



Williston Federated Church

November 30, 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.)

THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

Isaiah 2:1-5

ADVENT



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 – Carolyn Pillsbury

Choir Accompanist – Suiong Wong

44 North Williston Road, Williston, Vermont 05495

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!

November 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

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: We may not know when, All: but you are coming to us, grace overflowing from your heart, O God. One: We may not know who, All: but your hope will be shared by the least likely people (perhaps including those our society often seeks to cast out). One: We may not know how, All: but your peace will transform our angry words into a warm welcome, our bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.	Ashley Dubois and Donna Sue Hain, Co-Lay Leaders, and congregation
Introit/ Processional	"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano
Welcome/ Greetings		Pastor Paul Eyer

Lighting the Advent Candle	The word “Advent” comes from an ancient Latin phrase meaning “until the coming.” It is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming of the Christ-child. During Advent—on each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus—we take time for reflection. We light a candle as we wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed yet again.	Ruth and Charlie Magill
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When the world is frightening and we desire to escape from the suffering we see around us, the season of Advent calls us to remember hope. It is hope that leads us to transform the conditions around us. We cling to hope in a world full of despair. We search for it. We dare to discover hope in the small, yet magnificent moments of our days. Let us light this candle of hope as we remember the promise of “God-with-us” and the hope that is to come.
(One candle is lit.)

Words of Peace		Pastor Paul Eyer
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Lighting the Peace Candle/	One: The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
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Sharing the Peace/Passing of the Peace

Opening Hymn	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMC (red) Hymnal #211 (sing verses 1, 4, and 7) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation and Suiong Wong, piano
Prayer for Today	<p>One: In the days to come, may we work to establish justice in all the places of oppression; All: may we learn to set aside our differences, like little children on a playground meeting those who have just moved in;</p> <p>One: may we awaken from our apathy, to discover the wonder offered to us by those we do not recognize as family. All: Then we will find ourselves standing within the gates of your grace, O God.</p> <p>One: In the days to come, may we be alert to the opportunities we will have to welcome the stranger; All: may we keep our eyes open for the chances to offer hope to the despairing;</p> <p>One: may we expect to find you in every person we meet, in every place we go. All: Then we will find ourselves standing within the gates of your love, Babe of Bethlehem.</p>	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation

One: In the days to come, may we discover that fear has fled as your hope draws ever near;

All: may we lay aside the shadows of our doubts, and put on the shawl of grace;

One: may we take weapons crafted from our fears, our anger, our regrets, and transform them into generous gifts of hope and life for all around us.

All: Then we will find ourselves standing within the gates of your peace, Spirit of gentleness.

One: In the days to come,

All: may we find ourselves standing within the gates of your heart, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Anthem	“The Yearning” Music by Craig Courtney Words by Susan Bentall Boersma	Senior Choir, conducted by Adam Hall, Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of all ages		Pastor Paul
Scripture	Isaiah 2:1-5	Bruce Wyatt
Prayer of Illumination	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

(adapted from
Psalm 19:14)

Sermon	“The Mountain of the Lord”	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	“O God of Every Nation” UMC (red) Hymnal #435 (sing all verses)	Suiong Wong, piano
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation and Suiong Wong, piano

Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: O God, the needs around us are great. The brokenness is heartbreaking. But we offer our gifts and we offer ourselves. And in the days to come, you promise to transform these gifts—and transform us—so that the world itself might be transformed as well. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
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Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
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Closing Hymn	“People, Look East” UMC Hymnal #202 (sing all verses) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation and Suiong Wong, piano
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Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
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Postlude		Suiong Wong, piano
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Liturgical Resources	The Call to Worship, Prayer for Today, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for November 30, 2025 (Advent 1 - A) from <u>Lectionary Liturgies</u> by Thom Shuman, found at <u>http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/</u> . The Advent candle liturgy was adapted from https://processandfaith.org/advent-candle-liturgy/ .	
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Ushers: Carol and Bruce Wyatt

Greeter(s): Sue and Cliff Hook

Coffee Hour: Carol Bouchard

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois



To give online, use the QR code above.

This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church

The Giving Tree

Christmas is a joyous time of year for most of us, but for many in our community who are financially challenged, it can be exceedingly stressful. We at Williston Federated Church have the opportunity to make this a happier holiday by providing gifts to children from Allen Brook and Williston Central Schools. We invite you to participate in The Giving Tree by purchasing a gift card or cards that the families may use to select the “perfect” Santa gift, e.g. a toy, a game or art supplies, AND winter clothing items for their child(ren). This provides a level of autonomy and dignity to folks to be able to actually pick out the gifts for their children, which they may not be able to do otherwise.

The Giving Tree will be set up as usual in the hallway outside the sanctuary beginning on Sunday, November 30th, with \$25 gift tags attached. Please take one or more tags and purchase a gift card or cards from the store indicated on the back. There is no sign-up necessary. We trust that if you remove a tag, that you will purchase a gift card and return it. Please place your gift card(s) in an envelope and drop it in the decorated box next to the Giving Tree outside the sanctuary. All gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, December 14th and will be delivered to school on Monday, December 15th. A white dove will be hung on the tree for each gift received. Thank you so much for your abundant generosity. Your gifts will bring much joy to many children in our community. If you have any questions or need help selecting a tag or returning the gift to church, please contact Chris Burns-DiBiasio, cburnsdibiasio@gmail.com, 419-230-4417 or Sue Hook, hooksuzanne4@gmail.com, 201-694-7890. And a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday to you.

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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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Winter Arrangement

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

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**Williston Community Tree Lighting – December 7**

The Williston Community Tree Lighting will be held Sunday, December 7th 4:30-5:30pm on the Williston Village Green. We will light the tree, sing Christmas carols and enjoy cookies and hot cocoa. Our very own Children's Choir will provide special music and the SD Ireland holiday truck will bring some extra cheer. Please bring a donation of new hats, mittens, gloves or socks for the Williston Community Food Shelf.

Would you like to be a part of the Community Tree Lighting? We are looking for help with decorating, baking cookies and setting up/cleaning up at the event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can sign up using this QR Code:



**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

**Christmas Pageant – Save the date!**

This year’s Christmas pageant, “Christmas Store Window,” will be presented on December 21st. Rehearsal schedules and casting details will be shared soon. We look forward to celebrating the season together through this special story of light and hope.

**Is Choir Calling Your Name?**

Do you like to sing? Advent is a great time to join the choir. 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!

**Women’s Book Club**

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. The book choice for December17 is ‘Queens of Crime’ by Marie Benedict.  
Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

**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 – NEW DAY

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 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 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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Greenworks Ministry – Green Tip for the Week

For a greener Christmas: Use reusable fabric bags to wrap items. Avoid metallic or shiny wrapping paper as this does not re-cycle.
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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!

# 2025 Christmas Worship Schedule



Please join us for the Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday at 9:30am  
December 21 (in person and live-streamed at [facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch](https://facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch))



**Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30pm -- Longest Night Service**  
in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed)  
You are invited to a special service designed for those who find the holidays to be a difficult time. Our church cares about you. This brief service offers ample opportunity for quiet worship and reflection.



**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 on the bulletin board to help with planning.