



Williston Federated Church

December 24, 2025 5:00pm

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

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 – Mark Demers, organ

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!
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve 5:00pm

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.)

Prelude

Mark
Demers,
organ

Welcome
and Call to
Worship

One: Light looked down and saw darkness.

All: "I will go there," said Light.

One: Peace looked down and saw war.

All: "I will go there," said Peace.

One: Love looked down and saw hatred.

All: "I will go there," said Love.

One: So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love, came down and crept in beside us.

Pastor Paul
Eyer and
congregation

Opening
Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn #234 in the UMC (red) Hymnal
(Sing verses 1 and 3)

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Mark
Demers,
organ, and
congregation

reserved)

Children's
Litany

(adapted
from Isaiah
9:2-4, 6-7)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
(polite applause)
those who lived in a land in deep darkness
Oh no!
on them has light shined.
Oh, good! (loud applause)
You have multiplied the nation,
Yes!
you have increased its joy;
Yes!
They rejoice before you as with joy at the
harvest. **Rejoice! Yes!**
For the yoke of their burden,
Oh! (as if in pain)
& the bar across their shoulders,
Oh! (as if in pain)
the rod of their oppressor,
Oh! (as if in pain)
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
Oh, good! (loud applause)
For a child has been born to us,
Yes!
a son given to us;
Yes!
authority rests upon his shoulders;

Gracie
Sanchez,
Pastor Paul
Eyer, and
congregation

Relief!
and he is named Wonderful Counselor,
Wonderful Counselor!
Mighty God,
Mighty God!
Everlasting Father,
Everlasting Father!
Prince of Peace.
Prince of Peace!
His authority shall grow continuously,
Higher & higher!
and there shall be endless peace.
God's peace!
He will establish and uphold it
Yes!
with justice and with righteousness
Yes!
from this time forth forevermore.
Thank you, God!
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
(loud applause)

Hymn

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
Hymn #251 in the UMC (red) Hymnal
(sing verse 1)
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Demers,
organ, and
congregation

Lighting of the Advent Candle	One: A town of little consequence became	Alison Barges, Chloe Barges, Meredith Barges, Nancy Jenkins, Bryan Jackson
	All: Hope. <i>(light purple Advent candle)</i>	
	Long labor into the night became All:	
	Peace. <i>(light purple Advent candle)</i>	
	A baby born among cattle became	
	All: Joy. <i>(light purple Advent candle)</i>	
	A child grown became	
	All: Love. <i>(light purple Advent candle)</i>	
	If you can use such as these, O God, use the spark within each of us.	
	All: Kindle that spark to be Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love for the world, as we light the candle of Christ. <i>(light Christ candle)</i>	
Scripture	Journey to Bethlehem Luke 2:1-7	Gracie Sanchez, Pastor Paul Eyer
Carol	"O, Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymn #230 in the UMC (red) Hymnal	Mark Demers,

(sing verse 1)
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organ, and
congregation

Scripture

The Angels' Song
Luke 2:8-14

Gracie
Sanchez,
Pastor Paul
Eyer

Carol

"Hark! The Hearld Angels Sing"
Hymn #240 in the UMC (red) Hymnal
(sing verse 1)
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Mark
Demers,
organ

Scripture

The Shepherds' Journey
Luke 2:15-20

Gracie
Sanchez,
Pastor Paul
Eyer

Carol

"Away in the
Manger"
Hymn #217 in the UMC (red) Hymnal
(sing verse 1)
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Mark
Demers,
organ, and
congregation

Offering/ Offertory		Mark Demers, organ
Prayer of Dedication	All: O God, You gave us the greatest gift of all, entering into our human existence and pointing the way to a better way through the life and ministry of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate on this sacred night. In this season of giving, we offer gifts of ourselves: our goods, our time and our talents. May these gifts be used to bring your light and hope into the world yet again. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Carol	“Silent Night” Hymn #239 in the UMC (red) Hymnal (<i>sing all verses</i>) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mark Demers, organ, and congregation
Benediction /Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Carol	“Joy to the World” Hymn #246 in the UMC (red) Hymnal (<i>sing all verses</i>) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mark Demers, organ, and congregation

Postlude

Mark
Demers,
organ

Liturgical Resources

The **Call to Worship** is adapted from a liturgy entitled “Come Just as You Are, Service Prayers for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day” was written by the Rev. Penny L. Lowes, found at “Worship Ways” on the United Church of Christ website www.ucc.org.

The **Advent Candle** liturgy was adapted from a liturgy prepared by Rev. David Beswick of the Uniting Church of Australia found at

<http://www.beswick.info/rcresources/CEA95OS.htm>.

The **Prayer of Dedication** is adapted from Lisa's Liturgies found at <https://sites.google.com/site/lisasliturgies/prayers-and-litanies/prayers>

Ushers: Kim Hornung-Marcy, Heather & Dean Lewis and Rene Sanchez

Greeter(s): Ruth Magill

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Additional Notes for This Week

Special Offering

The special offering collected this evening will be equally divided between support for the vital ministries of Williston Federated Church and support for some of our newest Americans, refugees fleeing war and violence. The church seeks to assist displaced persons and families as they adjust to life in Vermont. Funds will help with relocation from temporary housing to a more permanent residence in our community, as well as providing essential necessities for a new family. Gifts can be made with cash, check or an online giving form at <https://onrealm.org/WFC/-/form/give/Christmas>. 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.



Williston Federated Church
Christmas Eve Special Offering

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### Sunday, December 28 Breakfast

Join us on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am for an informal worship in Fellowship Hall. A light continental breakfast will be served. This wonderful event will combine a breakfast with an informal worship service that will include prayer, Christmas carols, and conversation.



|                                 |                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                                                     |