

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 – 11:30 AM

Celebrate Recovery
Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM

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



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Second Congregational Church Meeting Information

A Special meeting of the Second Congregational Church of Winsted (Baptist & Congregational) will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, immediately following the morning service at the church, 800 Main St., Winsted for the purpose of Securing our Church financially for the future.

Denise Torson, Clerk

Please note: An informational meeting about securing our church's financial future will be held the Sunday, March 1, 2026, immediately following the morning services, prior to the Special Meeting on March 8, 2026.

A Message from the Pastor

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The story is told of a judge who presided over the trial of his son, who had been arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated. The facts of the case were cut and dried, and it was only a short time before the judge pronounced his verdict, “Young man, the court finds you guilty as charged.” As was usual, the judge asked whether the young man had anything to say before imposing his sentence. The young man expressed his remorse and spoke convincingly of his desire to change his ways—it seems that his arrest had been a wake-up call.

At the conclusion of the young man’s speech, the judge pronounced the sentence, “The court orders you to pay a fine of \$500 or to serve 10 days in jail.” The son began to tear up and said, “Dad, you know I don’t have \$500, isn’t there some other way?” With that, the judge stood and descended from the bench. He removed his robe and laid it aside. He then reached into his pocket, took out his wallet, removed five 100-dollar bills, and said to his son, “Take it, consider it a gift.” The son accepted the gift, paid his fine, and mended his ways, thankful for the gift that his father had given him.

In this little parable of the judge and his son, was it possible for the judge to overlook the offenses committed by his son? The answer is no, if he were a righteous judge, he could not just overlook what his son had done. It is the same way with God our Father. He cannot just overlook our sins, even though he loves us, because to do so would be to deny who He is.

Our Father in heaven is perfectly just, but so too, He loves the universe He created and all its inhabitants, as we read in John 3:16 noted above. Through the sacrificial death of Jesus, the price for our sins has been paid, and God’s justice is upheld, and simultaneously, God demonstrates His love for the world by sending His son to save all who receive Him. As the Apostle John writes, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...” (John 1:12).

As children of God,

- We are forgiven, justified, and reconciled to God (Romans 5:1; Acts 13:38–39)
- We receive eternal life (John 3:16; 1 John 5:11–13)
- We receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:13–14)
- We become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4–5)
- We are empowered to live holy lives (Romans 6:4–7)

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:15 that Christ “...died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” That is something worth pondering this Lenten season. Christ's sacrificial death transforms our lives, calling us to live in surrender to Him, for His purposes, as His devoted disciples.

Blessings in Jesus’ Name,

Pastor Dan

Bible Studies Updated Schedules

Adult Sunday School Class—Every Sunday, 9:00-9:45 am (in the parlor led by Pastor Dan and open to all)— **Note:** We will continue working through the Book of Romans.

Wednesday Bible Study—Every Wednesday from 6:00 pm-7:15 pm in the Music room, led by Pastor Dan. We will be studying 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

Men's Fellowship--Save the dates and join us as we grow as brothers in Christ.

- March-Iron Sharpens Iron – Bloomfield, CT – more details listed below
 - April 18-Mystic Aquarium
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IRON SHARPENS IRON '26 CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 21 the men from Second Congregational will be traveling to the Rehoboth Church of God in Bloomfield to attend the Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference. The keynote speaker this year is Richard Blackaby, a nationally known minister and author. There are numerous seminars (see list) and wonderful fellowship.

The early group registration fee this year is \$55.00 pp. We will leave the church at 7:30 AM. Most bring a bag lunch, but you can purchase lunch at one of the food trucks (very long lines last year). We return and have dinner together along the way.

This year's seminars include:

- Building a Spiritual Legacy Building a Home Filled with Laughter
- Waiting Dating Mating The Pathway to Church Leadership
- Living the Intentional Path God Designed Husbands and the Marriage Myth
- Expose and Evict Negative Voices 3 Keys to Effective Ministry for Men
- Living Out of the Rut A Man's Critical Calling to Manage Money Well
- What it Means to Act Like a Man Courage and Resilience
- The Rich Relationships Every Man Needs Unleash the Man God Created You to Be
- First and Greatest Commandment Training

There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please make your check payable to SCCW and give it to John Young by March 1. Direct any questions to Jeff Liskin Sr.

Women's Fellowship:

Hello Church Family. The Women's Fellowship group will meet after church on Sunday, March 22. We will gather, pray and talk about events that we would like to offer in 2026. Please bring ideas, information you may have gathered and your calendar. I hope to see you all there. In the meantime, there are a couple of events that may interest you. They are noted below. If you are interested in either event, please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship Hall. Tickets will be purchased on March 22.

Christian Concert featuring Cochran and Company and Jordan St. Cyr - Sunday, May 3, 2026 from 6-8 p.m. (doors open at 5:15). It is open seating so we can all sit together (providing we find seats together).

LOCATION: Valley Community Baptist Church, 590 W Avon Rd, Avon, CT.

COST: \$28.30 per ticket

About the Artists: Michael Cochren is an award-winning singer/songwriter and worship leader from a small town in Indiana. After graduating school, he began playing music nationwide with a band of friends—later joined by his wife Leah—under the name Cochren & Co. With hope-filled lyrics and timeless melodies, Cochren & Co. blurs the line between American pop/rock and soul/blues to create a sound that is both familiar and fresh.

Cochren & Co. first made waves with their debut album *Don't Lose Hope* (Gotee Records, 2021), which produced Billboard Top 10 radio hits including the RIAA Gold-certified "Church (Take Me Back)," "One Day," and "Who Can." Their follow-up album *Running Home* (2023) featured the band's first No. 1 Billboard radio single with the title track, later named one of the Top 10 Airplay Songs of 2023, while "Thank God For Sunday Morning" was recognized among K-LOVE's 22 Songs that Defined 2022.

Jordan St. Cyr is a Canadian Christian singer-songwriter and worship leader known for Billboard-charting hits like "Weary Traveler" and "Fires". Based in Nashville, he blends soulful pop with faith-based storytelling, often reflecting on his family's experiences and God's grace. He began his musical journey at age 14 and has transitioned from leading worship in Canada to a national touring artist.

Girls Gone Bible Live Tour - Thursday May 28, 2026 7:00 p.m.. We will need to purchase tickets in a group as there is assigned seating.

LOCATION: Belding Theatre, Hartford, CT

COST: \$64.75 per ticket

About the program: What started as an intimate Bible study between two best friends has transformed into Girls Gone Bible [instagram.com], a Christian podcast redefining faith-based conversations for a new generation. The Girls Gone Bible podcast (with over 20 million+ listens), is ranked #1 for religion and spirituality on Spotify, an iHeart Podcast Awards nominee and is also featured in the top charts on Apple Podcasts. Co-hosted by Angela Halili [instagram.com] and Arielle Reitsma [instagram.com], the show offers unfiltered, heartfelt discussions on faith, relationships, personal struggles, and spiritual growth. The idea for Girls Gone Bible wasn't born in a strategy meeting—it happened organically. "We were sitting in my living room, reading the Bible," Halili recalls. "And suddenly, it just clicked—we need to record this."

(continued)

That unassuming moment sparked a movement, resonating with listeners who craved authenticity in a world that often demands perfection. Raw, real, and deeply personal, Girls Gone Bible is more than just a podcast—it's a community. The "GGB gang," as they call their listeners, has grown into a family, connected by shared stories and a collective pursuit of faith. The duo's live events, national tour, and upcoming devotional are just the beginning of their expanding platform, proving that faith-based content can be both powerful and wildly engaging. With Girls Gone Bible, Halili and Reitsma are leading a new wave of faith-driven conversations—one honest, unfiltered episode at a time.

Lenten Hymn Sing & Potluck

Come raise your voices in song and then join us in fellowship and have a meal downstairs! All are invited to attend the annual Lenten Hymn Sing & Potluck hosted by the Music Committee and Diaconate on Sunday, March 29, directly after church. Please attend even if you do not bring a dish to share; there's always plenty of food!

Christian Education Updates

Operation Christmas Child: Please visit the OCC table this month to donate gift items for children. The theme for March is "Wow Items" (e.g., soccer ball & pump, large stuffed animals, toy trucks, fishing kits, Lego/crafts, harmonicas/recorders). We appreciate your support in building our shoeboxes for this year! (See page 8 for gift ideas)

Youth Protection Training Review: All part-time and full-time children and youth staff and volunteers are requested to join us on March 15th after worship service for Training Review Presentation.

- We designed a presentation that we can all watch together. No On-line Training! No Tests! Just sit back and let us do the work! At the end of the 45-minute PowerPoint presentation, each current volunteer will be given their yearly review certificate. On behalf of the CE Board and Parents at SCCW, we thank you all for your service and dedication to helping our children learn and grow in a fun and safe environment!
- NOTE: New volunteers will need to have background check completed as well as on-line training course as in the past.

SCCW Student Scholarships: We are accepting student scholarship applications for members and family members enrolling in college, pursuing certifications, etc. Students may apply through the month of March (deadline 4/5/26). Please speak to John Costa for more information.

VBS 2026: We are seeking volunteers to help with preparing for our VBS Rain Forest Falls this July 20th-24th. Please see John C to see how you can be a part of spreading the gospel and the joy of Christ to our children and the community!



Youth Group Calendar – Mar – April			
Youth Group is open to grades 6 + –We Welcome you to Join Us! Meetings typically include Bible lessons games activities & snacks			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	March 1	9:00am – 9:45am	High School SS Class – Nature & God’s Design (Ps. 19:1-6; 24; 37)
Sunday	March 8	11:30am - 12:45pm	Youth Group – The 5 Undeniable Facts of the Resurrection Activity & Games
Sunday	March 22	11:30am - 12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible lesson, games, snacks
Sunday	April 5	Easter!	No Sunday School
Sunday	April 12	11:30am - 12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible lesson, games, snacks
Sunday	April 26	11:30am - 12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible lesson, games, snacks

Electronic Way to Contribute

Tithes, Offerings, and Donations may now be made online. While we recognize that most people will



**Tithes/Offerings/
Donations**

continue to present their offerings during the Sunday worship service, giving to the church and its ministries may now be done online for those who prefer to give that way. 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. You will be directed to Vanco, a secure online payment system used by thousands of

churches across the country. 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.



**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 worship service at 10:00 AM.

If there is a cancellation or late opening, it will be posted on both Channel 3 and 8, the church’s webpage, and an email notification will be sent out globally to the congregation.

**Please mark your calendars for our new 2026 Church Office Hours
Office is closed on Monday and Tuesday
Open 9AM – 4PM – Wednesday and Thursday and 9AM-3PM on Friday
(closed from 12-12:30 for lunch)**



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Dealing with life's hurts, habits, and hang ups is not a solo endeavor. Celebrate Recovery is the Christ centered 12-Step program to help you heal from the things that life has put you through in a safe and confidential environment. Whether it is substance abuse, procrastination, mental and physical abuse, overeating, fear, anxiety or any other issue, Celebrate Recovery is for you. The Winsted chapter meets every Monday at 7, (doors open at 6:30) right in our church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dan or the CR Ministry Leader Jeff Liskin, Sr.

Fellowship Hour for Sunday Mornings

The 2026 chart for the 1st quarter of requesting help with fellowship is posted. Thank you to all that continually volunteer as well.

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

March – Happy Birthday to. . . .

- 01 Michael John Killiany
- 03 Pastor Dan & Mark Torson
- 10 Deb Schoenherr
- 11 Michael Woodworth
- 13 Colleen Gundlach
- 17 Patty Minton
- 20..... John Young
- 23..... Cassie Riberdy
- 26..... Ellianna Andrews
- 30..... Elaine Giarnese



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.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

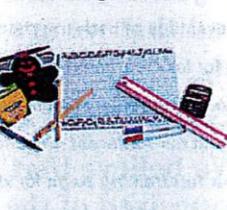


Guide to Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Shopping, Packing, & Tips

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

<p>January</p>  <p>Hats, Gloves, & Scarves</p>	<p>February</p>  <p>Fashion Accessories</p>	<p>March</p>  <p>Quality Crafts</p>	<p>April</p>  <p>Stuffed Animals</p>
<p>May</p>  <p>Personal Care Items</p>	<p>June</p>  <p>Quality Toys</p>	<p>July</p>  <p>Clothing</p>	<p>August</p>  <p>School Supplies</p>
<p>September</p>  <p>Games</p>	<p>October</p>  <p>Letter & Photo</p>	<p>November</p>  <p>\$10 Donation Per Shoebox</p>	<p>December</p>  <p>Prayer</p>

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

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)



Second Congregational Church March 2026

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 Closed on Monday & Tuesday
 Wed & Thurs 9am-4pm, Fri. 9am-3pm
 (12-12:30 closed for lunch)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Food Bank Sunday Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Information Mtg. after worship Mission Mtg 11:45 AM	2 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	3	4 Diaper Bank 5-6:30 pm ----- Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	5 No Home School Today	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Spring Ahead! Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Special Mtg. after worship Youth Group 11:30 AM	9 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	10	11 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	12  10AM-2PM	13	14
15 Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Diaconate Mtg 11:30 AM Youth Protection Training Review 11:30 AM	16 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	17 Church Council Mtg 7 PM	18 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	19  10AM-2PM	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Deadline for Contact submission </div>	21 Iron Sharpens Iron Seminar Bloomfield CT
22 Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship @ 10:00 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM	23 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	24	25 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	26  10AM-2PM	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship @ 10:00 AM	30 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	31	Sunday, April 5, 2026 <i>Easter Sunday Sunrise Service to be held at 6:30 AM at the Soldier's Monument – Winsted, CT</i>			

Got an event or something you want advertised in the April edition of the "Contact Newsletter?"
Deadline for submission is March 20th