

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered

Worship Service: 9:30 AM

August 9, 2026



"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."
(Hebrews 1:1–2)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude

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Call to Worship From Psalm 8 (NIV)

Leader: Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory in the heavens.

Leader: Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies,

People: To silence the foe and the avenger.

Leader: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

People: The moon and the stars, which you have set in place.

Leader: What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

People: You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

Leader: You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

People: You put everything under their feet:

Leader: All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

People: The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

All: Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*Hymn #370 (green hymnal) "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

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Prayer of Invocation and Confession

A Prayer for Our Church (recited in unison)

Father, we praise you and glorify you. Help us to demonstrate our love for you through what we do and say. Draw this body of believers together in love, and let us be united in Christ. Give us a desire to conform all things to your Word. Grant us the presence and wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We pray that Your Word will be correctly preached from the pulpit, that lives will be changed, and many will believe in Jesus. Transform this church according to Your will. We pray that You will protect this

church so the schemes of the evil one will not prosper against it. Father, use this church to proclaim the gospel to this community and the world, and make us true disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory

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*Doxology #515 (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #98 (green hymnal) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

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Scripture Readings

Hebrews 9:6–8

⁶ Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, ⁷ but into the second, only the high priest *enters* once a year, not without *taking* blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. ⁸ The Holy Spirit *is* signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

Ephesians 2:11-13; 18–19

¹¹ Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands— ¹² *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...¹⁸ for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Musical Response

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon Text Hebrews 10:19–25

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since we *have* a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of

faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Gloria Patri #513 (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon “A Privilege Not to Be Taken for Granted”

***Hymn #495** (green hymnal) “It Is Well with My Soul”

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*Benediction

Musical Response

Postlude

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We welcome our guest musician, Kathy Stempeck! Kathy is a former long-term member of Second Congregational. We thank Kathy for filling the sanctuary with music today! Please greet her after the service.

Sermon Notes:

[illegible]

Service Information

Preaching: John Costa

Monthly Deacon: Cassie Riberdy

Monthly Assistant Deacon: Bob Davis

Last Week's Attendance: 61

Last Week's Offering: \$3074 (\$3300 budgeted)

Second Congregational Church

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Winsted, CT 06098-1014

Phone: 860-379-4766

Email: info@sccwinsted.org

Web: sccwinsted.org

Important Notices

- **Rededication to Christ**—On Sunday, August 16, the worship service will include the opportunity for you to participate in a brief optional liturgy of **Christian Rededication** similar to our new member ceremony. Two weeks ago, I was approached by a member of the congregation asking for an opportunity to reaffirm his faith in Christ. It struck me that there might be others who would like the opportunity to do the same. Many among us have grown in our faith and commitment to Christ. This might be a timely opportunity to declare our unwavering allegiance to Christ and complete faith in Him anew. As Jesus says, *"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 10:32–33). If the Spirit moves you on August 16, you will be invited to come forward to the platform. See me for more information. *Pastor Dan*
- **Nominating Committee news**—Hello church family. Steven Millahn has volunteered to fill the position of Fellowship Coordinator. He will be speaking to people about filling open spaces for the fellowship time after the service. Thank you so much, Steven, for your willingness to serve!
 - In September, we will begin talking about ways that you too can serve your church in 2026! If anyone has any questions about this, please see Bonnie Sterpka.
- **We have a pickup choir planned for next Sunday, August 16.** This would be a perfect time to decide if you wish to join us in the fall. Rehearsal begins at 8:30 am in the choir room.
- **Anyone wishing to provide music** for the service while the choir is taking a break this summer is asked to speak to Chris King.
- **Prayer Chain** – All prayers requested on Sunday and during the week are sent out to the church Prayer Chain. If you would like to be included in those for either personal prayers or to pray for others, please email info@sccwinsted.org
- **The two nursery rooms** downstairs are clean, sanitized, and available should you need a place to change a diaper, feed your baby, or simply need a quiet place to take your child during the service. Audio of the service can be heard.

Upcoming Events This Week

- **Monday** **Celebrate Recovery** – 7:00 PM (led by Jeff Liskin, Sr., downstairs)
- **All Bible studies and Sunday School will return in September.**

Christian Education and Youth Events

- **Sunday School — Chance to Register Your Kids Early!**
September 13th is Rally Sunday, where all the students and their parents are invited as we kick off the new school year. Join us for a continental breakfast, student registration, songs, prayer, and meet the teachers. If you would like to register early, please speak to John Costa or email: sccwyouth@gmail.com.
- **Youth Group — Starts back up in September!**
See the monthly schedule in a couple of weeks. Youth Group invites all students in grades 6–12! Each meeting includes Bible lessons, games, and snacks — plus field trips and junior mission projects

throughout the year.

Men's and Women's Fellowship

- **The Men's Fellowship** will regroup and hold a meeting on September 20 after church. Please bring ideas for what you would like to see us do. Events? Service? Study? Activities? Retreats? The group is open to all men of the church. If you have any questions, see Pastor Dan.
- **Women's Fellowship Upcoming Opportunities:**
 - **Planning Meeting:** We will host a planning meeting after church on **Sunday, September 20, 2026**. Please bring ideas for fall and winter activities.
 - **Fall Retreat:** There is information posted in the fellowship hall about a fall women's retreat opportunity. This retreat will take place from **Friday, October 16 – Sunday, October 18, 2026** at Camp Monadnock (257 Dublin Rd, Jaffrey, NH). This is a wonderful opportunity for us to worship God together in a beautiful place. We will meet other Christian women and build on our relationships with each other while we worship the Lord. There will be guest speakers, music, a biblical program and time to enjoy the camp. The cost is \$250 and covers lodging, food, and the program. Please let me know if you would like to attend (see the sign-in list on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall).

To register: Early Registration is open now with a \$10 discount. I registered already and the total cost is \$240 for a room with a bathroom. Here is the link to register: <https://www.monadnock.camp/womensretreats>. You will need to set up a login (it's not difficult) and when you register, enter the start date. Choose "Retreat and Accommodations (In-Room bathroom)". There are several links for forms to complete. ON the "Housing Request Form" choose "Women's Retreat 1 and you will choose our church in the drop-down box (that will make sure that we are in a room together). I am not sure how long the discount will last, so please register soon and let me know if you have any difficulty (I can walk you through the registration). If you would like this information sent to your email, please let Bonnie know.

Other Important Information

- **Celebrate Recovery Meetings are held on Monday evenings at 7 PM – downstairs (Opens at 6:30 PM).**


Dealing with life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups is not a solo endeavor. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-Step program that helps you heal from what life has put you through in a safe, 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 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM) right in our church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dan or the CR Ministry Leader, Jeff Liskin, Sr.
- **We are partnered with The Interfaith Food Bank**, managed by the Salvation Army. We will be collecting non-perishable foods on the first Sunday of each month; however, you can always bring in your items and place them in the purple crates in Fellowship Hall. The next collection date is **Sunday, August 2, 2026**. They are also requesting personal care items.
- **The Fellowship Coffee Hour** chart for 2026 is posted, and there are vacancies if anyone wants to sign up.
- **Tithes, Offerings, and Donations** may now be made online. For those who 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." You may also download the Vanco mobile app on your smartphone. Search for churches in your area, and you will find "Second Congregational Church of Winsted." For more information on Vanco, see Paul Okraska.



Second Congregational Church Online

Church Email: info@sccwinsted.org

Church Webpage: <http://sccwinsted.org>

Church Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/sccwinsted

YouTube Channel for Livestream Services: www.youtube.com/channel/UCCW4dPY3yqt-GsjPZG-cHuQ

(Search for: Second Congregational Church of Winsted, CT)

Church Library & Media Center: www.librarything.com/catalog/sccwlibrary

Pastor Dan's Apologetic Page: <http://multimediaapologetics.com>

Church Office Hours

Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Sharon will be covering the office in the interim)

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Daniel Cote

Email: danielrcote@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 203-217-7498 (feel free to call or text Pastor Dan)

Summer Office Hours: Sunday, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM (Other days needed or by appointment)

Director of Youth and Families: John Costa

Email: john.costa.jc@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 413-854-7147

Summer Office Hours: Sunday, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Mon. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Other days as required)

Administrative Assistant: TBA

Email: info@sccwinsted.org

Phone: 860-379-4766

Organist: Christopher King

Sextons: Tom Doney & Cassie Riberdy