

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered

Worship Service: 10:00 AM

September 13, 2026



"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

(John 17:17)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – A Prayer - Robert J. Powell

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Call to Worship From Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will praise the Lord while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Leader: Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.

People: His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; In that very day his thoughts perish.

Leader: How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

People: Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; Who keeps faith forever;

Leader: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free.

People: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous;

Leader: The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow, but He thwarts the way of the wicked.

People: The Lord will reign forever, Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

***Hymn #21 (green hymnal) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

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Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Anthem – Be Thou My Vision - arr. Willard Minton

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 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing - arr. Nancy Folkerts

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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 #32** (green hymnal) “How Firm a Foundation”

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Scripture Readings

2 Timothy 1:5–8

⁵ For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.

Deuteronomy 6:6–9

⁶ “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸ “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ⁹ “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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 2 Timothy 3:12–17

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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 Triathlon of Truth”

***Hymn #595 (green hymnal) “Lead On, O King Eternal”**
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***Benediction**

Musical Response

Postlude – The Thirty-Second Psalm - Benedetto Marcello
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Sermon Notes:

Service Information
Preaching: Rev. Dr. Daniel Cote
Monthly Deacon: Vicki Atkins
Monthly Assistant Deacon: Michael Killiany
Last Week’s Attendance: 50
Last Week’s Offering: \$2,930 (\$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**
- **Pastor Dan will be baptizing at a local pond following worship on September 27, 2026.** Contact Pastor Dan for more information or leave a contact number with the church office: info@sccwinsted.org or 860.379.4766.
 - **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! 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. It takes all of us working together to accomplish the work at SCCW. We all have been given gifts from the Lord and should use those gifts to further His kingdom. We are asked to be "good stewards" of our gifts - this includes our time, talent and treasure.

Here are some ways that you can become involved right now: Are you interested in helping children come to know Christ? Our children's programs need to be staffed by two adults, so if you are new to our programs, you can observe and grow! There are opportunities to help out with Children's Church (open to the younger children during the service after the offering on the 2nd and 4th Sunday). We also could use additional assistance in our Sunday School classes (held at 9:00 a.m. from September until early June). If you are interested in helping in any children's programs, please speak to John Costa. **Do you enjoy singing and music?** Our choir is looking for people to join. This is a wonderful gift to give to the whole congregation and the music at SCCW is such a blessing. It could be even better with additional voices! Please speak to Chris King if you would like to learn more about music at SCCW. **Do you have a gift for hospitality?** Each Sunday we have a wonderful opportunity to gather for fellowship - coffee, juice, and so many wonderful treats have been served! Steven Millahn is our Fellowship Coordinator and we all need your help to fill open dates and keep this a regular opportunity. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. All it takes is for you to add your name to one of the open spots - this is for one Sunday only (invite a friend or two to help you). If you are new to this, Steven can explain the tasks. Your help with this is so greatly appreciated. In addition to our weekly fellowship, SCCW also provides food for funerals/memorial services, other special events, and we also have a Meal Train (where we deliver food to someone who is going through a tough time - see Colleen Gundlach if you would like to be involved in the Meal Train).

If you are unsure of your gifts or how you can use your talent to serve the Lord, please seek me out and I would love to have a conversation with you about this! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months. Blessings to you all - Bonnie Sterpka.

Upcoming Events This Week

- **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 (Music Room)
- **Monday Celebrate Recovery – 7:00 PM** (led by Jeff Liskin, Sr., downstairs)
- **All Bible studies and Sunday School have returned.**

Christian Education and Youth Events

- **Sunday School:** As of today, Sunday School classes are available every week at 9:00-9:45am. If you missed the Rally Sunday gathering be sure to John Costa to fill our student registration form.
- **Youth Group:** The youth meet today at 11:30am in the basement fellowship area. Groups will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. 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.
- **Operation Christmas Child:** Please continue to remember donations this month. The theme for this September is “Games” (e.g., puzzles, coloring books, jump rope, stickers, compass, games). You can visit the OCC table in the fellowship hall to drop off any gifts. Thank you for helping to bring joy to children and sharing the gospel with countless families around the world!

Youth Group Calendar—Sep.-Oct.			
Youth Group is open to grades 6 and up—We Welcome you to Join Us!			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	Sep. 13 th	9:00am-10:00am	Rally Sunday – Youth/Kids/Teacher Breakfast; Class Intros
Sunday	Sep. 13 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group Reset (Games, Snack, Vision Board)
Sunday	Sep. 27 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – DQ “Season Cooldown” (Ecc. 3:1-8)
Sunday	Oct. 4 th , 11 th	11:00pm-12:00pm	Helping Hands – Food Bank Collection
Sunday	Oct. 25 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible Lesson, Group Activity

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 Group: Upcoming opportunities:**
Planning Meeting: We will host a planning meeting after church next **Sunday, September 20, 2026**. We will meet around 11:30 a.m. in the parlor (next to the Fellowship Hall). All women at the church are welcome. Please join us and come with ideas!
- **Dave Pettigrew Concert:** Friday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. The women's fellowship is happy to support this church event by providing refreshments! Baked goods and other easy to eat snacks, cold drinks (water, juice etc.), and coffee will be provided. We will also need assistance with setting up the fellowship table, serving and clean up. Please see Bonnie Sterpka if you are able to help.
- **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. Registration is online. We would like to fill three more openings. Please see Bonnie Sterpka if you are interested in joining us for this event.

Other Important Information

- **Save the date! Oct. 9, 7 pm: Dave Pettigrew, an evening of worship, stories & songs at Second Congregational Church! 800 Main St, Winsted, CT**



"Being onstage has never just been about singing songs. It's about walking into rooms full of real people with real stories, and reminding them that hope, healing, and God's presence are still alive and available."

Dave Pettigrew

Dave Pettigrew is a worship artist, songwriter, husband, father, and storyteller from New Jersey whose ministry has been shaped by years on the road and the lives he's encountered along the way. His latest album, *Live The Love*, continues the musical journey that began with *Faith & Gasoline*, blending heartfelt worship with honest, lived-in stories of faith, struggle, hope, and redemption.

This is a Free concert, but we would appreciate your free-will offering during the concert to support Dave.

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



**Celebrate
Recovery**
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

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, October 4, 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](http://www.sccwinsted.org) 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

Monday, Tuesday, 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)

Office Hours: Sunday, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM & Wednesday, 5:00 PM-7:30 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

Office Hours: Sunday, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Mon. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Wednesday 5:00 PM-7:30 PM
(Other days as needed or by appointment)

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)