



# Williston Federated Church

December 21, 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)

Pastoral (seminarian) Intern – Dr. Jill Irvine

Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill

Co Lay Leaders – Ashley Dubois and Donna Sue Hain

Church Office Administrator – Pamela Osborne

Music Director – Adam Hall

Organist – Carolyn Pillsbury

Choir Accompanist – Suiong Wong

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United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church  
Federated in 1899



## Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

December 21, 2025 9:30 a.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent and Children's Christmas Pageant

Childcare is available 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 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: Let us make a place for God in the wilderness of our hearts. <b>All: Let us make room for God in the crowdedness of the season.</b> One: Let us be open to the spirit of the Divine evident yet again in the voices of children. <b>All: Let us make ready to hear again the sacred story.</b>	Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader and Congregation
Introit	"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano
Welcome		Pastor Paul Eyer

Lighting the Advent Candles	One: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made up: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice.	Ivan Wemple, Julia Wick, and family
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*(Four Advent candles are lit.)*

**All: Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Inspire us, strengthen us, and comfort us with your boundless love. In this Advent season, prepare our hearts to be transformed. Amen.**

Lighting the Peace Candle/ Passing of the Peace	Sharing the Peace of Christ One: The peace of Christ be with you <b>All: And also with you.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and Congregation
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Opening Hymn	“Blessed Be the God of Israel” Words: UMC (red) Hymnal #209 (sing all verses) Tune: UMC (red) Hymnal #152 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong and congregation
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Prayer for the Day	<b>All: O God, in this sacred season of Advent, renew our sense of expectation. May the carols of Christmas and the stories of Christ's birth rekindle within us a deep connection with you and may they remind us of the transformation that you can bring to our world. Amen.</b>	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Children's Pageant	<b>"Christmas Store Window"</b> (script adapted from Half a Hundred Acre Wood)	The children of Williston Federated Church
	<b>Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer</b> Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Had a very shiny nose And if you ever saw it You would even say it glows	congregation and children, Suiong Wong, piano
	<b>O Christmas Tree</b> O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree How lovely are your branches! O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree How lovely are your branches!	congregation and children, Suiong Wong, piano
	<b>Santa Clause is Coming to Town</b> You better watch out You better not cry	congregation and children,

You better not pout  
I'm telling you why  
Santa Claus is coming to town.

Suiong Wong,  
piano

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight

congregation  
and children,  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger  
No crib for His bed  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down His sweet head

congregation  
and children,  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

The stars in the sky  
Look down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay

**The First Noel**

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay

congregation  
and children,  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

In fields where they lay keeping their  
sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

**We Three Kings**

We three kings of orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

congregation  
and children,  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide with thy perfect light.

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!

congregation  
and children,  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

## **“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”**

Children’s  
choir;  
Adam Hall,  
conductor;  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

Special Music    “Joy to the World”  
                          “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Children’s  
choir;  
Adam Hall,  
conductor;  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

Celebrations/  
Prayer            Prayer requests may be sent to:  
Requests        [WFCPrayer44@gmail.com](mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com)  
Prayers of the    Private prayer requests may be sent to:  
People            [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

Pastor Paul  
Eyer and  
congregation

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Lynn Bujnak  
on dulcimer

Doxology

UMC Hymnal #94

Suong Wong,  
piano, and  
congregation

Prayer of  
Dedication  
(unison)

**All: O God, we give of ourselves, praying that you will bless this world with love, peace, and hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, helping to prepare the way for your Realm here on earth. Amen.**

Dr. Jill Irvine  
and  
congregation

Life/Mission  
of the Church

Pastor Paul  
Eyer

Closing  
Hymn

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”  
UMC (red) Hymnal #203 (sing all verses)  
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reserved)

Suong Wong,  
piano

Benediction/  
Blessing

Pastor Paul  
Eyer



**Liturgical  
Resources:**

The **Call to Worship** was adapted from “A Call to Worship for Advent” from Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise: Prayers for Christian Worship by John R. Killinger (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001) at page 19.  
The **Prayer for the Day** was adapted from “An Opening Prayer for Advent” from Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise: Prayers for Christian Worship by John R. Killinger (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001) at pages 29-30.  
The **Prayer of Dedication** was adapted from “Again...Rejoice: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent, Year C” by Michelle Torigian, senior pastor of St. Paul’s UCC, Belleville, Illinois Worship Ways, United Church of Christ website found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-3c-december-15/>

*Ushers: Joe and Sylvia Maloney*

*Greeters: Jude Hersey and Leslie Murray*

*Coffee Hour: Ruth Magill*

*Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach*

*Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois*

## This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church

### Winter Arrangement

Donna Fellingner has put a winter flower arrangement on the altar in this Advent season in memory of her mother, Emma May Schmidt.

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### Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to place your orders for poinsettias that will adorn the church on Christmas Eve. Follow [this link \(https://forms.gle/FauX3vdaxP5VseC79\)](https://forms.gle/FauX3vdaxP5VseC79) for the order form. Questions? Contact Ashley [ashley0705@gmail.com](mailto:ashley0705@gmail.com)

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## Special Offering on Christmas Eve

The special offering collected both the 5:30pm and 7:30pm services on Christmas Eve will be equally divided between support for the vital ministries of Williston Federated Church and the important work carried out by Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity. The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity is the affiliate that works with local families and community volunteers to build and sell affordable homes in Northwest Vermont. The service area includes Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Lamoille Counties. Habitat homebuyers help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through the affiliate's efforts, over 120 families have achieved the strength, stability, and independence needed to build a better life for themselves and their children. Gifts can be made with cash, check or an online giving form at <https://onrealm.org/WFC/-/form/give/Christmas>.



Williston Federated Church  
Christmas Eve Special Offering

For convenience, you can use the QR code by pointing your phone's camera at it and follow prompts to open the link in a browser.

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## New Ministry for Widows or Widowers

We are hosting our 2nd Widow/Widowers Support Group Ministry Monthly Meeting monthly from 11-1 in the Choir Room. Please come and join us. The next date is December 14 so you can mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing you. Ministry Leaders: Kathy Quesnel, Carol Burbank and Ursula White

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## Is Choir Calling Your Name?

Do you like to sing? Adult choir rehearsal takes place each Thursday at 6:45pm in the church sanctuary. The children's choir (Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) rehearses at 9am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

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## Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on December 17 at 2 pm at Jane Stickney's home at 32 Hickory Hill Rd to discuss 'Queens of Crime' by Marie Benedict. Our January books are two books by Claire Keegan. 'Foster' and 'Small Things Like These' Our book for February is 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah. Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

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## **Sunday School Coordinator Needed**

The church is looking for a Sunday School Coordinator who would plan and supervise Sunday School for children aged four years through eighth grade.

Principal duties would include:

- Recruit, train and support Sunday school teaching volunteers
- Provide outreach to children who have attended WFC in the past two years
- Assist with teaching Sunday school when needed
- Welcome new families and supervise Sunday school registration
- Assist the Education committee with special programs, such as fall kickoff, Christmas pageant, Mardi Gras brunch and various mission programs
- Attend monthly meetings of the Education committee
- May also include facilitating parent discussions group and coordinating summer vacation bible school

For more information, contact Brian Goodwin at 802-238-4180 or by email at

[Goodwinjsd@gmail.com](mailto:Goodwinjsd@gmail.com)

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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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### **Morning Centering Prayer Group**

The Centering Prayer Group meets on Fridays on Zoom, opening at 9:45. The meeting begins at 10am and includes 20 minutes of silent prayer, reading of the Gospel Bible passage of the day and centering on a particular part of the passage and sharing personal impressions about the passage. For zoom link or questions contact Donna Fellingner at 802-355-1700 or [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 November's volunteers, Carol and Bruce Wyatt, Sara Moran, and Sue Hook for sharing food 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.

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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**

This holiday season, consider giving gifts that can help promote sustainability. Items such as reusable water bottles, LEDs, smart thermostats, compost bins and locally produced foods can help promote a more sustainable lifestyle. You might consider giving experiences instead of material items, such as classes, memberships, or movie tickets.



Carmyn Stanko	To world peace
Sara Moran	In celebration of our families and friends this holiday season
Brian and Gayle Goodwin	In celebration of our grandchildren Finn and Claudia
Cathi Brody	In memory of Pete Bartenstein, Evelyn Bartenstein, and my grandparents
Polly, Bill and Becca	In loving memory of Romaine DeCamp
Louise Kyle	In loving memory of Terry
Louise Kyle	In honor of Heather, Dean, and the boys
The Hain family	In memory of our parents and grandparents: William and Ruth Hain and Dennis and Barbara Ameden
Donna-Sue and Martin Hain	In memory of Isabelle Ameden and Gregory Ameden
Donna-Sue Hain	In loving memory of siblings: Dale Ameden and Bonnie Ameden Adams
Donna & Michael Goodheart	In celebration of family and friends.
Kim Hornung-Marcy and Ted Marcy	Merry Christmas to our church family
Amy Vaughan	In honor of my children and parents.
Amy Vaughan	In memory of Jane & Willem Keur, Virginia & Gus Toth, and Ron Vaughan
Judy and Barry Toth	In honor of our children and grandchildren
John Pierce	In memory of those dear family members and friends who have passed from this life to the next.
Alison Barges	In memory of Doris Jenkins

# 2025 Christmas Worship Schedule



## Wednesday, December 24 at 5pm -- Family-Friendly Christmas Eve service

in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed)  
This family-focused service is designed with the younger ones (and those “young at heart”) in mind. Interactive elements to engage the kids will be interspersed amid Christmas carols in this service for all ages.



## Wednesday, December 24 at 7:30m -- Candlelight Christmas Eve service

in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed).  
Beautiful music, beloved Christmas carols, and candlelight combine to make this service special. After the 7:30 worship service on Christmas Eve, stop by Fellowship Hall to greet friends and enjoy cookies and punch. Donations of cookies are appreciated. They may be placed on the table in Fellowship Hall.



## Wednesday, December 24 at 11pm -- Community Christmas Eve service

in the Old Brick Church (in person only)



## Sunday, December 28 “Worship Around the Breakfast Table”

Join us on December 28th for an informal worship and breakfast in Fellowship Hall. This wonderful event will combine a breakfast with an informal worship service that will include prayer, Christmas carols, and conversation. If you wish, you are welcome to bring a dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help with planning.