

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

Second Congregational Church
of Winsted
(Baptist & Congregational)
Bible-focused & Christ-centered

800 Main Street
Winsted CT 06098-1014

Phone: 860 379-4766

Website: sccwinsted.org
Email: info@sccwinsted.org

Rev. Dr. Daniel Cote
Senior Pastor

John Costa
Director of Youth & Families

Kathy Craig
Office Administrator &
Diaper Bank Coordinator

Christopher King
Organist

Tom Doney &
Cassie Riberdy
Sextons

Sunday Morning Adult Study
Led by Pastor Dan
9:00-9:45 AM

Sunday Service Schedule
Worship Service 10:00 AM
(9:30 AM July and August)

Sunday School 9:00 AM
(No Sunday School
during July & August.)

Youth Group (grades 5-8)
Meet on 2nd & 4th Sunday
each month – 11:15 AM

Wed. Night Study
Led by Pastor Dan
Wednesdays 6:00-7:15 PM

Diaper Bank Hours
1st Wednesday of each month
5:00 – 6:30 PM



Inside:

Page 2	Pastor's Message
Page 3	Christian Education Updates & Vanco
Page 4	Diaconate & Music Dedication to Will
Page 6	Fellowship Hour Request
Page 7	Celebrations, & Help Wanted
Page 8	Statement of Faith
Page 9	Operation Christmas Child
Page 15	Church Calendar – February 2025

Second Congregational Church Inclement Weather and Snow Cancellation Policy:

We try not to cancel Sunday Worship, though with moderately bad weather we could have a late opening, where there will only be the worship service at 10:00 AM. If there is a cancellation or late opening, it will be posted on Channel 3, the church's webpage, and an email notification will be sent to the congregation.

A Message from Pastor Dan:

“The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume me.””

John 2:13-17

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In recent years, there has been much discussion about fundraisers in the church. I admire the desire and motivation to develop ways to sustain our church, but as in all things we do, we must inquire what the Bible teaches about the matter. Ultimately, we must conform all things in our church to God’s Word.

In Jesus’ ministry, there are two groups which caused righteous anger to arise in Jesus:

1. The Pharisees and other religious leaders, who were hypocrites, who set aside the word of God in favor of their man-made traditions (Mark 7:13).
2. The temple merchants, who sold their wares in the temple, making the Father’s house a place of business. If you have not read the Scripture passage at the top of this letter, please take a moment to read it carefully, as it is crucial in understanding this issue.

In a recent sermon, I asked how many people wanted our church to be here in 100 years, and all hands went up. However, we see from Jesus’ reaction to the temple merchants that He is angered when God’s house is made into a place of business. **So, what if God shut down our church because we had made it into a place of business through our fundraising efforts?** Would that be a good thing? Is it worth angering God and risking our church to make a few thousand dollars?

I want to make a clear distinction between raising funds and collecting items for outreach and missions and selling things for a profit to pay the bills. The church has always raised funds and collected items for missions and outreach (1 Cor 16:1). However, in Bible-believing churches; there is no precedent for selling things in the church to pay the bills because Jesus is so clear in his hatred for these things in John 2:13-17 noted above.

As I mentioned in my last letter, we were blessed with a very successful stewardship campaign unlike any seen in past years and the addition of 21 new members in 2024. God has blessed our church in the past year, and that should be obvious to all. The church is a divinely ordained institution that has, since the beginning, been supported by the donations of its members. God caused the early church to grow because they were faithful to Him; day by day, He added to their number (Acts 2:42-47). Of the seven churches described in the Book of Revelation, Chapters 2-3, it is the church at Philadelphia that God highly commends and promises to sustain because they kept the Word of God (Revelation 3:7-8). Our God possesses all the resources in the universe, and He is able to sustain our church if we are faithful to His Word, and we pray for His continued blessing.

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As to the churches that heavily engage in fundraising, a bit of investigation will reveal that they are mostly liberal mainline churches that have rejected much of what is taught in the Bible, so ignoring Jesus' warning in John 2:13-17 is no problem for them. However, they have experienced severe membership decline and closures because, unlike the ancient church in Philadelphia, they have rejected the Word of God. These are not the churches that we should seek to emulate. Instead, we should pattern all that we do after the first-century church in Acts 2 initiated by the apostles. Not surprisingly, there were no fundraisers there.

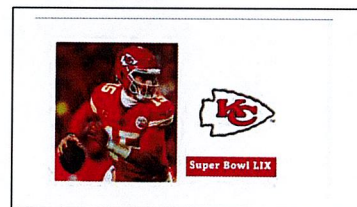
Blessing in Jesus' Name,

Pastor Dan

Christian Education Updates

Operation Christmas Child: The church will begin collecting monthly donations of gifts for children around the world. As an effective mission of Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child sends gift boxes to children in remote communities. The mission delivered 12 million boxes in 2024, spreading joy and sharing the gospel to countless children and their families. The item for February is (Fashion Accessories). All donations are collected in the OCC box in the fellowship hall. As always, any donations will be accepted at any time. Thank you all for your continued support for this mission! (Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.)

Souper Bowl: Once again, we will have the opportunity to donate through the Souper Bowl of Caring! Through an activity hosted by the Youth, the congregation will be able to put money into the pot of your favored team for the Super Bowl. All the proceeds will be donated to the local soup kitchen. Which team will you root for?



Cheer Bag Collection: Our kids are putting together cheer packages this month with thoughtful and uplifting items for some of our senior members.

Blessings!

John

Vanco Information

You can make your tithes, offerings, and donations online. For those individuals that would like to give to the church online, simply go to the front page of our [church website](#) and click the link "Support Our Church and Ministries" or tap the tile shown to the left.



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You may also download the Vanco mobile app on your smartphone. Be sure to select the app with the logo to the right. Search for churches in your area, and you will find "Second Congregational Church of Winsted." For more information on Vanco, visit their website: vancopayments.com See Paul Okraska for more information.

News from the Diaconate

The Diaconate welcomes Cassie Riberdy, Michael Killiany, and Robert Davis as new Deacons and Mike Ditz returning for another term. We will soon start planning for our Spring activities including the Lenten Dinner, and Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services. Please keep a watch for dates and times in the bulletin and website.

Events for your Calendar

IRON SHARPENS IRON MEN'S CONFERENCE

25th Anniversary - March 22, 2025, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

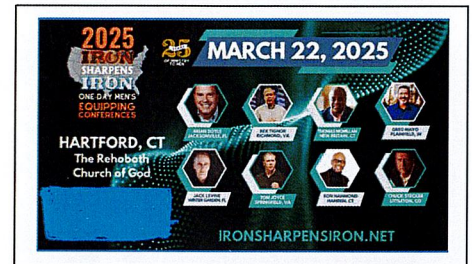
Rehoboth Church of God in Bloomfield

16 Different Seminars to attend - \$59.00 per person group rate

We will register and travel together as a group

There is a sign-up sheet on the board in the Fellowship Hall

Payment to SCCW by March 8 - See Jeff Liskin, Sr. with questions.

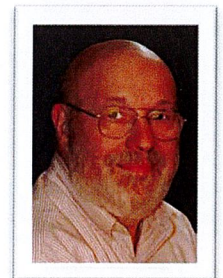


Dave Pettigrew is performing at Valley Community Baptist Church in Avon on February 14 at 6:30 pm. Many members off SCC enjoyed the concert when he was at our church in the past. There is no charge but a freewill offering will be taken.



A Special Message from the Music Committee & Choir in Memory of Willard C. Minton

As a member of our church family, Will has made many contributions to our church over the years. He held the position of Senior Choir Director for almost 30 years, sharing his talents as a wind instrumentalist, a soloist and organizer of our annual Harmony for Hunger benefit concert. Will was proud to be part of numerous demonstrations of the church organ for church members as well as Boy Scout and school groups.



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He enjoyed turning pages for the organist during the postlude for each service and sometimes taking the postlude home to re-arrange for the Harmonious Brass. During the Covid-19 pandemic, singing to an empty sanctuary, he provided the music ministry for our streamed services.

Will composed several pieces for the church choir, including:

- A Time to Renew
- Blow the Trumpet
- Easter Fanfare
- God Bless You
- Hear Our Prayer
- Medley of Stewardship
- Morning Star
- Song of the Shepherd

He also arranged pieces to be more accessible to our choir:

- Angelus Ad Virgenum
- Be Thou My Vision
- Christmas Carol
- Joseph's Lullaby
- Praise the Lord, Our Maker
- Some Children See Him

Will was a Trustee of our Invested Funds, a member of the Pastor Search Committee twice that we can recall and always was willing to lend a hand at our church fairs and other fundraisers.

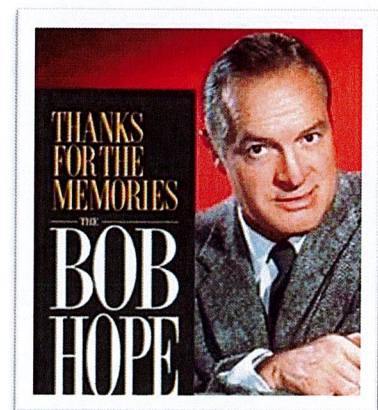
His patience, enthusiasm and humor have endeared us to him, and he will be sorely missed by all of us. We were blessed to have known him.

Shhh....it's a secret! In 2011 Will Minton celebrated his 25th anniversary of directing our choir. Our entire congregation surprised him with a potluck and he was serenaded by the choir with the piece below. He was so surprised that we were all able to keep this secret from him. The words ring true today as they did then when we think of Will.

Thanks for the Memories – Bob Hope/ Lyrics by Rainie Ditz

Thanks for the memories
of mornings to rehearse
today's anthem verse
and chuckles when the preacher says
Why is it sounding worse?
How lovely it is.

Thanks for the memories
Of morning serenades
Of brasses being played



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Of clarinets
And family duets
And the music that we made
How lovely it is.
Thanks for the memories

Of me may mah may mus
And all those alleluias
And Christmas Eve
And Easter in the
Sparkling morning dews
How lovely it is.

Thanks for continuing
To teach another song
Correct us when we're wrong
To eat potluck
And then get stuck
With the dishes when we're gone
How lovely it is.

Thanks for continuing
To organize and sing
To chaos order bring
To eat with us
And play with us
In winter and in spring
We thank you so much.



Fellowship Hour for Sunday Mornings

The **Fellowship Coffee Hour chart** is posted for 2025. Please feel free to volunteer for any listed openings. We invite any new members that have joined the church to speak to Kathy Craig if you would like to volunteer for an open slot in 2025. This is truly a great way to begin volunteering with your church family. You don't have to do it alone either – other "seasoned" members are willing to help. Just let us know if you are interested.

Please join us in honoring some of our church family in birthday celebration announcements.



February – Happy Birthday to...

- 04.....Ilona Gundlach
- 05.....Al Woodworth
- 07..... Jessica Valenta
- 14..... Denise Torson
- 19..... Amy Emmons &
Chris King
- 27..... Anaya-Faye Killiany
- 28..... Andi Craig

SCC Email Prayer Team ???

Did you know that we have an active email prayer team that is available to our church family?

If you or someone you know needs prayer during an illness, life difficulties, etc. we have a very special group of people who will take the time to pray for you. You are welcome to join us any time by sending a request to Kathy Craig at: info@sccwinsted.org.

A promise that if we turn worry into prayer, God will protect our hearts from anxiety. Philippians 4:6-7

Help Wanted Section:

Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever thought about singing in a choir? We are recruiting anyone who would like to be a part of a dedicated group of people who like to sing onto the Lord!

Please consider joining us. Rehearsal is from 8:30 - 9:30 am and a brief time of fellowship with coffee and a snack is enjoyed by the choir before service begins at 10:00 am. We will be singing in the service three times a month unless otherwise noted. For more information, please see Denise Torson.

There was no **Church Council meeting** held in January due to the Annual Meeting being held. The minutes of the February meeting will be published in the March edition of the Contact.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **We believe there is only one living and true God, Creator of all things, infinite in wisdom, goodness, and love, eternally existing in three persons, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.**
(Ex. 20:1-6; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 96:4-5; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:1; 2 Cor. 13:14)
2. **We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God and that they are the supreme authority in faith and life and absolutely trustworthy.**
(Ps. 119; Mk. 13:31; Jn. 10:35, 17:17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1Thess. 2:13)
3. **We believe that God, in His goodness, created only two distinct and complementary genders, male and female, which is defined by one's biological sex at birth. These two genders together reflect the image and nature of God, and rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of God's created order and the image of God within that person.**
(Gen. 1:26-28,31; 2:2-24; Lev 18:22-23; 20:10-21; Deut 22:5; Is3:12; Rom 1:24-27; 1Cor 6-9; 11:7; 1Tim 2:11-15)
4. **We believe that man and woman sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God, and that we are all born with a sinful nature that mars God's image in us.**
(Gen 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:1-24; Ezek 13:23; Rom 5:12; Eph 2:1-3; James 3:9)
5. **We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is truly God and Man.**
(Is 7:14; Matt 1:18,23; Luke 1:30-35; 2:6-7,40; John 1:14; Phil 2:6-7; Heb 1:2-5; 2:14)
6. **We believe that, out of love for us, the Lord Jesus Christ died to atone for our sins according to the Scriptures and that all who repent of sin and place their faith in Him alone are reconciled to God by His shed blood.**
(Is 53:4-6; Mark 1:14-15; John 14:6; Rom 5:8; 8:3; 1John 4:10; 1Pet 2:24-25)
7. **We believe that Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father to reign over all things.**
(Luke 24:1-7; John 2:19-21; Acts 1:9; Heb 4:14,10:11-13; Rev 1:17-18)
8. **We believe that all who repent of sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ, which is by grace alone through faith alone, are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God and shall not come into condemnation and that the Lord Jesus Christ gives them everlasting life.**
(John 1:12-13; 3:16-18,36; 5:24-29; 10:27-29; Acts 4:12; Rom 8:1,9-12,15-17; 10:9-11; Gal 4:24-29; Eph 1:5; 1 John 5:12-13)
9. **We believe that Christ has called all Christians into universal fellowship in His church. This church is made up of local congregations where members worship through Word and sacrament, are trained in discipleship and are called to evangelize the world in charity.**
(Matt 16:18-19; 18:17; John 17; Acts 2:42; 6:1-6; 20:28-32; 1Cor 10:1-14:40; Eph 5:21-32; 1Thes 5:12-13; 1Tim 3:1-16; 5:17-22; Heb 10:25; 1Pet 5:1-4)
10. **We believe that God created marriage to be a holy and lifelong covenant union, which can only be between one man and one woman who are not closely related, and that the only lawful place for intimate relations is marriage.**
(Gen 2:22-24; Ex 22:16-17; Deut 22:14; Mal 2:16; Matt 19:4-6; Eph 5:5,21-6:4; Col 3:18-21; 1Tim 1:8-10; Heb 13:4)
11. **We believe that at The Last Day, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will return according to His promise and that He will judge the world, and the saved will receive the blessing of life in His eternal kingdom and that the lost will be eternally separated from God.**
(Matt 25:31-46; Rom 8:35-39; 1Thes 4:13-17; Rev 20:12-15, 21-27)



Guide to Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping, Packing, & Tips

Savvy shoebox packers know that it's never too early to start shopping, packing, personalizing, and fundraising for shoebox gifts. By preparing shoebox gifts all year long, you can send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox to more boys and girls around the world! Use this year-round guide to maximize your impact for the Gospel.

YEAR-ROUND SHOPPING



January



Hats, Gloves, & Scarves

February



Fashion Accessories

March



Quality Crafts

April



Stuffed Animals

May



Personal Care Items

June



Quality Toys

July



Clothing

August



School Supplies

September



Games

October



Letter & Photo

November



\$10 Donation Per Shoebox

December



Prayer

"If you start purchasing items for the box in January, by November you have made a nice Christmas box." — Vicki D.



Second Congregational Church February 2025



Church Office Hours: Monday – closed, Tuesday-Thurs 8:30am-4pm
(12-12:30 closed for lunch), Friday 8:30am-12noon only

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Groundhog Day Sunday, Feb. 2 nd Six more weeks of winter????	Souper Bowl of Caring Day - Sunday, February 9th Bring in your spare change and throw it in the bucket for the team of your choice – Kansas City Chiefs vs. Philadelphia Eagles..... All monies collected will be donated to the local soup kitchen. <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  tacklehunger.org </div>					1 Memorial Svc Faith Weinert Goetz 2:00 PM
2 Food Bank Sunday Adult & Children's Sunday School 9- 9:45 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM	3	4	5 Diaper Bank 5-6:30 pm <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	6  10 AM – 2 PM Mission Board Meeting – 4PM	7	8
9 Souper Bowl Sunday Adult & Children's Sunday School 9-9:45 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Diaconate Mtg 11:30 AM Youth Group 11:30-12:30 PM	10	11	12 Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	13  10 AM – 2 PM	14	15
16 Adult & Children's Sunday School 9-9:45 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM	17	18 Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM	19 Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	20  10 AM – 2 PM	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Deadline to submit info for Contact newsletter March 2025 </div>	22
23 Adult & Children's Sunday School 9- 9:45 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Youth Group 11:30-12:30 PM	24	25 CE Board Meeting (via zoom) 7:00 PM	26 Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	27 No Home School today	28	

Got an event or something you want advertised in the March edition
of the "Contact Newsletter?"

Deadline for submission is February 21st