



# Williston Federated Church

*April 26, 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.)*

"Things in Common"



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto: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](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!

April 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

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  
(inspired by  
the 23rd  
Psalm)

Leader: God's Spirit is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

**All: The Spirit is the breath of life that stills our worries and fears, as we are led to that peaceful place of God's heart.**

Ashley Dubois,  
Co-Lay Leader,  
and congregation

Leader: We gather this morning seeking God's guidance toward peace yet again.

**All: We gather to worship the God of goodness and mercy.**

Prelude "Morning Song" by Charles Myers

Carol Schein,  
piano

Welcome/  
Greetings

Pastor Paul Eyer

Words of  
Peace  
Lighting the  
Peace Candle

Pastor Paul Eyer

Sharing the  
Peace/  
One: The peace of Christ be with you  
**All: And also with you.**

Pastor Paul Eyer  
and congregation

## Passing of the Peace

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Opening<br>Hymn     | <p>“Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love”<br/>UMC (red) Hymnal #566 (sing all verses)<br/>(Reprinted with permission under<br/>ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)</p>  | Congregation and<br>Carol Schein,<br>organ/piano                   |
| Prayer for<br>Today | <p>One: God of love, we come together into your<br/>presence<br/><b>All: trusting that your love has the power to<br/>defeat evil in the world.</b><br/>One: We come together into your presence<br/><b>All: trusting that your love defeats even the<br/>power of death.</b><br/>One: We come together into your presence<br/><b>All: trusting that your Holy Spirit guides us<br/>through the darkest valleys.</b><br/>One: We worship you with glad hearts,<br/>praising you in the name of our Risen Lord,<br/>praying with the breath of your Spirit in us.<br/><b>All: Renew our strength and courage to face<br/>whatever each day holds, so our lives will<br/>bring you honor and glory, now and always.<br/>Amen.</b></p> | Dr. Jill Irvine and<br>congregation                                |
| Anthem              | <p>“Come, Christians, Join and Sing”<br/>by Patricia Hurlbutt</p>   | Senior Choir<br>Adam Hall,<br>conducting<br>Carol Schein,<br>piano |

|   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Time with<br>Children of<br>All Ages                          |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                     |
| Scripture   | Acts 2:42-47  | Karen Ferrari                        |
| Prayer of<br>Illumination<br>(adapted<br>from Psalm<br>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<br>and congregation |
| Sermon  | “Things in Common”  | Pastor Paul Eyer                     |
| Celebrations/<br>Prayer<br>Requests                           | Prayer requests may be sent to:<br><a href="mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com">WFCPrayer44@gmail.com</a> or if you are online,<br>place them in the chat<br>Private prayer requests may be sent to:<br><a href="mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com">pastoreyer@gmail.com</a>  |                                      |
| Silent<br>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<br>and congregation |

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|----------------------------|--|--|
| Call to Offering           |  | Pastor Paul Eyer                           |
| Offering Offertory         | “Children of the Heavenly Father”<br>by Robert J. Hughes   | Carol Schein,<br>piano                     |
| Doxology                   | UMC Hymnal #94<br>(Reprinted with permission under<br>ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)  | Suiong Wong,<br>piano and<br>congregation  |
| Prayer of Dedication       | <b>All: O God, bless the gifts we offer so they will spread your abundant love to lives in need of caring. Bless our lives so that we may care for the world as we follow Jesus day by day. Amen.</b>  | Dr. Jill Irvine and<br>congregation        |
| Life/Mission of the Church |  | Pastor Paul Eyer                           |
| Closing Hymn               | “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”<br>Songbook #86 (sing all verses)<br>(Reprinted with permission under<br>ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)  | Carol Schein,<br>piano and<br>congregation |
| Benediction/<br>Blessing   |  | Pastor Paul Eyer                           |
| Postlude                   | “Soli Deo Gloria” by Roger C. Wilson   | Carol Schein,<br>piano                     |
| Liturgical Resources       | The <b>Call to Worship</b> is adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for April 26, 2026 (Easter 4 -A) from <u><a href="https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/">Lectionary Liturgies</a></u> by Thom Shuman, found at <a href="https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/">https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/</a> |  |

The **Prayer for Today** and **Prayer of Dedication** were adapted from "Worship Planner, 4th Sunday of Easter, Mission Awareness Sunday, April 26, 2026, Year A" prepared by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, found at <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

*Ushers: Karen Ferrari & Donna Goodheart*

*Greeter(s): Lesley Murray*

*Coffee Hour: Vicki Carleton*

*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**

### **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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### **Growing in Discipleship: an exciting opportunity**

Under the expert coaching guidance of Paul Nickerson, Williston Federated Church is now exploring new ways to offer opportunities for each of us to deepen our faith journey. A group will gather this coming Tuesday evening (April 28) at 7:00 p.m. in the Sitting Room (across the hall from the Pastor's Study) to meet for the first of our discipleship coaching sessions with Paul Nickerson. If you are interested in being part of this small group helping us move forward on the path of discipleship, please contact our pastoral (seminarian) intern Dr. Jill Irvine at [jillirvine@gmail.com](mailto:jillirvine@gmail.com).

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**Women’s Brunch**

Our next WFC Women's Brunch social gathering will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Chef's Corner at 11:00 AM. Everyone is welcome! If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kathy Quesnel at [kathyquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:kathyquesnel@gmail.com). See you there!

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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**

The Annual Congregation Meeting of Williston Federated Church will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, June 14. Mark your calendars for this important meeting to which all are invited. Committee chairs should have their reports in to the office by May 15.

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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 each month in the fellowship hall at 2 pm. Please join us to read and discuss the following books:

May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell.

June 17: 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' by Lisa See.

All women are welcome. For more information, contact Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

## **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](mailto:Goodwinjsd@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **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.

## **Morning Centering Prayer Group**

The Centering Prayer Group is on Friday mornings opening at 9:30am and beginning at 9:45am. The Centering Prayer group gathers via ZOOM ONLY for silent prayer and Bible discussion. For Zoom code or questions call/text Donna Fellinger 802-355-1700 or email at [donnafellingervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingervt@gmail.com)

## **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](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 in Fellowship Hall. 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 Sitting Room 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](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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### **Seed Swap donations needed**

Greenworks ministry would like to recreate the seed swap for Green up day on the town green. Do you have packets of seeds you know you won't plant this year. Please give donations of seeds to either Kim Hornung-Marcy or Sara Moran. Thanks so much. The swap was a big success at our Earth Day event!

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### **How Might You Share Your Gifts & Talents?**

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of inviting folks to serve on a church committee for the 2026-2027 fiscal year which begins July 1st. WFC plays a vital role in our lives and our response to the needs of our community and the wider world. We are asking that you prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to share your gifts and talents.

Most committees meet monthly, and many take a break in the summer. Terms can be from 1-3 years. Committees include: Official Board, Trustees, Pastor Staff Relations, Finance, Education, Membership, Music & Worship, Missions & Social Concerns & Youth Ministry. There is a handout on the table in the gallery that gives a description of each committee.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about any of these committees, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee: Rebecca Dubois, Donna Goodheart, Carol Bouchard or Pastor Paul.