



Williston Federated Church

February 8, 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

Choir Accompanist – 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 8, 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: There is truth that needs to be spoken. Cry out to the weary, the overlooked, the worn-thin: Ashley Dubois,
Co-Lay Leader,
and congregation

All: With courage, we gather. With voices, we speak words of life.

Leader: Speak to hearts carrying hidden weight,

All: The Holy One meets us here in our honesty.

Leader: Speak to the systems that press people down,

All: Their power is not the final word.

Leader: A new song is rising—

All: A song that frees, a rhythm that restores, a melody of repair.

Leader: Speak to the builders, the dreamers, the stubbornly hopeful:

All: The time has come for burdens to lift, For the grip of harm to loosen, for the rebuilding of what has been broken.

One: Come, Beloved Community, bring your
resolve, your compassion, your faith.

All: Let us worship God.

Prelude

Suiong Wong,
piano

Introit

“What Does the Lord Require of You”
by Jim Strathdee (based on Micah 6:8)

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

Welcome/
Greetings

Pastor Paul Eyer

Words of
Peace

Pastor Paul Eyer

Lighting the
Peace
Candle/
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

“Come to the Waters”
Songbook #201 Sing verses 1, 2, and 5
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Suiong Wong,
piano, and
congregation

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| Prayer for Today | <p>One: O God, we come into this moment carrying the weight of our days—the strain we feel in our bodies, the struggle that confronts neighbors (whether near or far), the burdens that press on our shared life.</p> <p>All: Draw near to us now. Gather our scattered breath. Steady our trembling places. Kindle in us a courage that does not look away.</p> <p>One: You meet us instead in acts of mercy, in the rebuilding of what has been broken.</p> <p>All: Open us now—open our hearts to compassion, open our imaginations to repair, open our hands to the work of freeing one another.</p> <p>One: Let this gathering be brave and faithful, and let your Spirit move among us with the power to uproot what harms and to plant what heals.</p> <p>All: We are here. Speak to us. Lead us. Remake us for your justice and joy. Amen.</p> | Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation |
| Anthem | <p>“We Are Here” (sung by demonstrators in Minnesota in 2026)</p> | Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano |

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| Time with Children of All Ages | | Pastor Paul Eyer |
| Scripture | Isaiah 58:1-12 | Heather Lewis |
| Prayer of Illumination | All: Come Holy, Spirit, come. Take our lips and speak through them. Take our minds and think through them. Take our hearts and set them on fire. In Christ's name we ask. Amen. | Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation |
| Sermon | "The Lord's Requirement: Come Alive" | Dr. Jill Irvine |
| 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 |

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| Call to Offering | | Pastor Paul Eyer |
| 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 (unison) | All: Bless our offering, O God. Make these gifts more than generosity— make them instruments of peace and justice, seeds of compassion, signs that your vision is taking root among us. Amen. | Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation |
| “Souper Bowl” Sunday | The annual “Souper Bowl of Caring” offering collected after worship this Sunday will go to support the work of the Williston Community Food Shelf in combating hunger in our midst. | Williston Federated Church youth |
| Life/Mission of the Church | | Pastor Paul Eyer |
| Closing Hymn | “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” Songbook #183 (sing verses 1, 2, 3, 4, and then 1 again. Verse 4 will be sung a cappella) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved) | Suiong Wong, piano and congregation |

Benediction/
Blessing

Dr. Jill Irvine

Postlude

Suiong Wong,
piano

Liturgical
Resources

The **Call to Worship** and **Prayer for Today** were adapted from “Remove the Yoke: Service Prayers for Epiphany 5A” by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ, found at [Worship Ways](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-5a-february-8/), United Church of Christ website (https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-5a-february-8/)

Ushers: Heather and Dean Lewis

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 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 for additional information.

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### **New 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 8th 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

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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](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 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 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

The Problem with "Fast Fashion"

Why is so-called "Fast Fashion" an environmental problem? Because, to make fashionable clothing affordable, manufacturers use a plastic called polyester in place of natural materials. A single laundry cycle can release up to 900,000 microplastics fibers into the environment. Microplastics pollution is now widespread: they are found in soil, air, water and living organisms, including humans.

If you're concerned about keeping microplastic out of landfills, it's valuable to learn to mend your clothes instead of replacing them. To help you learn this lost craft, The Sand Box, an innovative small business on Pine Street, Burlington, offers free workshops on Tuesday evenings. You may also solicit their advice online about how to fix a particular item, or you

can bring it to them for repair. Check out their website at www.sandboxvt.com or call 802-549-1086.

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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 continues as follows:

- 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).

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The Season of Lent, a time of contemplation and prayer as we prepare for Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. 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”