



Williston Federated Church

September 14, 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

Pastoral (seminarian) Intern – Jill Irvine

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!

September 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Corn Roast 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: Let us enter the presence of our God with Dr. Jill Irvine
a renewed heart and a right spirit.

(adapted from **Many: Have mercy on us, O God, according to**
Psalm 51) **your steadfast love.**

One: Let us speak, hear, and embrace truth
and the wisdom of God.

**Many: Strengthen and empower us, O God,
according to your steadfast love.**

One: Let us hear joy and gladness. Restore our
crushed spirits.

**Many: Revive us again, O God, according to
your steadfast love.**

Introit/
Processional "Song of Acceptance" ("Christ Accepted You") Senior Choir
Adam Hall,
conducting

Welcome/
Greetings Pastor Paul
Eyer

Words of
Peace Pastor Paul
Eyer

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	“Song of Acceptance (Christ Accepted You)” Songbook #78 (sing twice) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation and Suiong Wong, piano
Prayer for Today	All: O God, in you, we find joy and strength, comfort and courage, truth and insight. May your glorious light shine through hidden spaces. May your blessed darkness make space for rest. Fortify us for this journey and make us instruments of your peace in the world. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Anthem	“Lambs to His Fold” Arranged by Ruth Artman	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of all ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	Exodus 32:1-14 Luke 15:1-10	Shelley Marshall

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	“Changing Minds”	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	“Larghetto” (Johann Franck)	Carolyn Pillsbury

Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Carolyn Pillsbury and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: When we could not find our way, you came searching for us. So today may our gifts be used to bring hope to those cast aside by the world, peace to those whose lives are troubled, and grace to all who are alone. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast” UMC (red) Hymnal #339 (sing verses 1,2,4 and 5) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Carolyn Pillsbury and congregation
Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Postlude	”Reverie” (W. Faulkes)	Carolyn Pillsbury
Liturgical Resources	<p>The Call to Worship and Prayer for Today was adapted from “Joy in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost” by Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, found at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-14c-september-14/</p> <p>The Prayer of Dedication was adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for September 15, 2019 (Proper 19 - C)” from <u>Lectionary Liturgies</u> by Thom Shuman found at</p>	

Ushers: Thomas Beach and Donna Goodheart

Greeter(s): Louise Kyle

Coffee Hour: Louise Kyle

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Online Prayer Coordinator: Kelly Swartz



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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### **Corn Roast and Sundae TODAY! Sunday, September 14th**

Join us today 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.

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2025 Pictorial Directory

The 2025 Pictorial Directory is now available and can be found on the table in the gallery.

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### **Choir Rehearsals Resume**

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) will resume rehearsals at 9am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall, beginning TODAY, Sunday, September 14. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

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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.

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**Guess Who's Coming to Dinner and Kid's Movie Night October 11th 5:30 PM**

Join in this fun event where no one knows where they will dine until that night and the hosts won't know who is coming to dinner until the guests arrive at their door. Hosts will provide the main course. Guests will bring an appetizer or a dessert. Hosts will be notified by 10/7 of the number of guests to expect and any dietary restrictions. Guests will be notified of what they should bring.

Fill out the confidential form available from an usher or on the bulletin board and drop it in the offering or in the envelope hanging on the bulletin board. No peeking! Or you may sign up online. Once your reservation appears online, the information will be transferred to a paper form and deleted from the site. This will aid us in keeping the participants a mystery to all. Please indicate if you want to host or be a guest or are flexible. If you are willing to host, how many guests can you accommodate? Also, please note any dietary restrictions.

Guests will stop by the church at 5:30pm on the 11th and be given an envelope with the name and address of their host. Children will stay at the church for dinner and a movie hosted by Heather & Dean Lewis. Pickup time for children is by 8:00 pm.

When the evening is over, guests head home happy, filled and fulfilled and hosts will be basking in the glory of offering hospitality for stronger connections – stronger community.

Deadline to sign up is October 5th. Speak to [Gary Lewis](#) with any questions.

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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 donnafeelingervt@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 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](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**

#### **Frost Advisory!**

Vermont has just had its first frost advisory for the season, which is a reminder to prepare our homes for winter.

It's a great time to check and replace your furnace filters and have your furnace serviced to ensure that it's running smoothly.

Time to reverse ceiling fans so they turn clockwise at a low speed, this will gently push warm air down into the room.

You might want to apply heavy-duty, clear plastic film to window frames to reduce drafts.

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Welcome Jill Irvine!

We are delighted to welcome to Williston Federated Church Dr. Jill Irvine, who will be serving as a pastoral (seminarian) intern with our congregation this coming academic year. Jill is currently a Master of Divinity student at Moravian Theological Seminary. (Moravian Seminary is now formally connected with Lancaster Theological Seminary, whose alumni/ae include Pastor Paul, his wife Jackie Lingelbach, and Gary Lewis of our congregation.) Jill's remarkable background includes a Ph.D. from Harvard and career in academia at the University of Oklahoma. Enjoy getting to know Jill in the coming weeks and months!

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### **Apartment Wanted**

Kubra Ahmadi, our Mace House neighbor, has a cousin who, with his wife and newborn, wishes to relocate from Boston to our area. They are looking for a two-bedroom apartment. If you have any leads, please contact Carol or Bruce Wyatt ([brucecarol@gmail.com](mailto:brucecarol@gmail.com); 802/876-7950). Thanks!