



Williston Federated Church

April 6, 2025

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.)



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: 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

44 North Williston Road, Williston, Vermont 05495

Church Office: (802) 878-5792

E-mail address: WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com Website: www.steeple.org



United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899



Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

April 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent and Communion Sunday

Childcare is available downstairs for our youngest children.

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 an inclusive community which enthusiastically welcomes and gathers all people to share the wonder of God's love. Together we seek to find fullness of life through Jesus' teachings, to reach out into the world to live lovingly and justly as followers of Christ, and to respond actively to human needs. (Adopted by the Williston Federated Church congregation in 2024.)

Call to
Worship

One: In the vastness of life's wilderness, where
doubts and fears may surround us,

**Many: We remember the promise of God: "I
will make a way in the wilderness and rivers
in the desert."**

One: When the path before us seems barren
and hope feels distant,

**Many: We trust in the God who creates
pathways where none existed, and brings
forth life in the driest of places.**

One: Let us come together, seeking the
strength and guidance that only God can
provide.

**Many: With open hearts and expectant
spirits, we gather to worship the God who
makes all things new.**

Ashley Dubois,
lay leader, and
congregation

Prelude

"Andante Sostenuto" (Ed Biehl)

Carolyn
Pillsbury

Welcome/
Greetings

Pastor Paul
Eyer

Words of Peace		Pastor Paul Eyer
Lighting the Peace Candle	The congregation, led by Adam Hall, will sing “Christ Is the World’s Light” UMC #188 (sing one verse)	Rev. Paul Eyer, Adam Hall, Carolyn Pillsbury, and congregation
Sharing the Peace/ Passing the Peace	One: The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Opening Hymn	“This is the Day of New Beginnings” UMC (red) Hymnal #383 (sing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Carolyn Pillsbury and congregation
Prayer for Forgiveness	All: Gracious God, we come before you, recognizing our ongoing journey of growth and understanding. We acknowledge the times we've stumbled and veered from your path. Help us to see our imperfections with gentle honesty, and to seek your forgiveness. Guide us with your loving presence, and empower us to continue pressing on towards your light, with courage and humility. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation

Silent
Confession

Assurance of Pardon	One: Take heart, for God's grace is greater than any of our mistakes or failings. We are not defined by our past, but by God's enduring love, which offers us new beginnings and a path towards wholeness. As the Apostle Paul proclaimed, "May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). Know that you are forgiven, loved, and welcomed into the embrace of grace.	Pastor Paul Eyer
Anthem	“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread” Words by Stephen Foster Music by Jay Althouse	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conductor Suiong Wong, accompanist
Time with Children of all Ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	Isaiah 43:16-19 Philippians 3:4b-14	Nancy Stone
Sermonic Hymn	“Eat This Bread” UMC (red) Hymnal #628 Taize chorus composed by Jacques Berthier (words by Robert Bastatini) <i>Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,</i>	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation

Trust in me and you will not thirst.
(sing three times)

Prayer of Illumination (from Psalm 19:14)	May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	“Pressing On...”	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations/ Prayer Requests/ Prayers of the People	Prayer requests may be sent to: WFCPrayer44@gmail.com Private prayer requests may be sent to: pastoreyer@gmail.com	Pastor Paul Eyer
Silent Reflection		
Lord’s Prayer	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.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Mission Moment	Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing and the United Methodist Committee on Relief	Charlie Magill

(UMCOR), focused upon disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and economic development around the world.

Offering

Offertory

“Jesus, You Are My Son” (Pachelbel)

Carolyn
Pillsbury

Doxology

UMC Hymnal #95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

Carolyn
Pillsbury and
congregation

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Prayer of
Dedication
(unison)

**All: O God, we dedicate these offerings to
your service, that they may be used to create
rivers of hope in dry lands, and forge paths of
compassion through the wilderness of
despair. May our giving be a testament to
your transformative power, bringing life and
direction to those in need, reflecting your
love for all creation. Amen.**

Pastor Paul
Eyer and
congregation

Holy
Communion/
Eucharist/The
Lord’s Supper

(See bulletin insert)

Pastor Paul
Eyer and
congregation

Life/Mission
of the Church

Pastor Paul
Eyer

Closing Hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be”
 UMC (red) Hymnal #399 (sing all verses)
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Carolyn
Pillsbury and
congregation

Benediction/
Blessing

Pastor Paul
Eyer

Postlude “Rigaudon” (Andre Campra)

Carolyn
Pillsbury

Liturgical
Resources:

The service of Holy Communion was adapted by Rev. Eyer, building on a liturgy from Rev. Thom Shuman in “Lectionary Liturgies” found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2017/01/liturgy-wcommunion-for-febraury-5-2017.html>, as well as meaningful input from Rev. Jackie Lingelbach. The invitation includes language adapted from Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Savior, in Washington, D.C. <http://www.seekerschurch.org/liturgies/communion2005.htm> . In addition, portions of the communion liturgy are adapted from Rev. Lisa Frenz, Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon <http://www.lclark.edu/~frenz/christmaseve2.html>

Ushers: Sylvia and Joe Maloney

Greeter(s): Mary Lu Rodes

Coffee Hour: Mary Lu Rodes

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois

Communion Stewards: Dan and Chris DiBiasio



To give online, use the QR code above.

This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church

Special Offering Today

As you may remember from last Sunday's sermon, Pastor Paul related the story of the kindnesses of the people of Newfoundland as they welcomed approximately 7,000 people from flights diverted due to the attacks of 9/11. Newfoundlanders demonstrated the teachings of Christ in a very big and meaningful way as they became a very bright light during a very dark and frightening time in our country and the world. In addition, you may have viewed the brief video describing a beneficiary of the One Great Hour of Sharing funds. This Sunday, we all have a chance to BE THE LIGHT by donating to the One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides much needed resources in the areas of Refugee Resettlement, Economic Development and Disaster Relief. Donation envelopes will be included in the church bulletin. You're here to be the light bringing out the God-colors in the world. (See Matthew 5:14.)

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### **How Might You Share Your Gifts & Talents?**

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of inviting folks to serve on a church committee for the 2025-2026 fiscal year which begins July 1st. WFC plays a vital role in our lives and our response to the needs of our community and the wider world. We are asking that you prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to share your gifts and talents.

Most committees meet monthly, and many take a break in the summer. Terms can be from 1-3 years. Committees include: Official Board, Trustees, Pastor Staff Relations, Finance, Education, Membership, Music & Worship, Missions & Social Concerns, Youth Ministry and Nominating. The Vitality Team is an ad hoc group and welcomes participation by any who are interested. There is a handout on the table in the gallery that gives a description of each committee.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about any of these committees, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee: Rebecca Dubois, Donna Goodheart, Carol Bouchard or Pastor Paul.

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Rummage Results

Many thanks to all who donated items, sorted clothes, worked at the sale and helped with clean up. We raised about \$2100. These funds will be donated to local charities.

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### **Children's Choir – Calling all young singers!**

Yes, a regularly-rehearsing children's choir has returned to Williston Federated Church! These wonderful young singers gather for rehearsal in Fellowship Hall **each Sunday morning at 9:00**



**am.** We were blessed to hear them sing, both at the Christmas Tree Lighting and at our annual Children's Christmas Pageant.

Leading the children's choir is our Music Director Adam Hall and Choir Accompanist Suiong Wong. Both Adam and Suiong hold graduate degrees in music (Adam in vocal performance and Suiong in piano performance). They share their expertise—and their ability to connect with children—in leading this exciting new venture. The voices of children singing in worship is a blessing to us all. We invite all children from kindergarten through eighth grade to participate.

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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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### **Longevity Gathering**

For those who want to live a long, healthy, and happy life, you are invited to be part of the conversation! Helena Katz is leading a "Longevity Gathering" that meets in the choir room the first Sunday of the month following worship. The gathering gets started at 11:00 am so that people have a chance to enjoy fellowship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Please also see the Longevity Gatherings page on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@LongevityGatherings> Please subscribe to our channel. (NOTE: The choir room is located past the gallery space just beyond the hallway that connects with the sanctuary here on the upper level of the church.)

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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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Monday Women’s Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study chooses books of the Bible to discuss, and we have a great time listening to each other as we try to discern God's word. We meet in person and by ZOOM every Monday afternoon from 1:30-2:30. If you'd like to join us, have questions, wish you knew more about the Bible, please contact Sally Metro at ssmetro9@gmail.com. All are welcome!

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**Friday Men's Bible Study**

Men gather weekly to discuss and try to understand God's Word and how it effects our lives. Join the group in the Fellowship Hall every Friday morning at 7:00 am. The sessions are also on Zoom.

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Men's Social Breakfast

All the men of the church are invited to breakfast and chat the last Wednesday of every month. Breakfast starts at 8:00 am; cooking at 7:30 am. Come for one or both. Charlie Magill, cmagillvt@aol.com.

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**Book Club**

Our Book Club has chosen the following interesting book for our April 16 gathering: 'The Women' by Kristin Hannah.

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Church fellowship hall at 2 p.m. Come share in the conversation! Lois Mason 879-7263

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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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## **Monday Morning Centering Prayer Group**

The Centering Prayer Group meets on Mondays with a start time of 10:45am. The Centering Prayer group gathers via Zoom ONLY for silent prayer and Bible discussion. This is a zoom only meeting. It will open at 10:45; 11-11:20 Silent Prayer; 11:20-12:00 discussion of the Bible Passage of the day along with lunch; 12-1pm continuation of lunch and visiting. For Zoom code or questions, call/text Donna Fellingner at 802-355-1700 or email at [donnafeelingervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafeelingervt@gmail.com)

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Dismas House

The next three “Third Tuesdays” will fall on: April 15 2025, May 20th, 2025 and June 17th, 2025.

Carol & Bruce Wyatt and Sue & Cliff Hook offered to provide the meal for April 15th, 2025. Thank you, Carol, Bruce, Sue and Cliff. “Third Tuesdays” calendar & sign-up sheet for 2025 is posted on the bulletin board. 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.

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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## **Deepening our Spiritual Journey during Lent**

“INTO THE DEEP”: Exploring opportunities to enhance our spiritual fitness

In the realm of physical fitness, a common phrase is: “Work on your core.” This refers to focusing on and strengthening the core muscle groups in one’s mid-section which stabilizes the rest of the body, enhancing its ability to function with more energy and balance in the world.

The same can be said of our spiritual disciplines - working on the core of who we are as ones created in the image of God allows us to function in this crazy world with more spiritual energy and balance.

The season of Lent provides us with a reminder to intentionally invest time in working on our spiritual core. The following is a list, by no means exhaustive, of some options (people in our church have found helpful) that you may wish to consider exploring as companions on your journey into deeper ways of being during this Lenten season and beyond:

Below is a list of a few resources that some in our church have found meaningful in their spiritual journeys. You are invited to explore these or others to use in your daily time of meditation and prayer.

## Devotional Possibilities from the Education Committee

1. UCC (United Church of Christ) daily devotions:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> (Free)

2. UCC Lenten Devotional Booklet: "INTO THE DEEP"

A few booklets are available on the prayer table in the 'gallery'.

LINK:

[https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/into-the-deep-2025-lent-devotional?inf\\_contact\\_key=6c64ef93a7a61c4cb18562263af568cd1b0a3f0fd3ee5d9b43fb34c6613498d7](https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/into-the-deep-2025-lent-devotional?inf_contact_key=6c64ef93a7a61c4cb18562263af568cd1b0a3f0fd3ee5d9b43fb34c6613498d7)

**Or** Google through Pilgrim Press

If hard copies are no longer available (\$5.00 + shipping) PDF copies are available online for \$3,

3. Retired United Methodist Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes' meaningful devotionals found at [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net) (free). Many in our congregation know Rev. Garnaas-Holmes.
4. <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals> (free)
5. Richard Rohr daily meditations (free) <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/> or Google
6. "The Book of Awakening" - a book by Mark Nepo of daily readings inviting the life you want by being present to the life you have.

### **"GO DEEP"**

In Mary Luti's introduction to this year's UCC Lenten Devotional booklet "Into the Deep" she writes:

*We often speak of God enthroned on high ... But when you read the great stories of the Bible you have to look down for God, too ...  
God loves the deep. God works in the deep. Down there. God gives life, possibilities, new direction. ... So it's not surprising that when Jesus calls disciples, his first instruction to them is to go deep ...*

The Lenten season does just that, inviting us to "go deep".

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Greenworks Ministry – Tip of the Week

Best Way to Use your Air Source Heat Pump: First, do a blower test, energy audit and update the insulation in your home, based on this test. Second, set your back up heating system 10 degrees below the temperature you are setting your heat pump at. If you do not do this the two systems will compete, causing you to use extra energy and fuel.

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## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregation Meeting of Williston Federated Church will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, June 8. Mark your calendars for this important meeting to which all are invited.

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Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!



Palm Sunday, April 13 9:30 a.m. in our sanctuary

Palm Sunday, when with palms and processions (and our Children's Choir!) we celebrate Christ's "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem



Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30p.m. at Richmond Congregational Church, UCC in Richmond

With a combined choir and communion, we will join with the Richmond church congregation to observe **Maundy Thursday**, when we recall Christ's "Last Supper" with the disciples



Good Friday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary

We will hear the **Good Friday** story told in music in a performance of Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ" by The Octet.



Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 a.m. at 24 Beebe Lane

Our youth will lead us in an **Easter "Son-rise" service** with a potluck breakfast to follow.



Easter Sunday, April 20 at 9:30 a.m. in our sanctuary

With a choral processional, a brass choir, and an abundance of wonderful music, we will celebrate the joy of **Easter!** Please join us for the very special worship services that take place in the week leading up to Easter.

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### Message from the Music and Worship Committee

As we anticipate celebrating Easter Sunday, the Music and Worship Committee would like to make some suggestions that will hopefully make the service more welcoming and comfortable. Please consider arriving earlier than you usually do. If you are wearing overcoats, please hang them up downstairs or on the hooks in the upstairs Narthex hallway. We want to fill the Sanctuary before seating folks in the balcony. So come right in. The ushers will be encouraging folks to fill the Sanctuary forward pews first. With everyone's cooperation, we hope to seat everyone comfortably and start on time. Thank you for your help with this!

*Franz Joseph Haydn*

# The Seven Last Words *of Christ*

*soprano* Martha Peck  
*alto* Cara Hill  
*tenor* Brian Clancy  
*bass* Jose Schmidt

Susan Janes *violin*  
Jane Tulloh *violin*  
Jody Racht *viola*  
Melissa Perley *cello*

**Palm Sunday, April 13, at 4:00 pm**  
First Congregational Church, 10 South Park St, Lebanon, NH

**Good Friday, April 18, at 7:00 pm**  
Williston Federated Church, 44 North Williston Rd, Williston, VT

Free-Will Donation to Benefit Local Community Outreach  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**