



Williston Federated Church

August 16, 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.)

**“...FOR MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED
a house of prayer
FOR ALL NATIONS.”**
ISAIAH 56:7

Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: pastoreyer@gmail.com

Pastoral (seminarian) Intern – Dr. Jill Irvine

Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill

Lay Leader – 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!

August 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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: Let the nations be glad and sing with joy All: For God guides us all with justice and equity. Leader: Let the people praise God, for how we have been blessed; All: Come let us worship and offer all honour and praise.	Donna-Sue Hain, Lay Leader and congregation
Prelude	"Sabbath Prayer" from "Fiddler on the Roof"	Mark Demers, piano
Welcome		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace		Pastor Paul Eyer
Lighting the Peace Candle		
Opening Hymn	"Where Charity and Love Prevail" UMC (red) Hymnal #549 (sing verses 1, 3, & 6) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mark Demers, piano/organ, and congregation

Prayer for Today	All: We praise you for your love which is great enough to embrace the universe, yet close enough to enter our hearts. During our worship, surprise us with your grace that we, with the rest of the church and the whole of creation, may share that grace with the world.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Special Music	"My Lord, What a Morning" arranged by Gary Davison	Adam Hall, soloist, Mark Demers on piano
Time with Children		Pastor Paul Eyer
Passing of the Peace	Pastor Paul (and children): The peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermonic Hymn	"All People That on Earth Do Dwell" UMC (red) Hymnal #75 (sing verse one) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mark Demers, piano/organ, and congregation
Scripture	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Dean Lewis
Prayer of Illumination (adapted from Psalm 19:14)	All: May the words of my mouth, and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, our strength and our redeemer.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	"Gathering"	Pastor Paul Eyer
<i>Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve with Us</i>		

Celebrations/ Prayer Requests/ Prayers of the People	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	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
Call to Offering		Pastor Paul Eyer
Offering Offertory		Mark Demers, piano/organ
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mark Demers, piano/organ, and congregation

Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: O God, we place our hope and trust in your loving kindness. Because we want to praise you with more than just words, we offer our gifts to support your work in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for your good purposes, so that the world will know your loving kindness. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
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Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
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Closing Hymn	"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Songbook #86 (sing verses 1-3) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Mark Demers, piano/organ, and congregation
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Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
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Postlude	"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"	Mark Demers, organ
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Liturgical Resources	The Call to Worship, Prayer for Today, and Prayer of Dedication were adapted from "Worship Planner, 12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 2026, Year A" Presbyterian Church in Canada, found at https://presbyterian.ca/worship/	
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Ushers: Dean Lewis and Donna Goodheart

Greeter(s): Don Thurston

Coffee Hour: Vickie and Phil Carleton

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

Expressions of Peace

Our community of faith at Williston Federated Church includes a wide range of perspectives and opinions about many topics, including worship. In response to input from some in the congregation, we have been experimenting with various practices of "passing the peace" during our worship services.

On June 28, we began passing the peace immediately following the "time with children". The children will assist in inviting people in the congregation to share in this custom.

NOTE: This is an experiment which we will continue over the next several weeks. Your feedback is welcome.

And, as always, the peace of Christ is with you... Prayerfully, Pastor Paul

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## Backpack Sunday - Making a Difference

Next Sunday, August 23, we will have an opportunity to focus on the upcoming school year by extending our blessings and hope to students, parents, educators, staff and all who are involved with the upcoming school year. We will also include a **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**. All students are invited to bring their backpacks to the service to be blessed. They can invite friends to bring their backpacks as well. Actually, anyone who has a backpack and wants it included in the blessing – bring it in on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, this year we are extending an invitation to the congregation/community to donate **new backpacks** which will be distributed to area schools for children and families who may need a backpack. You may drop your donated backpacks at the church anytime leading up to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Just bring them up to the sanctuary. Or – bring them on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Together – we can make a difference. THANK YOU.**

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Pride Parade on September 13

The Pride Parade in downtown Burlington will take place this year on Sunday, September 13. We will assemble at King Street near the Hood plant by 11:30am that day. The parade kicks off at 12 noon. This represents a wonderful opportunity for our church to offer public witness to the inclusive message of the gospel. If you are interested in participating in the parade, please contact Cathi Brody at cbrody1@comcast.net.

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## Corn Roast and Sundae Sunday September 20!

Join us September 20 right after worship as we bid a fond farewell to summer, and celebrate the beginning of a new program year.

We will gather on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in the Fellowship Hall. Corn on the cob, burgers, hot dogs, salad, watermelon, and ice cream Sundays are on the menu. (And it's all free!) Co-sponsored by the Education and Membership Committees.

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Seeking New Office Administrator at Richmond Congregational Church

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is searching for a welcoming, organized, technically savvy person to be our next Office Administrator. This part-time position (20-25 hours week) offers the ability to set a weekday schedule, with flexibility as needed. A consistent presence in the church office is key to this role, though some duties may be able to be performed offsite.

Link to Job Posting & Application

Instructions: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E2lyicZFekgH2ZjLp0eRRvzFv2UXNJQA/edit?usp=sharing&ou\[...\].rue](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E2lyicZFekgH2ZjLp0eRRvzFv2UXNJQA/edit?usp=sharing&ou[...].rue)

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### **A note from the Caring Circle Concerning a Transportation Need**

Presently, there is a need to provide transportation once a month to and from church for two of our members who live in Essex. Three Sundays are covered, but due to life changes, we need one other person to pick them up once a month and take them home after church. It is a short distance, and their homes are close to each other.

Two other members who live nearby would also be grateful for rider to and from church. If either opportunity might work for you, please contact Carol Burbank at

[carolburbank@comcast.net](mailto:carolburbank@comcast.net) for more information and she can send the details.

On behalf of the Caring Circle, thank you for your consideration. Blessings, Carol Burbank

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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. We will meet again on Tuesday evening, September 1 at 7p.m. in the Sitting Room (across the hall from the Pastor's Study as well as on Zoom). 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.

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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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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:

- August 19: 'The Correspondent' by Virginia Evans
- September 16: ‘The Yellow House’ by Sarah Broom
- October 21: ‘The Berry Pickers’ by Amanda Peters
- November 18: ‘Last Bus to Wisdom’ by Ivan Doig

All women are welcome. For more information, contact Lois Mason 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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**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 Women’s Bible Study

The women's Bible study group has adjourned for the summer as of May 25. We will meet again after Labor Day, the exact date to be determined. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please look for the notice as we approach the fall.

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## **Women's Social Lunch**

The Williston Federated Church (WFC) is inviting all women (members/non-members/family/friends) to join us on the 1st Saturday of each month for a social activity. The brunch starts at 11:00 AM at Chef's Corner in Williston. This is an opportunity to gather, enjoy delightful conversations, and eat a delicious breakfast. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Kathy Quesnel at [kathyquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:kathyquesnel@gmail.com)

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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.

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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 for the residents and staff at Dismas House in Burlington. We'd like to thank June's volunteers Polly Malik and Janet Rutkowski 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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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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## **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!