







September 7, 2023

Dear Friends of Second Church,

As a new program year begins here at church, it is a season of "hellos" — new faces, new experiences, new discoveries. So much is happening! But for many of our families, it's also a bittersweet season full of transitions and a sense of the swift passage of time.

For example: long-time member Sara Munoz dropped off her eldest at college earlier this week. Here's her early reflection on the experience:

The "leaving for college" goodbye starts around late July: There's the last trip to the beach, the last family hike, even the final visit to the dentist before the big day. Then it is a whirlwind of little things. Getting the boxes, the hangers, ordering that perfect pair of boots, sending back the boots because they don't fit and then hitting every store in the tri-state area to find ones that do. Then, in our case, getting on a plane, navigating an unfamiliar place, and getting the college girl to the place she needs to be at the time she needs to be there.

In fact, there are so many logistical and little last-minute things happening, it is easy to forget about the Big Thing that is happening. You know this is momentous. You know that is somehow the end of a 19-year-long road, and the launch into a new, exciting but totally uncharted phase. You know you will be sad. You know you will need to try and let go a little. To try and worry less, or at least be less obvious in your worrying.

But you can't really think about any of that because you are in the middle of trying to put together an Ikea bookcase in an unairconditioned dorm room.

The wonderful thing about God and the universe, though, is that they won't let the big stuff pass you by. No matter how frazzled or distracted you are, they will remind you.

My moment came in a book shop, as I went in search of thumb tacks and tape. A Dr. Suess book must have caught my eye because suddenly I had the clearest memory of my daughter giggling uncontrollably at the funny-looking but terribly cute "elephant bird" in Horton Lays an Egg. It was a moment that hadn't crossed my mind in years. But suddenly, there it was.

It stopped me in my tracks. I stood in the sunlit bookstore, trying to reconcile that giggling girl with the confident young woman who would, hours later, give me a breezy wave as she hurried off to orientation without looking back. I thought of all those many years in between. The bedtime stories, the laughter and tears, frustration, and triumphs - a lifetime of moments, earth-shattering to mundane.

I felt awed. And most of all blessed, and grateful to be part of that journey, that transformation.

I know that my job isn't over, and for that I'm grateful, too. It's just going to be a little bit different.

In this fall of transitions and new starts, with all its attendant distractions and todos we need to make sure to take time to recognize the sacred, to stand for a moment and be dumbstruck by the mind-boggling thing that is parenthood. To stop and revel in the Big Stuff, too.

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.

### Children's Chapel and Nursery Care

Children's Chapel and Nursery Care aligns with our summer worship schedule Sundays 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Children of all ages welcome to attend service for a multi-generational experience in the Chapel, or to come by the nursery room for some Godly Play!

Children encouraged to come dressed to play and explore the outdoors!

Registration not required but helpful for us to best know and love your child.

Click here to register for Children's Chapel this Sunday

## **Homecoming Weekend is here!**



Click here to donate to our Community Life Fund

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!" Isaiah 43:19A, NLT

Saturday of Service September 9, 2023 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

2CC is partnering with Church World Service to assemble hygiene packs

Please join our Outreach Committee to help assemble 500 hygiene packs to be distributed by Church World Service.

All ages are welcome!



Click here to learn more about CWS

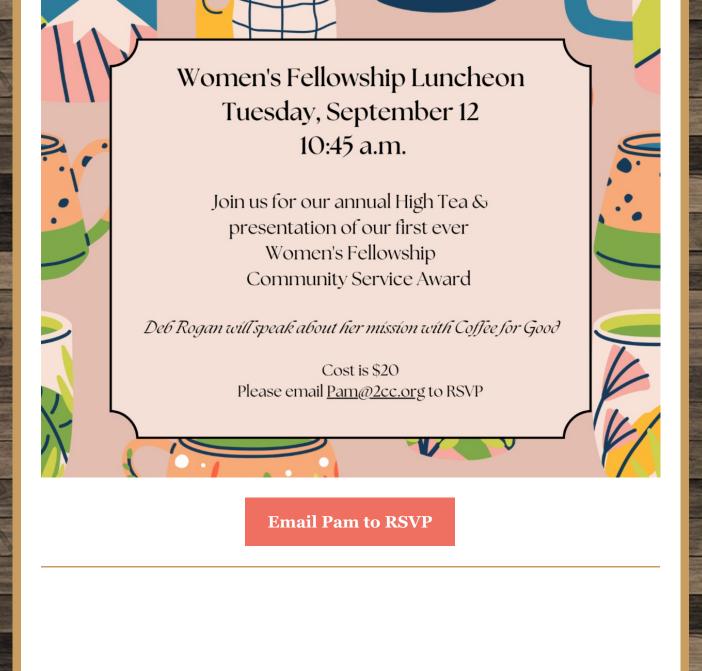


Please help make our church picnic more festive by bringing something delicious to share!

A-M: salad (salads of all types welcome) N-Z: side dish

\*Please no items requiring heating
\*Please bring in a **disposable** container (extra points for a plastic serving utensil!)
\* Gluten-free and vegan options greatly appreciated, but please mark this clearly!

Mark your calendars...



# WILD LIFE VBS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
(School is out but VBS is on)
9:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.

DURING THIS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL LEARN
ABOUT THE BEAUTIFUL ARRAY OF GOD'S CHILDREN AND HOW TO
LOVE AND TAKE CARE OF OUR NEIGHBORS



# DETAILS AT 2CC.ORG

Second Congregational Church - 139 E. Putnam Avenue in Greenwich

**Register for VBS** 

Click here for VBS Payment

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