. Your support makes this work possible, and together we are living out what it means to "go into the deep" as Christ calls.

Learn more and explore all Synod resolutions and outcomes at generalsynod.org/resolutions. You can also read news and reflections from Synod at ucc.org or watch highlights and worship from Kansas City on the UCC YouTube channel.

With gratitude and hope,
Khaleigh Laicher
Director of Regional Youth Ministry

Children's Chapel...

This summer through 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

Mark your calendars...



2CC children will be invited up on stage to help play back up on the tambourines!

2CC Night Out!
Wednesday, August 13
7:00 p.m.
Roger Sherman Baldwin Park

We encourage you to bring your lawn chairs and join us for this free concert. Chasing Romeo is a local Pop/Rock Band that is playing at Roger Serman Baldwin Park on Wednesday, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. As a special treat, 2CC children will be invited up on stage to help play back up on the tambourines!

RSVPs not needed, but always helpful so we can be on the lookout for you.

[Email Jenny about Chasing Romeo Event](#)

Pacific House Update...

Our dedicated cooking team faced the kitchen with determination and (due to the heat) a timeline to get out of there as fast as possible!

Gordon, Paula, and Carol were in charge of making sure the 180 pieces of chicken turned out as “oven BBQ’d”. Kathleen was in charge of bags and bags of green beans that would be put in the potato salad that was cooked and creatively seasoned by Matthew and Barbara S (15 lbs of potatoes).

Rev. Max came in to check on us to make sure that we were on the job, hydrated and happy. (We were!)

Our serving team of Mary Alice, Bob (faithful van driver) John, Michael, Sylvie and Logan survived the ride to Pacific House in the not- so-air-conditioned van. The clients at PH were happy to hear that chicken was on the menu—they are served a lot of rice and beans and pasta, so our meal was much appreciated.

Dessert was prepared by Lisa (Logan’s mom), Gail, Paula and Barbara S. Our team walked the room handing out brownies and chocolate chip cookies to an enthusiastic and appreciative clientele. We had cupcakes in reserve for the 8:00 p.m. snack.

Another successful and fulfilling outreach mission!





Around Town...

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK AT OUR NEW ADULT AND PEDIATRIC OUTPATIENT HEALTH CENTER!



OFFERING
FREE GIVEAWAYS,
RESOURCES
AND FOOD!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1 - 3 PM
55 HOLLY HILL LANE, GREENWICH

**JOIN PARTNERS FROM ACROSS THE
COMMUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS,
RESOURCES AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**SCREENINGS FOR
DIABETES, BLOOD
PRESSURE, HIV/HEP C,
BMI & MORE**

**PIZZA, ICE CREAM,
ZUMBA, MUSIC,
GAMES AND
GIVEAWAYS!**

Neighbor to Neighbor is launching a clothing pilot in an effort to introduce gently used seasonal children's clothing back in our Essentials program! We are starting to accept donations on the following days: Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday. We encourage donors in our community to donate on these designated days!

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

greenwich

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Learn practical, easy-to-remember techniques that could make all the difference in a tough situation.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

10:30 - 11:30 AM

YWCA Greenwich
259 E Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT

**For
teens
and
adults**

AGES 15 + UP

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

Scan to



Register

YWCA Greenwich is proud to partner with Modern Self-Defense Center for a women's empowerment training class to help protect against physical violence.

Cisgender and transgender women, as well as non-binary people, ages 15 and older are invited to attend.



VISIT: WWW.YWCAGRN.ORG/SELFDEFENSECLASS

**SOUND BEACH COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT:
"MEET THE MUPPETS: THE WORLD OF JIM HENSON"**



Sunday, 8/24/25, 7:00 PM
(Rescheduled from 7/27/25)
Binney Park, Old Greenwich, CT



Guest Conductor: First Selectman Fred Camillo
Music Director: Zachary Kampler
Including music arranged by Assistant Conductor and Trombonist Lisa Romeo

Free Admission



The concert is part of the Greenwich, CT Parks & Recreation Summer Concerts series.

Weather postponement/cancellation information:
203-861-6100 after 4 p.m.



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

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