



Williston Federated Church

September 28, 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 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Baptism of Amelia Lodge

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 (inspired by Psalm 146)	One: Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul! Many: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long! One: Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope. Many: Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.	Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader, and congregation
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. All: And also with you.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Opening Hymn	<p>“What Does the Lord Require of You?” sung as a round (a cappella)</p> <p><i>What does the LORD require of you? What does the LORD require of you? Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.</i></p> <p>(Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)</p>	Congregation, led by Adam Hall, Music Director
Prayer for Today	<p>One: When an epidemic of worry threatens to overcome us, All: You protect us.</p> <p>One: When harmful words are flung at us, All: You answer our cries for help.</p> <p>One: When the world silences our hope, All: You give us the words to respond.</p> <p>One: When we have lost our way, All: You point the way.</p>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Anthem	<p>“My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend arranged by Heather Sorenson</p>	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting

		Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of all ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Baptism	Amelia Lodge daughter of Xander and Natalie Lodge sister of Jack and Finn Lodge granddaughter of Lori Chiarappa Watson, Viki and Bill Watson, Melissa and Jeffrey Elmer, David and Susanne Lodge	Pastor Paul Eyer
Baptismal Hymn	"I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry" Songbook #127 (sing all verses)	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation
Scripture	Luke 16:19-31 Luke 24:13-24, 28-31	Kathy Quesnel
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	"Eyes Lifted Up"	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations/ Prayer	Prayer requests may be sent to: WFCPrayer44@gmail.com Private prayer requests may be sent to:	Pastor Paul Eyer

Requests/ Prayers of the People	pastoreyer@gmail.com	
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
Mission Moment	Information about the World Communion / Neighbors in Need offering that will be collected next Sunday, October 5	
Offering Offertory	“Sarabande” by George Frideric Handel	Joan Ebbeson, recorder and 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: Bless these gifts that they—and we—might be a blessing to those who need healing, those who are hungry, those who need a friend or community, and those who are on the other side of that chasm we call indifference. Especially when we fail to notice them, help us to see them so that they—and we—may be touched by your grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“Give Thanks” Songbook #3 (sing as indicated) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation and Suiong Wong, piano
Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Postlude	“Autumn Glory” (Sylvia K. Riggs)	Carolyn Pillsbury
Liturgical Resources	<p>Inspired by Psalm 146, the Call to Worship was adapted from a liturgy entitled “Comfort and Agony: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost” written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, for <u>Worship Ways</u> found at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-16c-september-28/.</p> <p>The Prayer for the Day and Prayer of Dedication were adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for September 25, 2016 (Proper 21-C) from <u>Lectionary Liturgies</u> by Rev. Thom Shuman, found at https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2016/09/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-25.html</p>	

Ushers: Kathy Quesnel and Don Thurston
Greeter(s): Louise Kyle
Coffee Hour: Louise Kyle
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 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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Better Together

World Communion Sunday, October 5, will give all of us an opportunity to not only receive the gift of communion but to extend the gift of love to the world through our World Communion Sunday/Neighbors In Need offering. Through our two denominational connections our offering, which will be split evenly between them, will help fund educational opportunities focusing on equity and inclusion nationally and world-wide, as well as providing support for Native Americans and providing grants to local churches offering programs focusing on justice and witness ministries. One offering from one congregation, joining others to make a difference around the world. Checks can be **made out to the church with a memo "WCS-NIN"**. For your convenience you can use this QR code to access a "donation" form. Thank you ALL!

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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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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 8th 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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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 donna.fellingervt@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 volunteer, Natalie Lodge and her family 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**

Know your deadlines: September 30, 2025, you need to be in the process of leasing or purchasing a fully Electric Vehicle (EV) to get the Federal rebates (\$7,500!). Fun fact: Vermont is going to get the \$20 million for EV chargers along I89 and I91 that Trump tried to cancel. EV's save money over the lifetime of the car's ownership. They also produce much less toxic air pollution even including their manufacture over the lifetime of their use. They also reduce CO2 emissions significantly reducing climate change impact.

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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; 802/876-7950). Thanks!