



November 15, 2023

Dear Friends of Second Church,

The historian Nick Bunker suggests that the Pilgrims may well have gotten their understanding of Thanksgiving, at least as a religious observance, from Jewish sources.

He writes that, “The Talmud listed four occasions when the *birkat ha-gomel* [the ritual of Thanksgiving] was compulsory: the healing of a sickness, the release of a prisoner, the end of a voyage, and the arrival of travelers at their destination.”

He goes on to suggest that for William Bradford, one of the early leaders and historians of the Plymouth colony, the “first Thanksgiving” would probably not have been the three day feast the Pilgrims held in 1621, along with guests from the native Wampanoag tribe. Rather, Bunker argues, “Bradford would say that it took place at the instant of arrival, at the moment on Cape Cod when the Pilgrims fell on their knees to say the Jewish prayer.”

Thanksgiving was the proper response in that moment when God’s people could, at last, declare themselves delivered from danger — thanks to God.

For us, the gratitude of Thanksgiving is probably less existential, at least in most years.

We’re glad to be together — or, at least, to be **able** to be together, even if the actual experience of togetherness might not be entirely easy.

But I still think it’s true that the real moment of Thanksgiving isn’t when the turkey on its platter is formally presented for carving, or when everyone stands up from the table and wanders off for a nap or to watch football.

It’s in the moments when we feel a sense of our own passage and the passages of those we love, whether those passages be sweet or even somewhat bittersweet.

They may not be momentous — bombshell revelations at the dinner table — to be meaningful. They might be in the moments when you see that someone’s steps back and forth from the kitchen have grown a tad more tentative, or how the baby’s eyes look like your sister’s, or hearing the cousins discover something truly in common.

And what faith teaches us to do in those moments is to say “thank you.”

Thank you for the grace of getting me to notice. Thank you for the quiet mileposts of our journey. Thank you for reminding me to love however best I can.

There is such wisdom in Thanksgiving, and much to sustain us into the months that follow.

May yours be full of life and light.

See you in church,

Max

Find us this Fall...



Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

2CC.org

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.

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign is underway!
Check out these informative videos from Max, Jenny and Alexander...



[Click here to donate to our 2024 Stewardship Campaign](#)

In Memoriam

Anja Strathdee's father, T. Dankward Schmalbruch, died on October 18, 2023, he was 91. We extend our prayers and sympathies to his wife Erika, daughter, Anja, and son Christian and to his grandchildren Ellie and Douglas Strathdee.

Mahine Kohbod Fisk, a member of Second Church for over 37 years, died on October 25, 2023. We extend our prayers and condolences to her brother Parvis Kohbod, and former husband Edward Fisk. A memorial service will be held at Second Church on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.



Email Barbara to lend a hand

Chancel Choir Fall Schedule

Rehearsals at 11:45 a.m.
in the Chapel:
December 10 & 17

Chancel Choir in Worship
November 19
December 24

No previous experience is necessary. Attend rehearsals/services when you are in town and able to join us. All you need is a love for singing! The choir is open to those who are high

Children's Chapel at 2CC

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.

school age and older.

[Click here to register for Children's Chapel](#)

[Email Alexander with any questions](#)

[Check out upcoming events for Youth on our website](#)

Mark your calendars...

Final Fall Yoga Class of the session this Friday November 17.
Winter session will resume in January.

FALL YOGA

OCT 6 - NOV 17

9:15-10:00 A.M.



with Jill Ernst

\$60 for 7 weeks, or \$15 drop in fee

Scholarships available

Child care available upon request

Contact: Jenny@2cc.org



**Join us in the Chapel
at 2CC!**



[Email Jenny for more information](#)

Christmas is coming...

Decorate a Gingerbread House at 2CC! Saturday, December 2

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Registration required
\$35 per house

Limited spaces available

2CC.org

Email Jenny@2cc.org for
more information

Children under age 12 need to be
accompanied by an adult



[Click here to reserve a Gingerbread House](#)

[Click here to pay for your Gingerbread House](#)

Christmas Piano Serenade

*Alexander Constantine, pianist
featuring Jeff Pearson and Nicco Mazziotto*

Sunday, December 3, 2023

5:30 p.m.

Second Congregational Church
139 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich

TEDDY BEAR STORY HOUR

WITH JENNY AT COFFEE FOR GOOD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

AT 8:00 A.M.

ROLL OUT OF BED & JOIN US IN YOUR PJ'S...

SPECIAL GUEST ON

DECEMBER 9: MRS. CLAUS

EMAIL: JENNY@2CC.ORG FOR
MORE INFORMATION



EVENT IS FREE! DONATIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE FOR TEENS AT YALE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WILL BE JOYFULLY ACCEPTED BY MRS. CLAUS!

Email Jenny for more
information

Moms Group Coffee for a Cause

Saturday, December 9 at Coffee for Good
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Join Norwalk Hospital Chaplain,
Jenny Byxbee, and guest speaker
Mairead Finn with Yale Children's
Hospital

Treats for Teens, any new unwrapped
gifts for teens at Yale will be
joyfully accepted!



Any questions please email: Jenny@2cc.org

Email Jenny for more
information



Christmas Eve at 2cc...

Christmas Eve Worship:

- Regular Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Family at 3:30 p.m.
(outdoor pageant with live animals)
- Festival at 6:30 p.m.
- Candlelight at 11:15 p.m.

Christmas Day: Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Details at 2CC.org



Thank you Senior Deacon, Brenda, for bringing Tai Chi to
Moms Group last Saturday!



Standing Room Only for Teddy Bear Story hour, thank you to all that came! Save the date, next month Mrs Claus will be visiting December 9



Thank you all that contributed dishes, help, and love for our Friendsgiving Potluck during coffee hour. And special gratitude to Alli Hawes Community Life Chair and Senior Deacon, Lisa Hellman, for making it possible!








It was another great day in Children's Chapel!



An Invitation from the Red Cross...

Please see below to participate in the upcoming **Greenwich Battle of the Badges!** This year is very special since we are honoring Chief Jim Heavey donating his **100th pint of blood** and dedicating **50 years** of volunteer service to the Red Cross! Truly amazing!! (Thank you, Chief! You're a rock star!)

Please see the attached flyer and mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 2nd** to



give blood at this momentous event. Even if you're not able to donate blood that day, we would love to see all of you there to show your support. This is truly an event you won't want to miss!

There will also be a Greenwich Battle of the Badges Wrap Around where people can sign up to donate blood in honor of Chief Heavey if they're not able to attend or give blood on that day. Please see the link below.

[Donate Blood with ARC | Red Cross Blood Services](#)

We all know the importance of donating one pint of blood which can save up to three lives! With both of these drives taking place in honor of Chief Heavey, I also hope that you will share the attached flyers, and the above link with your friends, family, and colleagues. We would love to reach 100 pints of blood donations between the two drives! So please spread the word!

What a great way to honor Chief Heavey by helping to save lives!



Donate Blood
In Honor of
Chief James Heavey's 100th
Blood Donation & years of
dedicated service to the
American Red Cross



**Greenwich Police, Fire and
EMS First Responders**

Held in the Garage
11 Bruce Place
Greenwich, CT 06830

Saturday, December 2, 2023
8:00 am to 1:45 pm

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
Use Sponsor Code: **GREENPOLICE**



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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

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