

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered

Worship Service: 9:30 AM

August 30, 2026



"The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."

(Psalm 12:6)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – Wonderful Words of Life - arr. Tracey Craig McKibben

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Call to Worship From Psalm 103:1–5

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

People Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;

Leader: Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

People: Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

Leader: Who satisfies your years with good things,

People: So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

***Hymn #619** (green hymnal) "I Love to Tell the Story "

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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, we pray that You will 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 – All Hail the Power - arr. Edward Broughton

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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 #439** (green hymnal) “Sweet Hour of Prayer ”

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Scripture Readings

Galatians 6:9–10

⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Romans 12:9–13

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; ¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, ¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

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 1 John 2:1–11

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world. ³ By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. ⁷ Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. ⁸ On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining. ⁹ The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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 “To Know Him Is to Love His People”
Part 2 of a sermon series on John’s letters

*Hymn #677 (green hymnal) “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”
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*Benediction

Musical Response

Postlude – Once to Every Man and Nation - arr. Marianne Kim
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Sermon Notes:

Service Information

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Daniel Cote
Monthly Deacon: Cassie Riberdy
Monthly Assistant Deacon: Bob Davis
Last Week’s Attendance: 42
Last Week’s Offering: \$1,563 (\$3300 budgeted)

Second Congregational Church
800 Main Street
Winsted, CT 06098-1014
Phone: 860-379-4766
Email: info@sccwinsted.org
Web: sccwinsted.org

Important Notices

- **Time Change**-the Worship Service returns to 10:00 am on September 6
- **Pastor Dan will be baptizing in the Farmington River on Sunday, 9/27, following worship.** Please see Pastor Dan if you would like to join in believer’s baptism.
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study will resume on 9/13 From 9:00am-9:45am**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Group will resume on 9/16:**
 - Prayer Group—5:30 pm (Pastor Dan’s Office)
 - Bible Study—6:00 pm-7:15pm (Music Room)
- **The Music Committee** has made the decision to provide choir music for services twice a month instead of three times. We’re hoping this may encourage those who don’t want to make a greater commitment to join us. We

are looking for sopranos and basses to fill in for members we have lost recently, and which would boost the choir enough to add back a third service. There are no auditions or formal invitations to join the choir. If you have any questions, please see Chris King or Denise Torson.

- **Some exciting news** – We will be adding contemporary worship music led by Michael and Denise Killiany to the service twice a month in addition to traditional hymns on the organ. We will kick off the fall season for choir on Sunday, September 13. Rehearsal begins at 8:30 am in the choir room. Please join us!
- **Do you have a prayer request?** We have created a new system for submitting prayer requests. Please go to our webpage and click the link “Prayer Request” in the middle of the homepage to submit your prayer requests. All prayer requests will be sent to the prayer chain. Unless you indicate otherwise, all prayer requests will also be mentioned in the Sunday worship service. Prayer requests may also be sent directly to: sccwprayerrequests@gmail.com.

- **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.

- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10)

Hello church family! In September our Nominating process will begin. Over the next few months, I will share with you some of the opportunities to be involved in our church and the openings that we would love to fill. A list of boards, committees and jobs will be presented and voted on at the annual meeting in January for 2027. If you have interests in serving, please find me in church, or you may email me at bsterpka@hotmail.com. I would love to hear about your gifts and interests and to talk about ways that you can serve!

Blessings, Bonnie Sterpka

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 — Starting Soon!**
Sunday School returns September 13th for ages 4–18! We offer three age-specific classes designed to give each child the most effective Bible education for their stage of life. Register early or join us on Rally Sunday to kick off the new school year together.
- **Rally Sunday — September 13th**
Parents and students, come celebrate the start of a new school year! Join us for a continental breakfast, student registration, songs, prayer, and a chance to meet your child's teacher. To register in advance, contact John Costa or email sccwyouth@gmail.com.
- **Youth Group — Coming in September!**
Students in grades 6–12 are invited! Every meeting includes Bible lessons, games, and snacks — plus field trips and junior mission projects throughout the year. Here's a sneak peek at our first two weeks:
- 🎉 **9/13 — Youth Reset**
We kick off the new season with games, snacks, and a conversation about what our group will look like in the year ahead.
- 💡 **9/27 — DQ "Season Cooldown"**
The group heads to Dairy Queen for ice cream before the season winds down — and we'll reflect on our spiritual seasons together through Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.
- **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**. All women at the church are welcome. Please join us, and come with ideas!
 - **Fall Retreat:** There is information posted in the fellowship hall about a fall women's retreat opportunity — please add your name to the list if you are interested. This retreat will take place from Friday, October 16 – Sunday, October 18, 2026 at Camp Monadnock (257 Dublin Rd, Jaffrey, NH.). If interested, please add your name to the list in the fellowship hall. Please see me for more information on how to sign up.

Bonnie Sterpka

Other Important Information

- **Volunteers Needed-** Sarah Thornton, a new innovation teacher in the library at Pearson School, has an exciting opportunity to offer the students experiences with engineering, coding, and inquiry project learning. She can use assistance, from community volunteers in the library, with helping students check out books and reshelving. If interested, contact Sarah Thornton at 917-324-5531 (Text).
- **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, September 6, 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

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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 as 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: Jennifer DeSanti

Email: info@sccwinsted.org

Phone: 860-379-4766

Organist: Christopher King

Sextons: Tom Doney & Cassie Riberdy

Second Congregational Church—Winsted

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)

