



# *Williston Federated Church*

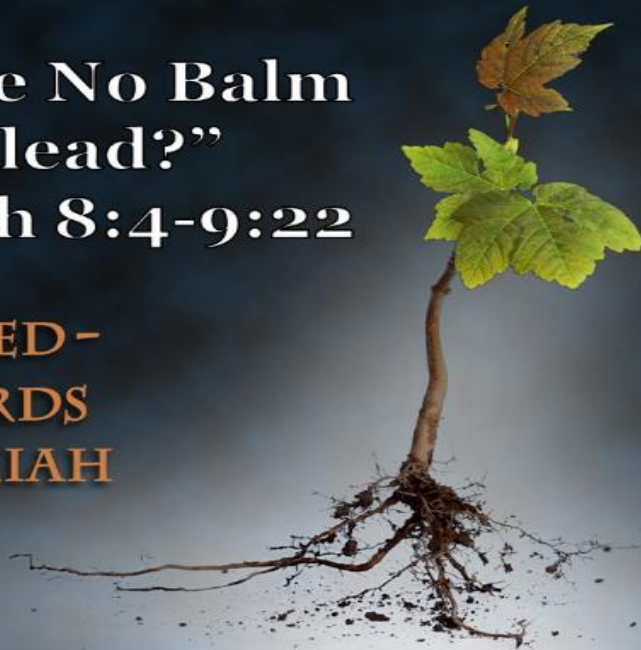
September 21, 2025

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.)*

**“Is There No Balm  
in Gilead?”  
Jeremiah 8:4-9:22**

**UPROOTED-  
THE WORDS  
OF JEREMIAH**



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)



United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church  
Federated in 1899



## Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

**September 21, 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: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives. <b>All: God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.</b> One: We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain. <b>All: God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.</b> One: We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth. <b>All: Alleluia! Amen!</b>	Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader
Introit/ Processional	"Song of Acceptance" ("Christ Accepted You")	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano
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. <b>All: And also with you.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Opening Hymn	“There is a Balm in Gilead” UMC (red) Hymnal #375 (sing all verses) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation and Carolyn Pillsbury
Prayer for Today	One: Great God, who gathers us together in spirit and in truth, sanctify our time together. Grant us wisdom and discernment. <b>All: Open our hearts to receive and to give. Be glorified in our worship and the transformation that moves us forward as your people.</b> One: In your glorious and precious name, we pray. <b>All: Amen.</b>	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Anthem	“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”  by Jane Holstein	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of all ages		Pastor Paul Eyer

Scripture	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Amos 8:4-7	Chris Burns- DiBiasio
Prayer of Illumination (adapted from Psalm 19:14)	<b>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.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	“No Balm in Gilead?”	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations/ Prayer Requests/ Prayers of the People	Prayer requests may be sent to: <a href="mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com">WFCPrayer44@gmail.com</a> Private prayer requests may be sent to: <a href="mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com">pastoreyer@gmail.com</a>	Pastor Paul Eyer
Silent Reflection		
Lord’s Prayer	<b>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.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Offering Offertory	“I Call To Thee, Lord Jesus Christ” by Johann Christoph Bach	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)	<b>All: O God, we faithfully offer these gifts so that lives may be changed, needs may be met, and your realm of love may be realized. Amen.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“Let There Be Peace on Earth” UMC (red) Hymnal #431 (sing once) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Carolyn Pillsbury and congregation
Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Postlude	“Fanfare” by R. Mark Otterstad	Carolyn Pillsbury
Liturgical Resources	<p>The <b>Call to Worship</b> was adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for September 18, 2016 (Proper 20-C)” from <u><a href="https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2016/09/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-18.html">Lectionary Liturgies</a></u> by Thom Shuman, found at <a href="https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2016/09/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-18.html">https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2016/09/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-18.html</a></p> <p>The <b>Prayer for Today</b> was adapted from “An Accounting: Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost” by Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, found at “Worship Ways” on the United Church of Christ website at <a href="https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-15c-september-21/">https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-15c-september-21/</a></p>	

*Ushers: Chris Burns-DiBiasio and Dan DiBiasio*

*Greeter(s): Barb Bristol*

*Coffee Hour: Louise Kyle*

*Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach*

*Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois*



*To give online, use the QR code above.*

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## **This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church**

### **The Green Altar 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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### **Blessing of the Animals - October 5**

Calling all pets! Bring your favorite animals (furry, fishy, or otherwise) to our annual observance of the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. We will plan to meet on the recreational path near the volleyball courts at Village Community Park (formerly Williston Community Park). Is your four-legged friend not a fan of the great outdoors? Feel free to bring a photo or other representation for Pastor Paul to bless. Please see Cathi Brody for more information. We hope to see you - and your pets - at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5.

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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) 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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### **Women's Book Club**

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. The book choice for October 15 is 'Gather' by Kenneth Cadow, November 19 is 'The Mountains Sing' by Nguyen Phan Mai, December 17 is 'Queens of Crime' by Marie Benedict.

Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto: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 [donnafellinger@vt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellinger@vt@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 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**

Plan now for an eco-friendly garden next year. Notice which plants were drought resistant and which grew well without applications of fertilizer or pesticides. A good rule of thumb for gardeners: whatever thrives in your garden, grow more of it.

Fewer cars on the road means less carbon emission, cleaner air and a reduced dependence on oil. Taking the bus or sharing a ride with a friend just once or twice a week can make a big difference.

You can help support your community to become more sustainable. Participate in town meetings and hearings to support walkability in public planning and new construction.

Concerned about the number of big, plastic bottles you’re putting into the recycling? You can reduce your plastics by buying shampoo in bar form and laundry detergent in dissolvable sheets. Both can be found in grocery stores or ordered online.

Cut-up old pajamas and tee shirts, etc. make great rags for mopping up spills and for cleaning. Keep a box handy in the kitchen to reduce your use of paper towels.

If you’re using the oven for supper preparation, why not cook your whole meal in it rather than also powering stovetop burners and/or small appliances? For example, macaroni and cheese, scalloped tomatoes and apple crisp can share a 350 degree oven.

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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!