

Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered

Worship Service: 10:00 AM

November 1, 2026



"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – Meditation or Communion - Gilbert M. Martin

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Call to Worship From Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens are telling of the glory of God.

People: And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Leader: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

People: The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.

Leader: The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

Leader: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

People: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever.

Leader: The judgments of the Lord are true.

People: They are righteous altogether.

Leader: They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold.

People: Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

***Hymn #120** (green hymnal) "He Hideth My Soul"

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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 – Table of Desire - Rob Little

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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 Readings:

2 Peter 1:16–19

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

2 Peter 2:1

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

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 4:1–6

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. ⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He

who is in you than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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 “Testing the Spirits”

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 - Colossians 1:19-22 (NIV)

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #360 (green hymnal) “You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”**

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***Benediction**

Musical Response

Postlude – Toccata in D Minor - J.S. Bach

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Sermon Notes:

Service Information

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Daniel Cote

Monthly Deacon: Jeff Stannard

Monthly Assistant Deacon: Vicki Atkins

Last Week's Attendance: 61

Last Week's Offering: \$1,639 (\$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

- **Stewardship Pledge Reminder:** We extend heartfelt thanks to all who have already offered the first fruits of God's blessings by making a financial pledge in support of our church.
As we prepare the budget for 2027, we kindly ask those who intend to pledge but have not yet submitted a card to do so at your earliest convenience. Your timely responses enable us to plan faithfully and responsibly for the year ahead.
Thank you for your generosity, your stewardship, and your partnership in our shared journey of faith!
- **Denominational Affiliation Committee:**
 - **Special Meeting:** On November 15th, 2026 there will be a special meeting of the Second Congregational Church to vote on the 4C's affiliation.

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 and present this report to the Church Council tonight for consideration.

- **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:** During the month of November, board and committee chairs will be working to fill their list of members for 2027. Please prayerfully consider how you can best serve the Lord at Second Congregational Church. I will be available after the service (during our fellowship time) to chat about your strengths and interests. I look forward to these conversations, so please seek me out! Here's a little tidbit: To serve on a board, you need to be a member, but you do not need to be a member to be on a committee. We encourage church membership into our church family, but if you are not yet ready, and would like to serve here, you are able to join a committee alongside our members. Second Congregational Church is a wonderful church family and God has blessed us in so many ways! Many of you are serving in many ways. If you have not yet found your niche, let's chat! Blessings to you all - Bonnie Sterpka

Upcoming Events This Week

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study is from 9:00am-9:45am.**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Prayer Group is 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)**

Christian Education and Youth Events

- **Operation Christmas Child:** Time is Almost Up! This is the last month of collections before we sent our gift shoeboxes out.
 - November's Gift Suggestion is \$10 donations for shipping costs. Each box must be shipped across the world. Much of the funds for the process come from volunteers and supporters like us. Please consider donating to help get our gifts to all the children.
 - Final collections will be accepted on (11/1, 11/8, 11/15). We still need toys and "wow" items (e.g., inflatable soccer balls, small backpack/purse, stuffed animal, doll, jewelry making/hobby kit, large toy). All completed boxes must be returned to the church by Sunday, November 22, 2026.
 - See Amazon OCC website: www.amazon.com/shop/operationchristmaschild or go to Amazon and type in "Operation Christmas Child Storefront." It offers great deals and quick shipping on bulk items. You can make many children happy with a single order!
- **OCC Packing Party (11/7):** You are invited to join us for the Packing/Pizza Party for a great time of fun and fellowship. We also encourage any elders and prayer warriors to join our prayer team. We'll pray over the boxes, the mission, and the children and families who receive gifts and the gospel this year.

- **Christmas Pageant (Next Month!):** Don't miss our children's depiction of the nativity scene—the blessed birth of our Lord Jesus. Our team and the kids will begin preparing and rehearsing in the beginning of December. Be a part of the Christmas blessing: If you would like to volunteer to help out with costumes, props, and preparation please speak to John C.

Youth Group Calendar — Nov. - Dec.			
Request Youth Group is open to grades 6 and up—We Welcome you to Join Us!			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Saturday	Nov. 7 th	4:30pm – 6:30pm	Operation Christmas Child – Packing Party
Sunday	Nov. 8 th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group - Bible Trivia, Games
Sunday	Nov. 22 nd	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible Activities, Snacks
Sunday	Dec. 15 th	9:00am – 9:45am	Pageant Project Prep
Sunday	Dec. 6 th , 13 th , 20 th	9:00am – 9:45am	Pageant Practice
Sunday	Dec. 13 th	9:00am – 9:45am	Pageant (Full Rehearsal)
Sunday	Dec. 20 th	10:00am -----	(9:00am - Full Dress Rehearsal!) Christmas Pageant

Men's and Women's Fellowship

- **Men's Fellowship Upcoming Events:**
 - November 14, 8:30 am - Quarterly Men's Breakfast: Film and Discussion-Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace
 - December 10, 6:00-8:00 pm - Regional Men's Christmas Dinner, Location: Greenwoods Country Club (Sign up: ASAP in the Fellowship Hall/ Tickets: \$32.00 make checks made payable to SCCW)
 - February 13, 8:30 am - Quarterly Men's Breakfast
- **Women's Fellowship Group: Upcoming opportunities:**
 - **Cocoa, Cookies and Carol Sing - On Thursday, 12/17 at 6:30 p.m.** We will gather at the church for this event, hosted by the Women's fellowship. This will be an all-church event and will also be open to the community. This event will be coordinated by Susanne, Deb and Eileen. More information on what to bring, decorations, plans, etc. will be coming soon!
 - **The Women's Fellowship Group will meet again on Sunday, 1/24** after the service.
 - The activities and events can be attended by any of the women of the church. This is an open group and we welcome all ages! If you see something that is interesting to you, please join us. You don't have to come to the meetings or attend all of the events. Everyone is invited to join at any time, as we grow in our faith, friendship and fellowship.

Other Important Information

- **The Fellowship Coffee Hour** chart for 2026 is posted, and there are vacancies if anyone wants to sign up.
- **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, November 1, 2026**. They are also requesting personal care items.

- **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.
- **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.



**Celebrate
Recovery**
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program



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)
- 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)