

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

**Second Congregational Church
of Winsted
(Baptist & Congregational)
Bible-focused/Christ-centered**

**800 Main Street
Winsted CT 06098-1014
Phone: 860 379-4766**

**Website: sccwinsted.org
Email: info@sccwinsted.org**

**Rev. Dr. Daniel Cote
Senior Pastor**

**John Costa
Director of Youth & Families**

**Jennifer DeSanti
Office Administrator**

**Colleen Gundlach
Diaper Bank Coordinator**

**Christopher King
Organist**

**Tom Doney &
Cassie Riberdy
Sextons**

**Sunday Morning Adult Study
Led by Pastor Dan
9:00-9:45 AM
(Will resume 9/13)**

**Sunday Service Schedule
Worship Service 10:00 AM**

Sunday School 9:00 AM

**Youth Group (grades 5-8)
Meet on 2nd & 4th Sunday
each month – 11:30 AM**

**Celebrate Recovery
Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Wed. Night Study
Led by Pastor Dan
Prayer Group 5:30 PM
Bible Study 6:30 PM
(All will resume 9/16)**

**Diaper Bank Hours
1st Wednesday of each month
5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Sunday Worship Church Service returns to
10:00 AM on Sunday, September 6th**



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A Message from Pastor Dan...

"...let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 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." (Hebrews 10:24–25)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I came across this story of Charles Thomas Studd, who seemed to have everything the world could offer. He was born into wealth, educated at Cambridge, and celebrated as one of England's finest cricket players. He could have pursued a life of comfort and fame. Instead, convinced that Christ was worth more than anything this world could give, Studd left it behind to serve as a missionary in China, India, and Africa. He even gave away much of his inheritance to advance Christian ministry. Studd understood that success is not measured by what we accumulate, achieve, or leave behind, but by whether our lives have been faithfully invested in Christ and His kingdom. His famous words became the testimony of his life:

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

As summer comes to a close, it is time to recommit ourselves to the worship of God. Few of us will venture into foreign missions, but it is still true for us that only what we do for Christ will last. A. W. Tozer wrote, "God has created us that we might be worshipers." At the heart of authentic Christian experience is regular attendance at Sunday worship for praise of our God and Savior, prayer, instruction in the Word, and fellowship with other believers to spur our growth in Christ.

Much of what we do with our time will turn to dust, but our worship and service to God will endure forever. **We will all give an accounting for what we have done with our lives (2 Cor 5:10), and among the things our God will expect is faithful worship during our time on Earth.**

So, are you all in? If so, we look forward to praising God at Second Congregational each Sunday with our full complement of hearts, hands, and voices!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Dan

Music News

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 music 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!

Bible Studies Schedules

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** will resume on 9/13 at 9:00am – 9:45.
 - **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)
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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 ruling out several other possible affiliations, 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 access to pastoral support, leadership training, and networking opportunities with like-minded congregations. 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 SCC's bylaws and objectives.

The Affiliation Committee will soon be making a recommendation to the council, after which the matter will be brought to a special meeting of the congregation. If anyone has any questions, please see Colleen Gundlach or Pastor Dan.



WHO IS CELEBRATE RECOVERY FOR?

The answer is simple: EVERYONE.

Celebrate Recovery isn't only for drugs and alcohol. It's for anyone carrying a hurt, struggling with a

hang-up, or trying to break an unhealthy habit.

Because the truth is, we all have something, and no one should have to face their pain alone.

Celebrate Recovery is a grace-filled, Christ-centered community where we courageously create space to get honest about what's happening in our lives.

Sometimes that means facing our pain.

Sometimes it means recognizing the negative ways we've learned to see ourselves, God, or others.

Sometimes it means admitting that the habits we developed to escape our pain have ended up hurting ourselves or the people we love.

And sometimes it simply means saying: "I need help."

There is no shame in that. 

Celebrate Recovery offers a biblically based approach to lasting recovery as we address our hurts, hang-ups, and habits; replace unhealthy patterns with God's truth; and develop new, life-giving habits.

But we don't do any of it alone.

Jesus Christ leads the way. 

Our Forever Family walks alongside us. 

And together, we keep taking the next step.

 "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2 NIV

Maybe you've thought: "My problem isn't bad enough for Celebrate Recovery."

You don't have to hit rock bottom.

You don't need an addiction.

You don't need to have everything figured out.

You need to be willing to take that first step.

Come as you are. 

Celebrate Recovery is for EVERYONE because no one should have to face their pain alone.

EVERY MONDAY AT 7PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30) HERE AT SECOND CONGREGATIONAL

Men & Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship Group: Upcoming opportunities:

Planning Meeting: We will host a planning meeting after church on **Sunday, September 20, 2026**. All of the women at the church are welcome to come together to spend time in fellowship as we grow in our faith! Please join us as we plan out our fall and winter activities, 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.). 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: Go to <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 me know.

Thanks so much and I hope you can attend the fall retreat with us!

Bonnie Sterpka

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! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer. In September so many of our programs will be starting again – the Choir, Sunday School, Youth Group, Bible Study, men's and women's fellowship, church board meetings etc. This is also a time for our Nominating process to 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

(continued)

Christian Education Updates

Sunday School — Back This Month!

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 scewyouth@gmail.com.

Youth Group — Welcome Back!

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.

Operation Christmas Child

September gift theme: **Games**

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

(continued)

Electronic Way to Contribute

Tithes, Offerings, and Donations may now be made online. While we recognize that most people will continue to present their offerings during the Sunday worship service, giving to the church and its ministries may now be done online for those who prefer to give that way. Simply go to the front page of our [church website](#) and click the link “Support Our Church and Ministries” or tap the tile shown to the left. You will be directed to Vanco, a secure online payment system used by thousands of churches across the country. You may also download the Vanco mobile app on your smartphone. Be sure to select the app with the logo to the right. Search for churches in your area, and you will find “Second Congregational Church of Winsted.” For more information on Vanco, visit their website: vancopayments.com See Paul Okraska for more information.



Please join us in honoring some of our church family celebration announcements.

September – Happy Birthday to. . .

02 Vicki Atkins
 04 Amy Robinson
 13 Stacey Oakley
 20 Katie Sterpka
 25 Marc Riberdy
 26 Stewart Smith
 28 Joanne LeManquais

**September – Happy Anniversary to. . .**

08 . . . Paul & Sharon Okraska
 18 . . . Mark & Denise Torson
 18 . . . John & Carol Young
 25 . . . Stew & Sandi Smith



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)

Second Congregational Church
September 2026
NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
 Closed on Monday
 Tues,Wed,Thurs, Fri 8:30am-1:30pm



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Diaper Bank 5-6:30 pm Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	3 Mission Mtg 4:00 PM	4	5
6 Church Worship @ 10:00 AM	7 Holliday: Labor Day Celebrate Recovery 7PM	8	9 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	10	11	12
13 Rally Sunday@ 9:00 Church Worship @ 10:00 AM Diaconate Mtg 11:30 AM Youth Group ?	14 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	15 Church Council Mtg 7 PM	16 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	17	18	19
20 Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship @ 10:00 AM	21 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	22 Deadline for Contact submission	23 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM	24  9:30AM-2PM	25	26 Fall Foliage Festival 10am
27 Morning Study & Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship @ 10:00 AM Youth Group?	28 Celebrate Recovery 7PM	29	30 Mid-Week Prayer Group 5:30 PM Bible Study Led by Pastor Dan 6-7:15 PM			