Second Congregational Church of Winsted

(Baptist & Congregational)

Bible-focused • Christ-centered



Worship Service: 10:00 AM
November 15, 2026

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good." (Romans 12:9)

Welcome, Greetings & Announcements

Prelude – Cleansing Fountain - arr. Gilbert M. Martin
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Call to Worship (Psalm 1)

Leader: Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
People: Nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
Leader: But his delight is in the Law of the Lord,
People: And on His Law he meditates day and night.
Leader: He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,
People: Which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; 15
Leader: And in whatever he does, he prospers.
People: The wicked are not so,
Leader: But they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
People: Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Leader: Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
People: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
All: But the way of the wicked will perish.

***Hymn #547** (green hymnal) "The Church's One Foundation"
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Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Anthem – In Everything Give Thanks - Ruth Elaine Schram
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Testimony of God's Goodness and Love Michael Killiany

Offertory – The Quiet Call of Christ - Dennis Eliot
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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**

***Hymn #588** (green hymnal) "In the Garden"

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Scripture Readings:

1 Corinthians 5:1–8

1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist
even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. 2 You have become arrogant and have not
mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. 3 For I, on
my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this,
as though I were present. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit,
with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his
flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not
know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough?* 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a
new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore
let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Luke 15:1–4

1 Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. 2 Both the Pharisees and
the scribes *began* to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So He told them
this parable, saying, 4 "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not
leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?

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 Corinthians 5:9–13

9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I *did* not at all *mean* with the immoral
people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go
out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an
immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with
such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the*
church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

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: "Bad Associations"

***Hymn #105** (green hymnal) "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

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***Benediction**

Musical Response

Postlude – Echo Alleluia - Henry Purcell

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Sermon Notes:

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Service Information

Preaching: John Costa
Monthly Deacon: Jeff Stannard
Monthly Assistant Deacon: Vicki Atkins
Last Week's Attendance: 59
Last Week's Offering: $1,429 ($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:** Today, 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.
  - ➢ We are looking for someone to coordinate Sunday morning "Greeter" responsibilities. We also are look for people to serve on Finance Board and Christian Education Board. Other openings may also be available.
  - ➢ Please find me 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! 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
- **Diaconate Committee:** The Diaconate is accepting nominations from the congregation to fill one or two positions of Deacon. If you know someone who is a mature Christian and has the heart to serve the Lord, please drop their name in the box on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Self-nominations are welcomed. You can nominate anonymously.

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:** We still have until November 21st to add your self-packed shoeboxes and $10 donations for shipping costs. Please continue to keep the entire mission in prayer. Thank you for your love and support!
- **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 soon. 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. 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

Men's and Women's Fellowship

- **Men's Fellowship Upcoming Events:**
  - 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 Upcoming Events:**
  - **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 - please consider bringing a friend! 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 2027 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, December 6, 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.

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)



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)