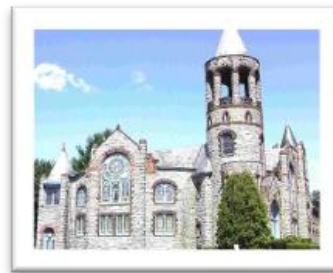


Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered

Worship Service: 10:00 AM
September 6, 2026



"These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you."

(1 John 2:26)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – Brethren, We Have Met to Worship - arr .Wally Mayo

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Call to Worship From Psalm 98:1-5; 8-9

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.

People: The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Leader: He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, With the lyre and the sound of melody.

People: Let the rivers clap their hands, Let the mountains sing together for joy.

Leader: Before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth;

People: He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

***Hymn #1** (green hymnal) "For the Beauty of the Earth"

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Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Nicene Creed (recited in unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy

catholic* and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*catholic means universal

Offertory – Rock of Ages -arr. Robert J. Powell

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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 #564** (green hymnal) “Let Us Break Bread Together”

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Scripture Reading 1 John 4:1–3

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

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 2:15–26

¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. ¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. ²¹ I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning

abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. ²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

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 **“Building Sandcastles Below the Tide Line?”**
Part 3 of a sermon series on John’s letters

Sacrament Of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Communion Prayer – (recited in unison)

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord who always delights in showing mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this sacrament of your son Jesus Christ that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Communion Text - Isaiah 45:22-23

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #670** (green hymnal) “Once to Every Man and Nation”
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***Benediction**

Musical Response

Postlude – Sarabande for Organ - James Pethel
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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: 53
Last Week's Offering: \$739 (\$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

- **A few people have expressed interest in being baptized** in the Farmington River on Sunday, 9/27, following worship. If you are potentially interested in joining the group, **please attend a meeting in Pastor Dan's office following the service on Sunday, 9/6.**
- The complete Nicene Creed six-part sermon series Pastor Dan did over the summer has been uploaded to the website. Click the "Sermons in text form" link on the front of the webpage to access the series.
- **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)
- **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.

- **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 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

- **Rally Sunday — Next Week!** 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. For any questions contact John Costa or email sccwyouth@gmail.com.
 - **Sunday School** — Following Rally Sunday, classes will be from 9:00-9:45am. Classes designed to give each child the most effective Bible education for their stage of life.
- **Youth Group** — Groups will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 11:30am. 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:
- **Operation Christmas Child** — Don't forget to grab an item or two for the children! The theme for this month 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. At the end of November we will add your gifts with others to pack shoeboxes that will be sent around the world with the gospel to bring cheer and Jesus to countless families.
 - **Special note:** OCC will no longer be accepting Harry Potter and Pokémon products.

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
	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 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, 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](#) 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

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)