

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered

Worship Service: 10:00 AM

September 20, 2026



“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.”

(1 John 3:10)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – Where the Tall Tree Grows - David Lanz

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Call to Worship From Psalm 5:1–7

Leader: Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my groaning.

People: Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray.

Leader: In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice;

People: In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

Leader: For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness.

People: No evil dwells with You.

Leader: The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes.

People: You hate all who do iniquity.

Leader: You destroy those who speak falsehood.

People: The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

Leader: But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house.

People: At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

***Hymn #15 (red hymnal) “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

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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 – A Path with Heart - David Lanz

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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 #233 (red hymnal) “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

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Scripture Reading Ezekiel 28:11–17

¹¹ Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ “You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. ¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ “You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.

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 3:1–10

¹ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴ Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he

cannot sin, because he is born of God. ¹⁰ By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

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 “The Family Resemblance”

***Hymn #209 (red hymnal) “Abide With Me”**

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***Benediction**

Musical Response

Postlude – Sonatina Op. 36 No. 1, 3rd Movement - M. Clementi

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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: 55
Last Week’s Offering: \$2,008 (\$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** – Beginning in October the choir will be providing music the first and third Sunday of each month. Please join us! Rehearsal begins at 8:30 am in the choir room. Michael and Denise Killiany will be providing music on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.
- **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:**

Hello church family Hello church family! As mentioned over the past two weeks, I will be providing information on ways that you can serve at the Second Congregational Church. Today, I would like to highlight our boards. If the important work that the boards accomplish is interesting to you and you would like to be involved, please speak to the current Chairperson, or to Bonnie Sterpka.

Board Of Christian Education: Bonnie Sterpka (current Chair) – This board provides supervision and direction of Christian education of the children and young people of the church. Programs are developed that will nurture a personal relationship with God and promote Bible literacy. This board supports the work of our Director of Youth and Families. Some current programs include Sunday School, Youth Group, Children’s Church, Summer Church and VBS.

Board of Finance: Joanne LeManquais (current Chair) - The Board of Finance is responsible for preparing an annual budget by receiving the financial needs from the chairman of each board and committee. This board also has an important job of counting and verifying (on paper) all collected cash money in the collection plate. The Stewardship program is under the Finance Board and works to teach God’s people the principals of stewardship according to the Word of God. This month we will learn more about Stewardship from the Finance Board! The work that the Finance Board does at the church is very important and they could use some help!

Board of Missions: Colleen Gundlach (current Chair) - The Board of Missions ensures that the church funds allocated for mission work are used to spread the Gospel message in accordance of with the command of Christ. They share how our money is being utilized through “Mission Moments” during the service and in the newsletter. Some of the wonderful groups supported by our church, and overseen by the board, include the Diaper Bank, the home school group, and our missionary in Cambodia. Stay tuned for Mission updates as this board is very active and doing wonderful work with our church funds.

Diaconate Board: Jeffrey Liskin Sr. (current Chair) – The diaconate members are all appointed. The Senior Pastor and Director of Youth and Families are part of the Diaconate. The Diaconate works closely with the pastor and is responsible for the spiritual health and welfare of the church and local community This is a very important job! You will see our deacons assisting during the church service by serving communion, presenting the Call to Worship, and praying over the collected funds during the Offering. Being a member of the Diaconate requires a mature faith and certain qualities as outlined in 1 Timothy 3: 8-13. After reviewing these qualities, if you would like to recommend someone to the Deacon Board, please speak to Jeff.

- **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 much discussion, the group ruled several other possible affiliations, and 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:

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)

- Theologically conservative, evangelical, and strongly biblical
- Upholds Christian doctrines consistent with our Statement of Faith
- Over 300 churches and growing (34 churches in 1959)
- Approximately 42,000+ members

Advantages of joining CCCC

- Help in pastoral transitions and when difficulties and/or church health issues arise
- Training, development, church planting, workshops, and other resources
- Evangelism resources
- Credentialing and ordination of clergy
- Networking and fellowship (participation is expected)
- Code of Ethics for Ministers
- Code of Ethics for Churches
- Individual churches remain autonomous (CCCC is there to support, not control)

Disadvantages of joining CCCC

- Cost ~1-3 percent of church budget (voluntarily- not strictly enforced)

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 SCCW's bylaws and objectives. The committee came to the unanimous conclusion that the CCCC would be the only fit for SCCW.

Upcoming Events This Week

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study has resumed from 9:00am-9:45am.**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Group has resumed as follows:**
 - 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

- **Youth Group (9/27):** The youth group will be attending the church baptisms at a local pond. We also look forward to being there to encourage one of our youth members who will be baptized with the group.
 - As the group chose to attend the Baptisms, the DQ trip will be postponed to October.
- **Fire Drill (10/11):** Our annual fire drill will take place on October 11th during the Sunday School class hour. We hope that all the kids can attend, as this is an important routine for their safety.
- **Helping Hands (10/11 & 10/18):** The kids and youth will be participating in helping the church collect canned and dry goods for our local food bank. Flyers will be handed out by our kids real soon. Please make note of these dates and bring a few things to support the less fortunate in our community.
- **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. 27 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – Baptism Event
Sunday	Oct. 11 th	9:30am -----	FIRE DRILL!
Sunday	Oct. 11 th , 18 th	11:00pm-12:00pm	Helping Hands – Food Bank Collection
Sunday	Oct. 11 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible Lesson, Group Activity, Snacks
Sunday	Oct. 25 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – DQ “Season Cooldown” (Ecc. 3:1-8)

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:** Please join us today after church - all women are welcome. Bring ideas for upcoming activities!
- **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

- **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.
- **The Fellowship Coffee Hour** chart for 2026 is posted, and there are vacancies if anyone wants to sign up.
- **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.

- **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.
- **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://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

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)

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)
- 1. 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)