



Williston Federated Church

February 22, 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.)

All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18



DailyVerses.net

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!

February 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

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: In these moments—in this season—we
are invited into a time of prayer and reflection.

**All: We are again invited into the spiritual
journey of Lent.**

Leader: This sacred season calls us to
contemplation and introspection. Come, let us
worship.

**All: Let us dare to venture deeper into
ourselves and more deeply into God.**

Donna-Sue Hain,
Co-Lay Leader,
and congregation

Prelude

Suiong Wong,
piano

Introit

“What Wondrous Love is This?”

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

Welcome/
Greetings

Pastor Paul Eyer

<p>Words of Peace Lighting the Peace Candle</p>		<p>Dr. Jill Irvine</p>
<p>Sharing the Peace/ Passing of the Peace</p>	<p>One: The peace of Christ be with you All: And also with you.</p>	<p>Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation</p>
<p>Opening Hymn</p>	<p>“Come Away with Me” Songbook #153 (sing verses 1,3, 4 and 5)</p>	<p>Suiong Wong, piano and congregation</p>
<p>Prayer for Today</p>	<p>One: In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, All: lead us, Holy Spirit. One: In the hungering and the holding and the humbling, All: accompany us, Holy Spirit. One In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, All: Guide us, Holy Spirit. Help keep us grounded in your love, O God. Turn with us, as we turn toward you. Amen.</p>	<p>Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation</p>
<p>Anthem</p>	<p>“Since By Man Came Death” From Handel’s <u>Messiah</u></p>	<p>Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano</p>

Time with Children of All Ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	II Corinthians 5:16-20	Chris Stewart
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	"Reconciled"	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

Call to Offering		Pastor Paul Eyer
Offering		
Offertory		Suiong Wong, piano
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #95 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: May our generosity reveal our gratitude for all the blessings we have been given so we can share them with others. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” UMC (red) Hymnal #384 sing all verses (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 and Prayer for Today are adapted from “Led by the Spirit...Backed by the Word: Service Prayers for the Lent 1A” was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema from <u>Worship Ways</u> at the United Church of Christ website found at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-1a-february-22/	

The **Prayer of Dedication** was adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for February 2026 (Lent 1 - A)” from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman, found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ushers: Chris Stewart and Lois Mason

Greeter(s): Carol Pierce

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

Mark your calendars!

On Saturday, March 7, from 10:00 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 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 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. Please [follow this link to sign up](#) or sign up on the bulletin board at church.

Rummage Sale March 27th & 28th

We are looking for donations of gently worn clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, as well as linens, shoes, jewelry, purses. Think textiles. Please no household items. Donations may be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, March 23rd. Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment to place your items on the appropriate tables. Folks are needed to help with table set up on Sunday the 22nd after coffee hour, sort clothes during the week, work at the sale Friday & Saturday and to help take the left over items to Restore, Resource & Goodwill on Saturday. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board near the

kitchen or contact Carol Bouchard at 862-7400 or carolcbouchard@gmail.com Note: Please no donations before March 23rd

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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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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 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.

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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 Fellingner at 802-355-1700 or 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](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 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**

Recycle your mercury thermostat and get \$5. Don't trash it cash it! For more information Go to: <https://thermostat-recycle.org/program-info/recycling-by-state/vermont/>

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We have now entered the Season of Lent, a time of contemplation and prayer as we prepare for Easter. The *following resources are suggested by the Education Committee.*

“OUTGROW” {The UCC (United Church of Christ) Lenten Booklet}

This booklet presents different ways to view ‘giving up something for Lent.’

The booklet is written by individuals who are part of the “God Is Still Speaking, Writers’ Group.” Each writing includes a title, a Bible verse and perspectives on ‘Out Growing.’

The season of Lent presents a special opportunity to intentionally invest time in considering spiritual growth. Below is a list of a few resources that some in our church have found meaningful in their spiritual journeys. You are invited to explore these or others to use in your daily time of meditation and/or prayer.

Devotional Possibilities from the Education Committee

1. UCC (United Church of Christ) daily devotions:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> (Free)

2. UCC Lenten Devotional Booklet:

“*Outgrow*” A few booklets are available on the prayer table in the ‘gallery’.

LINK: thepilgrimpress.com

Or Google through Pilgrim Press

If hard copies are not available (\$5.00 + shipping) PDF copies are available on line for \$3,

3. Retired United Methodist Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes’ meaningful devotionals found at unfoldinglight.net (free). Many in our congregation know Rev. Garnaas-Holmes.

4. <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals> (free)

5. Richard Rohr daily meditations (free) <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/> or Google

6. “The Book of Awakening” - a book by Mark Nepo of daily readings inviting the life you want by being present to the life you have.

7. Rev. Cameron Trimble (PilotingFaith) <http://www.pilotingfaith.org> (free)

In his introduction to the Lenten Devotional ‘OUTGROW’ Kenneth L. Samuel, an African/American minister in Atlanta, presents an invitation to grow in the Spirit. He writes:

“Trials this season will not relent. But neither will our growth in the Spirit”