

# 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](http://sccwinsted.org)  
Email: [info@sccwinsted.org](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
5:00 – 6:30 PM



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Join  
US FOR THE  
**NATIONAL  
DAY OF  
PRAYER**

*Glorify God  
Among  
the Nations*

**SEEKING HIM  
IN ALL GENERATIONS  
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**

**EAST END PARK  
(WINSTED GREEN)**

**6:00 PM**

*All are welcome!*

### ***A Message from Pastor Dan...***

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19)*

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Often, when we read the Great Commission passage in Matthew 28:19 shown above, we envision emulating the work of the Apostles, going from place to place to spread the gospel, baptizing new believers into the faith. That is certainly part of what Jesus calls us to do, but developing true disciples can require years of sustained effort.

Missions to make Christ known to the world are certainly necessary, and sometimes they are short-term, like Operation Christmas Child. But in the local church and community, sustained effort by many individuals over many years is required to develop mature disciples of Jesus who can replicate themselves. I think of our Sunday School, VBS, Bible studies, fellowship groups, and preaching in this context, which can only be sustained by the generous support of our congregation with their time and resources.

If we are not all in and do not mobilize our entire church to engage in our disciple-making efforts, our efforts will be substandard and less effective. Each of us must commit to growing as better disciples of Christ each year and helping others to do the same.

To glorify and serve God, and to grow as a community of His disciples, every one of us must be involved. So, the next time you are presented with an opportunity to serve, learn God’s Word, grow in your prayer life, and to spread the Gospel, please engage to the best of your ability as the Holy Spirit leads you. Jesus says in John 15:8, *“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”* What fruit are you bearing, proving that you are a disciple of Jesus?

***Blessings in Jesus’ Name,***

***Pastor Dan***

### *New Member Classes*

Pastor Dan will be leading a new member class in May. Please see Pastor Dan if you are interested in joining the church. The universal church is the body of Christ. The writer of Hebrews tells us not to neglect meeting together (Heb 10:24-25); this was the pattern established by the apostles in the early church (Acts 2:42). Second Congregational is a place where we can worship God together, use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God, gather for the Lord's Supper and Baptism, grow spiritually and in knowledge of the faith as disciples of Christ, provide care and support for each other, and serve as witnesses to Christ in our community and world, all in obedience to Christ's design for the church.

### *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.

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### **Women's Fellowship:**

*Philippians 2:13*

For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

The Women's Fellowship Group met on Saturday, April 11 for a wonderful time of fellowship and discussion on our faith. It is such a blessing to meet with sisters in Christ, to support and encourage each other and to share some personal stories. There were 12 women who gathered. We talked about serving God and strengthening our faith. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of women at Second Congregational Church. After our discussion time there was plenty of tasty food to eat. Thanks to all who contributed and participated in this event. This group is open to all of the women in the church, and we encourage you to join us for a future event. God Bless you all!

- **Cochren and Company Christian Concert** - 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. There is a sign up in the fellowship Hall. Please see Bonnie if you need guidance on purchasing a ticket.
- **Church Grounds Beautification**: This event is postponed. There is not a good date for us to reschedule. If you would like to gather a friend or two and plant some flowers, please speak to Sharon O. for a suitable date and location for planting.
- **Women's Fellowship Mini Retreat and Picnic**: Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 10-1:30 p.m. People's State Forest, Barkhamsted CT. Please bring a bag lunch and join us for a fun-filled opportunity to come together in God's great outdoors. We will spend time in prayer, devotion, and discussion while enjoying the State Park and enjoying time with each other.

(continued)

Items to bring: Bag lunch, water bottle or other hydration, camp or beach chair (if you want). Picnic tables and restrooms are available. If you have mobility issues and would like to attend, please speak to Bonnie in advance and we will make sure you have the support necessary to join us. Organized by Marilyn Gagner and Bonnie Sterpka.

Additional opportunities to gather will be posted in the bulletin and in next month's newsletter. Thanks to all of the women of the church for your investment in our Fellowship Group. I look forward to connecting with you all as we support each other in our faith journey.

Blessings, Bonnie

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### ***Fellowship Hour for Sunday Mornings***

The 2026 chart requesting help with fellowship is posted. Seems as the 2<sup>nd</sup> week and 4<sup>th</sup> week remain empty and can use a volunteer or two? Thank you to all that continually volunteer as well.

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### ***Christian Education Updates***

**VBS Serving Opportunity:** See how you can PLAY a SMALL PART and make a BIG DIFFERENCE! As we look forward to our Rain Forest theme 2026, we are seeking volunteers to play a part in bringing this adventure to the kids. Please consider and pray about how you can answer the call of the Great Commission through this special ministry. A sign up sheet will be in the fellowship hall. Please speak to John C, or email [sccwyouth@gmail.com](mailto:sccwyouth@gmail.com), to see how you can help!

**Operation Christmas Child:** Don't forget to grab an item or two for the children! The theme for this month is "Personal Care Items" (e.g., toothbrush, washcloth, comb & brush, nail clippers). You can visit the OCC table in the fellowship hall to drop off any gifts. At the end of the year we will add your gifts with others to pack shoeboxes that will be sent around the world with the gospel to bring cheer and Jesus to countless families.

**Children's Sunday (6/7):** Please plan on joining us on June 7<sup>th</sup> for Children's Sunday. The Sunday School class students will receive awards for completion and attendance, recognizing their hard work. They will also give presentations, sharing some of what they learned. The youth will participate in leading the worship service.

- **Children's Sunday Potluck:** Following the service, the CE Board will host a hotdog cookout/potluck. Please bring a dish if you can but all are welcome to join and enjoy fun and fellowship!
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**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](http://vancopayments.com) See Paul Okraska for more information.



**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.

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

**May – Happy Birthday to . . .**

- 09 ..... Jonathan Nicholls & Paul Okraska
- 13 ..... Robbin Liskin
- 16 ..... Bob Davis
- 19 ..... Sandi Smith
- 21 ..... Norman Riberdy
- 22 ..... Eddie Giarnese, Jimmy Giarnese, & Kevin Gundlach
- 25 ..... David Woodworth & David Oakley



**May – Happy Anniversary to . . .**

- 06 . . . Norman & Cassie Riberdy
- 15 . . . Roger & Virginia Oates
- 16 . . . Maury & Bonnie Sterpka



***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](mailto:info@sccwinsted.org).

### A Few Messages from the Office

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

[\(1 Thessalonians 5:18\)](#)

I just wanted to say **thank you** to all those that reached out to me with cards, prayers, and even the meal train participants during the time of my surgery recovery. You are all appreciated more than you know and it truly made my time away more enjoyable.

*Blessings, from Kathy Craig & family*

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Unfortunately, the Easter flower acknowledgements never made it into the Easter Sunday bulletin so we wanted to list those that had flowers on the altar for Easter Sunday.



From Robert & Eileen Davis, *In memory of Roberta & Glenn Davis, Aunt Betty & Leona & Roland Michaud.*

From Colleen Gundlach, *In memory of Carl Gundlach.*

From Rose Nicholls, *In memory of Robert Casavant.*

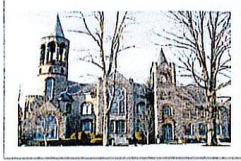
*From the Riberdy family, In memory of Marc and Norm Riberdy, and Dot Beauregard.*

From Paul & Sharon Okraska, *In memory of Warren & Ellen Sullivan and Mabel Okraska.*

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## 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 MAY 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
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM  Church Worship @ 10:00 AM  Church Worship @ 10:00 AM	<b>Celebrate Recovery 7PM</b>		Diaper Bank 5-6:30 pm  Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM  Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	 <b>10AM-2PM</b>  Mission Mtg 4:00 PM ----- National Day of Prayer – 6PM East End Park Winsted Green		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Mother's Day Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM  Church Worship @ 10:00 AM  Diaconate Mtg 11:30 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM	<b>Celebrate Recovery 7PM</b>		Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM  Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	 <b>10AM-2PM</b>		
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM  Worship @ 10:00 AM	<b>Celebrate Recovery 7PM</b>	<b>Church Council Mtg 7 PM</b>	Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM  Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	 <b>10AM-2PM</b>	<b>Deadline for Contact submission</b>	
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM  Worship @ 10:00 AM  Youth Group 11:30 AM	<b>Celebrate Recovery 7PM</b>		Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM  Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	<b>No Home School</b>	<b>Memorial Service for Christine Woodworth on Sat. May 30<sup>th</sup> at noon</b> <i>More information coming soon.</i>	
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Got an event or something you want advertised in the June edition of the "Contact Newsletter?"  
**Deadline for submission is May 22<sup>nd</sup>**