



# Williston Federated Church

February 1, 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.)*

# Blessed



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

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!

February 1, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

### Communion 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 (Inspired by Micah 6:8 and Matthew 5:1-12)	Leader: When we seek justice for the other, when we love kindness more than ever, <b>All: we live as God asks us to live.</b> One: When we walk humbly through life, when we offer mercy... <b>All: we are the blessing God hopes we will be.</b> One: When we choose grace and compassion and hope, even in the face of adversity, <b>All: we reflect the One who is in our midst.</b>	Ashley Dubois, Co-Lay Leader and congregation
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Prelude		Suiong Wong, piano
Welcome/ Greetings		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace		Dr. Jill Irvine
Lighting the Peace Candle/	One: The peace of Christ be with you <b>All: And also with you.</b>	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation

Sharing the  
Peace/  
Passing of the  
Peace

Opening Hymn      "Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here"  
UMC (red) Hymnal #579  
(sing verses 1, 2, and 4)  
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Suiong Wong,  
piano, and  
congregation

Prayer for  
Forgiveness      **All: When we do good, challenges are ever  
present. Sometimes, the challenges can be  
overwhelming and so we're tempted to  
retreat or stay silent. Help us to remember  
all that you do for our good so that we can  
go forth and do the same.**

Dr. Jill Irvine and  
congregation

Silent  
Confession

Words of  
Grace      One: In the beginning, God looked at all that  
was created and called creation "good". In  
this moment, let us give thanks for the grace  
that enables us to seek to do good no matter  
the challenges we face.

Pastor Paul Eyer

Anthem      "The Beatitudes" by Peter Amidon

Senior Choir  
Adam Hall,  
conducting, and  
Suiong Wong,  
piano

Time with  
Children of  
All Ages

Pastor Paul Eyer

Scripture

Micah 6:1-8  
Matthew 5:1-12

Charlie Magill

Prayer of  
Illumination

**“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

“Blessed”

Pastor Paul Eyer

Celebrations/  
Prayer  
Requests

Prayer requests may be sent to:  
[WFCPrayer44@gmail.com](mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com) or if you are online,  
place them in the chat

Private prayer requests may be sent to:  
[pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto: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

Call to  
Offering

Pastor Paul Eyer

Offering

Offertory

Suiong Wong,  
piano

Doxology

UMC Hymnal #94  
(Reprinted with permission under  
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Suiong Wong,  
piano and  
congregation

Prayer of  
Dedication  
(unison)

**All: We offer these gifts, O God. May they  
help to bring hope to the oppressed, to bring  
laughter to those who mourn, and to offer  
wonder to little children. This we pray in  
Jesus' name. Amen.**

Dr. Jill Irvine and  
congregation

Holy  
Communion/  
the  
Eucharist/  
the Lord's  
Supper

(see bulletin insert)

Pastor Paul Eyer  
and Dr. Jill Irvine

Communion  
Hymn

“Ubi Caritas (Live in Charity)”  
Songbook #188  
(This chorus, from the Taize Community in  
France, is to be sung repetitively as the  
communion elements are distributed.)

Suiong Wong,  
piano and  
congregation

Life/Mission  
of the Church

Pastor Paul Eyer

Closing Hymn	“We Utter Our Cry” UMC (red) Hymnal #439 (sing verses 1,2, 4-6) (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	<p>The <b>Call to Worship</b>, and the <b>Prayer of Dedication</b> were adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for February 1, 2026 (Epiphany 4 - A)” from <a href="https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/">Lectionary Liturgies</a> by Presbyterian pastor Rev. Thom Shuman, found at <a href="https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/">https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/</a>.</p> <p>The <b>Prayer for Forgiveness</b> and <b>Words of Grace</b> are adapted from “Good: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany” by Rev. Teña T. Nock, who serves as The Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ, found at <a href="https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-epiphany-4a-february-1/">Worship Ways</a>, United Church of Christ website, found at <a href="https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-epiphany-4a-february-1/">https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-epiphany-4a-february-1/</a></p> <p>The <b>Service of Holy Communion</b> invitation includes language adapted from Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Savior, in Washington, D.C. <a href="http://www.seekerschurch.org/liturgies/communion2005.htm">http://www.seekerschurch.org/liturgies/communion2005.htm</a> . In addition, portions of the communion liturgy are adapted from Rev. Lisa Frenz, Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon <a href="http://www.lclark.edu/~frenz/christmaseve2.html">http://www.lclark.edu/~frenz/christmaseve2.html</a> .</p>	

*Ushers: Jen & Rick Zubrik*

*Greeter(s): Cindy Thurston*

*Coffee Hour: Cindy Thurston*

*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

### Pancake breakfast on February 15

Don't miss the annual Mardi Gras pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 15. The Christian Education Committee will again help host this wonderful time of food and fellowship. You don't want to miss it!

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### Mark your calendars!

On Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Williston Federated Church will again host a workshop led by the nationally-renowned church vitality coach Rev. Paul Nickerson. Methodist and UCC congregations across Vermont are invited to attend this event as well.

Paul Nickerson's workshops are always engaging and entertaining—and his presentation approach helps to inspire congregations to come up with their own creative ideas to implement the outreach strategies he recommends. His training around discipleship and stewardship is deeply meaningful as well. Our congregation has been blessed by the coaching of Paul Nickerson in the past. (Some of our most effective outreach ideas came from our coaching sessions with Paul.) We hope that you will make plans to attend. Please RSVP to Pam at the church office ([WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) or 802-878-5792) to indicate your interest in attending. *A lunch of soup and sandwiches with a morning snack will be provided to all attendees. A signup to help with this will be posted on the bulletin board.*

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### Women's Brunch

All the church women are invited to brunch at Chef's Corner in Williston the first Saturday of each month starting at 11:00 AM. This is a great way to connect socially and enjoy excellent food, at a locally acclaimed restaurant. Contact: Kathy Quesnel at [kathyquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:kathyquesnel@gmail.com) for additional information.

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### New Ministry for Widows or Widowers

As of January 11, 2026, 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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## **Valentine Cookie Extravaganza**

WFC would like to express our heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the church, to the following community servants: staff at WCS, ABS & CVU as well as our local police, fire & rescue, Town Clerk, USPS, CSWD, medical practices and others, for their continued service to our community during the past year as well as our Mace House friends..

Please sign up on the bulletin board to make and deliver cookies or sign up online using this [link](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAEAE2EA2F9C70-cookie#/):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAEAE2EA2F9C70-cookie#/>

Cookies may be delivered at your convenience leading up to Feb.14th. If you live outside of Williston, please consider delivering cookies to an organization in your city or town. Thank you note cards, to include with the cookies, can be found on the bulletin board or feel free to write your own note. If possible, and with the recipient's permission, please take a photo when you deliver the cookies. For more information, contact [Carol Bouchard](mailto:Carol.Bouchard@wfc.org).

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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 February is 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah. On Mar 18: 'Good Dirt' by Charmaine Wilkerson. On Apr 15: 'The Book Club for Troublesome Women' by Marie Bostwick. On May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell. All women are welcome. For more information, contact Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

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## **Sunday School Coordinator Needed**

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.

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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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## **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 Fellinger at 802-355-1700 or [donnafellingervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingervt@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](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 January's volunteers, Dan Clark, Kris Clark, and Susan Lamb, 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**

Many thanks to Sara Moran, who has put out a plastic jar with a "Batteries" sign on it near Carmyn Stanko's office, which is also near the Church office and Sitting Room. All church batteries can now be recycled easily, just place the old ones in that jar. Or bring those you have from home! Sara will make sure they get delivered to Chittenden Solid Waste District Depot right here in Williston.

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### **A Compelling Conversation That We Need Right Now**

A nation broken by injustice. A society riven by division. Sound familiar? This was the world that confronted Howard Thurman, a great African American pastor and theologian of the twentieth century. Howard Thurman's writings proved deeply relevant to the Civil Rights movement and remain remarkably relevant today.

In the coming weeks, we, too, can benefit from the abundant wisdom offered by this significant spiritual leader. Our pastoral (seminarian) intern Dr. Jill Irvine is leading an adult study series focused upon the life and thoughts of Howard Thurman. Our window into his work will be a more

recent book authored by Lerita Coleman Brown entitled: “What Makes You Come Alive, A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman”.

The schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, January 29 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 5 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 12 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 19 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 5 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: There will be no session on Thursday, February 26. (And for the duration of this study series, the “responding to racism” conversation will occur in the context of these Howard Thurman-focused sessions. The usual “responding to racism” conversations will resume on their regular schedule on March 12.) These sessions will take place in person only in Fellowship Hall. A light meal of soup and bread will be provided for those attending (courtesy of the Christian Education Committee).

Please RSVP to Pam at the church office ([WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) or 802-878-5792 to indicate your interest in attending.