



# *Williston Federated Church*

August 17, 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](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

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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!

**August 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.**

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: The One who created us<br>calls us to be poured out for others.<br><b>All: We can, by faith, be the waters of peace<br/>which quench the fires of hatred.</b><br>One: The One who creates mercy and hope<br>longs for a world of fair play and grace.<br><b>All: We can, by faith, let righteousness and<br/>justice be our constant companions.</b><br>One: The One who is with us in every moment<br>composes a love-song for our hearts.<br><b>All: We can, by faith, teach this song to<br/>everyone we meet.</b> | Ashley Dubois,<br>Lay Leader,<br>with<br>congregation                           |
| Prelude               | “Rigaudon” (Esprit Philippe Chedeville)  | Carolyn<br>Pillsbury with<br>Joan Ebbeson<br>and Nancy<br>Aiken on<br>recorders |
| Welcome/<br>Greetings |  | Pastor Paul<br>Eyer   |

|  |   |                                    |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Words of Peace   |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                   |
| Lighting the Peace Candle/<br>Sharing the Peace/Passing of the Peace | One: The peace of Christ be with you.<br><b>All: And also with you.</b>   | Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation  |
| Opening Hymn   | “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”<br>UMC (red) Hymnal #206 (sing verses 1 and 2)<br>(Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)   | Carolyn Pillsbury and congregation |
| Prayer for Today   | <b>All: Gracious God, in the debris and litter of the world, you clear a place where we can be planted. Your justice which can bring hope to the oppressed; your righteousness which can receive even our enemies in peace. Amen.</b> | Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation  |
| Time with Children of all ages                                       |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                   |
| Scripture  | Hebrews 12:1-3  | Ursula White                       |
| Prayer of Illumination<br>(adapted from Psalm 19:14)                 | <b>All: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.</b>  | Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation  |
| Sermon   | “Witnesses”   | Pastor Paul Eyer                   |

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| Celebrations/<br>Prayer<br>Requests/<br>Prayers of the<br>People | Prayer requests may be sent to:<br><a href="mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com">WFCPrayer44@gmail.com</a><br>Private prayer requests may be sent to:<br><a href="mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com">pastoreyer@gmail.com</a>   | Pastor Paul<br>Eyer                      |
| Silent<br>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<br>Eyer and<br>congregation  |
| Offering<br>Offertory  | "Allegro" (Dom Paul Benoit)  | Carolyn<br>Pillsbury                     |
| Doxology   | UMC Hymnal #94<br>(Reprinted with permission under<br>ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)  | Carolyn<br>Pillsbury and<br>congregation |
| Prayer of<br>Dedication<br>(unison)                              | <b>All: As you share your blessings with us, Gracious God, you show great faith that we will use them wisely and offer them generously to others. So, by faith, may our gifts bring healing to the broken, hope to the</b>   | Pastor Paul<br>Eyer and<br>congregation  |

**despairing, and laughter to those who  
mourn. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Life/Mission of  
the Church

Pastor Paul  
Eyer

Closing Hymn      “Rejoice in God’s Saints”  
UMC (red) Hymnal #708 (sing all verses)  
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Carolyn  
Pillsbury and  
congregation

Benediction/  
Blessing

Pastor Paul  
Eyer

Postlude              “March in G Major” (J.S. Bach)

Carolyn  
Pillsbury

Liturgical  
Resources

The **Call to Worship, Prayer for Today, and Prayer of Dedication**  
were adapted from “Liturgy with communion for August 18, 2019  
(Proper 15 - C) from [Lectionary Liturgies](https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/08/liturgy-with-communion-for-august-18.html) by Rev. Thom Shuman  
found at  
[https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/08/liturgy-with-  
communion-for-august-18.html](https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2019/08/liturgy-with-communion-for-august-18.html)

*Ushers:*

*Greeter(s): Ruth Magill*

*Coffee Hour: Ruth Magill*

*Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach*

*Online Prayer Coordinator: Heather Lewis*



*To give online, use the QR code above.*

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

#### **The Green Alter Cloth**

The lovely green altar cloth was given to the church by member Louise Whitcher, now deceased, who was known for her outreach to people in need and for her kindness and caring.

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## Church Book Club

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. The upcoming book choices are:

August 20: 'James' by Everett Percival

September 17: 'Three Days in June' by Anne Tyler

October 15: 'Gather' by Kenneth Cadow

Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

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## Blessing of Backpacks Sunday and More

We will be celebrating the beginning of the school year with **Blessing of Backpacks Sunday on August 24<sup>th</sup>**. All students are invited to bring their backpacks to church on that day (a great opportunity to invite friends and families to join in). **The Mission and Social Concerns Committee**, again this year, is coordinating an opportunity for our congregation to give new backpacks to kids and families who may find it difficult this year to have new things. These will be distributed to the area schools. All backpacks given will be added to the blessings (we can always use more blessings) that morning. If you will not be coming to church on the 24<sup>th</sup> – and you want to help out – you can drop the backpack(s) off in the sanctuary anytime before then. **We are blessed to be blessings. Thank you.**

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## Summer Sunday School!

There are still a few opportunities to step in.

- Video lessons are provided to make teaching easy and enjoyable.
- It's a fun and rewarding experience where you can connect with kids and share in their growth.
- Your support helps give our regular teachers a much-needed break.

Sign up on the bulletin board downstairs or online

at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044BA5AA29A5F58-50996369-sunday#/>

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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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## 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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**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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**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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**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 [donnafellnergervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellnergervt@gmail.com)

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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](mailto:ssmetro9@gmail.com). All are welcome!

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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](mailto:cmagillvt@aol.com).

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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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### **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 11:00am 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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### **Dismas House**

Every third Tuesday of the month volunteers from Williston Federated Church provide a meal to the residents and staff at Dismas House in Burlington. We'd like to thank July's volunteers, Dan and Kris Clark for sharing dinner with Dismas, and we continue to welcome offers for future months. You can find the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. One volunteer does not need to be responsible for the entire meal; teamwork is always possible! Volunteers can join those at Dismas for the meal, or they can drop the meal off, whatever works best. Thank you to everyone for supporting this very meaningful outreach! Please reach out to Lizzy Pope at [lizzypope@gmail.com](mailto:lizzypope@gmail.com) with questions. Your coordinating team, Lizzy Pope and Sue Hook.

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### **Opportunities For Service**

Are you feeling energetic? Need to get some more steps in? Do you feel the desire to serve this church, but can't make another long-term commitment? Are you new to the church or just returning from being away? Or are you only going to be in the area for a short time? Whatever your motivation, we'll take it!!! We are working on a new way to communicate opportunities for folks to serve this church and our community. They are "Opportunities to Serve". Not on a



committee or a board but as a person who appreciates this church and wants to give back, by doing some small bit of work, sharing a talent or ability, or simply lending a hand when another member has a bit of labor that needs doing. There will be a bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs as you exit after worship towards coffee hour or out the door by Fellowship Hall. On it will be written opportunities to serve the church. If you find one there that fits your abilities and your calendar, take it with you. Make contact with the person whose name is on the card and make a plan for how you will fulfill this opportunity. How good it feels to help out!

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### **Pride Parade in Burlington on September 7**

Mark your calendar! Once again, Williston Federated Church plans to participate in the annual Pride Parade in downtown Burlington on Sunday, September 7. Let Pastor Paul know if you would like to be part of this public witness of our inclusive understanding of faith. Contact Pastor Paul at [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)