



Williston Federated Church

April 12, 2026

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
Pianist/Organist – 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!

April 12, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter / Earth Day Sunday

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for children up to age three.

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

Leader: All things of God, all the heavens,

All: Worship and praise your Maker.

Leader: Sun, moon and stars; wind, rain and
thunder,

All: Worship and praise your Maker.

Leader: Mountains and forests, streams and
waterfalls,

All: Worship and praise your Maker.

Leader: Creatures beneath the seas, birds
throughout the skies,
all that leaps or crawls, all who walk or worry or
wonder,

**All: Let us worship and praise our Maker
together.**

Ashley Dubois,
Co-Lay Leader,
and congregation

Prelude

Suiong Wong,
piano/organ

Welcome/
Greetings

Pastor Paul Eyer

Words of Peace Lighting the Peace Candle		Dr. Jill Irvine
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	“For the Beauty of the Earth” UMC (red) Hymnal #92 (sing verses 1, 2, 4, & 6) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Congregation Suiong Wong, organ
Prayer for Today	All: Gracious and Eternal God, you are the one who calls us together and the one who sends us out in the world. Remind us, as we gather, how good it is to dwell with you and one another. Stir our hearts to love boldly, freely, and joyfully. Let us praise you with our whole lives and magnify your name by our works. We bless and honor you, O Faithful One, from generation to generation and from community to community. Speak to our spirits and receive our worship. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Special Music	“Be Thou My Vision” (traditional Irish melody)	Karen Allen, harp
Time with Children of All Ages		Pastor Paul Eyer

Scripture	John 20:19-31	Dan Dibiasio
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	“Doubting Thomas”	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations/ Prayer Requests	Prayer requests may be sent to: WFCPrayer44@gmail.com or if you are online, place them in the chat Private prayer requests may be sent to: 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		Chris Burns-DiBiasio

Call to Offering		Dr. Jill Irvine
Offering Offertory		Suiong Wong, piano
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Prayer of Dedication	All: Generous One, may these gifts be a blessing to those in need, a source of hope for those in despair, comfort for those who grieve, encouragement for those who doubt, a balm for those in pain. May our generosity reflect our gratitude and our giving be another source of praise. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“Graves Into Gardens” Songbook #204 (sung as written) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Postlude		Suiong Wong, piano

Liturgical Resources

The **Call to Worship** is adapted from "Worship Planner, Second Sunday of Easter, April 12, 2026, Year A" from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, found at <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/#>

The **Prayer for Today** and the **Prayer of Dedication** was adapted from "So I Send You: Service Prayers for Easter 2A" written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ (UCC), from Worship Ways on the UCC website found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2a-april-12/>

Ushers: Chris Stewart and Donna Goodheart

Greeter(s): Leslie Murray and Armand Fournier

Coffee Hour: Ruth Magill

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

2026 Stewardship Campaign

The very wise and kind Rev. Fred Rogers said "It's not what you have in this life that matters, it's what you do with it. Each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors. In our own way, each of us is a giver and a receiver." Many thanks for your past giving to Williston Federated Church and please consider Mr. Rogers' most famous quote - "Won't you be my neighbor" - as you plan your future giving commitment. Our upcoming annual Stewardship Campaign will be taking place in May culminating on Consecration Sunday, May 17 and while you can pledge at any time, we would like to include your pledge in our prayer of dedication that day. Please watch your mailbox for a mailing by the end of April with details on how you can participate in this year's campaign. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask any of the Finance Committee members. With our sincere thanks from Pastor Paul Eyer, Jan Demers, Barb Bristol, Susan Lamb, Simone O'Flaherty, Amy Vaughan, Joan Ebbeson, Shelley Marshall, Sandy Twombly, Dan DiBiasio, Jason Shi and Ivan Wemple.

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### **Food Drive May 9th**

Community-Wide Food & Hygiene Drive to benefit the Williston Community Food Shelf May 9th, 9-11am in the church parking lot.

In addition to basic food items there is a big need for feminine hygiene items. If you can't make it on the 9th, you can leave your donations on the table near the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed on the 9th. Please sign up on the bulletin board or speak to [Carol Bouchard](#)

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Annual Meeting Reports

A reminder that the annual meeting will be in early June. Committee chairs should be preparing their reports for submission.

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**Faith Fellowship Fun!**

Join us this summer at Illumination Station where we shine a light on who Jesus really is! Mark your calendars! Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> through Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>.  
"I am the light of the world..." - John 8:12 Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

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Ministry for Widows or Widowers

The WFC Widow/Widower Support Group Monthly Meetings will be held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM in the WFC "Sitting Room" just past Pastor Paul's Office. This is a caring and empathetic group that supports each other through active listening, compassion, and understanding. Ministry Leaders: Kathy Quesnel, Carol Burbank and Ursula White

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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) rehearses at 9am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

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Women's Book Club

The women's book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. Our book for May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell. All women are welcome. For more information, contact Lois Mason loismason418@gmail.com.

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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 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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Sunday School Coordinator Needed – Paid Position

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

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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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Sunday School Helpers Needed

We are looking for adults who would be willing to spend 30 fun minutes with our youth as a Sunday School Helper. Our teachers prepare the lesson plans—you simply assist in the classroom and help create a welcoming, supportive environment for the children. This is a flexible opportunity and helpers are only scheduled occasionally to fit your availability.

If you are interested in helping or would like to learn more, please contact Brian Goodwin at 802-238-4180 or by email at Goodwinjsd@gmail.com

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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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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**

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](mailto: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 by ZOOM ONLY every Monday afternoon from 1:30-2:30. If you'd like to join us, have questions, or wish you knew more about the Bible, please contact Sally Metro at 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 March's volunteers Dan & Kris Clark as well as Carol & Bruce Wyatt 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 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

LEFTOVER SEEDS - What do you do with a packet of seeds whose label says it was packed for a year or longer ago? You may have some left from last year, or you may pick some up at the Seed Swap table downstairs after church service.

One option is to just plant as usual and accept that some of the seeds won't sprout. Another is to plant them more densely than recommended and figure you may need to transplant and re-arrange some seedlings after they sprout. A third is to conduct a seed germination test.

To test for germination, you need few supplies, just some paper towels, tepid water and a normal, warm home.

First, label the bags so you can match the results with the seed packets. Next, wet a paper towel, then wring it gently to remove excess water. Place ten seeds on it, spread evenly in a row. Fold the paper towel in half, so seeds have a layer of moist paper towel both beneath and above them. Place inside a plastic bag, but do not seal it. Store the bags carefully, at room temperature.

Examine after 3 days, then again after 5 days. If most of the seeds have sprouted, go ahead and plan to use the remainder of seeds in the packet in your garden. If you want to be more scientific, you can calculate the germination rate by multiplying the number of seeds that sprouted times ten; the product equals the rate of germination.

Demonstrate your "green" ethic even further by composting the test sprouts!