

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
(None during the months of
July & August)

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



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**Coming soon to the Second
Congregational Church**

July 20-24th

**Volunteers are needed – See
John Costa if interested.**

A Message from Pastor Dan...

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,” (Acts 2:41–46)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the passage above, the true church is portrayed as a Spirit-filled community devoted to Christ, biblical teaching, fellowship, prayer, and worship. Believers shared their lives and resources generously, cared for one another’s needs, and gathered regularly with joy and sincerity of heart. Their unity was rooted not in worldly identity, but in their common faith in the risen Lord. The early church was marked by reverence, spiritual growth, compassion, and visible transformation. As God worked among them, their witness drew others to salvation. The true church, therefore, reflects Christ through truth, love, holiness, worship, compassion, and joyful obedience.

Here are quotes about the nature of the true church from three of my favorite scholars, Dallas Willard and N.T. Wright, and Norman Geisler. As you read the above Bible passage and the following quotes, ask yourself how we at Second Congregational exemplify the marks of the true church.

“The church is not a gathering of people who have mastered spiritual things, but a community of disciples steadily learning from Jesus how to live in the kingdom of God every day. The true church exists to form people into Christlikeness, not merely to increase attendance or preserve institutions. Wherever believers genuinely follow Christ in humility, obedience, love, and truth, the living presence of God is at work among them.” — Dallas Willard

“The church is the people of God scattered throughout the world, called to embody the life of Jesus in ordinary places and ordinary relationships. It is not primarily an institution or a building, but a living fellowship where forgiveness, reconciliation, worship, and mission come together. The true church exists wherever men and women surrender to Christ, walk in the Spirit, and lovingly serve both neighbor and enemy in the name of God.” — N. T. Wright

“The true church is composed of all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is not denominational labels or external rituals that make a church genuine, but fidelity to the gospel, submission to the authority of Scripture, and obedience to Christ. Wherever believers gather to worship God, proclaim His truth, and make disciples, the church fulfills its God-given mission in the world.” — Norman Geisler

So, if we assessed Second Congregational against the criteria noted above, how would we rate ourselves? More importantly, how do you think God would rate our church? I will be sitting back in an Adirondack chair this summer, with my toes in the grass, thinking about this matter. I would love to hear your thoughts on how we can be a more faithful, Bible-focused, Christ-centered church in Winsted.

***Blessings in Jesus’ Name,
Pastor Dan***

Bible Studies Reminder for the Summer

Adult Sunday School Class will end as of June 7th and will resume in September.

Wednesday Bible Study will end as of June 17th and will resume in September.

Denominational Affiliation Committee

At the church's annual meeting, members of Second Congregational approved a motion to begin exploring affiliation with a denomination. The Church Council agreed, and appointed Bonnie Sterpka, Colleen Gundlach, Paul Okraska, Michael Killiany, Jeff Liskin and Pastor Dan to research, discuss and eventually recommend a denomination.

During the discussions, committee members highlighted several reasons for considering denominational membership. Among them were the benefits of shared resources, opportunities for broader fellowship, mutual support among churches, and increased accountability in ministry and governance.

After ruling out several other possible affiliations, particular attention was given to the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) as a potential partner. The CCCC's statement of faith aligns very closely with that of Second Congregational, making it a natural fit for further consideration.

There are many advantages to being a part of the CCCC, such as access to pastoral support, leadership training, and networking opportunities with like-minded congregations. The denomination's emphasis on local church autonomy (the concept that the congregation has the last say in all governance issues), combined with cooperative fellowship, is very closely aligned with SCC's bylaws and objectives.

The Affiliation Committee will soon be making a recommendation to the council, after which the matter will be brought to a special meeting of the congregation. If anyone has any questions, please see Colleen Gundlach or Pastor Dan.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Our Celebrate Recovery chapter celebrated its first anniversary on April 28, 2026, and we are thankful for God's faithfulness throughout this past year. Since our beginning, we have gathered every Monday evening and have also completed a 26-week long Step Study course together. We are grateful to regularly welcome 15–20 people at our meetings. We shall continue this very important Celebrate Recovery program, reaching out to all of us with hurts, habits and hang-ups. We will celebrate our one-year anniversary on June 22, 2026. We warmly invite all members of the congregation to join us. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., with our program following at 7:00 p.m.

(continued)

Join us on Monday, July 6, 2026, as the Winsted Celebrate Recovery chapter welcomes Christian artist Heather Layne for a special evening of music in our sanctuary. Originally from Burbank, California, Heather has been writing and performing music for more than 20 years. We warmly invite everyone to come and enjoy this 90-minute uplifting concert, which begins at 7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be received, and Heather's merchandise will be available for purchase after the concert.

(Please see the CR flyer's at the end of the newsletter)

A Thank You from the Missions Board

We are thrilled to share that the Connecticut Diaper Bank has generously supported us once again. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Kathy Craig, we recently received a significant donation for the Second Congregational Church of Winsted (SCCW) Diaper Bank, consisting of 6,759 diapers (60 cases) and 3,192 baby wipes.

A heartfelt thank you goes to John Young and Glen McMahon, who braved mid-week traffic to transport the shipment from North Haven. Upon their return to the church, a fantastic team was ready to help inventory the items and organize our diaper bank room. We are incredibly grateful to Andi Craig, Dave Markey, Paul Okraska, Sharon Okraska, Cassie Riberdy, Kate Callahan, Alana Ahlers, Deb Fields and Al Fields for their hard work in unloading the shipment and stocking and tidying our facilities. This project was a true community effort, and we are blessed to be able to provide this support to families in need in the Winsted area.

Praise God!

Also, we would be remiss if we didn't mention the team that is here every month to man the diaper bank. Many thanks to Nancy Schneller, Kristin Schneller, Denise Killiany, Anaya Killiany, Amy Robinson, Andi Craig and Livy Craig-Markey. There's never a doubt if they are going to be here – they just always show up.

Women's Fellowship

I would like to encourage all of the women of the church to join us for our Picnic/retreat on Saturday, June 6 at People's State Forest. All of us are so busy in our lives but it is so important for us to foster our friendship. It is healthy for us to have support of other Christian women, as we seek deeper relationship with the Lord. This event is for women of all ages, and we hope that you will make time to join us for this event.

Here are the details:

Theme: Growing in our Faith and Friendship:

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.

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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.

We hope to see you there, Bonnie and Marilyn

Fellowship Hour for Sunday Mornings

The 2026 chart requesting help with fellowship is posted. Seems as the 2nd week and 4th week remain empty and can use a volunteer or two? Summer time is a great time to get started because it's a "lighter snack time" du Thank you to all that continually volunteer as well.

Christian Education Updates

Children's Sunday (6/7)

Join us June 7th as we celebrate our Sunday School students! They'll receive awards for completion and attendance, share what they've learned through presentations, and our youth will lead the worship service.

Children's Sunday Potluck (6/7)

Following the service, the CE Board will host a hotdog cookout and potluck. Please bring a dish to share if you can—all are welcome for food, fun, and fellowship!

Volunteer for VBS: One Morning, Big Impact

July 20–24 • 8:30 AM–12:00 PM

We need station leaders, assistants, supervisors, and snack helpers. Serve one morning or all five—no experience needed! Training and a veteran partner provided.

- **Sign up** in the fellowship hall or contact John C: sccwyouth@gmail.com • (413) 854-7147
- **Grab a VBS flyer** in the fellowship hall and help spread the word! Many local children don't have access to VBS at their own churches. This is a blessed opportunity for kids to hear the gospel, experience God's Word in engaging ways, and connect with other children this summer.

Sunday School Summer Break

Last day of Sunday School: **June 7th**. Classes resume in September.

VBS Team Meeting (6/28)

All VBS staff and volunteers: Meet in the sanctuary June 28th at 11:30 AM (following worship). We'll review arrangements, schedules, forms, and address any questions or concerns.

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Operation Christmas Child

June gift theme: **TOYS**

Pick up an easy, affordable gift for a child overseas—building blocks, LEGO, slinkies, yo-yos, toy cars, magnets, or small figures. Drop off donations in the fellowship hall. Help us bring joy to children around the world!

Youth Group Calendar - June 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	May 24	11:30am - 12:45pm	Youth Group – VBS Outreach Projects Hot Snacks!
Sunday	May 31	9:00am – 9:45am	Children’s Sunday Practice
Sunday	June 7	10:00am -----	Children’s Sunday – Completion Awards, Class Presentations, Youth Lead Service
			Sunday School (end) - Summer Break
Sunday	June 14	11:30am-12:30pm	Youth Group – Bible Activities, Games, Snacks
Sunday	June 21	9:00am – 9:45am	High School Group – Special Father’s Day Project
Sunday	June 28	11:30am-12:30pm	Youth Group – Bible Activities, 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.



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.

(continued)

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.



Celebrate Recovery

A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered program where hope begins, healing is possible, and no one has to walk alone. Whether you are carrying the pain of past hurts, battling unhealthy habits, or feeling burdened by fear, anxiety, or depression, you are warmly welcomed here. Come as you are, take each step toward freedom and restoration, and discover the strength, encouragement, and caring community that can help you move forward with renewed purpose.

Meetings are held at:

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WINSTED

800 MAIN STREET

WINSTED, CT 06098

MONDAYS 7 PM (doors open at 6:30)

**www.sccwinsted.org
crwinsted2025@gmail.com**

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

June – Happy Birthday to . . .

- 01 Denise Killiany
- 04..... Ed Giarnese &
Alvin Fields, Sr.
- 22 Glen McMahon
- 23 Carol Young
- 28 Cara Torson



June – Happy Anniversary to . . .

- 06 . . . Mike & Rainie Ditz
- 26 . . . Bob & Elaine Davis



Congratulations to all our GRADUATES in 2026!

Alivia Craig-Markey and Leon Liskin
both graduating Kindergarten

Ellianna Andrews & Anaya Killiany
both graduating Middle School

July Birthdays

- 02 Sarah Emmons, John LeManquais
and Adam Goetz
07 Jesse Bierce
10 Jonathan Morhardt
13 Eileen Davis
14 Ben Liskin
18 Gunther Gundlach
19 Melissa Balthazar, Rainie Ditz,
Tim Fetzer and Samatha Stoeke
23 Bentley Berg
30 Sharon Okraska

July Anniversaries

- 07 ... John & Joanne LeManquais
15 ... Eric & Amanda Schaefer and
Bob & Jeanine Lovendale



August Birthdays

- 01 Alexandria Barrington
11 Robbie Emmons
15 Jeff Liskin, Sr.
23 Jeanine Lovendale and Barbara Fredsall
25 Rose Nicholls
28 Lettie Gibb
29 Caleb Shpur
30 Alane Aherns

August Anniversaries

- 05 ... William & Alane Aherns

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 JUNE 2026

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



Children's
 Sunday BBQ
 Come Join Us
 Sun., June 7th
 after worship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Please note changes to Prayer Group and Sunday/Mid-week Bible Studies for the summer months. All Bible Study groups will resume in September – watch for the announcements.</p>			<p>Diaper Bank 5-6:30 pm</p> <p>No Bible Study Come to the 6PM Viewing of "The American Miracle"- Our Nation is No Accident</p>	<p>Mission Mtg 4:00 PM</p>		<p>Women's Retreat & Picnic 10am- 1:30pm</p>
<p>7 Food Bank Sunday Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM</p> <p>Children's Sunday Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Cookout after worship Diaconate Mtg 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrate Recovery 7PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO Mid-Week Prayer Group or NO Bible Study this week</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrate Recovery 7PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Council Mtg 7 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM Last Study till Fall 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bake & Book Sale 9am – 2pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Father's Day Worship @ 10:00 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrate Recovery 7PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Deadline for Contact submission</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>Worship @ 10:00 AM Youth Group 11:30 AM VBS Team Meeting 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrate Recovery 7PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>		<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Vacation Bible Spectacular</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 20-24th Come Join Us</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Volunteers Needed</p> </div>	

Got an event or something you want advertised in the
 September edition of the "Contact Newsletter?"
Deadline for submission is August 21st

Calendars for July & August will be posted on the church website for those particular months.