Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered



Worship Service: 10:00 AM
November 8, 2026

"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – Fantasy on "Materna" - arr. A.F. Schultz
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Call to Worship (Psalm 150)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary.
People: Praise Him in His mighty expanse.
Leader: Praise Him for His mighty deeds.
People: Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
Leader: Praise Him with trumpet sound.
People: Praise Him with harp and lyre.
Leader: Praise Him with timbrel and dancing.
People: Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.
Leader: Praise Him with loud cymbals.
People: Praise Him with resounding cymbals.
Leader: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
People: Praise the Lord!

***Hymn #322** (green hymnal) "When Morning Gilds the Skies"
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Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Special Music Michael & Denise Killiany
"You Are My All In All " - Dennis Jernigan
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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 – For the Beauty of the Earth - arr. Robert Lau

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***Doxology #<u>515</u>** (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**

Reception of New Members

Teresa Glaize
JoAnn Lesieur

Address to the Congregation & Prayer

Address to New Members

Pastor: Do you confess the Triune God of the Bible as the only true God, and do you repent of your sins and turn to Jesus Christ?

New Members: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man and that He died and rose again for the sins of the world? That He alone, by His sacrifice on the cross, can save you from the Father's wrath and righteous judgment against the wicked? And that He alone is your Lord?

New Members: **I do.**

Pastor: You have made a public confession of your faith and have been baptized. Do you accept the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the only Word of God and the rule of your faith and conduct?

New Members: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you intend to pursue the holiness of God, to live among God's faithful people, to hear His Word and share in His supper, regularly searching the Scriptures and seeking God's will through prayer? Do you promise to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through Word and deed, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

New Members: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you agree with this church's Statement of Faith and its government and organization?

New Members: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you also promise to support the people and ministries of this local church, to accept its instruction, and to be an active member of this assembly?

New Members: **I do.**

Address to the Congregation

Pastor: Do you, the members of the Second Congregational Church, receive these believers into our fellowship and promise to help and support them in the faith?

Congregation: **We do.**

Charge & Welcome of New Members

***Hymn** (see insert) "In Christ Alone" – Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Scripture Reading: 2 John 1–11

[1] The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know
the truth, [2] for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: [3] Grace, mercy *and*
peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. [4]
I was very glad to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment *to do*
from the Father. [5] Now I ask you, lady, not as though *I were* writing to you a new commandment, but the
one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. [6] And this is love, that we walk
according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning,
that you should walk in it. [7] For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not
acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. [8] Watch yourselves,
that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. [9] Anyone who
goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the
teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. [10] If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching,
do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; [11] for the one who gives him a greeting
participates in his evil deeds.

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: 3 John 1–12

[1] The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. [2] Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper
and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. [3] For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to
your truth, *that is,* how you are walking in truth. [4] I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children
walking in the truth. [5] Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and
especially *when they are* strangers; [6] and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do
well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. [7] For they went out for the sake of the Name,
accepting nothing from the Gentiles. [8] Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow
workers with the truth. [9] I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among
them, does not accept what we say. [10] For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he
does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the
brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire *to do so* and puts *them* out of the church. [11] Beloved, do
not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not
seen God. [12] Demetrius has received a *good* testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself; and we
add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

Gloria Patri #<u>513</u> (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: "Protecting and Promoting the Truth"

***Hymn #692** (green hymnal) "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

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***Benediction**

Musical Response

Postlude – God of Our Fathers - arr. Gilbert M. Martin

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Sermon Notes:

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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: $2,974.50 ($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

- **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 a
  - 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:** Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Packing Party. Your support and fellowship was a blessing!
  - ➢ We are still accepting $10 donations for shipping costs, which greatly helps us complete the mission to deliver the gospel and Christmas joy to countless children.
  - ➢ Pack Your Own Shoebox: We are giving out shoeboxes to anyone who would like to pack their own box with love and prayer. Sarah will be around to distribute boxes, as they will be accepted for the next couple of weeks.
- **Youth Group:** Following the service at 11:30am, the youth will meet downstairs for Bible activities and games.
- **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
Sunday	Nov. 8th	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group - Bible Trivia, Games
Sunday	Nov. 22nd	11:30am-12:45pm	Youth Group – Bible Activities, Snacks
Sunday	Dec. 15th	9:00am – 9:45am	Pageant Project Prep
Sunday	Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th	9:00am – 9:45am	Pageant Practice

Sunday	Dec. 13th	9:00am – 9:45am	Pageant (Full Rehearsal)
Sunday	Dec. 20th	10:00am ----------	(9:00am - Full Dress Rehearsal!) Christmas Pageant

- **Children's Sermon (following Offering)** – kids are invited to the front for a short message.

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.
- **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 onto 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 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.

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)

Hymn Sheet

In Christ Alone

Key: D

www.praisecharts.com/15163

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend



praisecharts

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A little information about the poinsettia flower you might not know:

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are somethings thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

If you would like to order a memorial poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas services, please complete the form below and attach payment of **$16.00 per plant**, made payable to the Second Congregational Church.

Please return the form to the church office no later than **Sunday, Dec. 6th** for your information to be included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday bulletins.

If you have any questions please email or call the church office:
Email: info@sccwinsted.org Phone: (860) 379-4766

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

I wish to order (no.) _____poinsettia(s) for the following:

In memory or honor or celebration of:

_____

_____

Please PRINT names and occasion clearly

Amount enclosed:_____ ($16.00 per plant)

____I will pick up my plant(s).

____Please deliver my plant(s) to a shut-in.

Given by:_____

Phone:_____Email:_____

(Return form with payment to church office by Dec. 6)