

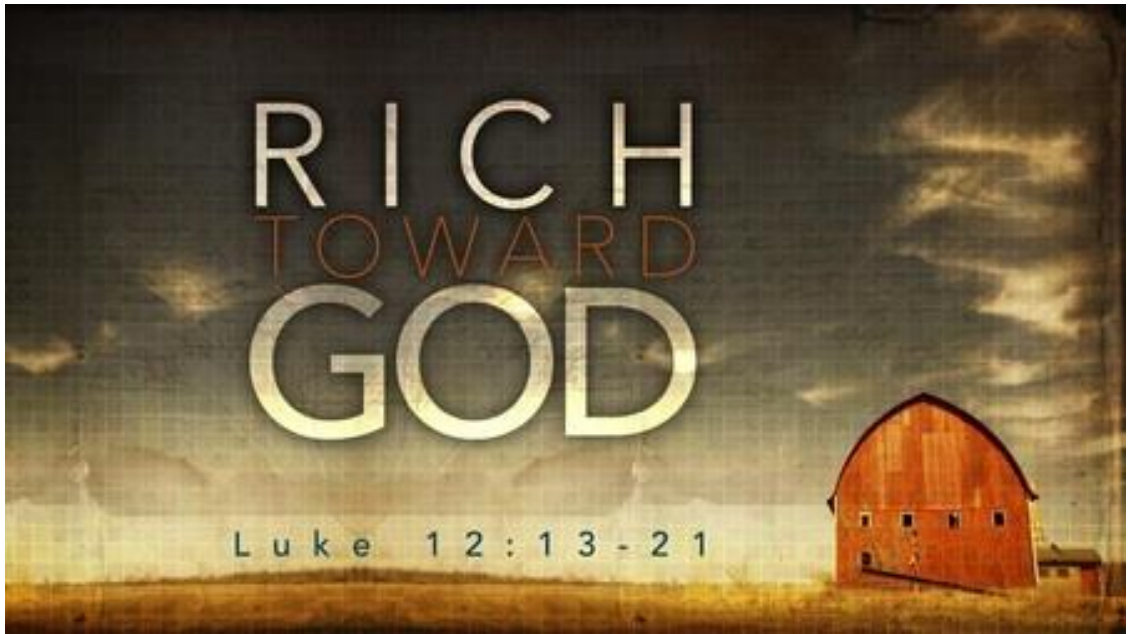


Williston Federated Church

August 3, 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!

August 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

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: Give thanks to God!	Ashley Dubois,
(adapted from	Many: For the Holy One redeems us and	Lay Leader,
Psalm 107)	sustains us through times of trouble.	with
	One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is	congregation
	good!	
	Many: For the Compassionate One hears our	
	cry and sustains us through the time of	
	trouble.	
	One: Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer,	
	and Sustainer.	
	Many: Give thanks to God!	

Prelude	Mary Jane Austin, piano
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Welcome/ Greetings	Pastor Paul Eyer
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Words of Peace	Pastor Paul Eyer
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Lighting the Peace Candle/ Sharing the Peace/Passing of the Peace	One: The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Opening Hymn	“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord” Songbook #136 (sing as indicated) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mary Jane Austin, piano, and congregation
Prayer for Forgiveness	All: Holy God, sometimes we seem determined to turn away from you. You, however, continually call us to repentance—to return our focus to you and your way. We pray for fortitude to follow in the path set by Jesus and embody the ministry of Christ in the world. Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do. Most of all, grant us grace to be the people you have made us to be.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Silent Confession		
Words of Grace	One: We have received an inheritance of riches in God. These are treasures of hope, strength, encouragement, peace, grace, joy, rest, and love. They are ours to claim. They are ours to live. May we receive them freely and abundantly. Thanks be to God.	Pastor Paul Eyer

Time with Children of all ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	Luke 12:13-21	Don Dibiasio
Prayer of Illumination (adapted from Psalm 19:14)	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.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	“Rich Toward God”	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

Offering		
Offertory		Mary Jane Austin, piano, Erik Kroncke, Soloist
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mary Jane Austin, piano, and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: Holy One, bless these offerings, the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. May your kingdom come. May your will be done. Through us, in us, in our community, and in our world. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Service of Holy Communion / the Eucharist / the Lord’s Supper	(see communion insert in your bulletin)	Rev. Paul Eyer, pastor, and congregation Dan and Chris Dibiasio, communion stewards
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“For the Bread Which You Have Broken” UMC (red) Hymnal #614 (sing all verses)	Mary Jane Austin, piano,

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and
congregation

Benediction/
Blessing

Pastor Paul
Eyer

Postlude

“Praise to the Father” by James Southbridge

Mary Jane
Austin, piano

Liturgical
Resources

The **Call to Worship, Prayer for Forgiveness, Words of Grace, and Prayer of Dedication** were adapted from “Rich Toward God: Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost” by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, posted on “Worship Ways” at the United Church of Christ website, found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-8c/>.

The **Service of Holy Communion** was adapted by Rev. Eyer building on a liturgy from Rev. Thom Shuman entitled “Liturgy with communion for August 4, 2019 (Pentecost 8/Trinity 7/Proper 13/Ordinary 18 - C) from “Lectionary Liturgies” found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2017/01/liturgy-wcommunion-for-febraury-5-2017.html>

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: Chris Stewart and Donna Goodheart

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.

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 Witcher, now deceased, who was known for her outreach to people in need and for her kindness and caring.

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### **Ice Cream on the Town Green this Summer -**

Join us Aug. 13th from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Town Band Concert. We will be on hand to greet concert goers and hand out ice cream. In case of rain, the concert will be in the WCS auditorium, and we will be outside under the portico. It's a great community outreach. Sign up on the bulletin board at church. Contact [Carol Bouchard](#) for more information. Sponsored by the Vitality Team.

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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.

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### **Summer Sunday School!**

We need you to step in as Summer Sunday School teachers for our Elementary class!

- 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 donnafellnergvt@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.

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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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## Greenworks Ministry – Green Tip for the Week

A simple green tip regarding air conditioning is to set your thermostat a few degrees higher than you normally would when you're home and awake, and even higher when you are asleep or away. This small change can significantly reduce your energy consumption and lower your electricity bills, leading to less environmental impact.

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Report on the June 2025 New England UMC Annual Conference

The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church held its Annual Meeting June 18–21 in Danvers, Massachusetts. As WFC's lay delegate, I want to highlight three items of the many issues covered during the conference.

1) **The new Bishop for the New England Conference.** Rev Thomas Bickerton grew up in West Virginia and served churches in that rural state beginning with a six-point charge before serving mid and large sized churches. He was appointed a Bishop in 2004 so is quite experienced. I encourage you to listen to his Episcopal address available online from this link: <https://vimeo.com/1095187359>. Because there are more conferences than Bishops, he is also Bishop of the New York Annual Conference in what is now called the "**New Hope Episcopal Area**". Bishop Bickerton has marshalled the resources of both conferences together so that they assist each other.

2) **Constitutional Amendments:** The major legislative action was a vote on four constitutional amendments that came out of the church's General Worldwide Conference last summer. The most far reaching of these amendments was the first on Regionalization. This amendment

acknowledges the different cultural contexts of our international church while upholding our shared mission. "United in purpose; diverse in approach". The other three amendments were: a) extending protected categories to **gender** and **ability**; b) a re-commitment to racial justice; and c) clarifying the voting eligibility for licensed local pastors. All conferences must vote before we learn whether the votes met the needed 2/3d's majority of all cast ballots to pass.

3) **"A Long Talk"**: We were introduced to a 21-day program of education and training on anti-racism activation that I am in the process of completing. I encourage all of you to explore this interesting method of confronting racism or other "-isms" by turning from "furious" to "curious". Learn more at <https://alongtalk.com/>. You can join a cohort for free through the New England conference. I can tell you how.

Contact me if further questions: tmarcy@uvm.edu – Ted Marcy

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

Mark your calendar! Let Pastor Paul know if you would like to participate in this public witness of our inclusive understanding of faith. Contact Pastor Paul at [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)