



Williston Federated Church

August 31, 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 – Kai Sedic-Lawton, piano

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 31, 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: Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church, All: God was waiting for us to welcome us with grace. One: When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step, All: We come to listen to God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know. One: When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice; when our fears cripple our souls, All: God delivers us with steadfast love; we are set free to be God's beloved people. Let us worship God and gather together as God's people.	Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader, with congregation
Prelude	"Arietta" by Edvard Grieg	Kai Sedic- Lawton, piano
Welcome/ Greetings		Rev. Joan Newton O'Gorman

Words of Peace		Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
Lighting the Peace Candle/ Sharing the Peace/Passing of the Peace	One: The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman and congregation
Opening Hymn	"More Love to Thee, O Christ" UMC (red) Hymnal #453 (sing all four verses) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Kai Sedic-Lawton, piano and congregation
Prayer for Today	<u>Prayer of St. Francis UMC #481</u> Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. – St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, 13th century	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman and congregation

Time with Children of all ages		Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
Scripture	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Ursula White
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.	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman and congregation
Sermon	“Spiritual Lessons from the Sample Cart at Costco”	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
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	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
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.	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman and congregation

Offering Offertory	“Danny Boy” Traditional Irish melody	Sebby Wayman, flute
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Kai Sedic- Lawton, piano and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: O ever-speaking, ever-hoping, ever-loving God. We pray that these offerings be used to grow bridges of peace here and around the world as your living word of belonging and love offers energizing hope, care, and compassion for all. Amen.	Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
Closing Hymn	“Jesus United by Thy Grace” UMC (red) Hymnal #561 (Sing verses 1, 2, 5 and 6) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Kai Sedic- Lawton, piano and congregation
Benediction/ Blessing		Rev. Joan Newton O’Gorman
Postlude	"Watchman's Song" by Edvard Grieg	Kai Sedic- Lawton, piano

Ushers: Louise Kyle and Donna Goodheart
Greeter(s): Ruth Magill
Coffee Hour: Jane Stickney
Online Greeter: Ashley Dubois
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 Whitcher, now deceased, who was known for her outreach to people in need and for her kindness and caring.

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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)

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Corn Roast and Sundae Sunday September 14th

Join us September 14th right after worship as we bid a fond farewell to summer, celebrate the beginning of a new program year and welcome the return of the Senior Choir.

We will gather on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in Fellowship Hall. Corn on the cob, burgers, hot dogs, salad, watermelon and ice cream Sundaes are on the menu.

Help is needed with setup, grilling & cleanup. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board or [follow this link to an online signup](#). Co-sponsored by the Education and Membership Committees.

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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:

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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Thank you

WOW!! What a gift you are to so many! Last Sunday our church family donated 40 brand new backpacks for children in area schools. 40 backpacks – 40 kids with new backpacks and with each backpack – blessings from our church to them and to all who are part of the new school year. Thanks to the educators and one shelter manager in our midst for assisting with the distribution. Here is the breakdown of the distribution: 24 backpacks went to the Williston schools (this included 6 for children living at the shelter) 5 backpacks went to Hinesburg, 5 went to Burlington, 4 went to the Montpelier Middle School and 2 went to the Richmond Elementary School. What happens at our church makes a difference as we extend hope and life and love beyond the walls of the church out into the world. Thank you for making life better for so many children and families. We are blessed to be blessings. Thank you! Your Mission and Social Concerns Committee

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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 [donnafellingervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingervt@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. 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 August's volunteers, Jane Stickney and Barb Bristol 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 with questions.

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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

Recycle or donate old electronics and clothing: Keeps items out of the landfill and supports those in need.