



# Williston Federated Church

March 17, 2024 9:30am

Open and Affirming, Reconciling Pledge

*We, the Williston Federated Church, declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming, Reconciling congregation. With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation (adopted by the Williston Federated Church congregation in 2006).*

## A New Day, A New Covenant

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)

Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill

Lay Leader – Ashley Dubois

Church Office Administrator – Pamela Osborne

Music Director – Adam Hall

Organist – Carolyn Pillsbury

Choir Accompanist – Suiong Wong

Nursery Caregiver – Michelle Davis

44 North Williston Road, Williston, Vermont 05495

Church Office: (802) 878-5792

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United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church  
Federated in 1899



## Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

March 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for children up to age three.

Hearing assistance devices are available—please ask an usher for assistance.

A Fellowship time follows worship—please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

#### Mission Statement

*Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God's love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, goes into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ, and responds actively to human need.*

|                           |  |                                   |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Call to Worship           | One: This is the day God has promised:<br>the day of the new covenant.<br><b>All: Our hearts are filled with love for our God.</b><br>One: No longer carved on cold stone, this covenant is engraved on our hearts.<br><b>All: Our hearts are open.</b><br>One: We will reach out to our neighbors,<br>our friends and family, even to strangers.<br><b>All: Our hearts are ready to serve God and all of God's creation.</b><br><i>(adapted from Jeremiah 31:31-35)</i> | Ashley Dubois and congregation    |
| Prelude                   | “Prelude on St. Anne”<br>(Alfred Fedak)  | Carolyn Pillsbury                 |
| Welcome                   |  | Pastor Paul Eyer                  |
| Lighting the Peace Candle | Sharing the peace of Christ.<br>One: The peace of Christ be with you.<br><b>All: And also with you.</b>  | Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation |

|                           |   |                                      |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Opening Hymn              | <p>“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”<br/> United Methodist (red) Hymnal #384<br/> (sing verses 1 and 4)<br/> (Reprinted with permission under<br/> ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights<br/> reserved)</p>  | Carolyn Pillsbury                    |
| Prayer for<br>Forgiveness | <p>One: O God, we yearn for your presence in<br/> our lives, yet there are times that we turn<br/> away from you. We want to serve others,<br/> but sometimes become derailed by our<br/> own selfishness. At times our hearts are<br/> clogged with the foolishness of our lives,<br/> and often struggle to beat in rhythm with<br/> your own. In this silence, and in the<br/> depths of our hidden souls, come to us and<br/> make us whole.</p> <p><b>All: Write <i>grace</i> upon our hearts, so we<br/> might be more forgiving people; write<br/> <i>mercy</i> on our hearts, so we might become<br/> more welcoming people; write <i>hospitality</i><br/> upon our hearts that we might become<br/> more like Christ, who came for all people,<br/> even us.</b></p> | Pastor Paul Eyer<br>and congregation |
| Silent<br>Confession      |   |                                      |

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Assurance of Pardon              | <p>One: A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.</p> <p><b>All: Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed; through Christ, we become new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.</b></p> | Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation  |
| Anthem                           | <p>“Lambs to His Fold”<br/>(J. Luke/Arr: Ruth Artman)</p>  | <p>Senior Choir<br/>Adam Hall, Choir Director<br/>Suiong Wong, piano</p> |
| Time with Children of all Ages   |  | Pastor Paul Eyer   |
| Scripture                        | Jeremiah 31:31-34  | Dan Dibiasio   |
| Prayer of Illumination           | <b>May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.</b>   | Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation  |
| Sermon                           | “Covenant: Forgiveness”  | Pastor Paul Eyer   |
| Celebrations/<br>Prayer Requests | <p>Prayer requests may be sent to:<br/><a href="mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com">WFCPrayer44@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Private prayer requests may be sent to:<br/><a href="mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com">pastoreyer@gmail.com</a></p>                        | Pastor Paul Eyer   |

Prayers of the  
People

Silent  
Reflection

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Lord’s Prayer         | <b>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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.</b> | Pastor Paul Eyer<br>and congregation                  |
| Mission<br>Moment     | Invitation to support a special offering to be equally divided between the ecumenical One Great Hour of Sharing offering and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)  | Rev. Gary Lewis                                       |
| Offering<br>Offertory | “Give Me a Clean Heart”<br>(Sung Three Times)<br>Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.<br>Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.<br>For I’m not worthy of all those blessings.<br>Give me a clean heart, and I’ll follow thee.<br><i>(based on Psalm 51)</i>   | Suiong Wong,<br>piano<br>Adam Hall, choir<br>director |

|                                     |   |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Doxology                            | UMC Hymnal #95  | Carolyn Pillsbury                     |
| Prayer of<br>Dedication<br>(unison) | <b>All: O God, continue to open us to the needs of those close to us, as well as those in every corner of your world. Take these gifts and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with all of your people, whether next door or around the globe. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.</b>     | Pastor Paul Eyer<br>and congregation  |
| Life/Mission of<br>the Church       |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                      |
| Closing Hymn                        | <p>“Give Me a Clean Heart”<br/>(Sung Three Times)</p> <p>Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.<br/>Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.</p> <p>For I’m not worthy of all those blessings.<br/>Give me a clean heart, and I’ll follow thee.<br/><i>(based on Psalm 51)</i></p> | Suiong Wong,<br>piano                 |
| Musical<br>Benediction              | “Irish Blessing” by Michael Patrick Murphy  | Adam Hall, tenor<br>Carolyn Pillsbury |
| Benediction/<br>Blessing            |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                      |
| Postlude                            | “March”<br>(Chr. von Gluck)   | Carolyn Pillsbury                     |

*The **Call to Worship, Prayer for Forgiveness, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Dedication** are adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for March 5, 2015 (Lent 5 - B)” from [Lectionary Liturgies](https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2015/03/liturg-y-wcommunion-for-march-22-2015.html) by Thom Shuman found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2015/03/liturg-y-wcommunion-for-march-22-2015.html> .*

*Ushers: Donna Goodheart and Jane Stickney*

*Greeter: Chris Stewart*

*Coffee Hour: Carol Bouchard*

*Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach*

*Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois*

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## **This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church**

### **Fellowship Time After Worship**

Each Sunday after the worship service, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) for coffee and light refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity for informal conversation and building community.

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### **Special Giving Campaign for One Great Hour/UMCOR – TODAY!**

Disasters happen and we are often wondering what we can do to help. Here is an opportunity to support our denominations so they can effectively react in real time to these crises. This offering will be split between One Great Hour of Sharing and UMCOR. They use it for disaster relief around the world throughout the year. To give to this important mission, you can either point your camera at the QR code below or go directly to the web site at <https://onrealm.org/WFC/give/OneGreatHour> This information is also available on our web page at <https://www.steeple.org/special-offerings> Together we are making a difference.



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## **Rummage Sale Friday March 22nd 9am - 6pm & Saturday March 23rd 9am - 12pm**

We are seeking donations of clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, as well as linens, shoes, jewelry, purses. Think textiles. **Please no household items.** Donations may be brought to Fellowship Hall Monday, March 18th through Thursday the 21st from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment to place your items on the appropriate tables. Volunteers will be needed to: set up tables on Sunday the 17th after worship; sort clothes during the week; work at the sale Friday & Saturday; help with cleanup and take the left over items to one or more of the following on Saturday: Restore, Resource, Goodwill and Replays.

If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen beginning March 3rd or [follow this link to an online sign up](#). This event is sponsored by the Women of the Church and all proceeds go towards local charities. If you have questions, contact [Carol Bouchard](#) at 862-7400. **Note: Please, no donations before March 18<sup>th</sup>.**

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## **Committee/Ministry Fair April 14th**

Have you ever wondered what goes into a Sunday morning at WFC; how we come up with all the different events we do or how YOU can be a part of it? We have many committees and teams to thank for the amazing things WFC does from Music, Missions, Faith Development to Facilities (just to name a few). All this work is done by people who understand that "church" is a verb. The way we use our time and talents takes WFC beyond being a special place of worship to a place of true community. We invite you to come and learn more at this fair and see if there is a place for you and your unique gifts.

### Committee in Spotlight: **Membership Committee**

Leading up to our Committee/Ministry Fair, we will be highlighting a different group each week. This week we are highlighting the **Membership Committee**. The main objective of the Membership Committee is to encourage people of the church community in commitment to the Christian faith. The committee is responsible for keeping records of membership and reviewing and updating records annually. They schedule, along with the pastor, new member classes and reception of new members into the church. We seek ways to be in contact with and encourage folks who have not worshipped with us for a period of time. Committee members greet or recruit greeters for Sunday morning as well as arrange for coffee fellowship after worship. The committee, with help from Pam in the office, provides a gift of note cards to first time visitors and a follow-up letter of welcome. Current committee members are Carol Burbank, Ruth Magill,



Jan Mejia, Mary Lue Rodes, Carol Bouchard & Pastor Paul. We meet in a hybrid format the third Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM.

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**Monday Women’s Bible Study**

Dr. Sally Stockwell Metro facilitates a group that has been meeting regularly since early 2022. This women's Bible study meets both in person in the Sitting Room (near Church office) and on ZOOM on Mondays from 1:30-2:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Sally at [ssmetro9@gmail.com](mailto:ssmetro9@gmail.com).

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**Sunday Women’s Bible Study**

The Sunday Bible Study resumed meeting Sunday Feb. 25th, 11am-12noon in the Sitting Room (near Church office). There is also be a hybrid option. We will meet for four Sundays to study Paul’s letter to the Philippians in the New Testament. This short, four chapter letter is a good introduction to Paul as it comes late in his life and has many insights into faith, community and handling suffering with hope. The study will run through Sunday March 17th and then we will decide what to study next. All are welcome. Contact Kim Hornung-Marcy if you need the zoom link or for any questions: [khmarcy@comcast.net](mailto:khmarcy@comcast.net).

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**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

For those who would like to hear the worship service better, we encourage you to sit in one of the first four pews. You are not alone!  
There are also two hearing devices to use. Please ask an usher for assistance.

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**A Note about the Time with Children**

We are delighted to welcome children into our worship service! And we have a special time during the service aimed especially at the youngest among us—and the young at heart! We welcome children to participate in the “Time with Children ” in any of the following ways: remain seated in the pew with their family; gather on the first pew; or sit on the chancel steps. Remember that the worship service is being live streamed to social media. So if you would prefer that your child not appear in this video on our church’s Facebook page, you can keep the children with you in the pew or have them sit on the first pew with their back to the camera. If you have no objection to your child appearing in this live streamed video feed, then all of the options are open to you.

And then following the Time with Children, the younger set can head off to join members of the Education Committee who will engage with the children for a time of crafts and learning. It is a joy to welcome children in our midst!

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**Prayer cards**

Prayer Cards are available to write prayer requests. (You may find them in the pew rack in front of you.) You are invited to place your completed prayer cards in the Prayer Box (crafted by Chris Stewart) that is now positioned on a table in the Gallery area (the space between the stairs and the hallway to the sanctuary. Additional prayer cards can be found on that table as well.) Written prayers entered in the Prayer Box will be lifted to God in prayer by Pastor Paul throughout the week.

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**Thursday afternoon Centering Prayer Group**

The Centering Prayer Group moved back to Thursdays with a start time of 2:00pm. The Centering Prayer group gathers via Zoom ONLY for silent prayer and Bible discussion. For Zoom code or questions call/text Donna Fellingner 802-355-1700 or email at [donnafellingervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingervt@gmail.com)

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**Dismas House**

For information about the “Meals for Dismas House” or to offer to volunteer, please contact Lizzy Pope at [lizzypope@gmail.com](mailto:lizzypope@gmail.com) or Peet Grobler at [peetgrobler@aol.com/\(802\)881-9007](mailto:peetgrobler@aol.com/(802)881-9007). The next three “Third Tuesdays” of 2024, will be on: March 19, 2024 and April 16, 2024 and May 21, 2024. A team, the Meisenzahl family, offered to provide the meal for March 19th, 2024. Thank you Team Meisenzahl. We continue to welcome offers. One volunteer does not have to be responsible for the entire meal, teamwork is always a possibility. The residents and staff at Dismas House appreciate and enjoy when volunteers join them at the table. Sharing the meal is deeply meaningful for all, although delivering the meal is always an option as well. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the entrance to the church to facilitate offering to volunteer. Thank you for all the support and enthusiasm for this very meaningful outreach. Thank you for considering to participate. The coordinating team, Lizzy Pope and Peet Grobler. Your Missions and Social Concerns Committee.

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## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*



**Palm Sunday will be held on Sunday, March 24 at 9:30 AM.** The choir will process in the beginning singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." Special music will include Adam Hall and his wife Simone O'Flaherty singing a duet accompanied by Carol Schein and Jack Von Behren playing "Hosanna Havana." The children will hand out palms during children's time.



**Maundy Thursday services will be held on March 28 at Williston Federated Church at 7:30 PM.** There will be a combined choir from the Williston Federated Church and Richmond Congregational Church. The service will include hymns, scripture readings, and communion.



**On Good Friday, March 29,** there will be a service of scripture readings, hymns, and remembrance at the **Richmond Congregational UCC Church in Richmond, VT at 7PM.**



You won't want to miss our **Easter morning services on Sunday, March 31.** There will be a "Sonrise" service at 6:30AM at the home of Tony and Susan Lamb at 24 Beebe Lane by Lake Iroquois, followed by a potluck breakfast.



**At 9:30 AM at the Williston Federated Church,** the Easter Sunday service will begin with a fanfare by a brass quintet and organ accompanying the choir as they process and sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Helen Lyons will provide us with a solo ("I Know that My Redeemer Liveth") from Handel's Messiah, and then Adam will join Helen in singing a duet from Messiah as well. The brass quintet will join our choir for a moving Easter anthem. And of course there will be a lively musical celebration as the service comes to a close. Come be part of the celebration!

## **Nancy Stone paintings on display**

Once again, Nancy Stone is displaying her paintings titled: 'Point of Choice'. These will be on display in the gallery during Lent. Nancy writes: "These acrylic-collage scrolls grew out of two month's sketching and painting during rehearsals of the rock opera 'Jesus Christ, Superstar', a 1989 Lyric Theater production. They present the moment when the characters face a crisis and willingly or reluctantly accept their destiny in the unfolding drama. Some Flynn Theater architectural motifs are used for the same reason that Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote the contemporary music...so that people today can respond to messages that transcend time.."

### MARY MAGDALENE

Present at the crucifixion and the first to see the Risen Lord, Mary Magdalen announced His Resurrection to the apostles.

POINT OF CHOICE: Believe and tell others or run away in fear.

### JUDAS

Surrounded by accusers, Judas repented, throwing down the coins paid to him for betraying Jesus.

POINT OF CHOICE: Ask for forgiveness or End his suffering.

### JESUS

Jesus went to pray on the Mount of Olives. One hand is a fist, showing resistance; the other is open, signifying submission to His Father's will.

POINT OF CHOICE: Accept human suffering or Return to his Godliness.

### PONTIUS PILATE

Submitting to the crowd's demand for Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate washed his hands of responsibility for the death of an innocent man.